
REPORT FROM STRASBOURG

The Second Meeting of MRS-Europe Offered More Symposia – And Some Stimulating Innovations

MRS-Europe held its second annual meeting June 5-8 at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France. The first meeting, held in May of 1983, treated the single topic of laser-solid interactions and transient thermal processing. This year, expanding to a multi-topic format, three symposia were offered: "Poly-, Micro-crystalline, and Amorphous Semiconductors," chaired by S. Kalbitzer and P. Pinard; "Amorphous Metals and Nonequilibrium Processing," chaired by M. VonAllmen, and "Induced Defects in Insulators," chaired by P. Mazzoldi.

Innovative Additions

As well as the symposia, the meeting offered three innovative additions. At an opening session, prominent leaders of European research presented their views on the role of materials research in Europe today and on the need to interface between basic science and technological applications. (Also on this panel was MRS First Vice President E.N. Kaufmann, whose remarks are reprinted elsewhere in these pages.) Throughout the conference, plenary sessions were interleaved, in mornings and afternoons, between symposia sessions. Heavily attended, these meetings allowed participants an overview of the various specialized topics.

The Needs of Industry

Also, following the first day's technical sessions, a two-hour roundtable discussion moderated by P. Aigrain dealt with the "Needs of New Materials in Industry in the Next Decenny." Sixteen influential advisers and directors of research in Europe participated. These included P. Bourdeau, European Economic Community Commission, Brussels; L. Citti, Groupe CGE, Paris; M. Columbie, USINOR, Paris; Dr. Dutz, Schott Glaswerke, Mainz; C. Foxell, British Telecomm., Ipswich; W. Freiesleben, Wacker Chemitronic, Burghausen, FRG; A. Gilardini, R.D. Selenia, Rome; P. Gobin, Ministry of Industry and Research, Paris; C. Hilsum, General Electric Research Laboratories, Wembley; B. Jeppson, RIFA, Stockholm; A. Ledwith, Pilkington Glass, Ormskirk; Dr. Prof. Liebmann, Degussa, Frankfurt; J.P. Massue, Council of Europe, Strasbourg; A.R. Miedema, Philips Research Laboratories, Eindhoven; B. Revellin-Falcoz, Avions Marcel Dassault, Vaucresson, France, and Director Siffre, Peugeot-Dras, Velizy-Villacoublay.

The panel enumerated many areas of technology where new or improved materials would be needed over the next decade. Areas discussed included light weight/high strength alloys and composites, ceramics, superconductors, compound semiconductors, optical fibers and opto-electronics, organics,



SUPPORTING the operation of the MRS-Europe meeting in Strasbourg were (left to right) C. Siffert, S. Barthe, F. Ohlmann, M. Amann, and M. Cobut

superlattices, cladding, catalysts, materials substitution, purity control, expert systems, sensors, adhesives, and more. Two common themes in this wide-ranging discussion were the need for inter-industry/international cooperation on large joint programs, and the need to couple results of basic research more effectively with their technological use.

Papers Top 200

More than 200 papers were presented in the course of the meeting, which was attended by more than 300 professionals. This was significantly more than had been anticipated, and was a tribute to the organizational skills of P. Siffert of CNRS, Strasbourg (who also oversaw local meeting arrangements, including a banquet of superb cuisine and folk entertainment of the Alsace region), and V.T. Nguyen of CNET, Grenoble, co-chairmen of the MRS-Europe organizing committee. This committee met to discuss topics for the third annual meeting planned for next June, when at least four symposia are expected. With this year's highly successful meeting accomplished, MRS-Europe organizers also are turning their attention to refining the structure of the organization, defining areas of cooperations with the Society internationally, and developing relationships of mutual benefit with European industry.

As part of this process of establishing and maintaining strong links among MRS meeting participants, the MRS BULLETIN will be distributed to attendees of the Strasbourg meeting over the next year. Contributions to the pages of the BULLETIN from members in Europe are strongly encouraged.