

Preface

The fourth European Conference on Silicon Carbide and Related Materials was held on 1 to 5 September 2002 in Linköping Sweden. This conference continued the tradition from Crete, Greece (1996), Montpellier, France (1998), Kloster Banz, Germany (2000), to be the main forum for presenting results and discussing progress, for university and industry researchers active in the field of SiC and Related Materials.

The number of participants has continuously increased and was this time totally 357 participants. Of these 66% of the attendees was from Europe and the remaining mainly from USA (13%) and Japan (17%).

Following the tradition from the previous conferences it was decided to have no parallel sessions. The majority of the presentations were consequently presented as posters in three different poster sessions, which provided good possibilities for discussions of results. To further enhance the interest for the poster sessions, each poster session had three invited posters related to different selected topics. The authors of these posters were world-leading researchers within their fields, and the posters were allowed double space and had a central placing to facilitate discussion of the results. The invited posters were focused on three selected and important topics, such as SI SiC substrates, HF power devices processed from different epi/substrate combinations and Degradation of Bipolar devices. The success of the poster session and in particularly the invited poster was to a large extent due to nice preparation and work of the authors. A special session on Industrial News was highly appreciated.

These proceedings document our present experimental and theoretical understanding of the growth of bulk and epitaxial layers, the properties of the grown material, the development of suitable processes and electronic devices that utilize and benefit from the outstanding material properties of wide bandgap materials.

The success of the fourth European Conference on Silicon Carbide and Related Materials was due to the labour of many behind the scene organizers. The International Steering Committee made many valuable suggestions regarding the scientific portion of the conference. The members of the Program Committee carefully reviewed, selected and organized the technical programme. The session chairpersons made sure that the meeting ran very smoothly and on time. We are grateful to all the reviewers who carefully read the manuscripts during the conference in an effort to maintain high scientific standards.

The conference would not have been successful had it not been for the expert leadership and assistance of Lena Åberg and Monica Gunnarsson of Stockholm Convention Bureau, who took care of all the organizational matters at all stages leading to and during the conference. Also the hard and ambitious work by Liutaras Storasta to organize and to maintain the web page, is greatly appreciated. We are also grateful to Eva Wibom, Rositza Yakimova, Anelia Kakanakova, Fredrik Carlsson, Nguyen Tien Son, Hisaomi Iwata for their assistance in organizing the reviewing process during the conference and to many others from the Department of Physics and Measurement Technology at Linköping University, who helped with the practical arrangements.

The generous support of the many industrial, government and European sponsors of ECSCRM2002, listed on a separate page, enabled the organizers to keep the registration fee at a reasonable level as well as to help providing for social activities, meals and beverages. The support from the European Commission and ONRIFO made it possible for many young European researchers and researchers from the former Soviet Union, respectively, to participate.

The next conference in this series will be held in Bologna, Italy, in September 2004. The conference will be chaired by Roberta Nipoti and Vito Raineri. We wish the organizers of the next conference much success.

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