

Preface

The 9th International Symposium on Metastable, Mechanically Alloyed and Nanocrystalline Materials, ISMANAM-2002 was held in Seoul, Korea, from the 8th to 12th September 2002. The ISMANAM was first held in Grenoble in 1994, following a series of pioneering symposiums and workshops on related subjects held in Grenoble (1990, 1991 and 1994), Irsee (Germany 1992), Cambridge (1993), and Kyoto (ISMA, 1991). This year's conference is ninth in the annual ISMANAM series. The previous ISMANAM symposiums were held in Ann Arbor (2001), Oxford (2000), Dresden ('99), Wollongong ('98), Sitges ('97), Rome ('96), Quebec ('95) and Grenoble ('94). Approximately 160 participants from 28 countries attended the symposium. 158 papers were presented as either invited (23), oral (52), or poster contributions (83). After a reviewing process for each papers 127 manuscripts have been accepted for publication in this special issue of Journal of Metastable and Nanocrystalline Materials. The strong participation and high quality of presentations at the Symposium are strong indications of the interest in the field of metastable amorphous and nanocrystalline materials in fundamental research and applied engineering.

Major contributions were in the field of bulk metallic glasses and bulk nanocrystalline materials prepared by devitrification or mechanical alloying and compaction routes. Other important issues included the understanding of processing kinetics leading to applications in various fields, in particular high strength materials and the use of physical and electrochemical properties of mechanically alloyed materials. Another strong field was nanocrystalline elemental and intermetallic materials. Crystallization of metallic glasses was used to understand the formation of nanocrystalline microstructures, to achieve ultra high strength in various materials. Overall the symposium provided a state of the art overview of research activities and technological developments highlighting the most recent achievements.

Awards were made during the symposium by the ISMANAM Steering Committee to recognize outstanding scientific contributions to the field. Prof. Paul G. McCormick received the ISMANAM Senior Scientist Prize and Dr. Dimitri V. Louzguine received the ISMANAM Junior Scientist Prize.

The ISMANAM Steering Committee has accepted the bid by Prof. W.J. Botta F. and his colleagues to hold ISMANAM-2003 in Foz do Iguacu Brazil and has also provisionally accepted the bid by Prof. Akihisa Inoue to hold ISMANAM-2004 in Japan.

We would like to give our most sincere thanks to all members of the ISMANAM Steering Committee, International Advisory and the local Organizing Committee, the chairpersons, invited and other participants for their stimulating presentations making the Symposium a full success. Furthermore, we would like to thank J. S. Park, Y.M. Choi, S.H Sok, and Tina Jeon for their detailed organization and preparation during and before the conference. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the financial support of the Korea Research Foundation, and Samsung Corning Co. who all supported the Symposium. Without all their help the Symposium would have been less successful.

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