FOREWORD

The 2nd International Latin-American Conference on Powder Technology was held under the auspices of ABC (the Association of Brazilian Ceramics) with support from IPEN (Instituto do Pesquisas Energeticas e Nucleares), MPIF and Sinterconsult. Following the success of the 1st conference in this series, which was held in 1997, this conference focussed on the technology of metal and ceramic powders. The venue, Foz do Iguasu, is a city near the borders of Brazil with Paraguay and Argentina that is renowned for its waterfalls, bird centre, its climate and scenery.

The conference organisation and planning was undertaken by IPEN, Mr Lucio Salgado and Professor Francisco Ambrozio Filho of the Department of Engineering Materials with international support by Professor Panos Tsakiropoulos of the School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering of the University of Surrey, UK. The response to invitations to attend the conference was heartening. In total 240 delegates from 12 countries attended the three day conference and exhibition. The conference was generously sponsored by a number of Latin American and International Companies.

The external (to Brazil) delegates consisted of PM experts from Argentina, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Italy, Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, the UK and USA. The delegates represented powder producers, industrial PM parts producers and users, centres of PM and powder technology, research centres and universities. Topics discussed in the oral presentations ranged from powder production, spray forming, powder compaction and sintering, mechanical alloying, corrosion of PM parts and the use of PM in biomedical applications.

Special sessions discussed PM challenges in South America in the next millennium, wet processing of metal-ceramic particulate systems, high energy milling, mechanical alloying and reactive milling, sintering atmospheres and metal ceramic nanocomposites. The establishment of Hoganas Brasil Ltd was announced at the conference by the managing director of Hoganas AB Sweden, with senior staff of the company addressing issues relevant to the future of the PM industry in South America. There was also a well attended open meeting where industrial PM parts producers and users and researchers discussed the economic aspects of the South America PM parts industry. The discussions foresaw continuing growth in PM parts production with marketing through Mercosul in, and possible market extensions by collaboration with FTAA (the Mercosul equivalent in the rest of South America) and fruitful competition with the NAFTA (North American Free Trade) group.

The 3rd conference in this series, in 2001, will be of a similar nature, with the aim of encouraging more contributions from international participants, PM and ceramics industries in South America and of promoting the dissemination of powder technology throughout Latin America.

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Francisco Ambrozio Filho
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Guest Editors of the Conference
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