

Preface

The special issue of journal *Key Engineering Materials* contains the papers contributed to the 24th International Baltic Conference „Engineering Materials and Tribology“ – BALTMATTRIB held on November 5 – 6, 2015 in Tallinn, Estonia. The Conference is organized by the Association of Baltic Materials Societies (ABMS) in cooperation with International Federation of Heat Treatment and Surface Engineering (IFHTSE).

The conference is hosted and sponsored by the City of Tallinn. The capital of Estonia is itself a wonderful example of combining tradition and industrial future. Tallinn is the centre of Estonian political and business life. With its population 400 000, the capital is the driving force of the country's economy. The city is a home to about half of all Estonian companies, which are responsible for ca 50-60% of GDP and nearly 3/4 of total business profit.

The series of the Baltic International Conferences on Materials Engineering and Tribology was started 21 years ago focusing on materials issues and tribological studies. Since that time, the BALTMATTRIB became an open forum for researchers and engineers to exchange ideas, share thoughts and encourage development and cooperation in both basic and applied research in the fields of materials science, powder metallurgy, heat treatment, surface engineering and tribology.

The objective of the 24th International Baltic Conference “**BALTMATTRIB 2015**” is to provide an open forum for scientists and engineers to exchange ideas, interact cooperatively, and to foster the development and dissemination of basic and applied research on the topics related to the Conference. The Conference attracts participants from academia, research labs, and industry. The BALTMATTRIB seeks to forge cooperative links between researchers and engineers by bringing them together to present and listen to current research in these areas.

The BALTMATTRIB topics are:

- ✓ Advanced engineering materials and related technologies
- ✓ Heat treatment and surface engineering for tribological performance
- ✓ Friction, wear and lubrication

Understanding the complex interrelationship between processing, materials properties and their performance is a key to the way forward in our rapidly changing world. The Conference provides the multi-disciplinary forum for academic scientists, engineers and research scholars to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends and challenges encountered and the solution adapted in the field of engineering materials and coatings as well as heat treatment and tribological behaviour.

The Guest Editors believe this issue will be a valuable resource not only for the participants of BALTMATTRIB Conference but also for the whole research community in the field of materials science and tribology.

Guest Editors

Irina Hussainova

Renno Veinthal

Conference Committee

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