

IMF 10-Tenth Irish Materials Forum Conference Advances in Engineering Materials

Introduction

S. Hampshire, Chairman

The 1990's have, so far, seen significant developments in Materials Technology in Ireland, North and South, with the establishment of the National Programme of Advanced Technology in the Republic, Materials Ireland, new initiatives in Northern Ireland and the Republic on Bioengineering and Biomaterials and the growing recognition by industry that Materials Technology is essential to process and product development in many sectors. New programmes of study in our Universities have resulted in more trained personnel with experience of materials.

The Materials community in Ireland has been involved in many new developments in a diverse range of research activities covering the broad spectrum of Engineering Materials. The role of the Irish Materials Forum is to promote opportunities for dissemination of knowledge on structures, processing, properties and applications of all classes of materials.

The 10th Irish Materials Forum Conference, held at the University of Ulster, Coleraine is only the second to be held in Northern Ireland and allowed a sharing of latest research results from Irish universities and colleagues from the international materials community.

Acknowledgements

The editors and organisers would like to express their gratitude to all who contributed to the success of the 10th Irish Materials Forum Conference. In particular, we wish to acknowledge:

Professor Gerry McKenna, Dean of Science at the University of Ulster at Coleraine for allowing the use of facilities;

Institute of Materials (Irish Region), Materials Ireland (Forbairt, Dublin) for financial support.

Irish Materials Forum Executive Committee for their support and encouragement.

Our sincere thanks are extended to Charlotte Tuohy, the Conference Co-ordinator, and to Deirdre O'Reilly for their help during the conference.

We wish to thank our keynote speakers, Professor Werner Blau, Professor Norman Brown and Dr Diane Holland for their excellent contributions to this volume.

