

## FOREWORD

This volume is an account of the proceedings of Italian Crystal Growth (ICG)-1995, a scientific meeting of the Italian Association of Crystallography - Crystal Growth Section (AIC-SCC), which was held in Brindisi on March 15-17.

This meeting was jointly sponsored by the Università di Lecce, the CNR-Istituto per lo Studio di Nuovi Materiali per l'Elettronica di Lecce and the Centro Nazionale per la Ricerca e lo Sviluppo dei Materiali di Brindisi. Aim of the meeting was to provide an overview of the Italian crystal growth embracing all the aspects of the field, as are today covered in our country. For its general character, this meeting is to be seen as a sequel of the general conferences which were organized in the past 25 years by the former AICC (Italian Association of Crystal Growth, merged since 1993 with the AIC, of which now represents the Crystal Growth Section), the last one of which was the ICG-88 Meeting held in Parma.

After more than six years since ICG-88 took place, it was a deep-felt need to review the state of the art reached by the crystal growth in Italy, having well in mind developments and trends in the field at the international level. By most of what has been presented and discussed at ICG-95, we were convinced that, in spite of the limited number of growers in Italy, a great deal has been done (especially in government institutes and industrial laboratories, less so in universities) to line up Italy with the most technologically advanced countries. But of course much remains to be done!

ICG-95 was also aimed, as obvious, at improving the exchange of information, on a national level, between technologists from industry and researchers from government laboratories and universities. As is apparent from the number and type of invited (7) and contributed (67) papers, the applied aspects were favoured without losing sight of fundamentals, in any case well aware that these latter are still largely underdeveloped in Italy.

A few invited speakers from abroad provided up-to-date presentations of relevant topics. The number of participants, more than 80, and the general consensus, confirmed that meetings of this kind fulfill a real need of our crystal growth community. We very much hope that these meetings may continue with at least a triennial frequency.

The editors wish to express their appreciation for all those who contributed to make this event a success. They are particularly grateful to the Rector of the Università di Lecce, Prof. Angelo Rizzo (a crystal grower himself in his younger years) and the president of the AIC, Prof. Giovanni Ferraris who warmly supported and encouraged this initiative. Special thanks are due to A. Passaseo, P. Siciliano and G. Podo for their help before and through the conference. The editors would also like to acknowledge the diligent and whole-hearted cooperation of the referees.

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