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FOREWORD

The 8th International Latin-American Conference on Powder Technology was organized by ABC – Associação Brasileira de Cerâmica, with support from IPEN - Instituto de Pesquisas Energéticas e Nucleares and Metallum Eventos Técnicos e Científicos. Following the success of previous ones, this conference focussed on powder technology of metal, ceramic and composites. The conference was held in the Costão do Santinho Resort Convention Center, in Florianópolis - Santa Catarina - Brazil.

The conference organisation and planning was undertaken by IPEN, Dr. Lucio Salgado and Professor Francisco Ambrozio Filho of the Department of Engineering Materials with international support by Professor Juan M. Torralba of the Departamento de Ciencia e Ingeniería de Materiales - Universidad Carlos III de Madrid - Leganés -Spain. A total of 493 delegates from 14 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, Colombia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and USA. The delegates represented powder producers, industrial PM parts producers and users, research centres and universities. Topics discussed in the oral presentations ranged from powder production, ceramics processing, properties, powder compaction and sintering, injection moulding and mechanical alloying. Special sessions discussed nanomaterials, fuel cells, storage energy materials, biomaterials, sintering atmospheres, PM market, characterization and application. There was also a well attended open meeting where P/M Forecasts were presented by invited lecturers from EPMA, MPIF and Hoganas. The discussions foresaw continuing growth in PM in South America.

The 9th conference in this series, in 2013, 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.

The Organizing Committee thanks the sponsors and government agencies that contributed definitely to the conference success.