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Editorial

Great progress in thin films processing has been made over the last twenty years of research, including the development and functionalisation of surfaces. This progress has made this field one with great potential for applications in microelectronics, nanotechnology, mechanics, optics, photonics, chemistry, biology, and medicine, among imaginable others.

The aim of the "Innovations in Thin Films Processing and Characterization Conference (ITFPC 07)" was to provide an open forum to discuss progress in thin films processing and engineering in subject areas such as growth and etching, and including both CVD and PVD processes. Participants were asked to contribute a description of the state of the art along with a perspective of recent scientific and technological achievements their area of thin films deposition, characterization, functional surface treatment, or applications.

The topics selected for the ITFPC 07 conference were:

1. thin films processing and surface engineering
2. simulation and thin films characterization
3. protective applications of thin films
4. energy and environmental applications of thin films
5. micro and nanosystems
6. new materials and medical applications of thin films.

In total, 220 participants from a diverse collection of countries participated in the third gathering of this conference, which for the first time was conducted in English. In addition, and also for the first time, supporting manuscripts are to be published in an international journal, the European Physical Journal - Applied Physics. The papers to be thus disseminated have been selected as being the most significant of the submitted articles.

The first and second papers to be published from the conference correspond to the invited talks from topics one and six above. The remaining papers have been selected from amongst all the topics.

In addition, the exhibition held during the conference displayed the wide array of existing technology and new developments in equipment for thin film processing, including vacuum equipment, as well as fabrication and characterization systems.

The organisers are currently making arrangements for the next ITFPC 09 conference.

Thierry Czerwiec, Mohammed Belmahi and Stéphane Andrieu

Co-chairmen of the ITFPC Conference.