

Preface

The International Thermal Spray Conference 2002 (ITSC 2002) is the most renowned conference of its kind anywhere in the world. It is bringing the expert world in the field of the thermal coating processes together in Essen, Germany on March 4 - 6. This thermal spray conference, which is being organised jointly by DVS – Deutscher Verband für Schweißen und verwandte Verfahren e. V. (the "German Welding Society"), the Thermal Spray Society (TSS) of ASM International and the IIW International Institute of Welding, is upholding the successful tradition of Montreal (2000) and Singapore (2001) in Essen.

The event is giving everybody interested in the thermal coating processes, no matter whether from the research or production field, the unique opportunity of obtaining comprehensive information about the latest products, developments and service offers. Even viewed on its own, the four-section conference event with 184 specialist lectures from 27 countries which have been combined in 36 main subject areas already emphasises the impressive development of the thermal coating technologies. Parallel to the conference, a poster show with 64 contributions is providing additional information about current developments. Another highlight is being offered by the company exposition which is accompanying the conference and in which more than 31 companies from 10 countries are taking part. On three days, ITSC 2002 is thus offering both national and international participants the one-off possibility of directly exchanging know-how and experience with the world's leading experts and of extending their own level of knowledge about the latest technological developments.

You are holding one more highlight in your hands: The conference volume which has been published on the occasion of the conference. All the lecture manuscripts and poster contributions received by the press deadline are included in an unabridged form. The conference volume thus reaches a scope which is notable even for events of this kind and, in the tradition of the ITSCs, constitutes an additional complementary standard reference work in thermal spray technology.

The successful organisation and staging of such an event in this order of magnitude always require the committed and unselfish cooperation between the widest possible variety of groups of people and institutions. In this connection, the organisers would like to express their particular gratitude to the Programme and Organisation Committee, the International Scientific Advisory Board, the ideal co-sponsors, the speakers, the poster authors, the chairmen of the discussions, the companies taking part in the company performance show as well as the employees of the Thermal Spray Society (TSS) of ASM International, the IIW International Institute of Welding, DVS-Publishing House and DVS.

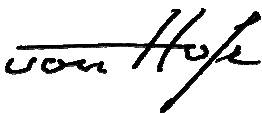
The organisers wish all the participants in ITSC 2002 a pleasant and exciting stay in Essen as well as positive lasting memories of a successful pioneering event.

Düsseldorf, February 2002

DVS – German Welding Society
Executive Director and
Executive Member of Board

Thermal Spray Society (TSS)
of ASM International
President

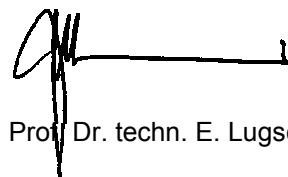
ITSC 2002
Technical Program Chairman



Prof. Dr.-Ing. D. von Hofe



A. Kay



Prof. Dr. techn. E. Lugscheider