

Materials Research - Ibero-american Journal of Materials

Judicious, fair and educative!

This thematic issue of Materials Research includes selected articles presented in the "Fourth International Latin-American Conference on Powder Technology"- PTECH 2003, held in Guarujá, SP, on November 2003. This conference takes place every other year and is organized by ABC - Associação Brasileira de Cerâmica, with support from IPEN - Instituto de Pesquisas Energéticas e Nucleares and Metallum Eventos Técnicos e Científicos. The conference aims to present and discuss the state of the art on the fabrication of metallic, intermetallic, ceramic and composite materials by powder technology. It is a forum for presentation of the most recent advances in the field and for information exchange in all areas related to particulate materials.

Attendance to the conference and the parallel exposition reached 350 participants from 14 countries. Among the attendees, there were representatives from powder manufacturers, users and manufacturers of powder metallurgy components, research centers and universities. The conference's main topics included production of metallic and ceramic powders, compaction, sintering, spray forming, high energy milling, injection molding, biomaterials and corrosion.

A total of 226 papers were presented and 46 of these were submitted for publication in Materials Research, from which 23 were selected by the guest editors to be included in this special issue after undergoing a thorough review process. Another group of 120 papers were submitted for publication in Materials Science Forum.

Support from several sponsors and funding agencies (Fapesp, CNPq, Finep and Capes) was fundamental for the successful realization of the conference and the publication of the articles. The editors are also grateful to Dr. Lúcio Salgado e Mrs. Mirella Oller Souza Santos and Miss Simone Mattos for their diligent help during the process of revision of the contributions.

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