

Editorial Preface

This special issue of Thin Solid Films contains a selection of papers presented at the *5th International Conference on Coatings on Glass — ICCG* which was held July 04–08 2004, in Saarbruecken, Germany. Following the objective of the conference as a forum for researchers, engineers and technicians in the field of *advanced coatings on glass and plastics for large area or high volume products*, it contains both scientific and technical, product-oriented papers. The unique combination of reports on the latest results from the science and technology of thin film deposition and characterization with product- and production-related aspects and market analyses is to be regarded as one of the strengths of this series of conferences for the coating community.

Prior to this conference issue, a book of Proceedings with a total of 148 contributions had been published at the date of the conference, including short papers or extended abstracts of all oral (62) and poster presentations (86) submitted by the mid of June 2004. The growing interest in this conference is clearly seen by the almost 40% increase in the number of contributions compared to the 2002 conference and in the number of authors from new countries. The presentations are meanwhile coming from more than 30 countries all over the world, mainly from Germany (53) and Western Europe (28), Japan (25) and the United States (13).

This selection of papers of the conference contains a total of 55 papers that were peer-reviewed by at least two expert referees and were accepted on the basis of their scientific or technical merit and significance to the field. Compared to the Proceedings, most of the papers, in addition, are also published in a more comprehensive and extended version. The contributions are given in the sequence of their appearance in the conference program starting with a market analysis, followed by the technical sessions focusing on deposition techniques (sessions 1–3), coatings on plastics (4), characterization techniques (5), thin film properties (6) and different applications (7a/7b). A special session is dedicated to photocatalytic coatings and the question ‘*Do photo*

catalytics keep glass clean?’ for the high actuality and interest in this field.

In acknowledgement of their excellent contributions, poster prizes were given during the conference banquet as chosen by the conference attendees to the groups of P. Yianoulis (Solar Energy Laboratory, University of Patras, Greece — ‘Energy performance assessment of an electrochromic window’), M. Wuttig (RWTH-Aachen — ‘Stress and structure formation upon reactive sputtering of different transition metal oxides’), T. Schmauder, (Leybold Optics GmbH, Germany — ‘Hard coatings by plasma CVD on polycarbonate for automotive and optical applications’) and H. Ohsaki (RCAST, The University of Tokyo, Japan — ‘Photocatalytic properties of SnO₂/TiO₂ multilayers’).

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to all the authors for their valuable contributions and to the numerous referees behind the scenes for reviewing of manuscripts in a timely and efficient manner.

It is our hope that this selection of papers will provide valuable information and promote actively the communication between academics and practitioners in the field of *Advanced Coatings on Glass and Plastics*.

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