

Preface

The *International Conference on Coatings on Glass* — ICCG was founded in 1996 as a biennial meeting of the thin film community bringing together scientists and engineers, technologists and managers from R&D institutions and the coatings industry. Coatings have become extraordinary important for large-area as well as for high-volume glass and plastic products, as they enable unique optical, electrical and mechanical properties and offer great possibilities in material conservation, economics, improved engineering and design flexibility.

Thanks to the excellent organization of the first four ICCG conferences in Saarbruecken (1996, 1998), Maastricht (2000) and Braunschweig (2002), the ICCG conference has evolved into one of the most important forums for international experts in the field. In November 2002, the International Organizing Committee of ICCG then decided to hold the fifth meeting in Saarbruecken, Germany, and gave the local organization to the Leibniz-Institut für Neue Materialien — INM.

Although the former conferences were held subsequently to the Glasstec Exhibition in Dusseldorf, it was not possible to grant this request in 2004 and it was organized in early July 2004, a period more adequate for summer vacation! The success of the conference was therefore doubtful but on the contrary we had an increase of almost 40% compared to the last meetings both in the number of presentations and

the number of companies participating in the technical exhibition. This year again, and this is quite specific to this conference, the presentations have been given by scientists and engineers from universities and research laboratories (2/3) as well as from manufacturing or supplying companies (1/3) related to the coating industry.

In order to make this meeting more attractive and to follow more closely the market demands, the 'Optical Communications' topic of the previous meeting was dropped and new sessions on 'Emerging Sources for Plasma and Ion Beam Treatment' and on 'Characterization and Quality Control Methods' have been introduced instead. Also, for the first time, it was organized a special 90-min panel session dedicated to 'Photocatalytic Coatings' with the participation of several delegates of industrial market leaders and scientific experts in this emerging field.

The Local Organizing Committee is proud of having been chosen for this organization and did their best for a very successful event. Finally, the local organizers thank both the sponsors and exhibitors for their financial support and, last but not least, the authors of the numerous lectures and poster presentations and the conference attendees for their valuable contributions to the conference.

H.K. Pulker (*Chairman of ICCG*)
Universität Innsbruck,
Technikerstr 25,
A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria
E-mail address: hans.pulker@uibk.ac.at

Helmut K. Schmidt (Local Chairman)
Michel A. Aegerter (Local Chairman)
Joerg Puetz (Local Secretary)
Leibniz-Institut fuer Neue Materialien — INM
Im Stadtwald, Geb. D22
D-66123 Saarbruecken, Germany
E-mail address: aegerter@inm-gmbh.de