

Selected papers presented at the 4th international conference on interfacial phenomena in composite materials, Eindhoven, the Netherlands on 11-13 September 1995

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Editorial

The papers contained in this special issue of *Composites, Part A* were presented at the Fourth International Conference on Interfacial Phenomena in Composite Materials held at the Dorint Hotel, Eindhoven, The Netherlands, 11–13 September 1995. The aim of the IPCM conferences was and still is to stimulate multi-disciplinary discussions between academic and industrial scientists and engineers on various issues in the area of interfaces and interphases in composite materials. The fourth IPCM conference continued and enlarged the tradition set by the previous three meetings held in Sheffield, Leuven and Cambridge in 1989, 1991 and 1993 respectively, and addressed the following themes:

1. Influence of interface on macro-properties of composites
2. Interface and interphase characterisation and analysis
3. Modelling of interphase
4. Interface and interphase micromechanics in composites

In total, over 150 abstracts on interfacial studies in polymer, metal and ceramic matrix composites were submitted to the conference for presentation. In order to ensure that the standard of previous IPCM meetings was maintained these abstracts were refereed by the scientific committee: in all they selected 65 oral papers and 61 poster papers.

In order to achieve a true interdisciplinary discussion, experts from various fields were invited to review topics. Five keynote lectures were presented by Professor Hashin, Professor Kerans, Professor Theodorou, Dr

Galiotis and Dr Van der Woude. Other important aspects during the IPCM conference were the workshops, which provided extended discussions among the approximately 140 delegates on topics such as theoretical modelling, adhesion mechanisms and macroscopic properties.

All participants who presented an oral paper were requested to submit a manuscript for this special issue. The 32 manuscripts that are published in this issue represent original contributions and were submitted during or immediately after the conference. They have undergone the usual peer review process of the Journal and reflect the wide interest in interfacial issues by the composite community.

Based on the quality of the papers presented in this special issue, it is clear that IPCM has developed into a major scientific event, addressing fundamental issues in composite science and technology. As always, many people have contributed to the success of this meeting. The great effort made by the scientific committee has already been mentioned. Also the support of the members of the international advisory committee is deeply acknowledged. Finally, the authors, session chairman and contributors for their help and enthusiasm. Without their active participation there would be no conference. We would like to conclude by inviting you to the fifth IPCM conference which will be held in Eger, Hungary, on 1–3 September 1997 and which will be co-chaired by Béla Pukánsky and Frank Jones.

Ton Peijs and Frank Jones