

Preface Volume 2: Materials Science

With the 14th European Microscopy Congress the European Microscopy Society (EMS), the German Society for Electron Microscopy (DGE) and the local organizers continue this successful series of conferences. Since the first congress in Stockholm in 1956 (still named European Congress on Electron Microscopy - EUREM), this conference series has become a well-accepted platform for academic and industrial scientists not only from Europe, but from all over the world, to discuss and exchange their latest results in the field of electron and other microscopies.

The congress is subdivided into the three main areas, “Instrumentation and Methods”, “Materials Science” and “Life Sciences”. This 2nd volume of the conference proceedings collects the contributions related to the application of electron microscopy to the large field of Materials Science, again structured in five symposia covering all kinds of various materials: “Materials for Information Technology”, “Nanomaterials and Catalysts”, “Structural and Functional Materials”, “Soft Matters and Polymers”, and finally “Materials in Mineralogy, Geology and Archaeology”.

All in all, this volume contains more than 400 contributions to this wide field of applications. Therefore, at this point we would like to express our deepest thanks to all, who contributed to making this a successful conference: the invited speakers and chairpersons, as well as all authors of contributed papers, may they be presented as oral communication or as poster. We are sure, that by the contributions of all of them the congress will reach an excellent level of scientific quality.

Last, but not least, we want to thank all, who assisted in the organization of this conference, i.e. Tobias Caumanns, Achim Herwartz, Helga Maintz, Evi Münstermann, Daesung Park, Thomas Queck, Stefanie Stadler, Sarah Wentz, and especially the staffs of the Eurogress Conference Centre and of the Aachen Congress service.

We wish all of you an exciting EMC2008! And after all the days of hard work, don't forget to enjoy the marvellous city of Aachen.

Silvia Richter and Alexander Schwedt

Editors, Volume 2 of the EMC 2008 proceedings

EMC 2008

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Richter, S.; Schwedt, A. (Eds.)

2008, XXXVIII, 870 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-540-85225-4