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Jinsong Leng
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Preface

The First International Conference on Smart Materials and Nanotechnology was successfully held 2–4 July in Harbin. This unique conference offered many opportunities to communicate with colleagues from a variety of disciplines in universities, companies, factories, and governments from all over the world. As a premier event, this conference promised great excitement, inspiration, and benefits. The conference is the first in what we hope will be a series that encompasses and bridges the rapidly evolving smart materials and the cutting edge nanotechnology for varied applications.

In the last decade, a wide range of novel smart materials have been produced for aerospace, transportation, telecommunications, and domestic applications. Meanwhile, nanotechnology is rapidly developing, permitting control of matter at the level of atoms and molecules that would form the building blocks of smart materials. Thus the combination of these two fields provides many advantages, realizes novel designs that could not be achieved in traditional engineering, and offers greater opportunities as well as challenges.

The conference deals with the integration of smart materials and nanotechnology for applications ranging from bioengineering to photonics, with emphasis on the application in aerospace engineering. It also addresses and predicts novel developments in this field. Discussed were various topics including shape-memory alloys and polymers; electro-active polymers; (EAPs); piezo-materials; electro- and magneto-restrictive materials and fluids; fiber optic sensors; MEMS; sensors and actuators; thermo-electric materials; electro-chromic, photo-chromic, fluorescent, and phosphorescent materials; nanocomposites, and others.

There were 7 plenary speakers and 27 keynote speakers who were selected to inform and inspire the attendees. In addition, 120 papers were presented in 35 oral sessions and 122 papers were presented in 2 poster sessions.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the cooperating organizations, the international program committee and every attendee, whose support, dedication, and cooperation make this event more exciting, inspiring and fruitful. We hope all of you benefit from this conference and look forward to seeing you again in 2009!



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