

Preface to papers presented at 14th Hasselt Diamond Workshop 2009 - SBDD XIV, cultuurcentrum Hasselt, Hasselt, Belgium, March 2-4, 2009
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Preface Proceedings SBDD XIV

Dear colleague,

It is our pleasure to offer you 32 excellent papers that were presented during the **Hasselt Diamond Workshop 2009 – SBDD XIV**. We strongly believe that the content of these proceedings gives a good overview of the areas that play a major role in today's research on diamond and related materials. While traditional topics, such as growth, doping and defects, have received continuous attention over the years, renewed interest is generated because of their importance in new fields such as quantum computing. In addition, the growing role of diamond as an engineering material becomes apparent in the many contributions that focus on applications, such as biosensors, particle detectors, electrochemical electrodes, etc. The diversity and attraction of diamond is also reflected in the origin of the SBDD XIV participants, coming from 18 different countries worldwide, including Australia, Japan, Mexico and the USA. From the 2nd till the 4th of March, 138 researchers could enjoy 9 invited lectures, 37 contributed oral presentations and more than 45 posters, making use of the excellent facilities of the cultuurcentrum Hasselt in Hasselt, Belgium. The fact that a high percentage of these presentations were presented by students, coming from different backgrounds like physics, chemistry, engineering, biology,...., proves that the field is very much alive, offering great prospects for the future.

We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the *Scientific Research Community "Surface Modification of Materials"* of the Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO) for its unremitting financial support. This has enabled us to invite many excellent speakers over the last years, a tradition that we will continue to honour. Despite the worldwide economical crisis, it is our pleasure to say that SBDD XIV continued to receive sponsorship from industry. We thank *Seki Technotron Corp. & sp³ Diamond Technologies* for sponsoring the poster reception once more. Together with newcomers *Syntek Co., Ltd.* and *Plassys*, they presented their latest products with representatives present during the meeting. The *Hasselt University* through the *Institute for Materials Research (IMO)* and *Division IMOMEC* is greatly acknowledged for administrative support. Last but not least, the pleasant collaboration with the highly efficient editorial staff of *Physica Status Solidi* has made our task of putting together another proceedings volume again a pleasant one. Many thanks to Stefan Hildebrandt, Sabine Bahrs and Julia Hübner!

To conclude, we would like to encourage you to join us for the 15th anniversary edition of SBDD that will take place in February 2010. After the successful move to the centre of Hasselt in 2008, SBDD XV will undergo a new change. For the first time, the meeting will be extended to cover three full days. While maintaining a similar number of oral presentations, extended coffee breaks and poster sessions will give you more time to discuss your latest results with your colleagues at SBDD XV. We hope this opportunity will facilitate new collaborations and joined projects through extended debate and networking.

CU all at SBDD XV in 2010!

Hasselt Diamond Workshop 2010 – SBDD XV
February 22 – 24, 2010
cultuurcentrum Hasselt, Hasselt, Belgium
<http://www.imo.uhasselt.be/SBDD2010>



Hasselt, August 13, 2009

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