

FOREWORD

Dear Colleagues in Powder Metallurgy,

Publishing this journal is a significant turning point at the Institute of Materials Research of Slovak Academy of Sciences. A journal itself is an information medium that enables communication, presents new knowledge, and gives room for the creation of professional contacts. In the case of a scientific or professional periodical, not only organisational and economic condition must be fulfilled, but also the assumption of a high professional level in that given field. In our case, it is the area of powder metallurgy and related technologies. Publishing the first issue of a new journal **Powder Metallurgy Progress (PMP)** is an important day for us and brings to a close a stage of demanding organisational work and decision-making processes. At this occasion, allow me to introduce some basic information and facts, which have influenced the publishing of our journal.

One of the important points was the fact that, within the conditions of Central Europe, there is a lack of professional literature focused on powder metallurgy. This shortage has deepened since 1999, when the magazine *Pokroky práškové metalurgie* (Advances in Powder Metallurgy) stopped publication. That magazine had been published since 1954 as *Technické správy VÚPM Šumperk* (Technical News of the Research Institute for Powder Metallurgy - RIPM, Šumperk), and from 1963 as *Pokroky práškové metalurgie VÚPM* (Advances in Powder Metallurgy RIPM). From 1992, with issues 3 and 4, the Institute of Materials Research SAS Košice became co-publisher of the magazine. This magazine created the conditions for publication activity in the former Czecho-Slovakia, and worked in co-operation with partner journals abroad. It shared in the presentation of research results, development and production in powder metallurgy and by this, contributed directly to the building of scientific – research as well as a production base in both Czech and Slovak Republics. I thank all workers of Pramet, Research Institute for Powder Metallurgy, Šumperk, particularly PRAMET TOOLS a.s. Šumperk, members of the Editorial Board which ensured the publication of the periodical. *We would be pleased if the publication of our journal **Powder Metallurgy Progress** was historically recognised as an established continuation of the magazine *Pokroky práškové metalurgie* (Advances in Powder Metallurgy).*

The Institute of Materials Research of Slovak Academy of Sciences (IMR SAS), from its beginnings in 1953, has focused on the area of powder metallurgy and related technologies. It is oriented on basic research, applied research, and on development of the wide spectrum of materials prepared by powder technologies. More detailed information as to the results of IMR SAS are shown in [1,2]. At the present we may state, that IMR SAS is the most significant research site in the Slovak Republic in the field of powder metallurgy. Scientific research is oriented on the development of new material systems in the field of PM such as iron, copper, aluminium, dispersed hardened materials, progressive ceramic materials, especially construction ceramic materials and electro-ceramics, as well as materials of a ceramic and metal-ceramic composite character. Special attention is devoted to the relationship between microstructure and the utilising properties of developed materials for relevant selected technological approaches. The scientific research teams,

outside of projects of national importance, are actively connected with international co-operation. The Institute co-operates with more than 40 organisations in 22 countries. A noteworthy place is set aside for projects solved within Fifth Framework Programme EU, NATO, INCO-COPERNICUS, EUREKA, COST, VAMAS, ESIS, etc. Furthermore there are the bilateral co-operation within the USA-Slovak projects, Austria-Slovak activities, etc. The Institute generates activity in the direct realisation of research results and developments, and has an equip laboratory for prototype production of newly-developed, mainly structural components on the iron PM base. The scientific-research basis in the whole of Slovakia in the field of PM, is written in detail in [3].

Publishing of the PMP journal would not be possible without the direct support of the Presidium of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and the Editorial Board of SAS. Also with a SAS background, the Institute of Materials and Machine Mechanics SAS in Bratislava is our partner acting as co-publisher.

The most noteworthy position in the area of industry within this field, is held by three firms of the Slovak Republic: Metalsint a.s. Dolný Kubín, Miba Slovakia s.r.o. Dolný Kubín, and Elektrokarbon a.s. Topoľčany. Their production program is briefly presented in [4,5,6]. For us it has been decisive, that all three firms have supported the publishing of our journal, and created the conditions for its financial safeguarding.

A key moment in the decision – making process was the interest and support of the representatives of EPMA, both the former executive director B. Williams and current Dr. J. Wroe. We accepted their viewpoint that the role of our journal is to fill a void within publishing activity, especially for Central and Eastern Europe.

At this juncture, I would like to thank all of our colleagues, co-operatives, and top foreign experts, for their active approach and support, which was confirmed during our first work-meeting on 22.10.2001 in Nice at the occasion of EURO PM'2001 congress. They have also accepted membership in the International Advisory Board. Our closest collaborator in creating this journal has been our colleague and friend Prof. Herbert Danninger from Vienna University of Technology, with whom we have first-hand scientific and technical co-operation, and who accepted our nomination as Chairman of the International Advisory Board of the PMP journal.

The most demanding organisational work in preparing the new journal was done by the workers of IMR SAS. To those who are members of the Editorial Board, and workers in the editing of this journal, I would like to give my heart-felt thanks in the name of us all.

In closing, I want to thank all who, through their work, have made it possible that today we have in our hands the first issue of our journal **Powder Metallurgy Progress**. It is my wish, that all goals which the Editorial Board and Editorial Office of this journal, as well as the publisher and co-publishers have set for themselves, be attained.

The best wishes to all of us.

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Dear Reader,

It is my honour and pleasure to introduce to you the new journal „Powder Metallurgy Progress“ which is to be a forum for high quality publication from all fields of powder metallurgy. Furthermore I want to congratulate the Institute of Materials Research, Slovak Academy of Sciences, for the courage and determination to publish this new journal, and I am looking forward to a fruitful cooperation with the editorial team.

Powder metallurgy is a still young and growing field of metallurgy and materials science, which can be seen e.g. from the increase in tonnage of products and in sales especially in the last decade. Surprisingly, however, the number of scientific and technical journals devoted to Powder Metallurgy has rather decreased in the last years. This has resulted in rather long periods between the acceptance of a publication and its actual appearance in print. Numerous researchers were therefore forced to publish their results in journals less directed towards powder metallurgy and thus also less frequently read by powder metallurgists, which effect somewhat contradicts the aim of a journal which is to make public and not to conceal! Therefore an additional peer-reviewed and internationally recognized forum for the excellent results obtained by PM researchers at institutes and industrial enterprises seems to be overdue.

A further point of importance is the integration of the Central and Eastern European countries. Here, science has been ahead of politics, since even in the darkest days of the Cold War powder metallurgists were able to keep contact with their colleagues on the other side. Since the fall of the Iron Curtain, however, conditions for cooperation and for the exchange of knowledge have dramatically improved. The new journal “Powder Metallurgy Progress”, published in English - which is the language of science today - but in a Central European country, is planned to serve as a voice in particular for the PM experts from the CEE countries many of whom have previously published in their national languages and thus were not widely recognized by the international readership but who have a lot to offer both scientifically and technically.

As the chairman of the International Advisory Board I therefore encourage all of you to make use of this new journal and to submit your manuscripts there. We shall do our best to ensure a careful but fast reviewing and publication.

Vienna, December 6, 2001

Herbert Danninger
Chairman, International Advisory Board