



In this issue:

- Out and about
- Talks
 - Steering committee meeting
 - Technical meeting



CCL

Ceramics and Composites Laboratory
The University of Sheffield

Out and about

H Fletcher and P Wright attended the “Materials for sustainable technologies meeting” organised by the RSC on the 15th November 2004. The meeting brought together academics and industrialists working on fuel cells, photovoltaic materials and H₂ technologies to provide an environment for networking and discussion.

H Fletcher attended a briefing on the third calls for the European Framework 6 programme on “Nanotechnologies and nanosciences, knowledge-based multifunctional materials, new production processes and devices”. The briefing was very informative with lots of hot tips for successful applications. I think that there should be scope for members of the CCL to respond to one of the calls. It was recommended that a good way to get information on how to prepare a successful proposal was to become an assessor. For more information about becoming an assessor please visit this website:

<https://emmp6.cordis.lu/index.cfm?fuseaction=wel.welcome>

A Feteira recently visited Japan and gave two talks. The first to the Microwave Materials and their Applications conference (MMA 2004) in Inuyama was entitled "Applicability of rare earth-doped BaTiO₃ ceramics as microwave resonators". The second was to the 3rd International Symposium on the Science of Engineering Ceramics, (EnCera 04) in Osaka and was entitled "Microstructural and Electrical Characterisation of La_xBa_{1-x}Ti_{1-x}Y_xO₃ (0 ≤ x ≤ 0.50) Ceramics"

H Fletcher visited Mike Lancaster at Birmingham University. Mike is a Principal Investigator on another of the EPSRC's Portfolio Partnerships which researches Superconducting Thin Films. Mike and I discussed the organisation of the Birmingham Portfolio Partnership and he passed on some useful ideas. I came away from the meeting thinking that we are as well organised as they are.

K Ghanbari Ahari attended the NPL's MTDATA annual user group meeting and presented a talk on "Thermodynamic Modelling Portland Cement Clinker" on 25th November 2004. MTDATA are developing a thermodynamic course using computer based calculations to update the teaching of thermodynamics with current technology developments and believed this will motivate students for learning thermodynamics through instant visualisation of thermodynamic application on science and industry.



Talks to the CCL

P. Chapone visited the CCL in early November to talk to the group about the analysis technique GDOES. The Management Committee are currently considering purchasing this equipment and the talk was a great opportunity for members of the Management Committee and Science Panel to find out more about what this technique has to offer.

S. Armes visited the CCL and gave a fascinating talk on his work to the Science Panel. With the talk covering topics ranging from inorganic/organic composites to EELS mapping to the modelling of Saturns rings there was something to interest

everyone. S. Armes is currently collaborating with P. Wright, lets hope that this talk could lead more collaborative research in the future.

The next talk to members of the Science Panel will be by Alan Matthews in February. A date is yet to be arranged but the talk promises to be very interesting and I hope you will all attend.



Steering Committee Meeting

This month saw the 4th meeting of the Portfolio Partnerships Steering Committee. The Steering Committee meet every 6 months to discuss the progress and management of the Portfolio Partnership.

The Steering Committee is made up of 4 members of the Management Committee, me and an additional 5 external panel members. The external panel members are A. Bell (Chair) from Leeds University, D. Iddles from Filtronic, A. Chadwick from the University of Kent, J. Etourneau from Universite Bordeaux and Darren Hunter from EPSRC.

The meeting went very well, the external panel were happy with the progress we have made and complemented us on a great annual report.



Technical Meeting

Next month the CCL will hold its first Technical Meeting. All CCL members are expected to attend. The meeting will be on the 11th January in the morning and will take place in lecture theatre 20. Various members of the CCL will give short talks and these will be followed by a buffet lunch in the Turner museum. The meeting will give you an excellent opportunity to find out about the latest research being conducted within the group.



Best Wishes and **Happy Christmas**

Helen

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