

Message from the Conference Chair

The 31st IEEE Photovoltaic Specialists Conference on January 3-7, 2005 at Disney Coronado Springs Resort in Florida reviewed the recent progress that has been made in the science, technology and applications of Photovoltaics. It is my pleasure to thank the members of the Executive Committee and the Program Committee publicly for their outstanding contributions to this successful conference. For the first time, the submission of abstracts and papers was carried electronically. The success of this new endeavor was due primarily to the Program Chair, Tim Coutts, the Web Chair, Brent Nelson and the Publications Chair, David Wilt. Special thanks are also due to Juris Kalejis and the student session aides for the organization and implementation of the oral sessions all of which, also for the first time, were in the form of PowerPoint presentations.

Over 650 registered attendees, from 36 countries, came together to share over 450 technical papers, accomplishments and results from their research, application experiences and efforts to commercialize PV technology. In addition, exhibitors from 38 organizations were on site to display their products and services. The conference maintained the scientific and technical depth of previous conferences exploring the physics, materials, engineering of photovoltaic devices, models, solar electric power systems, as well as manufacturing.

The conference began with two keynote speakers who discussed the challenges that our society faces in the coming decades as demand for energy increases. This thought-provoking opening was followed by three further keynote speakers who discussed the roadmaps formulated by the major communities in the world involved in developing Photovoltaics. Speakers then followed these perspectives from several industries engaged in planning the scale-up of PV manufacturing to giga-watt levels, in each of several technologies. The subsequent plenary sessions covered the six technical areas, including a new one dealing with Fundamentals, Novel Materials and Devices. Also, in each area, special sessions were introduced in which five invited speakers reviewed the important technical issues, as well as advances in scientific understanding and performance of cells and panels. The goal of these sessions was to provide attendees with a thorough overview of the state-of-the-art of the particular subject area, as well as technical problems that are still outstanding.

Prior to the conference, experts in their field presented six tutorial sessions. As part of the Auxiliary Program, a workshop was held dealing with "Solar Energy: Use in Disasters and Energy Security." This topic was particularly relevant in light of the extreme climatic events that have occurred in Florida this year as well as in Asia. A workshop was also held for university teams participating in the 2005 Solar Decathlon, a competition to build and operate the most effective and efficient solar-powered houses.

I would also like to thank the authors and speakers, exhibitors, and all the attendees for coming and contributing to the success of the conference. The 32nd PVSC will be incorporated into the 4th World Conference on Photovoltaic Energy Conversion to be held in May of 2006 in Hawaii and I look forward to seeing you there.

Christopher R. Wronski, Conference Chair

