

## 1. PUBLISHABLE FINAL ACTIVITY REPORT

The primary objective of the MATJOINCONF project was **to organize the International conference "Advanced metallic materials and their joining" in Bratislava, Slovakia** that would involve the researchers from both newly accepted Member States and existing Member States. The conference should enable personal meetings, new contacts and the exchange of the most recent knowledge between researchers and industry representatives from new Member States and existing Member States as well as from the selected third countries with the aim to create new international consortia for the research projects within the FP6 in the priority area of NMP. For this purpose, follow-up **workshop** was organised at the end of the Conference to discuss the proposals for **joint projects**.

The Conference was destined for the specialists from the industry and from the field of research, development and manufacture of advanced metallic materials, for the specialists from the field of their welding and other joining methods and also for fabricators of welded structures. The mentioned area of applied research belonged to the thematic priority 3 NMP, mainly to the priority area 3.4.2.3.-2 *New knowledge-based higher performance materials for macro-scale applications* and 3.4.3.1.-2 *Advanced technologies, and their incorporation into factory of the future*.

A broader application of these materials in industry is being often hindered by the unsolved problems of their technological processing (joining), mainly by brazing/welding. **The joints/welds** are the most critical part of a structure which are often limiting the practical application of the **novel materials**. Therefore the theme of proposed Conference was **the joining of advanced metallic materials**.

The conference and workshop were organised by Welding Research Institute - Industrial Institute of SR in close cooperation with 2 participants (contractors), see List of participants:

Partic. Role*	Partic. No.	Participant name	Participant short name	Country
CO	1	Welding Research Institute-Industrial, Institute of the Slovak Republic	WRI	SK
CR	2	Institute of Materials and Machine, Mechanics of Slovak Academy of Sciences	IMMMSAS	SK
CR	3	Society for New Materials and Technologies in Slovakia	SNMTS	SK

\*CO = Coordinator

CR = Contractor

To secure a high professional level of the Conference the top specialists from renowned European institutions have been invited to take part in the Programme Committee and to present keynote and invited papers. Owing to very high interest in presentation of the lectures, on the conference the poster sessions had to be also opened.

The Conference “Advanced Metallic Materials and Their Joining” was held at Holiday – Inn Hotel Bratislava on October 24 – 27, 2004, see Final Programme attached as Appendix 1

Totally there were 54 oral papers and 33 posters. From them 15 keynote papers were presented by invited authors. The Conference and follow up Workshop was attended by 143 participants from 14 European countries and from Japan. Besides the invited lecturers also 10 PhD students could take part in the Conference free of charge. See illustrate photos from the chairmen and the audience (Fig.1 and 2).

On the Workshop the participants representing 23 institutions from 13 countries have expressed their interest to join the projects within the 6FP or later 7 FP. They proposed 7 project topics and created project consortia.

**Generally said the Conference “Advanced Metallic Materials and Their Joining” and follow up Workshop were successful.** Owing to the financial contribution of EC we succeeded to invite top specialists from the whole Europe to Slovakia, to allow the participation of the representatives from industry and research from the newly adopted EU member countries and to create pre-requisites of common consortia of investigators for submission of proposals of new projects within next EC calls.

An information about the Conference event has been disseminated by means of printed announcements (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and final), Brief Information, websites ([www.vuz.sk](http://www.vuz.sk) and [www.euwelding.com](http://www.euwelding.com)), welding journals and by media briefings.