

## Guest editorial

# IMRET12

IMRET12, the 12th International conference on Micro-reaction Technology, was held on February 20–22, 2012 in Lyon, and hosted by the School of Chemistry, Engineering and Physics, Lyon, France (CPE Lyon), and co-organized by the Laboratory of Catalytic Reactor Engineering (CPE-Lyon) and the Laboratory of Reactions and Chemical Engineering (ENSIC-Nancy).

This 12th IMRET Conference in 15 years shows the strong vivacity of the ever bubbling field of micro-process technology. With up to 350 participants, including 90 from industry, and a particularly wide range of scientific contributions from 30 countries over the five continents, IMRET12 demonstrated that IMRET conferences remain the major conferences on micro-process technology, which continue to spread its topic over numerous national and international congresses in chemical engineering.

The conference featured more than 220 lectures, oral and poster communications covering a large field from flow synthesis and fine chemicals, material synthesis and products, energy and thermal systems, process intensification, fundamentals – fluidic, mixing, mass and heat transfer, process data acquisition, kinetics and chemical analysis, miniplants – process design and control and strategic activities and large projects.

Exhibition of equipment and know-how has always been another motivating facet of IMRET conferences. In keeping with past conferences, IMRET12 enjoyed equipment exhibitions from 11 of these high-tech companies and certainly contributed in creating many informal discussions and gathering of research ideas.

IMRET12 was also a venue for grasping an overview of ongoing large projects (EU and Japan funded) dealing with compact plants activities and other strategic R&D programs related to micro-process technology.

On the very last session, a podium discussion with prominent industrial and academic leaders shed some light on future developments in the field.



**Figure 1** The IMRET12 Organising Committee ready to take action!

This special issue of *Green Processing and Synthesis* is devoted to selected papers submitted on “Miniplants – Process Design & Control” and “Data Acquisition”. These topics are of interest, since they touch on obtaining reliable data for both the design and control of processes and how microreaction technology can be used for the production of chemicals and materials.

We would like to express our warm thanks to Professor Volker Hessel for the opportunity to publish in this newly founded journal devoted to green processing and to the IMRET12 contributing authors.

Please, enjoy this special issue and join the active community in micro-reaction technology.

Best regards

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IMRET12 Chairmen

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