‘Reinforced’ knowledge: 14th European Conference on Composite Materials

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This issue of *eXPRESS Polymer Letters* contains selected papers presented at the 14th European Conference on Composite Materials (ECCM) held in Budapest, 7–10 June 2010. This conference is a regular forum for scientist, specialists and industrial experts dedicated to polymers/metals/ceramic materials, to their technology, design, simulation, testing and application aspects. This conference series was founded after realizing the interest of scientist and technologists, not only from Europe but from all over the World, in getting general and specific knowledge about the most recent advancements of the cutting edge composite materials topics. The first conference was organized in France (Bordeaux) in 1985 and the next 15th conference will be held in Venice, Italy between 24–28 June, 2012. Besides looking forward, the 25th anniversary of the conference provided an opportunity for retrospection. This review was given by the first day's plenary lecture speaker, Prof. G.S. Springer (USA), doyen of composite science and technology. Material science and technology has gone through vast development in the last decades. Modern composites are essential in all fields of life, including building and transportation industry, information technology, energy sector and medical applica-

tions. In this context, the current and future composite materials, technologies and application fields were presented during the second days' plenary lectures: Prof. I. Verpoest (B) gave a talk on nano and biocomposites, Prof. O.T. Thomsen's (DK) lecture addressed wind turbine composite rotor blades, while Dr. C. Weimer's (D) presentation focused on future processing techniques for cost-effective high performance composites in helicopter manufacturing. During the conference 395 oral lectures and 195 posters were presented by experts from 60 countries in 6 parallel sessions. The conference provided a platform for presentation and discussion of the latest results and offered an opportunity for young scientists to learn and to present their work. The conference brought together the researchers from academia and industry, served as an open forum for the exchange of knowledge, and helped to establish worldwide scientific cooperation between 700 participants.

From left to right:
Prof. M.Q. Zhang, Prof. G.C. Psarras, Prof. T. Czigány,
Prof. P.M. Frontini, Prof. J. Karger-Kocsis, Prof. G. Marosi,
Prof. A. Pegoretti, Prof. A. Bismarck, Prof. R.A. Shanks

This issue presents a selection of the most recent results of the above-mentioned research areas within the field of reinforced polymeric materials. This venue gave a possibility to the International Advisory Board of *eXPRESS Polymer Letters* to meet each other (see Figure) and discuss future works for the journal.

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