

FOREWORD

You have been invited to this year's International Conference on Innovative Manufacturing Technology IMT 2016 to Krynica-Zdrój in spring time. The IMT2016 Conference is organized by the Institute of Advanced Manufacturing Technology (IOS) located in Krakow. Alongside the Conference, two other events will be taking place, namely the Seminar "*Field Assistant Sintering Technology and Advanced Materials*" and the Workshop "*Programming and Selection of Process Sintering Parameters for Multiphase, High-Melting Point and Non-Equilibrium Ceramics*". Both these events are organised within the international European project "*Development of a sintering centre and know-how exchange for non equilibrium sintering methods of advanced ceramic composite materials*"(FP7-REGPOT-2012-2013-1 SINTERCER). The aim of these events is to discuss the research and development in the field that the SINTERCER project is concerned with, in particular the development of innovative material sintering technologies and manufacturing processes for special composite materials.

Innovations in production technologies are crucial for global development. Modern production technologies are closely related to the development of new economic processes of high efficiency, accuracy and cost-effective energy management. Innovative technologies are developed thanks to the incorporation of new elements and models into technological processes, and most of all thanks to research focused on new techniques, new markets and new products. Innovations affect the functioning of businesses on many levels, related on the one hand to the volume of sales and to the market share, and on the other hand depending on production capacity and efficiency, thus contributing to the global competitiveness of the economy and the dissemination of knowledge. Business innovation activities are mainly influenced by knowledge, implementation of new technologies, modes of operating and human resources. The interdependencies and strength of the relations between these elements show the potential of innovative activities of enterprises, as well as constitute a source of knowledge and technological know-how.

During the IMT2016 Conference, as well as during the Seminar and the Workshop organized within the SINTERCER project, the research results presented will cover the fields of manufacturing technologies of novel materials, including material production, modelling, examination of physical and mechanical properties, and taking into account the applicability aspects of the research.

The presence of renowned and highly-esteemed academics makes it possible to exchange experience and carry out informed discussions on topics focused on areas of our common research activity.

I hope that the work presented at the conference will be an inspiration to effective experience exchange, that it will create a forum for discussion on issues centered around innovative processes and products, and that it will help to develop an effective strategy for activities aimed in this direction.

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