



Preface

Electromagnetic and light scattering by nonspherical particles 2003

In this special issue, the peer-reviewed proceedings of the *7th Conference on Electromagnetic and Light Scattering by Nonspherical Particles: Theory, Measurements, and Applications* are printed. The meeting was held at the University of Bremen campus on September 8–12, 2003. It was arranged by the University of Bremen and the Institut für Werkstofftechnik, Bremen.

This conference combines two series: the *Workshop on Electromagnetic and Light Scattering* (Bremen, 1996; Moscow, 1997; Bremen, 1998) and the *Workshop on Light Scattering by Nonspherical Particles* (Amsterdam, 1995; Helsinki, 1997; New York, 1998). The first combined conferences were held in Vigo, Spain in 1999, in Halifax, Canada in 2000 and in Gainesville, Florida in 2002.

The Bremen conference brought together about 80 participants from all over the world. We are now looking forward to the *8th Conference on Electromagnetic and Light Scattering by Nonspherical Particles: Theory, Measurements, and Applications*, which will be held in Salobreña, Granada, Spain on May 16–20, 2005. You will find the conference announcement at www.iaa.csic.es/~confels8/.

As with the former conferences proceedings of refereed extended abstracts were published prior to the conference [1]. This special issue now is a compilation of full length papers presented at the conference. Perhaps it is worthwhile to explain that all manuscripts submitted for this special issue were subjected to a second refereeing procedure. With publication of the proceedings as a special issue of JQSRT which became tradition starting from the Amsterdam conference we feel that we can maintain the high standards with such a conference series.

The papers in this issue demonstrate the wide interdisciplinary nature of the interest in light scattering by particles. They highlight current trends in light scattering, while demonstrating that exciting developments, such as the T-matrix method and discrete dipole approximation, are becoming standard tools.

The theoretical treatments neatly illustrate the present-day concerns in various fields, covering inhomogeneity, aggregated soot particles, non-spherical particles, cirrus cloud ice crystals and fibrous particles.

As no proceedings can be published without some assistance we would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to all referees for their careful reviewing of all contributions and especially to Jens Hellmers for the preparations of this volume. A special issue demands

exceptional disciplines from authors, referees and publication staff because everyone has to finish their job on time. Therefore special thanks to all individuals involved. Hopefully, the compensation in the form of this collection of papers on light scattering by particles will be reward enough.

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