

Opening Plenary Session

Chairman: P.A. Pilavachi

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the First Conference to be organised by the Thematic Network CAME-GT, a Network which brings together RTD projects on Gas Turbine Technologies funded by the Fifth Framework Programme of the European Union. The Network has been operating for more than two years and has so far held four Workshops. As part of the European Research Area, researchers from Member States of the EU have also been invited to the Workshops to present their projects. In addition, a recent extension to CAME-GT has enabled some Accession States to be represented and there are speakers at this Conference from Cyprus, Slovenia, Poland, Bulgaria and Romania. They are especially welcome.

We are also very pleased to have such a major contribution to this Conference from our research colleagues in the US.

The Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement and the specific EU-DoE Implementing Agreement for Non-Nuclear Energy were signed some time ago between the EU and the US and this is the First International Conference on Gas Turbine Technologies which we organise with US participation. We would particularly like to thank Richard Dennis from NETL of the US Department of Energy, for his enthusiastic support of the Conference. Without him the Conference would be lacking a key international dimension.

A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between the EU and EPRI and we are very pleased to have EPRI here today. We would like to particularly welcome Mr Henry Courtright, Vice President Power Generation and Distributed Resources of EPRI, and Mr Athanasios Boitsios, Managing Director of EPRI World-wide.

In our first two Sessions we will have keynote presentations from a number of institutions and major gas turbine companies from Europe and the US. In the following technical Sessions of the Programme we have 63 papers covering combustion, materials, aerodynamics and heat transfer, instrumentation and systems. 17 of these papers originate from the US. The closing comments in the Conference will be presented by Nick Otter, Director of External Affairs, ALSTOM Power UK, Member of the Energy Advisory Group for the Fifth Framework Programme, Co-chairman of the UK Energy Foresight Initiative and Chairman of the UK Advanced Power Generation Technology Forum.

Following the hoped for success of this Conference, CAME-GT is planning to organise a Second Gas Turbine Industrial Technology Conference next year in Slovenia.

It is a great pleasure to have with us Mr Angel Perez Sainz, Head of Unit for Energy Production and Distribution Systems at the European Commission, who will Open the Conference and give an Introductory Presentation on "The Roles and Priorities of Research into Future Energy Systems".

I hope you have a good Conference and benefit from the many excellent papers to be presented.