



Editorial

Symposium on Transparent Ceramics

The subject of transparent ceramics has become a specialised area of growing importance in the ceramic community where the application of transparent ceramics is a unique solution to many industrial challenges. This symposium follows on from a previous special symposium dedicated to Transparent Ceramics at the Berlin ECerS Conference in 2007 (*JECS*, Vol. 29, 2009, issue 2) illustrating the continued strong interest in the subject area. The areas of application are vast and include windows for barcode readers, pressure vessels or laser spark plugs, solid state lasers, high index optics for ultraviolet (UV) microlithography, high pressure arc lamps, watch casings, optical heat exchangers, UV and IR windows, and jewellery amongst others. The focus of this symposium was towards better theoretical understanding of light scattering effects and the precise nature and control of powder and processing characteristics necessary to produce high quality transparent ceramics. The well attended presentations and high quality of scientific discussion during

the symposium are reflected in the invited papers, where we see historical overviews or innovative use of characterisation methods or powders as well as the use of fundamental atomistic simulations, all of which show the way forward towards a bright future for applications in transparent ceramics.

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