

## Foreword

The 15th International Baltic Conference on Engineering Materials and Tribology BALTMATTRIB-2006 was held in Tallinn, Estonia, October 5–6, 2006. The Conference included 35 oral presentations focused on advanced engineering materials and coatings, tribology and tribological materials. More than 40 participants from 10 countries attended the Conference.

These annual Conferences have become a forum of scientists of the Baltic Sea Region (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Sweden, Germany, etc.), active in the field of materials science, materials engineering and tribology. One of the goals of the Conference is to share most up-to-date knowledge and to preserve and widen the working contacts between the scientists of Baltic, Nordic and other countries. The Conference aims at a synergetic effect by addressing important basic and practical aspects of manufacturing new materials and research on their mechanical behaviour and tribological aspects with the aim to find significant links between various complementary approaches.

The Conference BALTMATTRIB-2006 was organized by the Department of Materials Engineering of the Tallinn University of Technology, Association of Baltic Materials Societies, Estonian Materials Science Society and Estonian Welding Society. This special issue of the *Proceedings of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, Engineering* contains a selection of the papers, presented at the Conference.

Priit Kulu, Conference Chair  
Jakob Kübarsepp, Conference Co-chair