

FOREWORD

This volume assembles the texts of the lectures delivered at the first Euro-School on Materials Science, organised in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from 22 to 27 of May 2006 by the European Network of Excellence Complex Metallic Alloys (CMA) under contract NMP3-CT-2005-500145.

The central objective of the CMA Euro-School is to provide a lecture-style background to students graduating in the field of materials science, in particular in the physics of metals and metallurgy. Four annual sessions of the CMA-Euro-School are foreseen, from which a series of four books will be issued. It is my great pleasure to introduce here the first volume in the series.

During the first session of the CMA Euro-School, emphasis was on the basics of thermodynamics, phase transitions, crystallography and electronic properties of complex metallic alloys. These subjects were accounted for owing to two types of lectures. On the one hand, plenary lectures referred to basic topics and on the other hand, shorter lectures reported on tutorial topics. The book begins with a general introduction to the field of CMAs. Each of the following chapters refers to a distinct lecture: chapters 2 to 6 to basic lectures and chapters 7 to 13 to tutorial lectures.

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