

Media Advisory

2008 APPLIED SUPERCONDUCTIVITY CONFERENCE

Hyatt Regency Chicago

Chicago, Illinois, USA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Biennial Applied Superconductivity Conference to Showcase World Progress in Chicago

From new medical and communications devices to super-efficient power systems, the science of superconductivity has made tremendous progress in its quest to enable cost-effective, environmentally friendly products for the marketplace.

Superconductivity comes to Chicago from August 17 - 22, as the 2008 Applied Superconductivity Conference (ASC2008) (<http://www.ascinc.org/>) convenes in the Hyatt Regency Chicago. Over 1400 top scientists, engineers and industrial leaders from 34 countries will discuss the current status of science, applications and products. The event is the largest conference in the world focusing on commercial applications of superconductivity.

Superconductors carry electricity without heating and can transmit current with no losses. They can be used to carry electricity, make strong magnets and tiny sensors that detect the magnetism in the brain.

"The use of superconductivity has made possible many important technologies, from energy and medical devices to metrology, from sensors to accelerators," said Dr. Balu Balachandran of Argonne National Laboratory, who serves as Chairman of ASC 2008. "Applications relevant to society today range from power transmission and distribution systems for a blackout-free future, hand-held detectors that can trace hazardous elements, and non-invasive medical devices that can operate in rural environments or on a battlefield. Many more are expected as the field continues to advance," he said.

Mr. Jim Kerby of Fermilab, ASC 2008 technical program co-chair, said the conference provides opportunities for U.S. scientists and engineers to collaborate with their international counterparts. "The Applied Superconductivity Conference brings together experts from all over the world to discuss the latest superconducting technologies and the materials and physics that make them possible. Scientific tools for cosmology and particle physics, new electric power technology, fusion energy, transportation advances, quantum computers, communications enhancement, medical diagnostic and treatment equipment, and ultra sensitive detectors, are among the topics on the program, exemplifying how applications of superconductivity improve efficiency and reach more and more into everyday life."

Dr. Balachandran and colleagues look forward to the multidisciplinary exchange the program provides. "Leading scientists, students and members of the public have opportunities during the week to attend technical sessions, view exhibits and participate in special events," he said. "In addition, 52 companies will showcase their industrial products and services related to superconductivity for conference participants."

Dr. Lance Cooley, program co-chair who also calls Fermilab home, is pleased that the 2008 conference will also incorporate a late session on newly discovered superconducting materials, where invited speakers from across the globe will present exciting new research results. According to Cooley, "The session will culminate in talks from the floor, similar to the famous 'Woodstock of Physics' session held when high temperature superconductors at liquid nitrogen temperatures were first discovered in Houston in the late 1980's. This session is expected to bring together those who helped start the High Tc revolution with those who make the materials, those who use them, and people who *want* to use them."

A variety of plenary talks by noted experts have been scheduled throughout the week on topics ranging from superconducting detectors to ultra-compact and light electric motors and actuators suitable for airborne applications. Advances in biomedical applications, including MRI and NMR magnets and non-invasive technologies, and new applications in high energy physics (including the new ITER project) will be discussed. Highlight talks will also include recent events in applied superconductivity in China, and several sessions held as memorials to internationally renowned colleagues who have made important contributions to science and engineering applications.

Members of the press are invited to attend and may do so by faxing a registration form found on the website at ascinc.org or registering on-site. Please write "Waiver-Media" on your form to receive a complementary registration.