

Engineering Conferences International, in technical co-sponsorship with the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, sponsored the sixth conference in this continuing series of triennial conferences, the major North American conference on emerging technologies and scientific advancements in the area of polymer reaction engineering. "PRE VI", held in Halifax, Canada from May 21–26, 2006, was chaired by Robin Hutchinson (Queen's University, Canada), Michael Muhle (ExxonMobil Chemical Co., USA) and Alex Penlidis (University of Waterloo, Canada). PRE VI continued the mandate of the PRE conference series to bring together the leading researchers from academia and industry to discuss a broad range of practical, theoretical and new topics in the area. Over 40% of the 119 attendees were from industry, continuing the strong academia-industry interactions in the area of PRE. Just over half of the attendees were from US and Canada, with the remaining 47% of participants coming from 19 other countries. The financial support from sponsoring companies – BASF, CîT GmbH, Degussa, ExxonMobil, LG Chemical Ltd, SABIC, Sumitomo Chemicals, and Woodbridge Foam Corp. – was an essential component in assembling the strong technical program.

As in previous editions of the conference, the majority of the presentations were invited lectures, organized into ses-

sions on Polymerization Fundamentals, Mathematical Modeling Techniques, Process Measurement and Control, New Polymerization Systems, and Industrial Applications. There were more posters at the conference than ever before, with a total of 79 divided between the two poster sessions. Key topics included reaction engineered nanocomposites and nanoparticles, production of polymers with controlled architectures, online monitoring of polymerization systems, measurement and modeling of polyolefin particle growth and reactor hydrodynamics, and polymerization process intensification via novel reactor design. The contributions submitted for this special issue of Macromolecular Symposia provide a cross-section of the conference topics, reflecting the developing trend of applying PRE principles and skills not only to improvement of polymerization processes, but also to the design and development of new materials.

All agree that the meeting was a resounding success, and look forward to PRE VII in 2009, to be chaired by Alex Penlidis (U. of Waterloo, Canada) and cochaired by John Richards (DuPont, USA) and Marc Dubé (U. of Ottawa, Canada).

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