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Foreword

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Foreword

The *Particle Separation Conference* held in Toulouse, July 9–11, 2007 was organised under the aegis of the *Particle Separation specialist group* of the International Water Association (IWA). International Water Association is one of the more active in connecting the broad community of water professionals around the globe integrating the leading edge of professional thought on research and practice, across the drinking water, wastewater and stormwater disciplines. The IWA network is structured to promote multi-level collaboration among its diverse membership groups, and to share the benefit of knowledge on water science and management worldwide. Specialist groups represent the core vehicle for issue-based interaction on scientific, technical and management topics. The specialist groups facilitate collaboration and product generation, including conferences and publications.

The objectives of the *Particle Separation specialist group* are to advance knowledge in separation processes and related topics in the fields of water and wastewater treatment and environmental protection. This group specializes in; (1) solids removal concepts in water and wastewater treatment; (2) particles removal processes including flocculation, sedimentation, flotation, filtration, and membrane processes; (3) characterization of particles and suspensions in raw and treated waters; (4) particle transport and transformation processes.

The group organizes workshops and conferences at approximately one year interval on different topics. The last conference, *Particle Separation Conference 07*, was held in Toulouse, France, July 9–11 and the major themes were:

- Innovative approaches in traditional particle separation technology
- Particle characterisation: from traditional to cutting-edge tools for all sorts of particles (aggregates, bioparticles, nanoparticles)
- Numerical simulation: the latest developments in the field of Particle Separation
- The new challenges in Particle Separation: (membranes, bioreactors).

After the conference, the authors were invited to submit their papers for this special issue of *Separation Science and Technology*. We received more than 35 papers for this journal and ended up with a selection of 24 presented in this special issue.

We would like to express our thanks to all authors for their nice contributions and to the referees for careful reviews of the submitted papers. We thank the Editor of Separation Science and Technology, Professor Steven Cramer and the Editorial Officer, Bonnie Cramer, for their invitation to edit this special issue and for their help in the editorial work. We also thank the co-workers for the preparation of this conference where these papers were presented. Hopefully this collection of papers, reflecting and summarizing the advances and developments in particle separation for water treatment will be enjoyable and stimulating for the readers of the journal.

Invited Editor
Martine Meireles- Masbernart
Member of IWA Particle separation Specialist group
Chairman of IWA Particle separation Specialist group
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