

Foreword

The International Association of Chemical Thermodynamics (IACT) was established in 2002 to continue the activities of the former IUPAC Commission I.2 on Thermodynamics. The challenge ahead for IACT is to provide leadership in academia and industry by maintaining the highest standards in research, teaching and application in all areas of chemical thermodynamics. At the crossroad of quite different areas, the communication among such a diversified audience of scientists, teachers and engineers includes publication of reference data collections, recommendations for using and applying thermodynamics and related techniques, publications of selected reviews in refereed journals as well as monographs and collective works. In each case, the responsibility of IACT is the identification and selection of the best authors/contributors. In this context, I would like to point out that IACT continues the successful series “Chemistry for the 21st Century” with contributions from international experts, which may be profitably used even by readers not specialized in the fields covered. Following the volume “Chemical Thermodynamics”, the present one on “Chemical Thermodynamics for Industry” deals with a large spectrum of applications of thermodynamics in modern chemical industry. It is a collection of contributions showing the importance of thermodynamics for pushing frontiers of efficiency and economics towards increasingly better-quality products and services for the benefit of mankind.

The book assembles 23 chapters authored by leading thermodynamicists. The initiative for this work originated with Professor Trevor Letcher, the editor, who invested considerable energy and patience to select, collect and organize these timely high-quality contributions. Undoubtedly, the book will find its place within IUPAC's major publications. As President of IACT, it is my honour and pleasure to thank Professor Letcher for his guidance in such an enterprise. My thanks also extend to the authors for making their knowledge available and for the time they devoted to this work.

Jean-Pierre E. Grolier
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