

## PREFACE

This International Conference seems to change its spots slightly in every incarnation. This year, two years after the conference in Wolverhampton, the meeting is being co-hosted in Liverpool by the Higher Education Academy Subject Centres for Materials (UKCME) and Engineering (EngSC).

The education of engineers remains a lively topic, the importance of which for society is recognised by educators, governments and professional bodies across the world. There has been a gradual change of emphasis over the past few years, re-adjusting the balance between theoretical or analytical engineering and practical engineering embracing the complete product life cycle. This change in emphasis is reflected in both the content and delivery of the conference papers this year. We have sessions on sustainable development, the formation of professional engineers, trust and accountability, creativity and design, as well as long-established topics such as e-learning, assessment and good teaching practice. There is also a focus on the student experience, so that we are not tempted to forget who all this is for!

This year sees an experiment in 'poster' delivery. An electronic format is available instead of paper or card. This will not only enable more papers to be seen in a limited space, but also means that papers can be studied at the delegates' leisure on nearby computers.

The international conference is thus in good health, with its delegates practising what they preach. This volume of the papers, while recording the substance, can only hint at the style and impact of the meeting itself.

Peter Goodhew  
Chair EE2006  
July 2006

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