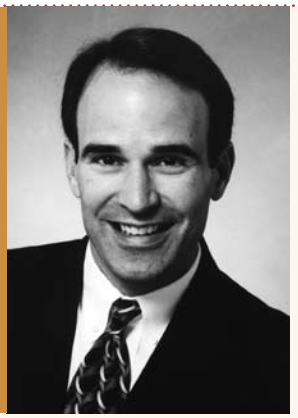

Lots of Energy in Vienna

An ECS meeting in Europe is always an energetic event because we produce extraordinary technical programs and attract many of the best scientists in our discipline to one of the world's greatest destinations. The 216th ECS Meeting, which will be held in Vienna, Austria during the first week of October, has certainly created a lot of energy and excitement; and the importance of electrochemistry in solving the world's energy and environmental problems has increased the energy quotient for the meeting… both literally and figuratively.

One of our strategic meeting objectives is to rotate the biannual meetings into major cities in selected regions around the world. Figuratively, this creates a lot of energy around the meetings because it enables ECS to connect with our globally-expanding community. We are committed to holding one of our biannual meetings in a major European city about every four years, and Vienna represents our third major meeting in Europe. The first two European meetings were both held at the Palais des Congrès in Paris, France. We initiated this strategy in the 1980s, when ECS started rotating meetings in Honolulu, Hawaii to generate energy in the Pacific Rim. Since then we have held five joint meetings* in Honolulu with The Electrochemical Society of Japan (ECSJ) and several other partners from the Pacific Rim, and more recently we have ventured into Latin America and China. The formula has been very successful and we have seen an increased interest in ECS in these regions and a lot of good science and energy at our technical meetings.

While, figuratively speaking, we have experienced the energy created by the distinguished contributions of both students and research scientists (and the charisma and charm of the extraordinary international destinations), this October, at the Austria Center in Vienna, ECS will literally be concerned with energy like never before. The meeting program will include a broad range of topics in solid-state and electrochemical science and technology that includes a total of 3,196 papers in 44 different symposia with a projected attendance of about 3,400. What distinguishes the Vienna meeting is that we have developed the largest program on energy storage and conversion ever organized at an ECS meeting.

The meeting begins on Sunday with our "XYZ… for the Rest of Us" series, where Professor David Shoesmith from the University of Western Ontario (London, Ontario, Canada) will present the XYZs of how electrochemistry is used in solving problems with nuclear waste. From Monday through to Friday, the technical program is loaded with energy-related symposia. Here's just a very small sampling:

- Intercalalation Compounds for Lithium Batteries (M. Wittingham, P. Bruce, C. Julien, M. Palacin, J. Prakash, and M. Thackeray), 115 papers
- Rechargeable Lithium Ion Batteries (M. Winter, K. Abraham, D. Doughty, Z. Ogumi, and K. Zaghib), 218 papers
- Photovoltaics for the 21st Century 5 (M. Toa, J. Brownson, P. Chang, C. Claeys, K. Kakimoto, K. Rajeshwar, M. Sunkara, and D. Yang), 61 papers
- Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cells 9 (T. Fuller, P. Bele, S Cleghorn, H. Gasteiger, C. Hartnig, T. Jarvi, D. Jones, C. Lamy, V. Ramani, P. Shrivanian, P. Strasser, H. Uchida, T. Zawodzinski, and P. Zelenay), 370 papers

In addition, we will be hosting a satellite conference in Vienna, namely the Eleventh International Symposium on Solid Oxide Fuel Cells (SOFC XI) organized by S. Singhal and H. Yokokawa. There is a special registration package for the SOFC XI conference attendees but the technical presentations (375 papers) are open to all the meeting attendees in Vienna. Finally, on Friday there is a satellite meeting on "In Situ Diagnosis of Low Temperature Fuel Cells," which is sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and organized by P. Krueger and C. Hartnig.

There will be lots of great science presented and discussed in Vienna this October, and for more information about the program go to www.electrochem.org. The Vienna program reflects the significance of our energy challenges and the role that electrochemistry will have in finding solutions. Lots of energy at ECS meetings generates the critical thinking needed for the future of our planet.

Roque J. Calvo
ECS Executive Director

* The joint meetings in Hawaii were re-branded in 2008, to reflect the contributions of the Pacific Rim participants and is now titled the Pacific Rim Meeting on Electrochemistry and Solid-State Science, or PRiME. PRiME 2008 was the fifth joint meeting between ECS and ECSJ, and it also included the co-sponsorship of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, the Korean Electrochemical Society, the Chinese Society of Electrochemistry, and the Japan Society of Applied Physics. PRiME 2008 had 3,237 attendees, which made it the largest meeting on electrochemistry ever held.