

Preface

This book is devoted to the technology of organic transistors. First reported twenty years ago, organic transistors quickly became a focus of intense research and development not only in academia, but in a rapidly increasing number of industrial laboratories. In fact, the initial reports on organic transistors originated from Japanese corporate research groups, and the first integrated circuits based on organic transistors were developed by Philips. Meanwhile, an astonishing number of university groups and non-corporate research centers have engaged in organic electronics research and have made critical contributions in many important areas such as device physics, materials chemistry, process optimization, and novel applications aspects.

For this volume, 42 authors representing 18 research groups in France, the United States, Canada, Germany, Great Britain, Austria, The Netherlands, and Japan have pooled their knowledge, experience and insights to provide a fascinating look at today's organic electronics landscape and project its future. The content of the book displays a striking balance between contributions from industry and academia, which evolved naturally in the early stages of the project. The significant number of crucial contributions from industry stands as a testament both to the progress made in developing the technology in corporate environments as well as to the continued commercial interest, while the remarkable body of work from universities and non-corporate centers is critically important to illuminate some of the fundamental problems that remain to be solved and to accelerate the advancement of a broad range of novel routes that may prove vital to the ultimate success of organic electronics.

As a first-time editor I am profoundly indebted to the tremendous support provided by all of the individuals involved in this project. First and foremost I want to acknowledge and thank the authors who have given so generously of their time and expertise and with their attention and responsiveness have made the editorial task both a great privilege and a smooth ride. Second I would like to express my gratitude to Bettina Bems, Martin Ottmar, Nele Denzau and Claudia Nussbeck at Wiley-VCH for giving me the opportunity to organize this book, for all the invaluable help in the editorial process, and for the wonderful experience of working with them. Finally, I want to thank all the readers for their interest in this book and hope that it is of good scientific value to them.

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