

**OMER
VAN DER BIEST
BELGIUM**

Omer Van der Biest, is professor at the Department of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering; Leuven University, Belgium since 1987.

He obtained a Master in Metallurgical Engineering at Leuven University and a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley.

Previously he held positions at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory and at the Institute for Energy in Petten (The Netherlands).

He carried out most of his research work in the field of ceramics. He is author of more than 350 scientific/technical publications in international refereed journals and of numerous contributions to conferences and other publications including 6 patents and (co)-editor of 6 books.

The role that electric and magnetic fields can play in the processing of materials has been a continuous theme in his work. In shaping of ceramics this has led to research on electrophoretic deposition and texturing of materials in a strong magnetic field. In sintering he pioneered the development of advanced sintering equipment for sintering under an electric field (FAST, SPS, PECS). He contributed also early on to microwave sintering of powders. These techniques have been applied to the development of ceramic composites, coatings and laminates for applications in wear resistant parts, energy conversion processes and for biomedical implants. He was elected as Academician to the World Academy of Ceramics in 2006.

Since 1991, Member of the Board, from 2002-2006 Vice-President of the Belgian Ceramic Society; since June 2006 President of the Belgian Ceramic Society and ex officio member of the Council of the European Ceramic Society. From 1993 member, from 1999 - 2003: Chairman of the Educational Committee of the European Ceramic Society;