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**Rui Vilar
Olinda Conde
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Margarida Pires
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Editors

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Introduction

The papers included in this volume represent part of the contributions to the XVII International Symposium on Gas Flow, Chemical Lasers, and High-Power Lasers (GCL-HPL 2008) held in Lisboa, Portugal.

For over 30 years, GCL-HPL has provided an excellent opportunity for researchers in gas, chemical, and high-power lasers, along with the end-users of these lasers to exchange ideas, review the state-of-the-art, and foresee emerging trends within the field. Its scope is broad, including fundamental research, laser development, systems engineering, and gas, chemical, and high-power laser applications in a wide range of fields.

Following the tradition of precedent editions, the main purpose of this symposium was to bring together scientists and engineers from all over the world to create an event where members of the laser community could meet to discuss the latest achievements and to initiate new contacts and collaborations. The GCL-HPL 2008 symposium received 174 participants from 23 countries.

Finally, on behalf of the organizing committee, we would like to thank all authors and reviewers for their contributions to these proceedings.

Rui Vilar
Olinda Conde
GCL-HPL 2008 Symposium Chairs

