

## FOREWORD

ISSTech 2003 represents the combined efforts of the four divisions of the Iron & Steel Society — Ironmaking, Steelmaking, Process Technology and Electric Furnace. The industry is revitalizing itself through consolidation, and change is occurring at a rapid pace. In concert with this evolution, the ISS will hold two conferences each year, beginning with this conference. The spring conference, ISSTech, will focus on melting operations, while the fall conference will be devoted to rolling/mechanical working.

It is my privilege to report that the first ISSTech proceedings provides an in-depth collection of technical papers focusing on all aspects of ironmaking, electric furnace and integrated steelmaking. I am proud of the efforts and results of the Conference Planning Committee. They have worked diligently to assemble these technical papers and we are grateful to the authors for their contributions. I am confident these proceedings will be beneficial for everyone involved.

One of the special events of this conference is the Keynote Dinner. We are honored to include Indiana Gov. Frank O'Bannon and Thomas Usher, chairman and CEO of U.S. Steel Corp. for this event. The opening session round table discussion with the industry's top leaders will be a highlight of the conference. A special thanks to each for their participation and insights.

ISSTech provides the latest in hot metal technology in one venue. With 40 sessions and more than 200 presentations, the technical program is more extensive than any previous ISS conference. The ISS vision is to be recognized as the premier iron and steelmaking organization worldwide. In keeping with this vision, we have actively encouraged international participation, and a significant amount of the papers presented here reflect that involvement. The interest and participation shown reflects the global importance of ISSTech 2003 and I anticipate international technology sharing on an even larger scale at ISSTech 2004 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Special recognition must be given to the Electric Furnace Conference Planning Team, particularly Mike Fox of Nucor Steel and Norm Bliss of the American Foundry Society, for their leadership during this brief turnaround between conferences. It is no small feat to solicit, review and organize the technical sessions so they are pertinent to your interests. The volunteer organizing committees have done an excellent job, and we could not have done it without them. I would also like to recognize the efforts of the ISS staff. These professionals have adopted our interests as their own.

I'd like to extend my personal thanks to Ian Sadler and Bill Barker, our outgoing and incoming presidents, for their guidance and support. Their encouragement and input kept us all enthused and open to the challenges before us.

Finally, the ISS is a member-driven organization, and there is always a need for fresh ideas and energetic participation. We welcome your comments and participation to make the program stronger. This will always be a work in progress.

Ken Bray  
Conference Planning Chair  
ISSTech 2003