

Departments

Calendar of Meetings: Organizers of scientific meetings wishing to inform the readers of *Powder Diffraction* of their plans are welcome to submit meeting announcements to the Departments Editor. The announcements may be accompanied by text giving particulars of the meeting and programs. The additional matter in such expanded announcements will be printed on a space-available basis. While we will accept announcements of meetings on topics even remotely related to powder diffraction as a service to our readers, the editors, at their discretion, reserve the right to reject announcements of meetings concerning totally unrelated subjects. The deadlines in the instructions to authors apply to meeting announcements. There is no charge for this service. Meeting organizers wishing to purchase advertisements are invited to contact *Powder Diffraction's* Advertising Manager.

Commercial Announcements: This column is reserved for the commercial use of individuals and firms providing products or services to the powder diffraction community. Press releases and new product announcements are appropriate and welcome. The insertions, up to 300 words or the equivalent if a figure is included, should give a price, if appropriate, and the contributor's full name and address. Full or partial inclusion will be on a space-available basis at the editor's discretion, with preference given to advertising agencies and

companies that purchase advertisements in *Powder Diffraction*. Send contributions to the Departments Editor. *Powder Diffraction* can assume no liability for the accuracy of the claims made.

Short Courses and Workshops: This journal will print announcements of short courses and workshops in fields relating to the interests of its readers. Organizers of such programs are invited to send short descriptive announcements of the Departments Editor. See below for typical contributions that will be printed free of charge. The editors reserve the right to determine suitability for printing with regard to course or workshop content.

General Announcements	122
Calendar of Meetings	123
Correspondents Reports	124
Book Review	124
Short Courses and Workshops	125
Computer Comments	126
Commercial Announcements	128

General Announcements

SRM 674a, X-Ray Powder Diffraction Intensity Set

Alan L. Dragoo

Ceramics Division, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899 U.S.A.

SRM 674a, X-ray Powder Diffraction Intensity Set, a set of five powders intended for use as internal standards for quantitative X-ray diffraction analysis was released by the Office of Standard Reference Materials of the National Institute of Standards and Technology with the publication of the certificate on January 15, 1989. The set of five powders consists of α - Al_2O_3 (corundum structure), ZnO (wurtzite structure), TiO_2 (rutile structure), Cr_2O_3 (corundum structure) and CeO_2 (fluorite structure) and covers a range of absorptivities, μ , from 126 to 2203 cm^{-1} for $\text{CuK}\alpha$ radiation. Certified relative intensity (I^{rel}) and RIR (I/I_c) are provided in the certificate along with additional information on lattice parameter values and mass-weighted particle size (equivalent spherical diameter) data. The certification was carried out by James Cline of the Automated X-ray Diffraction Laboratory, Ceramics Division, NIST. SRM 674a may be purchased from:

Office of Standard Reference Materials
Room B311 Chemistry Building
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Gaithersburg, MD 20899 U.S.A.
Telephone: (301) 975-OSRM (6776)
FTS: 879-OSRM (6776)
FAX: (301) 948-3825 (Domestic)
(301) 948-3730 (Foreign)
Telex: TRT197674NBS UT

Three new SRM's are in the process of certification this year. SRM 676 will provide a reference powder for quantitative phase determination of α - Al_2O_3 . This powder will be certified with respect to the fractions of corundum and other phases present in the material. SRM 656 will contain two spray-dried compositions with different phase ratios of alpha and beta silicon nitride and will be certified with respect to those phases plus a minor amount of amorphous phase. SRM 658 will provide a reference powder for quantitative determination of a tridymite and will complement SRM 1878, Respirable Quartz, and SRM 1879, Respirable Cristobalite. Work is also proceeding on a MgO powder for X-ray line broadening calibration. A material is required which has a high packing density to maximize X-ray opaqueness. A means for minimizing hydrolysis of the MgO is also being sought.