
EDITORIAL

Hardly any other material has affected and preoccupied the human race more than explosive substances. This applies to the historical development and the social changes as well as to the mentality. The invention of 'Black Powder' as well as the synthesis of high energetic molecules like glycerol trinitrate (NG) and trinitrotoluene (TNT) were fundamental steps towards the modern technology of energetic materials. Progress in research can be observed in every time period. With the turn of the last century another fruitful period of science in the field of energetic materials has ended with the successful synthesis of tetranitro-tetraaza-cyclooctane (HMX) and hexaaza-isowurtzitane (CL-20).

In the future new highly energetic compositions will bring us not only a gain in performance but they will have to fulfill even more sophisticated requirements with respect to safety and toxicity.

Today and in the future high energetic materials will not be implemented predominantly in defense technology but will increasingly be a part of rescue components in cars, airplanes and industrial complexes.

Investigating high energetic materials for many years, the energetic materials group of the Science and Technology Centre of armasuisse is highly qualified to make presentations in this field. Therefore we would like to express our thanks and acknowledgements to the experts of this group for their efforts in summarizing parts of their knowledge and experience in these papers.



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The Editorial Board of CHIMIA expresses its warmest thanks to the coordinating guest editor Mr. Beat Berger from armasuisse, Science and Technology, in Thun, acknowledging the broad selection of authors and topics as well as the successful realization of the present issue on 'Explosives'