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Research Report

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Edited by
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# Preface

This book presents summaries of the results achieved within a priority program funded by Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (SPP 736) from 1995 to 2002. The main aim of this program was to enable experimental and theoretical work in the area of applied thermodynamics, in particular in phase equilibrium of complex fluid mixtures e.g. in the area of chemical, biotechnological and environmental process sciences. Altogether 27 single research projects were co-ordinated and funded. The research topics range from investigations of fluid systems where the complex behaviour results from chemical reactions (including associating substances) through the phase equilibrium in aqueous solutions of strong electrolytes, aqueous two-phase systems and polymer solutions, to high pressure phase equilibrium phenomena and the properties of microemulsion systems. The priority program was initiated by the editor with support by the late Professor Konrad Bier, Karlsruhe, Professor Klaus Lucas, Aachen, and Professor Karl Stephan, Stuttgart. Professor Dieter Mewes, Hannover, provided strong support within DFG. The project proposals were evaluated and recommended for support by an advisory committee, chaired by Professor Erich Hahne, Stuttgart. Professors Hans-Jürgen Bittrich and Wolfgang Fratzscher, both from Merseburg, Dietrich Wörmann, Köln, Manfred Zeidler, Aachen, and Drs. Bernhard Gutsche, Düsseldorf, and Gerhard Hochgesand, Heusenstamm, served in this committee. Also on behalf of all research grantees, I want to express my gratitude to all those colleagues. Last not least, I appreciate the support by Dr. Walter Lachenmeier of DFG who not only administrated the priority program, but was always open minded to help us to overcome the unavoidable problems during the course of the projects. This book is not only to present the research results, but it is dedicated to all the aforementioned institutions and in particular the persons for their generous and long lasting assistance. Without that dedication, it would have been impossible to achieve the goals. Mrs. Maike Petersen of Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, deserves my thanks both for her advice and her patience with us (the authors and the editor). Last not least I want to thank my secretary Mrs. Monika Reim for assisting me in the time consuming and tedious process of editing/ proof reading the various manuscripts and following up the correspondence with the authors.

Kaiserslautern, July 2003

Gerd Maurer

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