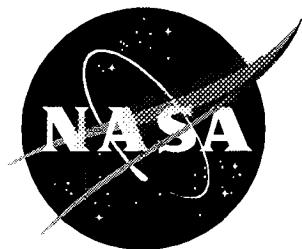


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Fourth International Symposium on Magnetic Suspension Technology

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INTRODUCTION

The 4th International Symposium on Magnetic Suspension Technology was held at The Nagaragawa Convention Center in Gifu City, Japan, on October 30 - November 1, 1997. The symposium was sponsored by the Guidance and Control Branch of the Langley Research Center, in coordination with NASA Headquarters, the National Aerospace Laboratory (NAL), Japan, and the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory (NHMFL) operated by Florida State University. The symposium was hosted by the National Aerospace Laboratory.

The organizing committee consisted of the following people:

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The goal of the symposium was to examine the state of technology of all areas of magnetic suspension and to review recent developments in sensors, controls, superconducting magnet technology, and design/implementation practices. The symposium included 13 sessions in which a total of 35 papers were presented. The technical sessions covered the areas of maglev, controls, high critical temperature (T_c) superconductivity, bearings, magnetic suspension and balance systems (MSBS), levitation, modeling, and applications. A list of attendees begins on page xiii.

The first symposium in this series was organized by NASA Langley Research Center and held at Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia, on August 19-23, 1991. The proceedings of the first symposium are available as NASA Conference Publication 3152, Parts 1 and 2. The second symposium in the series, also organized by NASA Langley Research Center, was held at the Westin Hotel in Seattle, Washington, on August 11-13, 1993. The proceedings of the second symposium are available as NASA Conference Publication 3247, Parts 1 and 2. The third symposium, organized by NASA Langley Research Center and hosted by the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory was held at the Holiday Inn Capital Plaza in Tallahassee, Florida, on December 13-15, 1995. The proceedings of the third symposium are available as NASA Conference Publication 3336, Parts 1 and 2.

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Session 1 -- Maglev 1

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