



Rensselaer

25 January 2026

Prof. Dr. Dragan Uskokovic
President of MRS Serbia

Support for Prof. Horst Hahn for the MRS of Serbia Award for a Lasting and Outstanding Contribution to Materials Science and Engineering 2026

I am writing to you with my very strong support of the nomination of Prof. Horst Hahn for the MRS of Serbia Award for a Lasting and Outstanding Contribution to Materials Science and Engineering 2026. Horst Hahn is a truly outstanding choice for this prestigious award. His many excellent and pioneering research results and his leadership contributions in a wide range of areas in our field, coupled with his very effective mentorship to both older and younger colleagues over the years have had wide-ranging positive impacts. In my own case, working with Horst in the late 1980s at Argonne National Laboratory steered our research toward a new class of nanostructured materials that have revolutionized much of materials science and engineering over the intervening decades. I have had close contact with Horst ever since those earlier days and have seen him develop into a highly productive and effective international leader in our field as outlined in his impressive CV.

Horst Hahn, after his initial academic training in Germany, moved to the US and joined the Materials Science Division at Argonne, where I had the very fortunate opportunity to work closely with him on some of the first intentionally created nanostructured ceramic materials. Horst subsequently took on a series of US academic positions of increasing stature at the University of Illinois and then Rutgers University where he had a major impact on continuing studies in this area and the development of related programs. He then returned to Germany to a series of increasingly senior leadership and impactful positions at the Technical University of Darmstadt and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, while also taking on additional leadership roles in new materials institutions in Ulm, Germany and Nanjing, China. Throughout all of these positions, Horst Hahn has continued to make important contributions in several areas of materials science and engineering such as nanomaterials, materials synthesis and processing, and high-entropy materials, to name a few particular highlights. Even now, Horst continues his mentoring activities in our field in the US and around the World.

In summary, I very strongly support the granting of the **MRS of Serbia Award for a Lasting and Outstanding Contribution to Materials Science and Engineering 2026** to Prof. Horst Hahn and look forward to its announcement on the occasion of **YUCOMAT 2026**.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. W. Siegel".

Richard W. Siegel, PhD
Professor Emeritus