

**POLISH ELECTROCHEMICAL
ANTICORROSION PROTECTION COMMITTEE**
Association of Polish Electrical Engineers SEP
Warszawa, Poland



INSTEAD OF AN INTRODUCTION...

Scientific conferences organised every two years by the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee of SEP concerning the cathodic protection technology under the traditional name "Corrosion Measurements in Electrochemical Protection" have been taking place for twenty years now in an almost unchanged form. As in the case of the earlier three meetings, the first conference after an interval was organised in the "Neptun" Training Centre in Jurata in 1996. This location was found to be so attractive for the organisers, as well as conference participants, that the next eight conferences were held there. "Corrosion measurements ..." cover the entirety of problems connected with the anticorrosion protection technology of structures in electrolytic environments by cathodic protection. For many years it has been practically the only forum in Poland for exchange of knowledge and experience in the area of cathodic protection technology of steel and reinforced concrete underground and underwater structures. This assigns a high rank to these meetings, as the method constitutes the basic anticorrosion protection of extremely important objects in the industry and economy - all types of pipelines, tanks, reinforced concrete and hydrotechnical objects, of enormous importance in the days of material conservation, respect for energy and protection of the natural environment.

The scope of cathodic protection technology application still is insufficient, while in some fields of industry it is totally unknown. The need for using cathodic protection results directly from the state of technology and in principle its use should not be governed by administrative rigours. In spite of this, in technical practice it is sanctioned by regulations and standards, e.g. with reference to underground storage equipment or the transporting of environmentally dangerous substances (e.g. to pipelines and pressure tanks).

Unfortunately in Poland there is still no institution obligated to care for cathodic protection technology development. This role was fulfilled previously by the Ministry of Telecommunications. The prosperous Polish mining and transport industry of raw materials for the power industry, the municipal economy or the building industry show no interest in this scope, as is in the case of technically developed countries. In this situation the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee of SEP, also the conference organised by this body, have an important role to fulfil - consolidation of the technical environment, organising of experience exchange and popularising technical knowledge. The conference "Corrosion Measurements in Electrochemical Protection" has been systematically sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, who, understanding the situation, subsidise us from resources assigned for development of science in Poland.

This year's XIIIth conference has been registered, to the motion of the Polish Corrosion Society, as the 380th event in the catalogue of events of the European Federation of Corrosion. As previously, guests from abroad are participating. The aim of the conference is primarily ensuring of conditions for mutual contacts and exchange of views, lobby discussions, informal exchange of experience and information.

Materials containing delivered lectures traditionally have been printed. For reasons of economy they are in the black and white version, this not depreciating their value, as current information on Committee activities, also essential information, including the lectures from the present and previous conferences, can be accessed in original form at the www.pkeopk.sep.com.pl site. Further development of this site is necessary and the scope of knowledge accessed in this way needs to be extended. One should expect that the example of organising this conference exclusively basing on information exchange in electronic form will be a good start of the discussion on this subject.

The program of the XIIIth conference, at the request of participants expressed during PKEOpK meetings, is not excessively broad and is to ensure more time for discussion and exchange of views. Presented lectures cover quite a wide scope of anticorrosion problems directly and indirectly connected with cathodic protection, mainly pipelines. Among interesting issues one should mention cathodic protection of reinforced concrete structures, new testing methods of pipeline corrosion damage with the use of intelligent pistons and analysis of induced AC current interactions in pipelines caused by HV overhead lines. Without doubt issues will be discussed of anticorrosion protection and cathodic protection systems of pipelines equipped with highest quality insulating coatings. Several new methods and technical equipment will be presented, some of the lectures will be delivered in the form of training.

In spite of the fact that application of standards in Poland is not compulsory, the process of cathodic process personnel certification raises many emotions. Increase of specialist knowledge requires access to handbooks and training materials, organisation of courses and field laboratories allowing practical training in training centres, elaboration of programs and examination procedures, while primarily assignment of appropriate means which should be borne by companies. Unfortunately, the interest in this matter of companies operating the greatest number of cathodic protection systems, as well as representatives of the state administration, up till now has been small. UDT CERT, under the auspices of whom the certification process has been implemented, is facing own problems. This matter, without doubt, will be the subject of discussion during the planned "round table" debate.

The Presidium of the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee expresses hope that the present conference, this time in Ostróda, will be an occasion not only to meet again, but that it will be a forum for discussion on the program of the Committee activities and the search for new ways of development and propagation of anticorrosion electrochemical protection in Polish industry and economy.

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