

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



INSTEAD OF AN INTRODUCTION...

The present Scientific Conference of the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee at the Polish Electric Engineering Association entitled „Corrosion Measurements in Electrochemical Protection” in 2016 is being held in the Hotel Zamek in Gniew. It is already the fourteenth meeting, organised biennially, assembling a wide group of engineers dealing in their professional life with various aspects of cathodic protection technology. For many years this conference 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. The essential programme of the conference over the years covered the entirety of problems connected with the anticorrosion protection technology of structures in electrolytic environments by cathodic protection. All new concepts and technical solutions, also new equipment and sub-assemblies used in cathodic protection technology were in the past the object of lectures and discussion at the “Corrosion Measurements in Electrochemical Protection” conference.

The cathodic protection 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, on land as well as the sea. It is of extreme importance in the economy from the point of view of saving materials, respecting energy and protecting the natural environment. Due to this, activities of the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee at SEP through organising the conference and initiating this way discussions in the engineering environment dealing with cathodic protection technology are of enormous importance. The conference “Corrosion Measurements in Electrochemical Protection” is being for many years sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, who, understanding the situation, subsidise us from resources assigned for development of science in Poland. 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 exchange of experience and popularising technical knowledge.

Unfortunately, the described situation, although commendable for the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee activity, is abnormal, as 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. At present, 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 all technically developed countries. The scope of cathodic protection technology application still is insufficient in Poland, while in some fields of industry it is totally unknown. It is not used for anticorrosion protection of steel in concrete, particularly in high hazard locations. Together with the maritime industry activities diminished connected with cathodic protection of hydrotechnical structures and vessels. Application of this type of anticorrosion means inside industrial apparatus also is marginal.

Application of cathodic protection should not be governed by any administrative rigours, but should only result from the state of technology. It seems obvious that this method in each case should be the object of a respective technical project. In present technical practice it is secured by regulations, standards and detailed requirements, e.g. with reference to underground storage equipment or that transporting environmentally dangerous substances (e.g. to pipelines and pressure tanks).

This year's XIVth conference has been registered, to the motion of the Polish Corrosion Society, as the 415th event in the catalogue of events of the European Federation of Corrosion. As previously, guests from abroad also 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. The programme of the XIVth conference, at the request of participants expressed during PKEOpK SEP presidium meetings, is not excessively broad and is to ensure more time for discussion and exchange of views – it covers 14 scientific lectures and 3 talks of commercial character. Presented lectures cover quite a wide scope of anticorrosion problems directly connected with cathodic protection, mainly of pipelines. Among interesting problems the following should be mentioned: assessment of corrosion losses in closed space, description of pipeline electric parameter measuring techniques, analysis of hazardous interactions on pipelines induced by alternate currents from high voltage overhead lines. Without doubt issues will be discussed again of anticorrosion protection and cathodic protection systems of pipelines equipped with highest quality insulating coatings. Several new methods and technical equipment will be presented, including assessment of stray current interaction on reinforced concrete structures and an example of implementing cathodic protection of the interior of a water pipeline.

The contents of lectures have been issued in traditional printed form, unfortunately in the black and white technique. Access to these materials will be much wider, as current information on Committee activities, also essential interesting information, including the lectures from the present and previous conferences, can be accessed in original form at the www.pkeopk.sep.com.pl site.

The Presidium of the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee expresses hope that the present conference, this time in an atmosphere of an old, just renovated Teutonic Knight castle, beautifully located on a hill over the Vistula river valley in Gniew, 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 the Polish industry and economy.

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