

**POLISH ELECTROCHEMICAL
ANTICORROSION PROTECTION COMMITTEE
at the Main Board
of the Association of Polish Electrical Engineers
Warszawa, Poland**



INSTEAD OF AN INTRODUCTION ...

The 35th anniversary passed unnoticeably last year, of establishment of a social body at the Main Board of the Association of Polish Electrical Engineers, the aim of which was stimulation of development of cathodic protection in Poland. First the Central Committee, at present the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee (PKEOpK) represents our circle in the national and international group of persons and organisations dealing with anticorrosion protection of metal structures in the industry and economy. It is the statutory scientific organ of the Association in the area of technology.

Continually, starting from establishment, the group of specialists participated in introduction of technical standards in the scope of electrochemical anticorrosion protection (at present adaptation of European standards to Polish conditions), organised seminars and technological excursions devoted to this technology, training courses and their own conference – the only one in this field in Poland. These activities allowed for exchange of opinions and information, and also provided a new basis for development of this technology in Poland. This statement is not groundless, as shown by the fact that efforts of PKEOpK allowed all European standards in the field of cathodic protection to be offered to Polish readers in their national language, which without doubt is a success in the European scale.

"Corrosion Measurements in Electrochemical Protection", is the traditional name of the conference held every two years, which covers all problems connected with anticorrosion protection of steel underground and underwater structures (pipelines, tanks, hydrotechnical structures, reinforced concrete objects and others. As the result of cooperation with the Polish Corrosion Society, this year's tenth conference has been entered as the 319th event in the catalogue of the European Corrosion Federation, and we hope it will find a permanent place there. Although the present meeting is a jubilee one, it seems that life will force increase of the rank of cathodic protection technology and further conferences will enjoy much greater interest and a greater number of active participants. The aim of every conference is to provide conditions for mutual contacts, lobby discussions, informal exchange of experience and information. It can be seen that the location of this conference – the "Neptun" Centre in Jurata – favours such activities, as it has been univocally chosen by the participants for the sixth time. It is the unforgettable atmosphere of this Centre and its surroundings, as well as the friendly personnel, that are so well remembered...

In spite of a significantly rising interest in corrosion problems, with increasing activity in introduction of new standards, raising to a higher level requirements for anticorrosion protection of steel structures, and in establishment of the World Corrosion Organisation, the aim of which is propagation of a modern approach to anticorrosion problems, in Poland unfortunately such rising trends are not visible, also in cathodic protection technology. The small perceptible progress in electrochemical protection is not connected with main streams, as observed in technically leading countries – it is more so an answer to the general technical progress in fields such as electronics and IT technology than the result of taking advantage of new trends in cathodic protection technology. Without doubt it is the result of depletion or disappearance of scientific-research centres and scientific staff, which in a natural way maintains continuous contacts with leading specialists in the World, if not personal, at least through scientific publications. Unfortunately, access to modern books and current publications is limited. Also information in the Internet not always can be qualified as a source for education or broadening ones knowledge. Every initiative helping in access to knowledge in cathodic protection technology is accepted with gratitude by PKEOpK. We hope that works undertaken on renewed translation of the CEOCOR manual Measurement Techniques in Cathodic Protection with the supplement on present European standard

requirements will be shortly completed with success and that the Polish reader will receive valuable training materials.

Implementation of settlements of standard PN-EN 15257 is unfortunately not proceeding in a satisfactory way. Initiatives undertaken by PKEOpK, leading to greater interest in problems of acknowledgement of qualifications and certification of cathodic protection personnel, have not resulted in the expected reaction of authorities and offices. PKEOpK is counting on support in this scope of the Main Board of SEP and the Polish Corrosion Society. Starting, similarly to other European countries, of continuous training of specialists in the scope of cathodic protection will become a necessity with successively introduced European directives in the scope of operating safety of underground and underwater industrial objects, transporting and storing hazardous substances for humans and for the natural environment. This primarily concerns pressure installations, such as pipelines and tanks, and also non-pressurised tanks, e.g., for fuels and other oil products. As the result regulations should change, amongst others of Building Law, in the scope of qualification requirements for designers, contractors and users of cathodic protection installations. The end of 2011 is the deadline set by the European Union for all organisation and legislation matters in settlements of standard PN-EN 15257.

The Board of the Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee sincerely hopes that the next conference in Jurata will be not only an occasion for a jubilee meeting, but will also create a forum for discussion on the program of activities of the Committee and also for search of new ways for development and propagation of electrochemical anticorrosion protection in the Polish industry and economy.

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