

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



INSTEAD OF AN INTRODUCTION...

The consecutive conference of the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee of SEP, traditionally organised under the name "Corrosion Measurements in Electrochemical Protection", covering all problems connected with anticorrosion protection technology in electrolytic environments by the cathodic protection method, is being held for the eighth time in the "Neptun" Training Centre in Jurata – unfortunately for the last time as the centre, at present "NEPTUN" hotel, will be closed this year and in its place a new and modern recreation centre will be built.

The conference periodically organised every two years, being practically the only forum in Poland for exchange of knowledge and experience in cathodic protection technology of steel and reinforced concrete underground and underwater structures will, without doubt, find a new place for debates and will continue this tradition. There is no fear that this will not happen, as it is the basic anticorrosion protection method of extremely important objects in industry and the economy - of all types of pipelines, tanks, reinforced concrete and hydrotechnical structures. Its application - similarly to other anticorrosion protection technologies – became more important in the era of material conservation, respect for energy and protection of the natural environment.

The need for cathodic protection application results from the state of technology. Also it is sanctioned by some regulations, e.g. referring to underground pipelines and pressure tanks transporting or storing substances dangerous for the environment, and secured in some detail by requirements of technical standards. Unfortunately, the scope of its use is still insufficient, while in some applications the technology is completely unknown.

As in Poland there is no institution obliged by law to care for development of cathodic protection technology, PKEOpK SEP and the conference organised by this Committee has an important role to fulfil – filling in of a gap in a place which should be cultivated by the prospering Polish industry of mining and transport of energy raw materials, municipal economy or the construction industry. The conference "Corrosion measurements in electrochemical protection" is being systematically sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and is subsidised from resources assigned for development of science in Poland.

This year's XII-th conference has been registered as the 361th event in the catalogue of meetings of the European Federation of Corrosion. As previously, guests from abroad will participate in the conference. The aim of the conference is in a large degree ensuring of conditions for mutual contacts, lobby discussions, informal exchange of experience and information. It is one of the ways of increasing the level of knowledge and qualifications of people dealing with cathodic protection.

The conference organised this year coincides with 40 years of activities of the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee of SEP, hence a place was found in the conference programme for reminiscences. They concern the history of cathodic protection development in Poland, mainly in the period after World War II, and in this background indication of the role and importance of the scientific-technological organisation, which continuously from 1972 had undertaken information, training and standardisation activities. Initially the Central Commission, next the Polish Committee form a separate statute unit in the structure of the Polish Electric Engineering Association, with the aim of propagation of technical knowledge, consulting and representation of the association in all matters connected with electrochemical anticorrosion protection, in technical as well as organisational matters. PKEOpK has many successes in this field during the 40 years of activities. Current information on activities of the Committee, also interesting information, as well as contents of lectures from previous conferences are available at the site: www.pkeopk.sep.com.pl.

It seems that during the conference the finally approved program in September this year of implementation of European Standard PN-EN 15257 "Cathodic protection — Competence levels and certification of cathodic protection personnel" will be presented and this will be one of the more important problems to be discussed during the conference. As per agreement of the Main Board of SEP with UDT it has been determined that implementation of the standard is to be entrusted to the Centre for Certification and Compliance Assessment of UDT – the UDT-CERT Personnel Certification Unit, which is to strictly cooperate with the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee of SEP. Unfortunately, preparation for certification of personnel dealing with cathodic protection in Poland proceeds extremely slowly in relation to adopted plans. Other European countries have overtaken us in this activity, and although requirements of the standard are equally obligatory for all, in each country traditionally different cathodic protection system solutions are applied, especially in the scope of components and equipment, which obviously should promote competence certification in home centres. Employers should be especially aware of this, as they should not be insensitive to the fact by which "school" their cathodic protection systems, for the efficiency of which they are responsible, are run and maintained. In order to rapidly implement the certification process it is necessary to ensure access to text books and training materials, organise courses and field ranges allowing practical training in training centres, elaborate programmes and examination procedures, and first of all assign financial means for this purpose which should be covered by companies. Unfortunately, interest in this matter of companies operating the largest number of cathodic protection systems is up till now very small. State patronage over cathodic protection ended in Poland when, due to rapid technical progress (plastic materials, optical fibres, cell phones), the problem of telecommunication cable corrosion practically disappeared. On the other hand, companies such as PGNiG, OGP Gaz-System, PERN – operating the greatest number of pipeline networks (gas and oil pipelines) and simultaneously obligated to apply cathodic protection - do not exert pressure on adaptation of the technical personnel level to requirements of European standard PN-EN 15257. It should be noted that in the last period we managed to encourage cooperation in the scope of cathodic protection personnel certification with the Chamber of the Natural Gas Industry and its Technical Standard Committee. Normative documents elaborated by this Committee concerning application of anticorrosion protection of gas pipelines unequivocally call for requirements for competence by personnel dealing with cathodic protection. Hence there is hope that in this way propagation will proceed and increase in interest of employers in cathodic protection personnel certification.

The program of the XIIth conference, at the request of participants expressed during PKEOpK meetings, is not excessively broad and is to ensure greater possibilities for discussion and exchange of views. Presented lectures cover a quite wide scope of problems and it was necessary to group them in several discussion blocks. Also, besides the traditionally issued booklet with lectures, conference materials include issue 8 of the journal *Ochrona przed Korozją*, the editors of which for many years have been devoting the August number to electrochemical protection. Hence, this time it is an occasion to undertake a wider discussion, also concerning the published articles.

The Presidium of the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee expresses hope that this consecutive conference at Jurata will be an occasion not only for a jubilee meeting, 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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