

**POLISH ELECTROCHEMICAL
ANTICORROSION PROTECTION COMMITTEE**
at the Main Board
of the Polish Electric Engineering Association
Warsaw



INSTEAD OF AN INTRODUCTION ...

After ten years from the time of resumption of Polish conferences “Corrosion Measurements in Electrochemical Protection” our present group is meeting not in the seaside health resort in Jurata, but on the other side of Poland in Zakopane. We hope that this change will lead to greater attendance, a more interesting subject area and multilateral exchange of experience and establishing of interesting contacts. It coincides with present changes in our society and in a smaller dimension - in the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee of the Main Board of the Polish Electric Engineering Association in Warsaw, which recently started its new term of office.

The Present IX Polish Conference “Corrosion Measurements in Electrochemical Protection” is organised under the auspices of the Polish Corrosion Society with the support of the State Committee for Scientific Research, with participation of the Oil and Gas Institute in Cracow, the ANTICOR PPH company in Wieliczka and the Specialist Anticorrosion Protection Company “CORRPOL” in Gdańsk. The conference, similarly to previous ones, is supported by the “Ochrona przed Korozją” journal.

Two years ago, when Poland accessed the European Union, the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee during the previous conference indicated an urgent need for possibly quick translation into Polish of new standards in the scope of cathodic protection. This aim has been achieved – practically all standards are being currently translated, with practically lack of means from the Polish Normalisation Committee, thanks to support from private companies L’Instruments and SPZP CORRPOL. It is amazing that the largest “recipients” of cathodic protection technology – manufacturers and suppliers of gas and petroleum products – show no interest in support of normalisation activities. They are continuous – first European standards already elaborated five years ago are subject to compulsory periodical revision. It is most probable that the basic standard in the scope of cathodic protection PN-EN 12954 will be divided into two separate standards – one concerning general problems, the second exclusively devoted to pipelines. The number of works connected with elaboration of new European standards, in which Poland participates, is also continuously increasing. The pace of changes is high and an intensified effort is necessary to allow rapid implementation of new solutions and uplifting of the technical level to European requirements.

The latter matter, connected with the education level and qualifications of personnel dealing with all aspects of cathodic protection technology in industry, will soon become the subject of new European requirements. The project of European standard prEN 15257 “Cathodic protection - Competence levels and certification of cathodic protection personnel” is in the last stage of agreement. The standard is the result of several years work on a document determining qualification principles of personnel permitted to conduct activities in the scope

of cathodic protection technology. In Poland up till now no principles were in force connected with competence for technical activity connected with cathodic protection of underground or underwater structures; also there were no requirements for personnel connected with this professional specialisation. The profession connected with anticorrosion protection technologies has not acquired any rank of nobility.

It is expected that the above standard will unequivocally settle these matters. Its approval, expected still this year, will be synonymous with introducing of these new principles also in Poland. It is not only important to implement the standard by approving and translating into Polish, but primarily to influence change of law, which will require possessing qualifications given in the standard in technical activities connected with cathodic protection systems (research, design, execution, supervision, exploitation).

This is a consecutive challenge for the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee – new principles should be introduced to all interested, necessary personnel qualification trainings should be efficiently organised and we should participate in introducing necessary corrections in Building Law. It will be necessary to elaborate detailed training programmes and organise adequate courses and qualification exams. Without doubt these matters will be the subject of main discussions also during this conference.

Naturally, the extensive subject area of cathodic protection technology has been appearing during all conferences “Corrosion Measurements in Electrochemical Protection”. As up till now – these conferences are the only cyclic meetings in Poland fully devoted to this anticorrosion protection method.

The subject of the present conference is in a large extent connected with measurement techniques fulfilling a basic role in electrochemical protection technology practice – they are vital in evaluation of the corrosion hazard to metal structures, as well as evaluation of effectiveness and range of applied protective means. Improvement of measuring methods is of great significance from the economical and technical point of view due to choice of proper anticorrosion protection means, especially of underground pipelines. Progress in technology, especially microelectronics and computer science, leads to development of all other fields of technology – including cathodic protection. It is not surprising then, that a significant number of lectures, as well as the exhibition accompanying the conference, will be devoted to instrumental problems and new devices.

Also actual problems will be raised connected with corrosion and protection of pipelines in alternate current interaction zones and exploitation matters connected with insulating coatings and cathodic protection systems in different conditions.

The Presidium of the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee hopes that all members will participate in the works of the Committee and that the organised conference will not only be an occasion to exchange technical experience, but that it also will be a good platform for discussing the programme of the Committee and searching for new ways of development and propagation of modern anticorrosion protection methods, to which cathodic protection undoubtedly belongs.

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