

**POLISH COMMITTEE FOR ELECTROCHEMICAL  
ANTICORROSION PROTECTION**  
at the Main Board  
of the Association of Polish Electrical Engineers  
Warsaw



**INSTEAD OF AN INTRODUCTION ... A REPORT**

Between 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June this year the consecutive VIII Polish Conference “Corrosion Measurements in Electrochemical Protection” took place in the “Neptun” Training Centre in Jurata, organized by the Polish Committee for Electrochemical Protection operating at the Main Board of the Association of Polish Electrical Engineers.

Contrary to previous years we did not manage to prepare conference materials before their presentation. Hence, we have the possibility to write several words on the course of the conference and the drawn conclusions in the book with the lectures.

The VIII Polish Conference “Corrosion Measurements in Electrochemical Protection” took place one and a half month after Poland gained access to the European Union. The problems connected with this issue were directly and indirectly addressed during all proceedings. The time for intensified efforts has come, also for circles connected with cathodic protection technology, to quickly implement new standards and to increase the technical level to European requirements.

70 participants took part in the meeting, including specialists from the Czech Republic. 18 papers were prepared and delivered concerning the present problems of anticorrosion electrochemical protection of underground structures. The conference was held under the auspices of the Polish Corrosion Society and the monthly “Ochrona przed Korozją” (Anticorrosion Protection). The conference was sponsored by the State Committee for Scientific Research and supported by the Specialist Anticorrosion Protection Company “CORRPOL” in Gdańsk.

A number of current problems has been discussed connected with evaluation of pipeline cathodic protection effectiveness, including the new method of testing the integrity of a pipeline on the basis of direct assessment of the corrosion of external pipeline wall surfaces, the technique of measurement of metal losses as a cathodic protection criterion, the technique of remote monitoring of pipeline cathodic protection, data acquisition in databases, and also new equipment and components allowing realization of these technical solutions in practice.

Problems connected with new European standards in the scope of cathodic protection were raised in different aspects in almost all papers and plenary discussions. This is understandable as lack of uniform requirements in the scope of cathodic protection system operation is being felt in the circles, mainly of the measurement technique of anticorrosion protection effectiveness of modern gas pipelines. During a special session new European standards have been discussed: prEN 50162, EN 12501-1 and EN 12501-2, EN 12499 and EN 13636.

Some of the lectures were given with the aim of presenting by a number of companies the scope of activities and obtained effects of cathodic protection technology implementation. Some products were presented during a small exhibition: cathodic protection stations (ATREM), posts and monoblocks (DAKOR), cable anodes (ARMATECH), software (ATEKO Ostrava) and a wide range of components, including a new generation of posts and measurement boxes, electrodes, probes and sensors (CORRPOL).

The aim of the conference has been achieved, i.e., presentation of the technical progress in electrochemical anticorrosion protection, especially in new measurement methods and techniques applied in cathodic protection of metal structures. A wide conference programme allowed all participants to exchange views and professional experience in this scope. The time for discussions during proceedings was out of necessity limited, however this shortage was recompensed by long expert debates in the lobby and during evening meetings.

Gas industry workers were traditionally the largest group among participants. Transport of gas and crude oil by steel pipelines is still the main recipient of cathodic protection technology. Chosen problems of cathodic protection of underground steel tanks and stray currents were also discussed. A practical example has been presented of a solution for protection against alternating currents.

The following met during the conference: practitioners, investors, designers and contractors, manufacturers and users of equipment. A number of conclusions and postulates were submitted. Organizers of the conference were obligated by the participants to systematize and propagate the postulates. Some matters (e.g., increase of the rank and importance of cathodic protection of underground fuel tanks) were recognized as urgent.

According to consistent opinions expressed by the participants, the VIII conference was very successful, prepared on the same level as the previous conferences.

Lack of sunshine accompanied the proceedings practically all the time. Of course, this favored exchange of views and discussions. An excursion to the little palace in Karwia and the lighthouse in Rozewie was a large attraction for conference participants, especially as it took place during a sunny interval between abundant showers.

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