

## STUTTGART, GERMANY APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2000

A real European conference with participants from 19 different countries in Europe and guests from overseas, even from China, was well organized from the Institut für Kunststofftechnologie (IKT) – University of Stuttgart. About 160 participants could follow the presentations with emphasis on:

- Modelling of Forming Processes
- Optimization and Prediction of Properties
- Computational and Experimental Analysis of Forming Processes

For the characterization of material properties such as mechanical behaviour in fluids and in solid state a broad spectrum of methods and tools has been presented. All these themes covered the whole variety of materials from organic and non-organic polymers to ceramic materials until the broad diversity of metals.

After the official opening of the meeting by the conference chairman Professor H.-G. Fritz and greetings by the government of Baden-Württemberg and the Rektor of the University of Stuttgart the extended program of presentations started. Each scientific session was introduced by a plenary lecture, beginning with Prof. Han Huetting with a contribution on "Numerical and Physical Modelling in Forming" and Prof. Jean Claude Gelin with "Recent Developments in Modelling, Simulation and Design of Metall Forming Processes". The first day ended with a Welcome Party at the Town Hall of Stuttgart and greetings from the mayor Mathias Hahn.

Second days opening contribution was presented from Dr. Hans-Martin Laun with the subject "Wall Slip of Polymer Melts – Experimental Characterization and Relevance for Processing". A technological paper from Prof. Jean-Francois Agassant: "New Challenges in the Numerical Modelling of Polymer Processes" introduced the afternoon sessions. The second days events were closed by a banquet in Stuttgart's traditional Hotel Graf Zeppelin, where the excellent dinner was flavoured by the astonishing tricks of a magician.

At the third day the plenary scientific program has been completed by the presentation of Prof. Jose Antonio Covas: "Monitoring the Morphology Development of PA-6/EPM-g-MA Blends in an Extruder". In a final plenary event the papers of the ESAFORM-Award 2000 recipients Dr. Francisco Chinesta (CNAM, Paris) and Dr.

Jean-Marie Drezet (EPFL, Lausanne) marked the end of a series of more as 90 scientific contributions including the invited lectures.

The conference was closed with a guided tour to the museum of the Daimler-Chrysler Company in Stuttgart and to the famous Zisterzienser monastery in Maulbronn (a world cultural heritage). The EASFORM directory would be appreciated to welcome numerous participants on the next meetings ESAFORM IV in Liege (Belgium) 2001 and ESAFORM V in Krakow 2002.

W. Gleissle for AR

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