

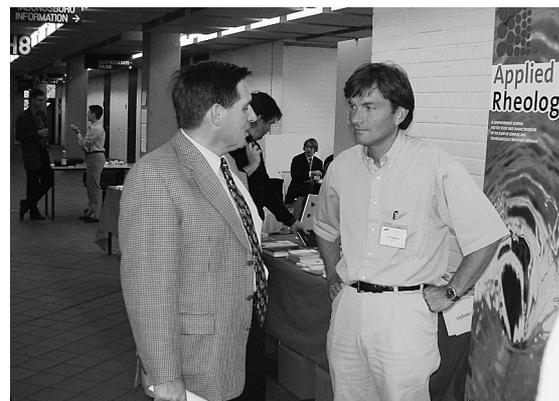
ERLANGEN, GERMANY
SEPTEMBER 1ST - 6TH, 2002

The 6th European Conference on Rheology (eurheo 2002), organized by the Institute of Polymer Materials (LSP) took place from September 1 - 6 at the Friedrich-Alexander University in Erlangen, Germany under the auspices of the German Society of Rheology. It covered a large number of different fields in rheology ranging from polymer melts, solutions, rheometry and processing to fluid mechanics and modelling.

The conference registered about 350 delegates from many different countries, including representatives from academic institutions, industrial companies, instrument manufacturers and national laboratories. Overall, it hosted about 220 presentations, 40 posters, and stands from 12 different exhibitors. A get-together on Sunday night in the "Erlanger Schloß" offered a first opportunity for the participants to meet each other.

The conference started in the morning of the 2nd and was opened by Professor Dr. Helmut Münstedt, head of the organizing committee. The rector of the University and the vice-dean of the Technical Faculty welcomed the delegates and wished them a very successful and interesting week. After this ceremony the attention of the participants was drawn to the presentation of the Weissenberg Award which is bestowed biannually by the European Society of Rheology (ESR). The awardee of the year 2002 was Professor Ken Walters from the University of Wales. He was honoured for his lifetime contributions to rheology and the resulting reinforcement of European science. It was presented by the president of the ESR Professor Jean-Michel Piau followed by a laudation given by Professor Marcel Crochet from the University of Louvain.

The scientific program was opened by two plenary lectures. Nadia El Kissi from the University of Grenoble spoke about the possibilities of enhancing the processability of polymer melts



during the extrusion process and Norbert Wilenbacher from BASF AG talked about the importance of high frequency rheology and its application to the characterisation of concentrated suspensions.

After lunch in the university's canteen the day continued with five parallel sessions on polymer melts, modelling, rheometry, solutions and instability phenomena as well as many stimulating discussions. Key note lectures were given by Professor Malcolm Mackley, who introduced the development and the application of the Multipass Rheometer and Claus Gabriel from Basell AG, who gave a broad overview on structure-property relationships for different polyolefins.

In the evening some of the delegates took the chance to visit an excellent organ concert and a lecture about the history of erlangen. Both events took place in the University church. The second day offered five parallel sessions and a key note lecture given by Professor Jan Mewis from the University of Leuven. He talked about the influence of the suspending medium in suspension rheology. A second key note lecture was held by Professor Tom McLeish reviewing the



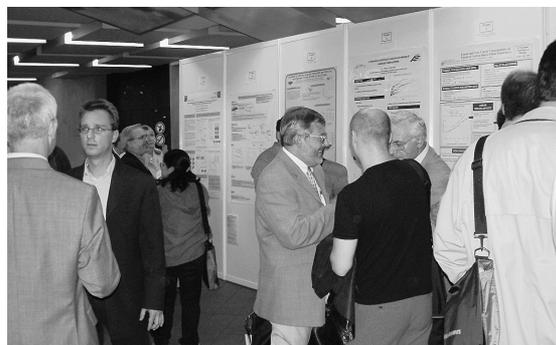
Figure 1 (left): Plenary lecture (from left to right): Nadia El Kissi, Manfred Wagner).

Figure 2 (right above): Helmut Münstedt and Dirk-Jacques Dijkstra (right).

Figure 3 (right below): Main lecture hall.



Conference Report I



state-of-the-art in modelling the flow behaviour of branched polymer melts. The day ended with a two hour poster session in the evening covering a broad range of different rheological topics, e. g. extensional flow, properties of nanocomposites and food rheology. Accompanying this session the ThermoHaake GmbH organised a diverting event on campus with snacks, drinks and jazz music, which was attended by many delegates.

On the third day the scientific program started with talks about the flow behaviour of polymer melts, different aspects of molecular modelling and suspension rheology. Two new sessions on solids and food rheology were opened with key note lectures given by Professor Igor Emri from the University of Ljubljana who summarized the role of rheology for polymers in the solid state and Professor Erich Windhab from the University of Zürich, who gave an overview on the flow behaviour of multiphase fluids with deformable interfaces. Due to the fact that an excursion to the city of Würzburg was organised for the afternoon, the sessions on Wednesday proceeded only until lunch.

The excursion to Würzburg, which is one of the major franconian cities and located on the river Main, was joined by most of the delegates and the accompanying persons. It was appreciated as a nice contrast to the scientific program and was widely regarded as one of the highlights of the conference week. At first the former Prince Bishops' palace was visited, which is a UNESCO-World Heritage Site and one of Europe's most ornate palaces with its luxurious interior. Most

impressive were the unique staircase with a cantilever cupola and the largest ceiling-painting of the world as well as the "White Hall" with rich stuccowork. The dinner was taken at the "Festung Marienberg", located on top of a hill, with a beautiful view on the city, on the Main river and the surrounding vineyards. Late at night the participants returned to Erlangen with many new impressions.

Back to the order of business the following day began with a key note talk of Professor Jorrit Mellema from the University of Twente. He described deformation and break-up processes of droplets in certain flow fields. Later on, another key note lecture was given by Professor Kiyohito Koyama from the Yamagata University explaining the different possibilities of controlling strain-hardening of polymers in elongational rheology. In the afternoon all delegates met again in the main lecture hall to listen to two more plenary lectures. Professor Ole Hassager from the Danish Polymer Centre began with a talk about Lagrangian methods for the simulation of viscoelastic flows and Professor Gerrit Peters from the Dutch Polymer Institute showed the importance of rheology for processing. Afterwards the last key note lecture of the conference was held by Professor Michael Renardy from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute describing break-up processes of viscoelastic fluid jets. After some more talks about a wide variety of rheological topics all participants of the meeting assembled for the delicious conference dinner, which took place in the local concert hall. This event was framed by four "Alphornbläser" who played tra-

Figure 4 (left): Joao Maia and Kiyahito Koyama (right).

Figure 5 (right): Poster session.



Figure 6 (left): Coffee break in the foyer.

Figure 7 (right): ThermoHaake Jazz Event.

Conference Report I

Figure 8:
Some happy rheologists.



ditional pieces of Bavarian music on rare wind instruments.

On Friday, two new interesting sessions about surfactants and foams were opened before the closing of the conference about noon. Thereafter a few of the delegates took the opportunity to come to a final get-together with snacks and drinks at the Institute of Polymer Materials and to have a look at different research activities, which were presented there.

Recapitulating the meeting, it can be said that the conference was a very successful and impressive event with a felicitous scientific and social program. The attendance to all the presentations was exceptionally high and there were many opportunities to exchange ideas with

colleagues who work in similar fields of research. Thus, "eurheo 2002" contributed successfully to the establishment and advancement of rheology and the many participants are looking forward to the upcoming Annual European Rheology Conference (AERC) 2003 taking place in Portugal from September 11-13.

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