

**POLISH ELECTROCHEMICAL
ANTICORROSION PROTECTION COMMITTEE
at the Main Board
of the Association of Polish Electrical Engineers
Warszawa, Poland**



INSTEAD OF AN INTRODUCTION...

“Corrosion Measurements in Electrochemical Protection” – a conference organised in a two-year cycle by the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee at the Main Board of the Polish Electric Engineering Association, has been for many years practically the only forum in Poland for exchange of knowledge and experience in the area of cathodic protection technology of steel and reinforced concrete buried and submerged structures. It is no reason for joy, as the method is the key anticorrosion protection of extremely important objects in the economy – all types of pipelines, tanks, hydrotechnical structures, while the scope of its use is unfortunately still insufficient, even in some applications the technique is completely unknown. Unfortunately, also in many cases where it has been designed and executed, its operation principles are not observed. For this reason the conference has an important role to fulfil – filling of a gap in a place which should be implemented by a prosperous Polish mining and transport industry of raw materials for the power industry, the municipal economy or the building industry. Fortunately, for many years our conference has been systematically sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, subsidising us from resources assigned for development of science in Poland.

This year's XIth conference has been registered as the 339th event in the catalogue of meetings of the European Federation of Corrosion. Contrary to what might seem, this is of great importance – the conference is in this way perceived as a European scientific event. The conference has been an international event for many years, as each time we had the privilege to guest specialists from different parts of the world. It cannot be precluded that in future interest in participation in “Corrosion measurements...” will increase. It is obvious that 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 for increasing the level of knowledge and qualifications of personnel dealing with cathodic protection, which as we know from the standard PN-EN 15257, today is the basic requirement for application of this technology.

Implementation of standard PN-EN 15257 will be one of the more important problems to be discussed during the conference. Owing to the agreement between the Main Board of the Polish Electric Engineering Association and the Office of Technical Inspection (UDT) in Warsaw works leading to introduction of assessment of qualifications and cathodic protection personnel certification have been 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. A system has to be organised for increasing professional qualifications, starting from access to handbooks and training materials, organisation of courses and field laboratories allowing practical training in training centres, elaboration of programs and examination procedures. What is most important – means for these aims should be paid by the companies con-

cerned. For this to be possible, together with actions leading to preparing of trained personnel (designers, producers, contractors), introducing is essential of changes in regulations, which will permit work in the area of cathodic protection technology only of appropriately trained and certified specialists. This is nothing new – such principles have been in force in USA and a number of Western countries for a long time. The European Standard PN-EN 15257 only sanctions these principles in the European Union.

Without doubt the next step will be certification (formal permission for performing given operations) of companies, which will have anticorrosion protection in the program of their activities, especially application of cathodic protection technology. Such standards exist also in Europe. Works on elaboration of such a system in Poland will be undertaken in the near future by the Polish Corrosion Society. The World Corrosion Organization in New York also declares their support for increase of responsibility for anticorrosion protection.

The economic crisis is temporarily noticeable in the Polish economy. It should create favourable conditions for realisation of works connected with anticorrosion protection of fixed assets in the industry and the economy. At times when there are no available financial means for new investments, maintaining in a proper state and extending the life of existing objects and equipment has become an economic demand. At this time known technological solutions and anticorrosion methods are again being discovered, during this time the demand for these techniques increases. Cathodic protection is the first of these techniques, which can be applied on old, already operated objects – with no need for additional actions, e.g. surface preparation. Unfortunately these phenomena do not today occur in an expected degree, pointing to the fact that the crisis affected the financial, rather than the production sphere. It should be noted here that the position of cathodic protection as an effective anti-corrosion protection method is well established in new industrial enterprises, especially those cofinanced by the European Union. It is unconditionally required in all more important domestic and foreign projects, where this technique can be applied.

The program of the XIth conference, at the request of participants expressed during PKEOpK meetings, is not broad and is to ensure greater possibilities for discussion and exchange of views. Several discussion blocks have been planned to achieve this aim.

A volume of the cathodic protection measurement technique manual, issued after numerous efforts by CEOCOR, has been added to conference materials – it is on one hand proof of how to render accessible a valuable handbook to those interested, while on the other hand it opens a way to undertaking of further efforts in this direction: to offer to Polish readers of valuable books on cathodic protection, found in the world market.

The Presidium of the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee expresses hopethat the successive conference at Jurata will be an occasion not only to meet, 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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