
MINUTES OF 2003 BUSINESS MEETING EFCE WORKING PARTY ON DRYING

Hersonissos, Greece
Thursday September 4, 2003, 12.00-14.00

Persons present:

Dr. Odilio Alves-Filho (N)
Dr. Julien Andrieu (Fr)
Dr. Bojan Cermák (CZ)
Dr. Francis Courtois (F)
Dr. German Efremov (RUS)
Prof. István Farkas (H)
Dr.-Ing. Dietrich Gehrman (D)
Dr. Vassilis Gekas (GR)
Dr. Ian C. Kemp (GB)
Prof. Eli Korin (ISR)
Dr. Vaios Karathanos (GR)
Ms. Magda Krokida (GR)
Dr. Ir. Angélique Leonard (B)
Dr. Zdzislaw Pakowski (PL)
Prof. Antonio Mulet Pons (E)
Prof. George D. Saravacos (GR)
Prof. Czeslaw Strumillo (PL)
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Evangelos Tsotsas (D)
Dr. Henk van Deventer (NL)

Apologies for absence:

Ir. Karl Anthonissen (B)
Dr. Carl-Gustav Berg (FIN)

Dr. Catherine Bonazzi (F)
Dr.-Ing. I. Evripidis (D)
Prof. Dr. Markku Karlsson (FIN)
Prof. B.S. Sazhin (RUS)
Dr. Milan Stakic (YU)
Prof. Ingvald Strommen (N)
Prof. Radivoje Topic (YU)

Other delegates not attending:

Prof. J. Bueno De Las Heras (E)
Mr. Bianchi Janetti Claudio (I)
Prof. Anatoly A. Dolinsky (UKR)
Dr. Ing. Roberto Faucitano (I)
Prof. Norvald Nesse (N)
Mr. Christian Schwartzbach (DK)
Dr. Alberto M. Sereno (P)
Mr. Tom Taylor (GB)
Prof. Dr. Dimitrije Voronjec (YU)
Prof. Roland Wimmerstedt (S)

Not contactable by e-mail:

Dr. Ansgar Sorensen (DK)
Mr. Heikki Jaakkola (FIN)
Prof. D. Marinos-Kouris (GR)

1. Opening remarks

The Chairman, Ian Kemp, opened the meeting and expressed - on behalf of all attendants - his gratitude to Professor George Saravacos and his Greek colleagues for making the practical arrangements and hosting the meeting. This was now the second in the revived series of joint technical and business meetings, the first having been held in Magdeburg in April 2002. It was gratifying to note that there had been an increase in attendance for this meeting, and to see again a good variety of interesting papers being offered. The presentations will be made available on a CD, which will be sent out to all delegates before Christmas.

2. Membership

The Chairman noted the apologies of various members who were unable to attend but sent their good wishes for the success of the meeting.

The Chairman also welcomed Dr Bojan Cermák and Dr Henk van Deventer as the newly appointed official delegates for the Czech Republic and the Netherlands respectively. At the previous WP Meeting, the Czech group had ceased to provide an official delegate, and it was therefore especially pleasing to see them able to regain a permanent involvement. Likewise, it was good to see the strong involvement of the Netherlands, in the past through Drs Kerkhof and Coumans, being taken forward into the future.

Minor omissions and corrections to the previously circulated address list were noted. The list now contains 53 members: 22 delegates, 6 industry delegates, 1 personal member, 19 guests, 2 industry guests and in addition 3 EFCE-officers. A noteworthy point is that some official delegates have been inactive for many years whereas other people with an active involvement in the WP are still guests. All members were encouraged to request their national organisations to update their delegation wherever appropriate, so that the WP's official composition reflects those who are currently active in the field.

3. Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting at Magdeburg (April 2002), which had been previously distributed, were noted and approved.

4. Chairman's report

The Chairman thanked all members for their support during his three-year term of office. It was particularly good to see the continuing good co-operation and networking between members, through the revival of technical meetings, and also the submission of proposals to the EC (though regrettably unsuccessful). He regretted that some of his more ambitious hopes for the Working Party had not been realised due to lack of time available to him and others; for example, the desire to produce an agreed standard nomenclature for drying, or a database on drying properties of materials, although in both cases progress has been made elsewhere within the group.

The Drying Working Party website, while not as regularly updated as had been hoped, is up and running, and provides a successful link into the EFCE main site and a number of key worldwide drying websites. It is hosted by the Chairman's employer, Aspen Technology Inc., who purchased Hyprotech from AEA Technology in May 2002. The address is:

<http://www.hyprotech.com/proman/efce>.

It will be inappropriate for the website to continue at this location; alternatives could include the IChemE (UK) or a location under the control of the new Chairman. The website will also require updating when relocated.

5. Communications from members

(a) Conferences and meetings

It was reported that both the IDS 2002 in Beijing and the 2nd Nordic Drying Conference in Copenhagen (June 2003) had been successful and well attended. Approximately 100 people had attended the Nordic Drying Conference and it was pleasing to note that there had been over 20 volunteers at a special session for

speakers from industry. AFSIA's next meeting, on Product Quality in Drying, will be held in November 2003 in Paris.

(b) EC proposals

A networking project, DRYMNS, had been coordinated by Professor Tsotsas and submitted to the EC under Framework 6, with nearly 30 groups involved including the majority of the Working Party members. Unfortunately, the proposal had narrowly failed to reach the threshold required by the EC in their assessment. It was noted that assessment is getting increasingly strict and that only a tiny proportion of networking projects had been funded. Even for those which had passed both stages of the assessment and were regarded as of key importance, meeting all criteria for funding at the maximum level, only one-third were actually accepted due to the limited budget available. A larger budget has been promised for the next round of Framework 6, but the level of competition is so severe that Prof Tsotsas did not feel he could spare the further time and energy to re-submit a modified proposal, in view of the low chance of a favourable result. Other members of the WP are welcome to take part in coordinating such a proposal if they wish.

Professor Alves-Filho reminded the WP that SINTEF in Norway is an official EC Marie Curie training site. It was believed that the EU particularly welcomes proposals involving a long-term commitment from a large research institute (e.g. Max Planck or Fraunhofer).

(c) International Energy Agency

The IEA is looking to develop an Implementing Agreement in Drying, which is being coordinated by Tadeusz Kudra with link with the Polish drying group.

6. Future direction

The future direction of the group had been discussed in some depth at the Karlsruhe meeting in 2001. The basic strategy continues to be; to encourage dissemination of knowledge about drying (e.g. at technical meetings and via the website) and to assist networking in Europe. There are not many countries where there are sufficient people specifically interested in drying to form a national group. The present system of combining a business meeting with a 1-2 day technical meeting appears to have been well received, and presents a good way for technical contacts and networking to be maintained, especially as the IDS (International Drying Symposium) will not return to Europe until 2006, in Budapest. The Chairman welcomed the willingness of national groups to host EFCE WP meetings, thus promoting national and international cooperation simultaneously; the current meeting is being hosted by the Greek association, and offers have also been received from other national groups. The Working Party requires one business meeting a year, but is happy to encourage additional technical meetings or conferences, especially where these cover a subject of special interest to a sub-group of the WP. Where significant numbers of members meet together at a separate conference, such as IDS, an informal update meeting can be arranged; the last of these was at IDS 2002 in Beijing. A similar meeting could be considered at IDS 2004 in Sao Paulo.

7. Future meetings

A proposal had been made by Dr Gehrman, backed by the drying group of the German national association GVC to have a meeting in conjunction with the GVC annual meeting, a pharmaceutical drying conference and the Powtech powder technology exhibition in Nuremberg, 16-18 March 2004. A 2-day technical meeting would be involved on 17/18 March including the Business Meeting. Cost would be a maximum of € 300 for industry delegates, with a reduction to € 200 for lecturers, and € 75 for university participants. This would include admission to the trade exhibitions (but not the separate conferences). The WP agreed unanimously to endorse this suggestion. There will also be a one-day conference on drying of pharmaceuticals (Pharmdry) on 16 March, open to all, with a separate fee. Details of the Call for Papers are attached with these minutes.

The ECCE congresses are still not favoured by the majority of WP members as venues for the Business Meeting, due to the high cost (typically € 500). However, a drying session has been organised for the Granada meeting in late September 2003, with approximately 20 papers and posters. The Chairman will be attending and chairing this. The next ECCE congress will be combined with the World Congress of Chemical Engineering in Glasgow in 2005. It is possible that the organisers may provide facilities for working parties to hold their meetings immediately before or after the conference to avoid the necessity for all delegates to pay the conference fees.

8. Chairmanship election

Ian Kemp had been elected to the Chair at the Business Meeting in August 2000 at IDS (Noordwijkerhout), and had reached the end of his term. Nominations were accordingly invited for a new chairman. Professor Evangelos Tsotsas of Magdeburg University, Germany, was nominated by Professor George Saravacos and seconded by Professor Odilio Alves-Filho. There were no other nominations and Prof Tsotsas was elected unanimously as the new Chairman.

EFCE regulations require the Chairman to be a delegate to the Working Party. Although Prof Tsotsas has been a regular attender at WP meeting and played the main part in organising the 2002 meeting, he is still officially a guest. It was agreed to request GVC to nominate him as a full delegate, especially as Germany does not at present have its full quota of active delegates. While this is being arranged, Ian Kemp will remain for official purposes as Acting Chairman and Professor Tsotsas becomes Chairman-elect.

9. Dates of forthcoming meetings

The next Working Party Business Meeting will take place on 17 March 2004, from 1200 to 1330, during the technical meeting of the Working Party at Nuremberg, Germany.

Forthcoming meetings:

IDS 2004, Sao Paulo, Brazil. 22-25 August 2004.

CHISA 2004, Prague, Czech Republic. 22-26 August 2004. (No drying session planned due to the clash with IDS)

World Congress and ECCE-5, Glasgow, Scotland, 10-14 July 2005.

10. Closure of the meeting

The Chairman thanked delegates for their valuable contributions and added his good wishes for the success of the rest of the technical meeting before closing the business meeting.

Ian C. Kemp
Retiring Chairman of WP on Drying
October 2003