

The 4th Braunschweig Superconductivity Seminar

May 28, 2009 HE33) The 4th Braunschweig Superconductivity Seminar was held on May 12 and 13, 2009, in the historical city of Braunschweig, Germany. This “seminar” was really a national workshop organized by the Institute of High Voltage Technology and Power Systems, the Institute for Surface Technology, both of the Carolo-Wilhelmina Technical University of Braunschweig, and the “PerCoTech AG” company. The event was generously supported by the German utility company Eon.Avacon, the Association for Electrical, Electronic & Information Technologies (VDE), the German Industrial Association “Superconductivity” (ivSupra), and by Siemens AG.

The purpose of this annual workshop (2009) was to enhance communication between electric utilities or authorities, who are potential users of superconducting apparatus, on one side, and the industrial manufacturers and research organizations, who are developing such apparatus, on the other. The workshop was attended by over 60 participants not only from Germany, but also from Austria and Denmark. Many of the attendees were electrical engineers from electric utilities and testing institutes. Since the utilities exhibit growing interest in superconducting devices or grid components, and are contemplating tests and insertion in their grids, the presentations by technical staff members of two utility companies were of special interest. They addressed general requirements to be fulfilled by superconducting apparatus to qualify for commercial deployment in the German energy grid.

The list of presentations, slides of which are accessible, can now be found at: <http://www.htee.tu-bs.de/htee/veranstaltungen/supraleiterseminar/4BSSupraleiter.html>. Click for the [complete program](#) and a [brief comment](#) to it. Most oral presentations were given in German; accordingly, the corresponding slides are available in German only. The program represented a certain balance between technical and programmatic presentations (“what do we really envisage to do?”), all prepared with the aim of ready accessibility for the audience either not familiar with superconductivity and its applications, or with the inner workings of a utility company.

In the opinion of many participants, including this Editor, the event was useful, quite successful and very well organized. Figure 1 shows the group photo of participants. The following figures provide a few snapshots of the meeting. The organizers intend a follow-up meeting to be held in May 2010.

The way of thinking and the language of engineers in utility companies on one side, and of those active in applied superconductivity on the other, are highly different. Therefore, the workshop organizers would like to encourage all interested parties to attend the 2010 workshop with the aim to help introducing the high-temperature superconductivity apparatus in electrical power applications.



Fig. 1. Group photo of participants of the 4th Seminar (May 12, 2009).



Fig. 2. Dr. W. Prusseit (Secretary of ivSupra) during his talk.



Fig. 3. Dinner on May 12, 2009.



Fig. 4. Coffee break between the presentations of May 13, 2009.