

## News and Events

### EFCE WORKING PARTY ON EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING

Invited by the Dutch delegate Peter Hamersma, the EFCE Working Party on Education held its spring 2007 business meeting on 30 March 2007 at the Delft University of Technology (TU) in Delft, The Netherlands. The meeting was attended by 20 members and three invited guests.

Professor Karel Luyben, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, welcomed the attendees and presented an overview of chemical engineering in The Netherlands and on the Faculty of Applied Sciences. At TU Delft research in chemical engineering takes place in three departments of this faculty as well as in two departments of the Faculty of Mechanical, Maritime and Materials Engineering.

Ir. Pieter L.J. Swinkels, Director of Delft Ingenious Design, gave a presentation on 'Technical and human factors in chemical process design courses'. He presented the Dutch concept of a post MSc programme leading to a so-called Professional Doctorate in Engineering (PDEng). This advanced level programme trains and educates graduates to become Certified Process Designers.

Professor Anthonie W. M. Meijers, Eindhoven University of Technology, presented the '3TU Project on Academic Competences' which is a joint effort of TU Delft, University of Twente, and TU Eindhoven.

All three presentations were followed by intensive discussions.

The attendees discussed the status of the planned Working Party on Education workshop 'The Future of European Chemical Engineering Education in a Globalized World' and welcomed the finalized speakers list. The event will be held alongside ECCE-6 in Copenhagen, Denmark on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

The attendees also discussed the status and objectives of the Working Party on Education's project to gather and disseminate good examples to promote chemical engineering.

On the day before the business meeting took place a group of attendees used the opportunity to visit DelftChemTech, the department of Chemical Engineering of the Delft University of Technology, which belongs to the Faculty of Applied Sciences. The head of the department, Professor Ernst Sudhoelter, gave a short presentation as an introduction. The labs of two research groups were then visited, showing examples of basic research on the properties of new opto electronic materials as well as some examples of applied research.

Piero Salatino, Naples/I, replaces Alberto Brucato, Palermo/I as the Working Party on Education delegate from Italy.

Martin Molzahn  
(Chairman of EFCE WP on Education)

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EFCE WORKING PARTY ON MECHANICS OF PARTICULATE SOLIDS

The new Conference Center East of the Nürnberg Messe Center in Nürnberg, Germany, was the venue of this year's annual meeting of the EFCE Working Party on Mechanics of Particulate Solids (WPMS). It proved to be a splendid environment with its wide open atrium style architecture for a very successful meeting. Similar to last year's event in Sorrento, the WPMS ran a business and a technical meeting plus a workshop on Discrete Element Modelling in bulk solids handling. According to the two chairmen, Professor Stefan Luding and Professor Ugur Tüzün, the workshop drew about 50 participants, making it a quite popular offering at the conference. It featured technical presentations by Torsten Gröger, showing the hands-on approach currently used to calibrate DEM simulations, as well as Colin Thornton's talk about the detailed physics at the contact point and ways to model it. Most influential for the DEM activities of the WPMS may, however, prove to be the presentation given by Professor Wolfgang Rodi which didn't even deal with DEM. Rodi acquainted the workshop participants with the work, history and structure of ERCOF-TAC, an organization dedicated to the verification, calibration and validation of CFD simulations. It may well become the much needed role model for the DEM community.

The 2007 Business Meeting had all the ingredients to change the face of the EFCE Working Party on Mechanics of Particulate Solids. On one hand it was the last annual meeting chaired by Dr Hermann Feise of BASF. Dr Feise has been a working party delegate since 2001, at that time replacing Professor Jörg Schwedes as one of the German representatives. In 2002 he was elected chairman to the WPMS to succeed Dr Jan Novosad of the Czech Republic who had led the working party for more than thirty years. In the following years among other activities the WPMS set up a new website and produced translations of its Standard Shear Testing Technique into German and Czech. In 2005 it also started the formidable task of making DEM a validated engineering tool in bulk solids technology. The delegates elected Professor Massimo Poletto from the University of Salerno in Italy as the successor to Dr Feise from January 2008. With his own interests covering not only bulk solids handling but also multiphase flow and fluidization technology, Professor Poletto expressed his intention to continue the work started on DEM but also to bring a new focus on gas-solids interactions into the working party and to revitalize the discussion within the working party on some unresolved issues regarding the traditional continuum mechanics approach for the mechanics of particulate solids. His main emphasis will be the representation of the working party in the national



Professor Massimo Poletto – the newly elected chairman of the EFCE Working Party on Mechanics of Particulate Solids.

societies in an effort to raise the public awareness of the WPMPS.

The working party elected Professor Mark Jones and Dr John Carson to become permanently invited guests of the WPMPS. Professor Jones is head of the bulk solids handling activities at the University of Newcastle, Australia. Together with the key center and TUNRA bulk solids, the University of Newcastle has one of the strongest research groups in bulk solids technology worldwide. Dr Carson leads the renown engineering consulting company of Jenike and Johanson in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts, USA, founded by and named after the founding father of modern silo technology, Dr Andrew Jenike. Both Jones and Carson have actively participated in Working Party projects over the last decade and longer. In addition twelve new candidates have been found which will be presented to the respective member societies as suitable delegates to represent their home countries in the WPMPS.

Hermann Feise  
(Chairman of EFCE WP on  
Mechanics of Particulate Solids)