

Dear PPS-21 Conference Participants,

it is my great pleasure to welcome all delegates and accompanying persons to the Twenty First Annual Meeting of the Polymer Processing Society, PPS-21 in Leipzig, Germany. Leipzig had been chosen as the conference place because of the polymer-specific surrounding in Central Germany and because of the prospering character of this town too. It is the second time that an Annual Meeting of the PPS is performed in Germany since foundation of the Polymer Processing Society in Akron/USA in 1985.

PPS-21 is organized by the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg in cooperation with the Plastics Center in Leipzig and the University of Technology Chemnitz. These institutions are placed in between the industrial region of Central Germany, well known as a place of high concentration of chemical industry and engineering. Especially, polymer synthesis, polymer processing, and above all automotive

industry as well as automotive suppliers have a long tradition here, and they have been new established in the last years after the political changes in Eastern Germany. Today, in this region well equipped chemical plants with high environmental standards are producing, automotive industry in large scale is established brand new in the suburbs of Leipzig, and several scientific institutions has been founded in the region in the last years working in the field of polymer science and engineering. The universities of Halle and Leipzig belong to the oldest ones in Germany. They have an international reputation in many academic areas, including research and teaching in the field of polymers.

Leipzig is well known because of the Leipzig international trade fair, the composer J.S. Bach, the poet J.W. Goethe, the Leipzig opera house and concert hall "Gewandhaus", the Maedler shopping passage, arts hall, sports arena, diverse museums, zoo etc. The town has an amazing cultural, architectonic, political and scientific history. Today, Leipzig is a lively, cosmopolitan city, a modern center of communication, and therefore, a suitable place to perform an Annual Meeting of the Polymer Processing Society.

The great international resonance on PPS-21 shows that the 15 symposia topics of the conference are of essential interest, and that a need exists to present and to discuss the newest scientific results as well as to exchange experiences in these fields of polymer engineering and science. Scientists and engineers from 46 countries will present 485 scientific papers and contribute to the success of the conference. I hope that all participants of PPS-21 will collect a plenty of new experiences, generate scientific exchange, and forge links for new cooperation and networks.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee I would like to thank all the sponsors to PPS-21 for their generous support. I am indebted to the members of the Organizing Committee, Technical Staff and other individuals for their commitment and hard work to make this conference a successful event. Finally, I wish all participants some days full of good impressions and a maximum of scientific benefit.

Hans-Joachim Radusch
PPS-21 Chair

