

Preface

The 4th edition of the increasingly successful annual conference series WGP-Jahreskongress takes place in 2014. Again the Department of Mechanical Engineering of the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) has the honour and pleasure to host the conference. Like last year the the Institute of Manufacturing Technology (LFT) and the Institute for Factory Automation and Production Systems (FAPS) are willing to be the host again.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering is the youngest Department of the Faculty of Engineering. It is little more than 30 years of age but has used this time to come to maturity and reach its position within the field of research in Production Engineering in Germany. Roughly 250 researchers are working in 8 institutes that build the department. Covering different bachelor and master courses round about 3.500 students are taking classes taught by the Department. The Department is well connected to the other four faculties of the FAU, one of the very few universities integrating technology into a fully developed classical university providing all subjects from law and business, medicine, philosophy to science and, as the youngest faculty, engineering. This faculty and especially the Department of Mechanical Engineering is well connected to partners in Germany, Europe and the world in order to do research in all fields of interest, may it be fundamental research or application oriented development. Both organising institutes belong to the first group created in Erlangen in 1982 and are now headed by the 2nd generation of Professors. Prof. Marion Merklein is directing the LFT and her colleague Prof. Jörg Franke is head of FAPS.

Due to the success of the new face of the WGP-Jahreskongress created by the organisers in Erlangen last year, there are no major changes in 2014. The vision to organise a meeting of young researchers presenting their own results under their own name is still the primary goal. However, due to a constant development in research, the advisors can be a little more present this year. Nevertheless, we want to provide a floor for the next generation of researchers to start networking within WGP, the German Academic Society for Production Engineering, in order to be prepared and connected to shape the future. To accomplish this, the program does hold scientific sessions but is also giving sufficient breaks for discussions and exchange and does hold an informal meeting to get to know each other. Due to the increasing interest in this conference and the connected chances and opportunities the conference will last 1.5 days this year. Of course we welcome all current members of the WGP and hope that they enrich the discussions with their experience and wisdom, guiding the younger and young researchers. We will have the pleasure to have listen to 75 presentations of young scientists that have been organised in 5 parallel sessions covering forming, cutting, assembly, machines and organisation. We will have 3 plenary presentations on prominent, up to date topics. We hope these keynotes, the presentations and the discussions will foster new research ideas and cooperation. As additional highlights 2 rewards will be presented. The Otto Kienzle-Gedenkmünze is awarded to a young researcher, indicating that noticeable success can be reached within a few years of scientific working. The Kurt-Lange-Medaille is awarded by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Umformtechnik. It is given to a person that has provided significant additions to the fundamentals of forming technologies by basic research.

Please enjoy your stay in Erlangen and your visit to this year's WGP-Jahreskongress!

Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Marion Merklein

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