

Preface

In 2013 the WGP-Jahreskongress takes place for the 3rd time. However, this is the 1st time it is hosted in Erlangen, Bavaria. Two institutes from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the Institute of Manufacturing Technology (LFT) and the Institute for Factory Automation and Production Systems (FAPS) are taking the responsibility and the honour of hosting this prestigious event.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering is the youngest Department of the Technical Faculty. 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 3.000 students are taking classes taught by the Department. The Department is well connected to the other four faculties of the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (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.

The organisers used the opportunity the change of location offered to them and also attempted to give the WGP-Jahreskongress a new face. It is the vision to organise a meeting of young researchers presenting their own results under their own name, not protected by the name of their professors but standing for themselves. 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. 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 listen to 46 presentations of young scientists that have been organised in 5 parallel sessions covering forming, cutting, assembly, machines and organisation. We will have 2 plenary presentations that shall give an overview of current research in selected fields of lightweight and medical production. We hope these keynotes, the presentations and the discussions will foster new research ideas and cooperation. As additional highlight the Otto Kienzle-Gedenkmünze is awarded to a young researcher, indicating that noticeable success can be reached within a few years of scientific working.

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

Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Marion Merklein

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jörg Franke

Organisation of the 2013 WGP Jahreskongress

Editors

Prof. Marion Merklein	Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany
Prof. Jörg Franke	Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany
PD Dr.-Ing. Hinnerk Hagenah	Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany

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Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jörg Franke	FAPS, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany
PD Dr.-Ing. Hinnerk Hagenah	LFT, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany
Dipl.-Ing. Benjamin Hofmann	FAPS, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany

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