INSTITUT FÜR FÖRDERTECHNIK UND LOGISTIK
Institutsleiter Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr. h. c. K.-H. Wehking
Abt. Seiltechnologie
Universität Stuttgart Abteilungsleiter Dipl.-Ing. S. Winter

OIPEEC

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE POUR L'ETUDE DE L'ENDURANCE DES CABLES
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE ENDURANCE OF ROPES
INTERNATIONALE ORGANISATION ZUM STUDIUM DER BETRIEBSFESTIGKEIT VON SEILEN
ORGANIZZAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE PER LO STUDIO DELLA FATICA DELLE FUNI

Challenging Rope Applications

From 24th to 26th of March 2015 the international OIPEEC Conference took place at the Institute of Mechanical Handling and Logistics of the University of Stuttgart (IFT) and also in the historical “Alten Reithalle” of the Maritim Hotel. Since 1963 the OIPEEC (french abbreviation for “International Organization for study of fatigue strength of ropes”) is engaged as a worldwide association of rope manufacturers, -operators and -researcher with current themes of development from the wire rope application and newly also fiber rope application. From elevators up to cranes, ropeways, rope constructions up to the huge mooring lines and hoist ropes of the offshore industry every 2 years application problems, new developments and experiences will be discussed in lectures in conferences round the world under a specific motto. With the 3 yearly taking place German Stuttgart Ropedays the OIPEEC conference coincides every 6 years, so that after the big success of the first joint meeting in Stuttgart 2009, this year over 200 international guests from 14 countries came together to inform about the news from the rope industry and to use the possibility of networking. One opportunity therefor was the visit of the IFT laboratory in the evening were the participants of the conference could move and discuss between approved destructive and non-destructive rope test devices as well as specific installations and new developments in testing areas. Professor Wehking already emphasized in his welcome speech the new group of rope technology from the IFT, the “Offshore technology” which attracted wide interest at the multitude of visitors from the offshore sector. Particularly the announcement of a new tension-tension machine for big rope diameters with maximum dynamic load up to 2000kN created a big anticipation at the future potential users of the research results of IFT. A related application to finance the project has been recently granted from the German Research Foundation DFG. Afterwards the Conference Dinner took place at the Maritim Hotel, which was spiced up by an acrobatic and magic show.

In advance the 20 exciting lectures of the conference have been curated as usual from an expert committee in order to guarantee a high quality of the content of the presented themes for the participants. Also the research assistants from IFT could make their contribution to research projects as the use of fiber ropes on S/R machines (Dipl.-Ing. Gregor Novak), new termination for high modulus fiber ropes (Dipl.-Ing. Anita Finckh-Jung and Sven Winter), an innovative sensor for the measurement of rope rotation (Dipl.-Ing. Konstantin Kuehner) as well as the lifetime of twisted wire ropes in bending tests (Dr.-Ing. Tobias Weber). Two employees of the Institute even gained the second and third place at the selection of the “Best Paper”. The deserved winner Elizabeth Huntley from the US-American company Whitehill Ltd, could inspire the participants with her version of the non-destructive test of fiber ropes with the help of nickel-coated filaments.

After a final excursion program to the Porsche Museum and a tour to the Killesberg Tower (which is stabilized by countless steel ropes) the participants of the conference left satisfied: “well done”, “Thank you and keep it up” was the tenor of the consistently positive feedback. In 6 years at the latest it will be time again, but until then there is a lot to discover in the research and application of ropes.

If you want to get a personal impression of the field of activity of the rope research at the IFT,
you could get this within guided tours for students at the beginning of the semester or on other occasions. Informations about the dates you will get at the secretariat under the
telephone number 0711-685-83771