

MEETING REPORT

5th PolyRay Conference, Mulhouse, France, May 22-23, 2007

The 2007 PolyRay Conference was held in Mulhouse on 22nd and 23rd May 2007, under summery conditions, and was followed by the Spring Meeting of the French Photochemistry Group (GFP 2007) on 24th and 25th May 2007. The introduction by the organising committee reminded us the terrible tragedy happened in Mulhouse last year and the loss of Dominique Burget. Participants came from both academic groups and industries, and presentations covered various aspects of photopolymerisations.

Photoinitiator advances were presented by Kurt Dietliker (Ciba Specialty Chemicals, Basle, Switzerland). He explained the new opportunities opened to radiation curing, and the challenges arisen from these applications. Jacques Lalevée (Mulhouse) described new photoiniferters for controlled photopolymerisation reactions.

A second topic was new monomers and formulations. Henri Strub (Sartomer, Verneuil en Halatte, France) described the possible come back of thiol/ene technology, despite the bad smell of thiols. Jean-Marc Francès (Bluestar Silicones, Saint Fons, France) presented new nanoparticles for cartionic radiation curable silicones. Céline Croutxé-Barghorn (Mulhouse) described the photocrosslinkable hybrid sol-gel studied in her laboratory. Then Xavier Coqueret (Reims) highlighted the application of photopolymerisation for the design of analytic microsystems. Finally, Khalid Zahouily (Photon & Polymer, Lutterbach, France) presented his company, specialised in on-demand consultations on photopolymerisation and photopolymerisable composites.

Photocurable coatings were covered by André Merlin (Nancy), speaking about development of UV setting coatings for wood application, and Jacky Mallégol (Arcelor Research, Liège, Belgium), explaining the issues of UV curing development for steel coating. Cuauhtémoc Pozos Vazquez (Montpellier) also described photoinitiator-free bismaleimides based systems.

Curing equipments were discussed by Bernard Brandl (IST Metz GmbH, Nürtingen, Germany), focusing on new UV-LEDs, and Jean Durocher (Qurtech SA, Maisons Alfort,

France) explaining a real situation he experienced. Boris Gamain (Labomat Essor, Saint Denis, France) also exposed light ageing equipments and techniques.

Finally, some theoretical studies were presented. Carole Ecoffet (Mulhouse) described the influence of oxygen diffusion on evanescent waves photopolymerisation. Marion N'Negue Mintsa (Rouen) studied the influence of co-initiator on photoinitiation by benzophenone. Finally, Loïc Pichavant (Reims) presented the formulation optimisation by design of experiments.

In closing speech, rendezvous seems to be given next year in Lyon, France.

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