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THE GERG ACADEMIC NETWORK EVENT - 2010

GERG, the European Gas Research Group, held its 2nd Academic Network Event in Brussels on 3rd & 4th June, to reinforce its academic network as a means of enlarging and strengthening links between selected universities and the European gas industry's research centres.

The Academic Network is an opportunity for academics to:

- be a part of the gas industry's contribution to a sustainable energy future;
- have closer links with gas industry experts across Europe;
- share knowledge & problems;
- be aware of international energy issues;
- publish papers and promote successful R&D.

Post-graduate students working towards a Ph. D. funded by, or relevant to, the gas industry were invited with their supervisors for the second year to present their work to a select audience made up of their peers, gas industry R&D experts and representatives from the EU institutions. Fifteen presentations were made and these can be seen on the GERG website: www.gerg.eu

The Event, which once again proved very successful with more than 60 attendees, comprised two days of very high quality presentations on research topics, with a convivial atmosphere for debate and discussion in the Radisson Blu hotel close to the Grand Place in Brussels.

The prizes for the best work, based on the criteria: Technical Quality, Innovation and the presentation itself, went to:

- 1st Markus Richter, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany. "Feasibility Study for a new Densimeter for the Accurate Measurement of Densities of Liquefied Natural Gas";
- 2nd Shariff Lawal, University of Leeds, UK. "Computational study of combustion in gas fired burners and flares: Structure and emission of a turbulent jet flame in cross-flow";
- 3rd Edwin Dertien, University of Twente, Netherlands. "Development of an inspection robot for gas distribution mains - a Mars mission underground".



1st prize being presented to Markus Richter, Ruhr-Universität Bochum by GERG President, Dr Klaus Altfeld of E.ON Ruhrgas.

The GERG Academic Network Event in Brussels goes from strength to strength and has become a regular date in the diary.

Event presentations, details of GERG members, current activities and R&D priorities can be seen on the GERG website:

www.gerg.eu

along with the 'GERG Research Roadmap to 2030'.

For more information, contact:

Dave Pinchbeck
Secretary General
GERG – The European Gas
Research Group
E: davepinchbeck@gerg.eu
T: + 32 22 30 80 17



THE GERG ACADEMIC NETWORK

BENEFITS TO THE ACADEMIC WORLD

- Links to industry, including manufacturers, international energy producers, transporters and suppliers;
- Potential for employment by major European energy companies;
- Opportunity to be a part of the gas industry's contribution to an energy sustainable future;
- Possible source of:
 - new funding;
 - new projects;
 - new project partners;
- Access to:
 - a wider industry knowledge base;
 - information on real technical issues/problems of international significance;
 - new potential applications for R&D results;
 - an implementation route;
 - European Commission, National Energy Regulators and other National Government Agencies;
- Closer links with gas industry experts across Europe;
- Opportunities to research applicability of latest technologies;
- Invitation to GERG Programme Committee meetings;
- Sharing knowledge;
- Sharing problems;
- Potential for post-graduate placements in laboratories across Europe;
- Awareness of international/world energy issues;
- Opportunity to:
 - be part of a large international network;
 - publish papers and promote successful R&D;
 - share knowledge;
- The GERG prize.

What is GERG?

GERG, the European Gas Research Group, is a research and development organisation with a unique role in Europe, in that it provides both support and stimulus for the technological innovation necessary to ensure that the European gas industry can rise to meet the technological challenges of the new century.

GERG was founded in 1961 to strengthen the gas industry within the European Community and it achieves this by promoting research and technological innovation in all aspects of the gas chain. Established as a network to enable exchange of information between a select group of specialist R&D centres to avoid duplication of effort, it has grown steadily to its current size whilst retaining and expanding its original aims. Its priorities are networking, technical information exchange, and the promotion of collaborative R&D.

GERG membership currently stands at 22 members from 12 countries, each actively involved in natural gas R&D. It's worth noting that despite, or maybe as a result of, the changes in the European natural gas landscape, GERG membership has doubled in recent years.

GERG is based in Brussels to benefit from proximity to the institutions of the European Union and great emphasis is placed on maintenance of links with the EU, working for recognition of the importance of natural gas-related R&D and providing support to members in setting up collaborative R&D projects under the European Union's R&D Framework Programmes.

It is worth reinforcing the point that the members of GERG represent some of the most expert technical performers in the international natural gas R&D community, combining to contribute key skills and experience that would be impossible to resource at the purely national level. GERG is, without doubt, very well-equipped to undertake energy sector research and technological development and make a significant contribution into the 21st century.