

# STK Annual Meeting 2022, 14–15<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Sika Technology, Zurich, Switzerland

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The Swiss Society for Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry (Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Thermoanalytik und Kalorimetrie – STK) organizes an annual symposium to bring together scientists and specialists from universities and industries active in these fields.

On Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th September 2022, more than 40 participants took part in our 45<sup>th</sup> + 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Meeting, originally planned in 2020 but twice postponed due to COVID. The symposium was hosted by Sika Technology in Zurich, with a special emphasis on 'Mastering Heat for Environment and Processes'. Our dedicated local organizer, Dr. Patrick Furrer (Head polymer & HPLC Lab at Sika, Fig. 1), together with the support of the STK scientific committee (M.-A. Aeschlimann, P. Brodard, P. Furrer, A. Hammer, R. Hilfiker, F. Mascarello, A. Raemy, F. Stoessel and J. Thun), set up a very interesting program with nine talks, several posters as well as several exhibitors active in thermal analysis.

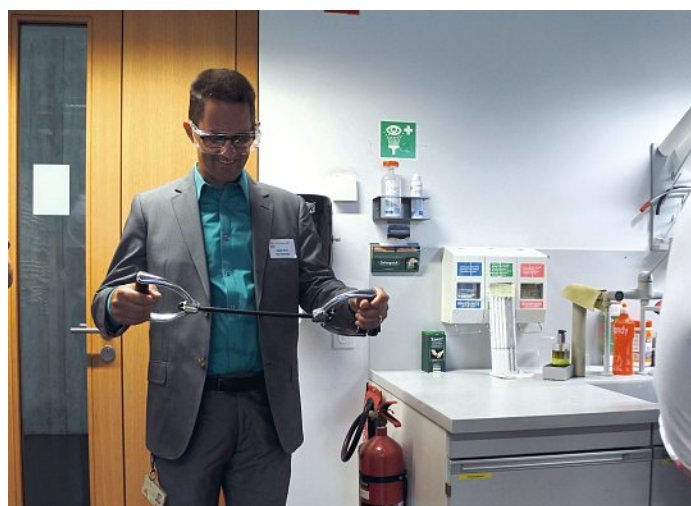


Fig. 1. Dr. Patrick Furrer (Sika Technology Zurich), dedicated local organizer and experimentalist.

The first talk, by **Martin Zäch** from Sika Technology, dynamically introduced us to heat aspects of batteries, and this topic was further developed by **Christian Ortmann** (TA Instruments, Germany). Professor **Martin O. Saar** (ETH Zurich), our first invited speaker, then held a fascinating talk on geothermal energy, giving us insights into an almost endless but technically very challenging energy source. **Bertrand Roduit** (AKTS Sierre) and **Anne-Florence Tran-Van** (TÜV SÜD Basel) completed this first scientific session with their respective contributions about thermal safety of chemical processes.

After the STK General Assembly, followed by a short bus transfer, we had the chance to enjoy a beautiful private dinner

cruise on the Lake of Zurich, where we could socialize and exchange ideas in a very relaxed atmosphere (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2. Private dinner cruise on the Lake of Zurich.

The morning after was opened by **Rudolf J. Koopmans** from PICC Fribourg, with his inspiring invited talk on 'Mr. Gibbs and the circular economy', followed by an enlightening second invited talk on 'Biomedical use of calorimetry' by Professor **Olivier Braissant** from the University of Basel. We then had the superb opportunity to get a glimpse into the various analytical labs as well as the impressive factory for adhesives production of Sika. Finally, two more contributions about heat stability of solid compounds, by **Flavio Lack & Jürgen Thun** (F. Hoffmann-La Roche Basel) and **Sutida Jansod** (HES-SO Fribourg), wrapped up this charming symposium.

One more thing... STK was founded in 1975 at the initiative of two scientists: Prof. **Hans-Rudolf Oswald** from the University of Zurich and Dr. **Erwin Marti** from Ciba-Geigy AG. Now, more than 45 years later, not only STK is still thriving, but so are our founders! Dr. Marti was with us and gave an emotional honorary speech (Fig. 3), and Prof. Oswald (see Footnote) sent us a beautiful letter that I had the chance to share with the audience. We also would like to point out that STK made a UNICEF donation of 2'000 CHF for the children in Ukraine on this occasion.

We invite our faithful membership (Fig. 4), along with anyone interested in HEAT as a form of energy, to participate to our 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, which will take place on October 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 at the charming Nestlé Rive-Reine Conference Center in Vevey (see stk-online.ch for details). The meeting will highlight 'Calorimetry at the Crossroads of Materials, Life and Food Sciences',



Fig. 3. Dr. Erwin Marti, co-founder of STK in 1975, holding an honorary talk at STK 2022.



Fig. 4. Participants of the STK Anniversary Meeting 2022 in Zurich.

and is open to contributions from all applications of thermal analysis and calorimetry.

**Footnote:** It is with deep sadness that we learned of the death of Prof. Hans-Rudolf Oswald, co-founder of STK in 1975, on August 5, 2023 in Olten (CH). The fact that our society is still active, almost 50 years later, is a definite proof that Prof. Oswald was a visionary scientist. The Swiss Society for Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry is honored to maintain his legacy.



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