

Conference Report

STK Annual Meeting 2019

ARMASUISSE, General Herzog Haus, Feuerwerkerstrasse 39, CH-3602 Thun, 15.05.2019

Pierre Brodard*

*Correspondence: Prof. Dr. P. Brodard, President of STK, Haute école d'ingénierie et d'architecture Fribourg, Pérolles 80, CH-1700 Fribourg, University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland HES-SO, E-mail: pierre.brodard@hefr.ch

The aim of the STK association (Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Thermoanalytik und Kalorimetrie), founded in 1975, is to assemble scientists and specialists from universities and industries active in the fields of thermal analysis and calorimetry.

The STK annual meeting 2019 was hosted by Armasuisse in Thun, on Wednesday May 15th, with a special emphasis on *Thermal Analysis of Materials*. Our dedicated host, Dr. Patrick Folly (Head of the specialized area Explosives and Ammunition Surveillance), 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 scientific program with nine talks, further enhanced by a fascinating tour of the Armasuisse laboratories. Several exhibitors were also present.

The first invited talk, by **Alexandre Sarbach** from Armasuisse (Switzerland), brilliantly introduced us to *Heat flow calorimetry and others thermal technics applied in the ammunition surveillance and shelf life prediction*. Next, **Bertrand Roduit** (AKTS AG, Switzerland) further developed the topic by *Continuous monitoring of shelf lives of materials by application of data loggers with implemented kinetic parameters*.

The president of STK, Pierre Brodard, then presented the **STK AWARD 2019** to **Vincent Mathot** (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) for his outstanding work on *Thermal behavior of crystallizing polymers*. The morning ended up with the next invited talk by **Aloïs Raemy** (Nestlé retiree, Switzerland), who discussed the *Thermal characteristics of carbohydrate cellulose in relation to safety*.

After lunch and STK General Assembly, we had the unique chance to visit the special testing facilities of the Armasuisse laboratories (see picture below). Later on, Pierre Brodard presented the **STK YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD 2019** to **Andrei**



Armasuisse testing facilities

Rotaru from the University of Craiova (Romania), for his work on *Thermal-spectroscopic studies of electroceramic relaxor materials*. **Angela Hammer** (Mettler-Toledo AG, Switzerland) completed this first afternoon session with a contributed talk.

After the coffee break, **Rémi André** from Setaram Instrumentation (France) initiated in a very articulate manner the next session, about *Calorimetry and energy*. **Andreas Haselbacher** (ETH, Switzerland) went ahead with *Recent progress on high-temperature thermal energy storage with application to advanced adiabatic compressed air energy storage*, a captivating presentation of a pilot-scale plant for advanced adiabatic compressed air energy storage in the Swiss Alps. **Erwin Marti** (Basel, Switzerland), co-founder of STK more than 40 years ago, finally shared with us his thrilling and lifelong observations about *Leadership and management in the chemical industry*.



F. Stoessel, R. Hilfiker, F. Mascarello, **V. Mathot (STK Award 2019)**, P. Brodard



F. Stoessel, M.-A. Aeschlimann, A. Raemy, **A. Rotaru (Young Scientist Award 2019)**, P. Brodard

The broad and international attendance was delighted by the relaxed, friendly and scientifically sound atmosphere of the meeting. We hope that many will attend next year STK annual meeting 2020: for our 45th Anniversary, we will focus on *Mastering Heat for Environment and Processes*, on the premises of Sika Technology in Zurich, on the afternoon of Tuesday 12th May and morning of Wednesday 13th May. A surprise dinner on Tuesday evening will be offered to all registered participants: SAVE THE DATE!

Received: July 19, 2019