

MINUTES

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Annual Meeting of the EFCE Working Party “Mechanics of Particulate Solids” 03.08.2009 in Brisbane, Queensland (Australia).

Abstract

The Annual meeting of the EFCE Working Party Mechanics of Particulate Solids (WPMPs) took place on August 3rd, 2009 in Brisbane, Queensland (Australia). The Meeting was held in conjunction with the Chops 2009 conference. The WPMPs ran a Technical and a Business session.

Two participants to the working party gave a presentation of their present activity: Prof. Peter C. Arnold, University of Wollongong, Australia; Prof. Jürgen Tomas, University of Magdeburg, Germany.

Advances were presented on the current WP tasks as follows:

- 1) Validation of DEM Simulation: Prof. Jin Ooi reported on the approval by the EU of the request for funding submitted by the group of researchers to validate DEM and train DEM researchers. The PARDEM project was funded as a Marie Curie Initial Training Network under the EU Framework 7 Programme, It will have a cash budget of ~3.4 million EUR and will run for the period 2009-2013. The project involves ten full partners and four associated partners. Seven of the partners are from industry and coordination between the partners has originated from the WP activity in the past few years. The approved grant will be mainly devoted to fund 13 PhD positions and 2 Post-Doc positions to undertake the proposed highly interactive research projects.
- 2) Economical and easy to use powder flowability tester: Prof. Michael Bradley presented the results of the project developed by the University of Greenwich and the Brookfield Viscometers Ltd company (with the support of other industrial partners) to develop a new shear tester which could be competitive to others with respect to price. The tester will not be proposed on the market specifically for the hopper design application, but as a more general flowability tester for bulk solids. Prof. Bradley asked the WP to spread the news and to promote the use of the new tester and the group agreed to be available to test the performance of the new tester.
- 3) Wall friction project: Prof. Michael Bradley delivered the report by Dr. Eddie McGee on the stage of advancement of the project. On the basis of this task a thematic workshop hosted by the CHOPS conference was held on August 6th in session 08C.
- 4) K/λ Testing: Prof. Massimo Poletto presented a tester developed at the University of Salerno for the measurement of the K/λ ratio and preliminary results obtained with a fine catalyst powder were presented. These results were considered the basis of a forthcoming comparison with other similar apparatuses is accessible to other WP participants.

Prof. Massimo Poletto

- 5) The Need for Industrial Education in Bulk Technology: Dr. Lyn Bates reported on the industrial need to recognize importance of specialist education summarizing the main point of the document “The Need for Industrial Education in Bulk Technology” prepared and distributed by Dr. Bates before the conference The proposal of preparing guide documents was approved.

Some of the major issues treated at the annual meeting of the EFCE WP Chairpersons were reported.

The press release of the EFCE Excellence Award in Mechanics of Particulate Solids 2010 was presented and all the participants were invited to help the party in the diffusion of the information and in submitting nominations.

Next meeting will be held in 2010 in conjunction with the World Congress in Particle Technology 6 held together with Partec 2010 in Nuremberg (D) on 26-29 April.