

Welcome to the 15th Symposium „Magnetoresistive Sensors and Magnetic Systems“

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the 15th Symposium for Magnetoresistive Sensors and Magnetic Systems, in Wetzlar.

Given that it is an anniversary of sorts I thought it is maybe time for a short historical review of the MR-Symposium and let the technology speak for itself over the next two days of presentations.

As always there are a lot of familiar faces in the audience, but also a lot of fresh faces that maybe do not know the background to the MR-Symposium and how it came into existence.



So it is a good opportunity to review briefly the history of the Symposium, mention some of the important personalities associated with the event and describe how we have travelled together along the path of MR technology, both in the field of research and also in terms of a widening field of applications.

The first Symposium took place in 1991 in Dortmund and was jointly organised by HL Planartechnik (now TE Connectivity) and the Institute for Microstructure and Optotechnology – IMO. In fact the Symposium was just one result of a state-funded R&D project to investigate the potential of magnetoresistive sensor technology. IMO – known in the branch as the Institute for Mysticism and Occult ;-)) – took over the organisation of the Symposium until Sensitec grew out of IMO in 1999. From then on the Symposium has taken place every two years, here in Wetzlar.

The target has always been the same – dissemination of the latest developments both in the field of research and also application of magnetoresistive sensors. In the nearly 30 years since its origination the Symposium has established itself as one of the most important events in our field of interest.

Originally the event was primarily for german-speaking participants and the papers were also presented in German. In 2009 we decided to increase the international component by changing the language of the Symposium to English – which suited me just fine ;-))

Today 1/3 of the participants are from outside the German-speaking part of Europe and 1/2 of the papers. This trend is increasing, so step-by-step the Symposium is becoming truly international.

The Symposium has also been accompanied by a number of outstanding personalities. I would like to pick out just two, who played a particularly important role for the MR-Symposium.

First, Karl-Heinz Lust, who was one of the originators of the Symposium and also Founder of Sensitec and passed away in 2009. Without his tireless efforts I am sure that the Symposium would have run out of steam in the past.

Secondly, Professor Peter Grünberg, winner of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2007 for the discovery of the Giant Magnetoresistive Effect, who passed away last year. Professor Grünberg attended numerous Symposia and I am sure that it was a highlight for both young and some not-so-young scientists and engineers to be able to exchange ideas with a Nobel Prize Winner at this event.

Of course, today and tomorrow 150 other personalities, namely you, will learn about the latest progress in our very special field.

At the MR-Symposium we track the journey of a technology – from institutional basic R&D, through applied R&D to the latest applications, in the industrial, medical and automotive fields. AMR has been joined by GMR and TMR and all these technologies have found their way from the lab into the factory, car or smartphone.

At the MR-Symposium we have learned how MR Sensors got to Mars, also how they are now on their way to Mercury. We have heard about applications in the human body, in harsh environments, from the Martian desert to offshore and even to the bottom of the Sea.

We have learned how MR sensor technology plays an important role in most current megatrends, be it electromobility, renewable energy, smart farming or smart health. It has been and will continue to be a fascinating journey at the MR-Symposium. Let us see where the next two days will take us.

Thank you – and have a good time!



Dr. Rolf Slatter

Wetzlar, 19th March 2019