

Chairman's Foreword



The 22nd International Linac Conference was held in the Musik- und Kongresshalle (MuK) Lübeck, Germany, from the August 16th-20th, 2004. The conference was jointly hosted by the Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron (DESY) in Hamburg and the Gesellschaft für Schwerionenforschung (GSI) in Darmstadt. From around the world came 286 physicist and engineers from some 61 institutes and 27 industrial companies to participate in the conference. We had 13 industrial exhibits, which we conveniently located around the poster forum in the MuK. Many of you took the opportunity to visit the VUV FEL linac at DESY on the Friday afternoon.

At the beginning of the conference we had opening addresses by honorary guests: Dr. Hermann Schunck, Director in the Federal Ministry for Education and Research; Dr. Hellmut Koerner, State Secretary in the Ministry for Education, Science, Research and Culture of Schleswig Holstein; Mr. Thorsten Geissler, Senator of the Interior of Lübeck; and Prof. Dr. Alfred Xaver Trautwein, Rector of the University of Lübeck. All of them stressed the importance of accelerators for the progress of science and especially supported the new European projects located in Germany: FAIR and the XFEL.

Following the time-honoured tradition of the Linac Conference, the programme was arranged in a sequence of plenary sessions in the mornings, followed by poster sessions in three of the afternoons (including the so-called 'oral-poster' presentations). This year's Programme Committee, chaired by Norbert Angert from GSI, had the job of reducing the many proposals for invited talks to the 45 that eventually formed the morning sessions. In addition to the invited orals, we had 249 poster presentations, of which 36 were selected for five-minute oral-poster presentations.

In many ways the International Linac Conference is unique: the traditions of being by invitation only, of being accommodated in a single hotel, and having no parallel sessions have always been intended to promote intense and positive discussion between the experts in the field of linear accelerators. I hope that we successfully continued these traditions in Lübeck.

Besides the excellent scientific program of the conference, I like to think that our hospitality helped make the conference a memorable one. Set in the beautiful Hanseatic city of Lübeck, we arranged several social events to help you relax and enjoy the surroundings. We started with a cocktail reception on the Sunday at the Petri-Kirche (one of Lübeck's many famous and beautiful historical churches). While we wined and dined, we were entertained by a solo saxophone player, and a mixed choir. Wednesday afternoon we had the official conference 'outing', which - by tradition - had a slightly sporting element, with a 12km hike through the beautiful countryside around the Ratzeburger lake, with several of you taking advantage of the good weather to go

swimming. We closed our day with an open-air dinner on the shores of the Küchensee (Kitchen Lake). On Thursday evening we had a fine banquet in the rustic nautical setting of 'Schuppen 9' in Lübeck harbour, accompanied by a jazz-swing combo, featuring one of our own (Reinhard Brinkmann) on the piano.

On the following Friday morning plenary session, a little bit of history was made: Norbert Holtkamp gave a short (unscheduled) presentation announcing the conclusions of the Linear Collider International Technology Recommendation Panel (ITRP). The Panel had spent the best part of the last eight months reviewing both the X-band and superconducting L-band proposals, eventually selecting the latter to be recommended for the International Linear Collider (ILC). It seems only fitting that such an important decision by the world community should be made public at the International Linac Conference.

A successful conference is the sum of many important parts. I'd like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you to all the various committees that have worked hard to make this conference a success. I'm sure you will join me in sending a particular big thanks to the local organising committee, the secretaries and the numerous technical people who made the whole thing happen. A conference is only as good as the people that attend and the standard of the work that is presented; we like to think that the 22nd International Linac Conference was a very good conference indeed, and I would like to thank you - the participants - for making it so.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Trines', with a stylized, flowing script.

Dieter Trines
XXII International Linac Conference Chair