



Source: Gerard Scholten

# CoSi*i* Cosy and focused

Fewer attendees, stable quality at 9th Coatings Science International Conference

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Some 90 international attendees gathered in the cosy North Sea resort Noordwijk, The Netherlands, from 24 to 28 June to attend the 9th Coatings Science International Conference (CoSI). Slightly disappointed about the lower number of participants, the organisers ascribed the decreased attendance to “the economic climate”, as chair *Prof. Rolf van Benthem*, Eindhoven University of Technology, put it.

The annual meeting in 2012 was attended by 120 representatives of international institutes, universities and companies.

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Dr Stefan Holberg,  
Danish Technological Institute, Denmark

Stated goal of CoSI is to create a high-quality platform for free exchange of scientific knowledge between both academic and industrial scientists that will strengthen the innovation power of the global coatings community. While the emphasis is still on organic coatings, inorganic coatings (especially hybrid systems) have gradually entered the agenda.

Roughly 100 abstracts were submitted for the conference program (2012: 144), 33 of which were selected by the jury. In addition, 35 posters were presented in the course of the conference.

## Presentations grouped in sessions

The papers were grouped in sessions, dedicated to weathering & degradation, applied coatings, characterisation & modeling, corrosion, chemistry & photochemistry, flame retardant and intumescent coatings, self-healing & functional coatings. Presentations covered topics like “New insights into conversion coating stability and polymer delamination mechanisms” (*Prof. Kevin Ogle*, Ecole Nationale Supérieure Chimie Paris, France), “The effect of superhydrophobic wetting state on corrosion protection – the AKD example” (*Lina Martinsson*, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden), and “Biobased binders for coating application” (*Dr Mariëlle Wouters*, TNO, The Netherlands). Next to the predominant research institutions, some papers were also presented by industry representatives.

*Patrick Keil* of BASF Coatings, Münster, Germany, for example, discussed the "influence of water uptake characteristics on functional properties of protective coatings".

### Enough time dedicated to socialising

Besides the scientific presentations, attendees generally appreciated that a lot of networking opportunities – e.g. poster sessions, BBQ and a tour to Amsterdam – were offered. *Dr Stefan Holberg*, Danish Technological Institute, Denmark: "Besides the presentations and posters that provided excellent insight into current research, I value the numerous 30 min breaks that are ideal for socialising and allow to address further questions to the speakers." According to *Dr Sebastian Simon*, Hilti Entwicklungsgesellschaft, Germany, "the CoSI generally provides a view into the not-so-near future – giving an idea where the coating industry could be heading towards. This year the crystal ball was a little shady, but networking opportunities have been good as usual."

### Conference closed by award ceremony

As usual, the conference was closed with an award ceremony, honouring the best scientific paper, the most innovative development and the best poster presentation. *Prof. Bert de With*, Eindhoven University of Technology, presented the awards on behalf of the organising committee.

The **Science Award** was given to *Camille Carcouët*, Eindhoven University of Technology, for her paper on "Nature inspired raspberry-like silica nanoparticles for superhydrophobic coatings".

The **Innovation Award** went to *Prof. Céline Croutxé-Barghorn*, University of Haute-Alsace, France, for her work on "Nanocomposite coatings by UV-driven sol-gel process and photopolymerisation".

*Anda Fridrihsone*, Latvian State Institute of Wood Chemistry, Latvia, received the **Creativity Award** for her poster presentation "Accelerated aging, chemical resistance and hydrolytic stability of polyurethane coatings based on rapeseed oil polyol". *Oana Barsan*, Eindhoven University of Technology, received as many points as the winner, but fewer number one rankings.

The next CoSI conference will be held in Noordwijk from 23-27 June, 2014. ◀

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