

## **15<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN MEETING ON FIRE RETARDANCY AND PROTECTION OF MATERIALS**

### **FRPM 2015**

21 – 25 JUNE 2015

The 15th edition of the highly regarded “European Meeting on Fire Retardancy and Protection of Materials”, FRPM15 for short, took place at the Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung (BAM) in Berlin, Germany from 21 to 25 June 2015. Bernhard Schartel and Bettina Dittrich, the local organizing committee, were actively supported by the BAM event managers and by their co-workers.

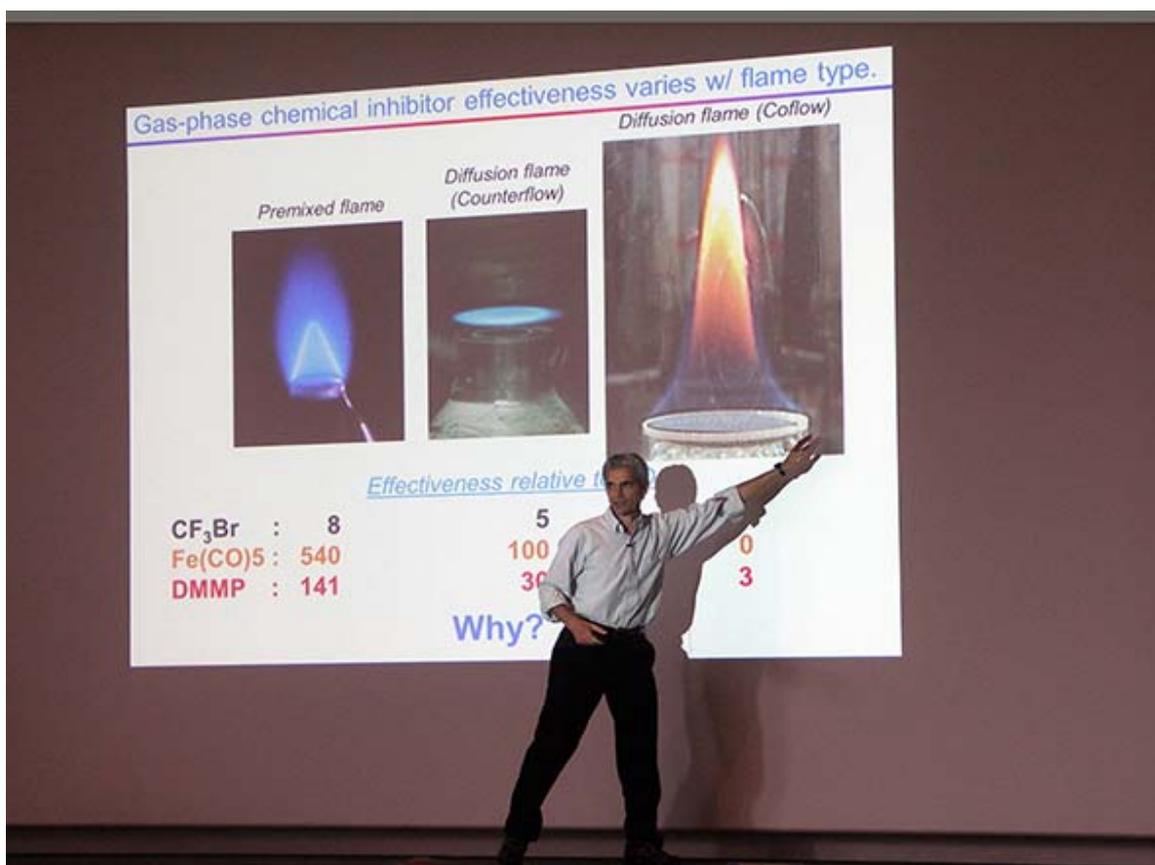


The excellent scientific program of the FRPM15 convinced more than 220 international participants from 27 countries to come to Berlin. The biennial FRPM conferences are not only a platform for academic exchange, they also arouse the attention of industry. Over one third of the FRPM15 participants were representatives of the polymer industry, the flame retardants industry and the final products industry, there to find out about the latest scientific trends concerning flame retardancy. As the large FRPM15 poster session offered an especially great opportunity for many young researchers to present their work and make contact with the flame retardancy community and industry, it came as no surprise that one fourth of the participants turned out to be PhD students and young researchers.

On Sunday, 21 June the FRPM15 opened with a workshop on “Bench-Scale Fire Testing”, which was offered in addition to the main conference. Bernhard Schartel, Richard Walters (Federal Aviation Administration, US), Sean Gregory (Fire Testing Technologies, UK) and Stephen Grayson (Interscience Communications, UK) shared their knowledge about the cone calorimeter and the pyrolysis flow combustion calorimeter, discussing with an inter-ested audience the practical aspects of measurement with these instruments, lab routines, quality management, standardisation and recent developments. The welcome reception afterward offered a first opportunity for socializing and networking.

Conference chairman Bernhard Schartel opened the main part of the FRPM15 on Monday, 22 June with a short presentation about the tasks of the BAM and general information concerning the conference. He thanked the co-organizers and expressed his wish for an informative and successful conference. Afterwards, the official scientific program of the FRPM15 began, encompassing 60 lectures and 64 posters over three and a half days. An international scientific committee supported the local organizers in selecting the lecture program.

The eleven invited lectures were presented by renowned members of the flame retardancy community as well as by promising junior scientists: Camino, Wilen, Morgan, Döring, Wang, Kandola, Samyn, Gibson, Linteris, Alongi and Hu. Oral and poster presen-tations gave an overview of the latest research topics covering all aspects of flame re-tardancy of polymers. This included the selection and synthesis of new flame retardants and flame retardancy systems, the protection of composites, textiles and foams, bio-based flame retardancy systems, intumescence, toxicity, cable testing, the development of testing methods and simulation.



Scientific discussion and networking were combined perfectly during the poster session on the evening of Tuesday, 23 June. For this occasion, the FRPM15 participants travelled to the BAM’s Technical Testing Site in Brandenburg, where the posters awaited the interested visitors. With lively discussions about the posters throughout the whole session accompanied by a suckling pig barbecue, time flew by so fast that the scheduled closing came almost too soon. A jury of flame retardancy experts closely examined the present-ed posters to select the winners of the poster prizes: 1st place went to Raphaël Ménard et al. (ENSC Montpellier), 2nd place to Sebastian Rabe et al. (BAM), and 3rd place to Melissa Matzen et al. (BAM).



The conference dinner was held at the Museum for Communication in the city centre of Berlin on Wednesday evening. Scientific conversations were paired with good wine and food. With welcome drinks in their hands, the participants mingled at tables to enjoy a delicious meal. During a short speech, the organizers of the next FRPM were announced: In 2017, the FRPM will move to Great Britain.

After four days fully packed with the latest research on flame retardancy of polymers, the FRPM15 closed on Thursday, 25 June. All participants will remember the high quality scientific program as well as the diverting social events.

## CONTACT

Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung  
Priv. Doz. Dr. habil. Bernhard Schartel, email: [Bernhard.Schartel@bam.de](mailto:Bernhard.Schartel@bam.de)