



Ten Years of EPPS

INSTITUTE OF EXCELLENCE IN
MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY
Advanced and
Materials
University of Wales Bangor

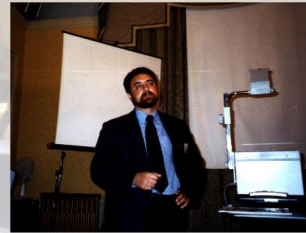
For a given level of
fining was different for each
employed

wood based
Panels
INTERNATIONAL

The first European Panel Products Symposium was held in Llandudno on 9th and 10th October 1997. It welcomed speakers and delegates from across Europe to hear 27 high quality presentations. The feedback from the first EPPS was so positive that Dr Bolton was able to announce at the end of the conference that it would become an annual event. From that point on, the resort town of Llandudno became a regular host to the symposium every October.

In 1999, the third EPPS expanded to become a three day event, with six technical interest sessions. The three day format worked well, allowing more time to digest the information and follow up with conversations between delegates and speakers. By EPPS 4 in 2000 the symposium attendance grew too big for either the Imperial or the St George Hotels, and we moved to the North Wales Conference Centre.

From the outset, there has been a very good level of attendance by industry, with over 70% of the delegates being from industry every year. Presentations by industry for industry have been important, in addition to the cutting edge academic studies. A wide range of topics have been addressed, with presentations on themes ranging from Health and Safety to Challenges for Industry, in addition to the more fundamental wood-based panel properties and their manufacture and use.



Two of the key reasons reported by delegates for attending the conference have always been information gathering and networking. Promotion of these values has been central to planning the symposium, with trade exhibition space and room for informal meetings available in addition to the formal programme, and of course the conference dinner, poster session and wine reception.

During the years the range of delegates attending EPPS has become more diverse, with the number of countries represented steadily increasing. In 2002, 25% of the delegates came from outside the EU, and this has increased further year on year.



On reaching the tenth European Panel Products Symposium in 2006, the organisers decided to celebrate in style, with an ambitious plan to host the conference banquet in Beaumaris Castle. This was greatly appreciated, with the guest exploring the castle walls and walking the battlements, taking photographs and learning about longbows before dining on local Welsh produce. This was certainly a memorable way to celebrate ten successful symposia!

Ten years was also decided to be a good landmark at which to rename the symposium to reflect the global interest and attendance we attract. The International Panel Products Symposium – IPPS 2007 – will take place in Cardiff on the 17-19th October 2007. We look forward to seeing you there.