

# Berlin-Brandenburg gasturbine representatives pay return visit to DGTA

*First steps towards a European Innovation Platform are taken*

*Last October a delegation of the Dutch Gasturbine Association (DGTA) visited their counterparts of the Berlin-Brandenburg area. Hosted by the Dutch embassy, experiences were exchanged and visits were paid to the Fraunhofer Institute and MTU Maintenance in Ludwigsfelde. One of the conclusions of this meeting was that both Berlin-Brandenburg and The Netherlands, as knowledge regions, can benefit of cooperation concerning shared R&D activities. Some rough ideas were listed, but it was necessary to meet again to continue the discussion. That is why the German representatives paid a return visit at the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of January to The Netherlands, hosted by DGTA.*

By Jos van Erp



## Looking forward

When we met again, at the small old village centre of Houten located in the Utrecht area, we all shared the idea of going to continue to build something new together. DGTA had prepared a complete program to guide us through a constructive way of achieving mutual goals. But before starting this event, we had diner together at this very cosy restaurant in the snow-covered set of a traditional Dutch village on Wednesday evening. We enjoyed looking back on our experiences of October. We enjoyed having some informal chats. We were looking forward to Thursdays program.

## Horizon 2020

After a good night rest, we gathered at the Aluminium Centrum. This very special construction of aluminium, is *the* example in the Netherlands of innovative, industrial, flexible and sustainable building. It accommodates the knowledge- and

information centre of the Dutch aluminium industry. Together with participants of Dutch industry, knowledge industries, universities and government representatives, the group counted approximately forty people.



*Enjoying dinner together*

Thursdays program consisted of plenary sessions and a series of working sessions. The official welcome and opening was done by Mrs Annemarie Hey, managing director of DGTA, and Mr Valentin Konrad, representative of the Department Energy Technology of TSB Innovationsagentur Berlin. Mr Konrad first gave the floor to Mr Christer Björkqvist. Christer Björkqvist is the Managing Director and co-founder of ETN, the European Turbine Network. ETN expects to go beyond 100 members in 2013 giving 17 countries the

platform to work together. A good example is the Centre of Excellence for industrial gas turbines project which took place from 2002-2005 in which Gaz de France, VGT, RWTH Aachen, and the University of Genova participated. ETN continuously is monitoring the needs of end users, Umwelt changes like gas price fluctuations, gas quality standards and legislation about CO2 emission. Furthermore, ETN tries to play a role with regard to the Horizon 2020 program which might offer some financial opportunities for its members.



*Konrad Valentin and Annemerie Hey give the floor to....*

Then, the floor was given to Mr Gerben Klein Ebbink, International Coordinator Aeronautics at AgentschapNL. He explained the structure of ACARE, the Advisory Counsel for Aviation Research and Innovation in Europe. ACARE has played a central role in providing support to the High Level Group on Aviation Research, convened by the European Commission that has now formulated a new vision beyond 2020 for the horizon towards 2050. The members of the High Level Group comprised CEO's of

stakeholder organisations representing aeronautics and air transport including airlines, airport operators, air traffic management providers, product manufacturers, fuel producers and research centres. The New Vision released in March 2011 is available from the ACARE website.

### **European Innovation Platform**

After thanking Mr Klein Ebbink, Mrs Annemerie Hey presented the for topics identified at the Berlin meeting in October and which should be discussed in the workshops: Fuel flexibility (1), Smart production and new materials (2), small gas turbines (3) and MRO (Maintenance, Repair, Overhaul) (4). She reported that the Berlin meeting has already lead to R&D cooperation activities between three Dutch companies involved as well as intensified contact with the Dutch government. Besides that, individual contacts between German and Dutch companies have been build up. The goal of this particular meeting is to kick off the European Innovation Platform Turbo Machinery & Power. At a more



*Workshop even during lunch time*

European scale, research and innovation efforts can be done more efficiently and with

more impact. Mr Valentin Konrad emphasised the fact that combining the strengths of both German and Dutch Gas Turbine industry could generate more chances to benefit of the Horizon 2020 program. After all, we are competing with all kind of promising sectors like Automotive, Medical, Oil and Gas and so on.

The assignment for the group of participants was clear: define three R&D projects per topic during the workshops. Report the to the whole group at the end of the sessions.



*The Aluminium Centrum*

As a relatively neutral observer, representing Holland High Tech, powered by FME, I experienced the disadvantage of a meeting in our own country. I had to leave the afternoon to facilitate another meeting, in another region, about another issue. So, thus fare I

ignore the results of the workshops. I cannot report the proposed R&D projects concerning the four different topics. But... they will be available and reported by DGTA soon, so Annemarie and Pieter promised me.

I am really curious! And you?

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18<sup>th</sup> January 2013

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