Dr. Hans-Georg Horn Obituary

It is with deep regret and profound sadness that we have to announce that Dr.-Ing. Hans-Georg Horn passed away on April 2, 2019. He had studied under Professor Dr. Hans Bonka at the Chair of Reactor Technology of Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule (RWTH) in Aachen. At the same institute, he also earned his doctorate degree in the field of radioactive aerosols. After some hesitation to leave academia, he accepted the offer to take on responsibility for the scientific Particle Instrument products at TSI GmbH in October 1988. Nevertheless, he remained associated with RWTH Aachen where he held the lecture series “Aerosols in Nuclear Engineering” as an external lecturer for several more years. In the 1980’s he became a member of the Gesellschaft für Aerosolforschung (GAEf) and remained active in the association until recently.

Hans-Georg Horn established TSI’s particle instrument activities in Europe. After his initial role as Sales Engineer, he became European Sales Manager, then Product Manager and finally Strategic Market Development Manager in 2006. In the latter position, he helped bring various innovative products to life. Besides the development of new aerosol instruments, he had a special interest in filter testing. He always remained a developer at heart who liked to program own software solutions in his study at home. In addition to his main role, he also represented TSI GmbH as an authorized signatory for many years and later on as managing director until September 2005. He was a great manager and fantastic mentor who had a unique ability to pass on his high standards. In March 2015, he decided to retire from TSI. He developed many close relationships and friendships with colleagues, partners and customers globally during his nearly 27 years with the company.

Yet his comprehensive expertise was in great demand also outside TSI. As an author and co-author of many publications, conference presentations and book chapters, he passed on his knowledge. The article on the harmonization of technical standards for mobility spectrometers that he co-authored has been cited about 200-times. In addition, he worked intensively on many national and international projects such as NanoDevice, UFIPOLNET and PEMS4Nano to name just a few. Most recently, he was involved in standardization activities on a national and international level. For the Association of German Engineers, he was significantly involved in writing VDI guideline 3867 "Measurement of particles in ambient air". Since 2003 he has been a member of the Technical Committee TC 24/SC 4 of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has been its convener since April 2012. In this role, he has contributed significantly to ISO standards 15900, 27891 and ISO/PWI 19996.

Hans-Georg Horn loved to climb and hike with his wife in the Alps and especially in Northern Italy, but he also enjoyed skiing in wintertime. He was a connoisseur that appreciated good food, wine and grappa. Hans-Georg died much too early for all of us after a short, serious illness. He touched many lives and will be greatly missed. He leaves behind his wife Dr. Margot Horn and other relatives.

Oliver F. Bischof
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