

PALS 10th anniversary workshop
OPENING SPEECH by K. Jungwirth chairman of the Opening session
23 September 2010, PALS - IPP , Prague 8

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, dear colleagues,

it's a great pleasure and honor for me to have the opportunity to welcome you here at the occasion of our ten years ride on a tiger called PALS through the European country of high power lasers and laser-plasma interactions. Your kind presence simultaneously indicates that it is urgent for me to pay off my debt and to express my deepest respect and sincere thanks to all PALS team members, both domestic and from abroad, for their dozen years of permanent effort to do high quality research and sometimes to accomplish even the seemingly impossible tasks. I believe that ten years of offering access to the European laser plasma physics community is just the proper time for a short recapitulation of the work done including also the attempt to look over the present borders of our common research.

PALS has become a trademark of friendship and quality during the past ten years that followed after the first international experiment accomplished under the “Access to PALS” project of the 5th EU Framework Program. Many of the European laser physicists have now a personal experience with the “pals at PALS”, with our offers, working conditions and standards. Nevertheless, I am not quite sure that you all know that PALS is a joint laboratory of two independent Institutes, the Institute of Physics and the Institute of Plasma Physics of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech republic which was awarded already in 2001 by the Czech Engineering Academy for “Outstanding technical achievement”. And that during the same ten years it represents the key part of the Laser plasma research Center sponsored by the Ministry of education, youth and sports and supported by our partners from the Czech Technical University in Prague. Let me mention at this occasion, that this Technical University is the oldest non-military technical university in Europe and that the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic as a whole is ranking number eight among the European and twenty six among the world research Institutions and that it belongs to the top hundred research and education entities in the world if universities are taken into account, too.

Yesterday, some of you had to opportunity to listen to the presentations of the present personalities in charge – the LASERLAB-EUROPE coordinator, director of the Max Born Institute in Berlin and chairman of the German Physical Society Prof. Sandner during the MB&NB whole day long meeting, his magnificency the rector of the Czech Technical University in Prague Prof. Havlíček, the vice-president of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic Prof. Tůma, the plenipotentiary for ELI-BEAMLINES Prof. Růžička and, of course, the guest of our International Advisory Committee - the Czech delegate in ESFRI Naděžda Witzanyová.

Let me now ask the former president of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic an excellent scientist and great person Prof. Helena Illnerová to say a few words about the PALS early times.

And now, I would like to ask the widely regarded expert in physics and a wonderful person Dr. Milada Glogarová, the former deputy-director of the Institute of physics, to add some critical words when looking on PALS from inside of the Institute, which is by far the largest institute of our Academy.

The next speaker, Petr Křenek, the host of our venue and the present director of the Institute of Plasma Physics is actually co-responsible for the PALS future and we rely on his support.

Since during the last seven years rich in events Prof. Wolfgang Sandner and LASERLAB-EUROPE became almost interchangeable synonyms for us, it is quite natural to ask him for some remarks and guidelines towards our next EU shelter named LASERLAB III .

Nobody is more apt to chair the next session “PALS History, Present and Future” than the chairman of PALS International advisory board Prof. Klaus Juergen Witte, awarded at ECLIM 2000 by the Ernst Mach medal, who has played an important role in the life of PALS from the beginning till the present days. But before it we must not miss his opening address.