Report on the 2018 IEEE International Conference on Dielectrics

The 2018 IEEE International Conferences on Dielectrics, fully sponsored by the IEEE Dielectrics and Electrical Insulation Society, was organized by the team of the High Voltage Laboratory of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics and took place from Sunday to Thursday, July 1 to 5, 2018. Although this was only the second edition of the biennial ICD conferences, the conference series including the predecessor International Conference on Conduction and Breakdown in Solid Dielectrics (ICSD) celebrated its 35th anniversary.

This year, 357 abstracts were submitted and 268 attendees from 29 countries traveled to participate in the presentation of 45 oral and 197 poster sessions. A tutorial was given on Sunday by Peter Morshuis and Thomas Andritsch on the subject of electrical and thermal properties of interfaces.

Two awardees were honored in Budapest. The 2018 Eric O. Forster Memorial Lecture was given by Gian Carlo Montanari. The title of his presentation was “A contribution to unravel the mysteries of electrical aging under DC electrical stress: Where we are and where we need to go.” The 2018 DEIS Thomas W. Dakin Distinguished Technical Contributions awardee, Leonard Dissado, gave a presentation titled “The theory of everything in the electrical breakdown of polymeric dielectrics—Maybe.”

Attendees had many opportunities to meet with colleagues and exchange ideas and their research activities. The conference featured an evening session, allowing an extended time frame for conversations after the presentations of early-career researchers. Everyone enjoyed a city tour on Wednesday afternoon, concluding the day at Lazar Equestrian Park with a horse show and the gala dinner.

The 3rd ICD will be held in Valencia, Spain, in July 2020. Be sure to monitor the DEIS website for further news on this conference.

Richárd Cselkó
Technical Program Chair, ICD 2018