

OBITUARY HORST HEROLD



On 12 August 2008, Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Prof. E. h. Dr. E. h. Horst Herold, Magdeburg, died at the age of 62. The scientific community loses an internationally highly acknowledged and leading expert and networker in the field of welding technology.

Born in 1945 in Leipzig, from 1964 to 1969 he studied at the University of Rostock and graduated as a shipbuilding engineer. During his long professional experience at the TÜV (German Technical Supervisory Association) and as head of research at the former Factory for Light Weight Metal Design he gathered tremendous insight into the tasks associated with practical welding. In 1976, he received his Dr.-Ing. degree, habilitated in 1980 and became lecturer for welding at the University of Applied Sciences Anhalt in Koethen. In 1988, he followed the call to the former Technical University Otto-von-Guericke in Magdeburg for the professorship of joining technology. He was director of the Institute for Joining and Beam Technology from 1988 to 2005, and, after merging with the former Institute for Materials Testing and Engineering, he became director of the newly founded Institute for Materials and Joining Technology (IWF) from 2006 to 2007. He was additionally dean of the Faculty for Mechanical Engineering at the Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg from 1998 to 2000.

To a tremendous extent, Professor Herold advanced research and teaching in the field of joining and re-structured his institute at the Otto-von-Guericke University. Following the tradition of the chair and his predecessor, Professor Manfred Beckert, he set a special emphasis on the development of a component-oriented approach for evaluations of the weldability. Thanks to his major interest in welding metallurgy, the IWF became world-famous in the field of hot cracking phenomena in welds. His special working fields have also been the development of processes to join materials difficult to be welded as well as materials compounds and new metallic materials, failure analysis and quality management. With his knowledge, he also supported the industry and trading agency and contributed extremely to the clarification of major joining technology related failures.

For his institute, Professor Herold achieved not only a high acknowledgement in Germany, but also in Eastern and Western Europe and over the continents. With his well-known lectures, he significantly supported and attracted younger generations to the field of welding. Worldwide, he was extraordinarily committed to the support of the scientific offspring and to the global exchange of scientists, in particular as supervisor of numerous dissertations and habilitations.

Professor Herold has been highly recognized as an international expert for the weldability of high performance materials, especially as member of the Technical Management Board and German Delegate of the International Institute of Welding (IIW). He has been member of numerous national and international scientific committees, member of the Russian Academy for Engineering Sciences in Moscow, honorary doctor of the National University in Kiev, Ukraine, honorary professor of the National Technical University of Perm, Russia, and honorary member of the Paton Welding Institute in Kiev, Ukraine. He successfully contributed to various federal and state joint research projects as well as to major research projects of the German Research Association, in particular by modern joining concepts for innovative materials in the automotive industry. His more than 600 scientific publications find major international respect and have significantly contributed to the national and international knowledge transfer. He has been editor and co-author of various textbooks in joining technology and contributed significantly to the literature published by DVS Media (former DVS Publishing House).

After the German reunification, Professor Herold joined DVS as a member in 1990. He was active in the research council as well as in numerous technical committees of the Research Association for Welding and Allied Processes of DVS. In 2004, his great commitment to DVS and to the cooperative work in welding technology was acknowledged with the award of the DVS Ring of Honour.

The DVS and the scientific community will always keep Professor Herold in a very honorary remembrance and highly acknowledge his scientific lifetime work.