

Denmark

## Topsoe Catalysis Forum 2018

The well-known Danish company Haldor Topsoe, one of the leading producers of catalysts world-wide and global market leader in catalysts for the petrochemical industry, has for several years now invited selected scientists and experts to its Topsoe Catalysis Forum with a view to examining aspects and perspectives relating to the production of catalysts and to joint discussions with the management and staff of Haldor Topsoe.



**Fig. Location of the Topsoe Catalysis Forum in 2018: the residence of Haldor Topsoe, the founder of the company who died in 2013 at the age of 99**

This year, for the first time the conference was held in the former 17<sup>th</sup> century royal hunting lodge which was the residence of Haldor Topsoe, the founder of the company who died in 2013 at the age of 99.

One of those invited from the USA was the renowned Prof. Dr Fernando Muzzio from Rutgers University who lectured on aspects and the specific benefits of the continuous production method.

Also taking part were several scientists from Danish universities such as Prof. Dr Rasmus Bro, University of Copenhagen, who through the use of numerous examples demonstrated and emphasized the importance of the application of efficient sensors to control industrial processes and revealed the common errors made in this age of Big Data when adopting scientifically-camouflaged correlation analyses.

Frank Händle, participant invited from Germany on behalf of ECT-KEMA, talked about developments in the extrusion of catalysts. Moreover, Prof. Dr. Alexander Michaelis who highlighted the diverse activities of the Fraunhofer-Institute IKTS which has in excess of 700 people based in three different locations and is considered the largest European institute for applied research relating to ceramic and related materials.

The title of the lecture held by Prof. Dr Herbert Pfeifer of RWTH Aachen/DE was „Trends in Solids Processing/Industrial Furnaces“ which amongst other aspects demonstrated the complex scenarios and options within the framework of the so-called energy turnaround.

Andreas Prien representing the company Sasol/ZA, one of the important raw material suppliers to Haldor Topsoe, described in his talk the painstaking process in developing tailor-made aluminas, in particular the scale-up step from the laboratory sample to the customer-specific production volume. The outstanding location, perfect organisation and the relaxed and friendly atmosphere on a beautiful day in the park gave the perfect framework conditions for an optimum exchange of ideas, know-how, personal encounters and practice-orientated scientific discourse.

This was a refreshingly different format distinguishing the event from the escalating number of anonymous conferences where well-known and already published information is presented in a slightly modified fashion – mainly to the benefit of the organisers.

Chapeau, Haldor Topsoe!