

WELCOME to the 9th ISSRNS

On behalf of the Programme and Organizing Committees we would like to welcome you to the 9th International School and Symposium on Synchrotron Radiation in Natural Science organized by the Polish Synchrotron Radiation Society (PTPS) in cooperation with the Institute of Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences.

The ISSRNS takes place in Poland every two years. From the very first meeting organized in 1992, the idea of dissemination of knowledge on synchrotron radiation applications in Poland and integration of the community of Polish synchrotron radiation users proved to be very popular and successful. Nowadays, when Polish scientists carry out experiments in many synchrotron laboratories all over the world and have become members of the international community of synchrotron radiation users, these conferences transformed into a forum of sharing new results, new ideas of experiments and starting collaboration. Nevertheless, it partly retained its original character of “first step to synchrotron radiation” for young generations of scientists.

This year we meet in the Ameliówka hotel, in the middle of the Świętokrzyskie (Saint Cross) Mountains, a wooded mountain range in central Poland covered by remnants of a primeval forest with beautiful rivers, caves and hundreds of unique relics of the past. Not only Nature is of interest there - just in this central region some hundreds year ago, early metallurgy and industry started to develop, and traces of this activity can be found in a number of local museums in the region. Mostly known are the oldest objects: five thousand years old unique flint stone mine in Krzemionki Opatowskie, and the thousands of furnaces discovered in the region where for several hundred years starting from 2nd century B.C. iron was massively produced.

However, not only the neighbourhood is interesting. We made an effort to ascertain a large variety of subjects to be presented at the meeting. The lecturers come from the best synchrotron laboratories in Europe, Asia and America and from university laboratories using the intense radiation sources.

We would like to thank all lecturers for accepting our invitations to show the results of their exciting research. We also thank all the participants for preparing oral and poster presentations. We hope that the participation in the conference will be fruitful and stimulating for all of you. We wish you good time with excellent science amid nature's splendor.

The Organizers