IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Dr.h.c. Günter Effenberg (1945–2019)

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Günter Effenberg obtained his Ph.D. in Physics in 1980 from the Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule (RWTH), Aachen, Germany, and the University of Sheffield, UK. His scientific supervisors were Prof. O. Knacke and Prof. B. Argent. He then took on the role of scientific advisor to the Joint Research Center of the European Union at Petten in the Netherlands before having positions at the RWTH and at the Max-Planck-Institute for Metals Research in Stuttgart.

Günter joined the Max-Planck-Institute for Metals Research in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1984 to lead the Ternary Alloys project. The project was initiated a few years earlier by Prof. Günter Petzow, the director of the Powder Metallurgical Laboratory (PML). The aim was “to produce a Hansen for ternary systems,” but this would require the effort of more than two people. One of Günter’s greatest assets was his gregarious nature, and he soon gathered together a group of like-minded scientists that would go on to become the MSIT[®], The Materials Science International

Günter Effenberg with the Ternary Alloys books, 2002

Team, an international team of experts in materials constitution and thermodynamics.

Their first meeting was held at Schloss Ringberg in Bavaria in 1986, the location for virtually every team meeting since (the team still meets annually). In the team’s spiritual home at Ringberg, the meetings soon became the stuff of legend, owing, to a great extent, to the spirit of ‘family’ that Günter engendered. From a scientific perspective, under Günter’s leadership, new standards in the

critical evaluation of phase equilibrium and thermodynamic information were set. His vision was to bring an overview and transparency into the often-conflicting constitutional data, ultimately leading to an improvement in research efficiency, and to reduce duplication of effort on a global scale. In short, it was to offer control of the world's growing collective knowledge in one of the strategic areas of materials research and engineering, Materials Constitution.

Celebrating 20 years of MSIT, MSIT on the sleigh trip, Tegernsee, 2006

In 1990, Günter founded MSI, Materials Science International Services GmbH, to provide MSIT[®] with the structures needed for sustainable operation. Already, Günter could see a digital future ahead, and with this made plans to move away from printed volumes to a digital platform: MSI Eureka.

The success of the MSIT[®] is due, undoubtedly, to one person, without whom none of this great work would have been possible. At a time when the field of phase equilibria and thermodynamics came under the most pressure, Günter almost single-handedly promoted and kept alive the field of materials constitution study (certainly within Europe) through the compilation, editorship, and publication of phase diagram compendia. He was editor of more than 60 scientific books, such as “Ternary Alloys,” “Red Book,” Landolt-Börnstein (Gr. IV, Vol. 11), and the electronic platform MSI Eureka.

Günter served on many international committees for conferences and symposia and was an invited speaker at many international meetings. He was a founding member of APDIC (Alloy Phase Diagram International Commission) and served for two terms as chair. He was chair of the European Awards Committee of ASM International and member of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Materialkunde. In 2012, Günter was awarded the Hume-Rothery Prize by the IOM3, London, and in 2014 he received an Honorary Doctor Degree from the Frantsevich Institute for Problems

Effenberg's Team—MSIT, Schloss Ringberg, 2017

of Materials Science (FIPMS) of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine.

I was privileged to work with Günter very closely for more than 22 years. Over this long period of time, I had many occasions to see the different facets of his outstanding personality. As a scientist, Günter Effenberg had brilliant foresight, and he was able to bring many of his ideas to life, even though this was often an extremely difficult task. But most importantly, he was able to infect other people with his enthusiasm, and together with his scientific team of almost 300 people, over 35 years he created one of the most important information sources for materials science in the world—the MSI Eureka database.

Having a wide range of knowledge and good understanding of people, he always was able to give good advice and support. Being a very creative person, he managed to bring many bright, exciting, and enjoyable moments to his

own life and to the lives of the people around him—and this despite his highly stressful work life.

While Günter is irreplaceable, he has instilled at MSI and in the members of his team, his unique enthusiasm and passion for the field of materials constitution, and he will remain an inspiration to all of us that continue his work.

We all at MSI and MSIT[®] are fortunate to have worked closely with Günter for many years and to be counted among his friends. Günter will be sorely missed by all those fortunate to have known him, not only for his science, but for his company and his *joie de vivre*.

With the very deepest respect,

Svitlana Iljenko

CEO, MSI, Materials Science International Services GmbH

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