

The 49th IUVSTA Workshop on the

"Utilisation of signal control from plasma measurements to establish process control"

held at Dublin City University, from
4th to 6th September 2006.

This workshop held in Dublin City University concentrated on how data from measurements on plasma processes and systems could be utilised to establish and maintain process control.

It was organised to have several invited speakers to set the scene on specified topics, followed by discussion periods. Although the number of registered attendees, 30, was slightly less than anticipated, it was large enough to have a good pool of knowledge and small enough to encourage good discussion groups.

The poster session on the first evening, hosted with a wine reception, was a good way to meet the attendees and set the scene for discussion periods.

The subject matter covered the basic reasons for the measurements, to collection and handling of data and how the data can be utilised to effect process control.

The measurement techniques covered throughout the meeting, often referred to as diagnostic tools or sensors, included probes, optical methods, QMS and electrical characteristics. Data handling and analysis methods described, featured multi variant analysis, fuzzy logic, data correlation and blackboard techniques.

An excursion to visit the Intel manufacturing facility for one afternoon covered, not only the wafer fabrication plant and chip manufacture, but also some new initiatives for computer systems. From the interest shown by those that went, it could have lasted a full day.

From many of the sessions, it appeared that further time would have been beneficial to cover the discussions, to such an extent that the workshop could have continued a further day itself. However, the constraints on the attendees from industry meant that this was an impossibility, even if the extra day had have been included in the original programme.

The final day led to a discussion of the relevance of the workshop within the full programme worldwide of conferences and meetings. This led to the question of whether a similar or like-meeting should take place in future. It was agreed to invite feedback to assess the interest in such continued workshops or to amalgamate into the broader conference and meeting series' already established worldwide.

For and on behalf of the Organising Committee
Alan Webb