
Introductory Remarks

I welcome you to-day, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Research and Technology, and may I say how pleased I am that so many have responded to the invitation to attend the *International Workshop on Battery Testing* initiated by the U.S. Department of Energy and BMFT. I look upon this as an indication that you attach great importance to the subject of this 3-day workshop, and I hope and expect that resulting from the presentations and lively discussion on the different battery testing processes, the objective of a common understanding and, possibly, a standardization of test processes will be achieved. This will require open discussion and an exchange of arguments between manufacturers and users, and will not be possible without friction in some cases. The achievement of real comparability between present and future battery systems justifies the efforts, however, and in the long term this will clarify the situation and will lead to improved quality. As a result, the user will quickly become confident in the new products and this, in turn, will result in improved turnover for the producers.

The above relationship is well known to the Ministry. "Confidence must be won through quality" was also one of the slogans of the Ministry of Research when, for instance, initiating research work for quality control in the field of solar technology, which was then new to all of us. I shall be attending an international workshop on this subject in Munich tomorrow. Experts from 12 countries will be meeting there to discuss quality tests on solar plants. These activities were proposed by Germany and the United States, and are being supported particularly by England.

I am referring to this because we are convinced of the great importance of those test procedures which have been decided upon and accepted internationally. In consequence I wish the workshop every success in achieving open and fruitful discussions and positive recommendations for the future.

My special thanks go to BBC, our hosts, who have committed themselves wholeheartedly to organizing this meeting and who are well represented today by the presence of Dr Knödler, the Technical Chairman.

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