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A Journey Through ICPIG History: From Its Origins to the 36th Edition

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Abstract

The International Conference on Phenomena in Ionized Gases (ICPIG) is one of the longest-running and most influential international conferences in plasma physics. Founded in Oxford in 1953 by Hans von Engel and Gordon Francis, ICPIG has played a central role in fostering scientific exchange and collaboration within the plasma community for more than seventy years. This article retraces the history of ICPIG from its origins to its 36th edition, highlighting its evolution from a conference primarily focused on gas discharges and fundamental plasma processes to a broad forum encompassing low-temperature plasmas, plasma diagnostics, plasma–surface interactions, environmental and medical applications, and emerging interdisciplinary fields. Particular attention is given to the unique role ICPIG played during the Cold War, when the conference alternated between Eastern and Western Europe, providing rare opportunities for scientific interaction across political divides. Historical anecdotes and personal testimonies from participants illustrate both the scientific achievements and the human dimension of the conference series. The article also presents an overview of the 36th ICPIG, held in Aix-en-Provence, France, in 2025, including its scientific program, participation statistics, major awards, and social events. Through this retrospective, we emphasize the enduring contribution of ICPIG to the advancement of plasma science, international cooperation, and the development of generations of researchers.

Keywords— ICPIG, plasma, conference, ionized gas

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Contents

1 Introduction **2**

2 Anecdotes and Legacy **4**
2.1 ICPIGs in Eastern Europe During the Cold War, seen by André Ricard, a western researcher . 4
2.2 My first international conference, ICPIG in Vienna 1967 by Nader Sadeghi 5
2.3 The ICPIG in Minsk 1981 by Vladimir Demidov 6
2.4 Memory from ICPIG in Grenoble 1979 by Roman Schrittwieser 7

3 Focus on the XXXVIth edition of ICPIG (2025) **7**
3.1 Overview 7
3.2 Scientific Program and Exchanges 7
3.3 Social and Cultural Program 10
3.4 Participation and Diversity 11
3.5 Closing and Outlook 11
3.6 Awards 11
3.7 Sponsors 12

References **13**

1 Introduction

The International Conference on Phenomena in Ionized Gases (ICPIG) was founded in 1953 in Oxford by Hans von Engel and Gordon Francis, inspired by the US Gaseous Electronics Conference (GEC), to establish a forum on gas discharge and plasma physics. Despite initial scepticism from the Physical Society, early meetings in Delft (1955), Venice (1957), and Uppsala (1959) confirmed its relevance [Fra00, Fra07].

During the Cold War, ICPIG adopted an East-West alternation, providing a rare opportunity for scientists from both blocs to meet and exchange knowledge despite travel restrictions [Fra07].

ICPIG held its first edition outside Europe in Hoboken, USA (1995), and its first Asian edition in Nagoya, Japan (2001), which marked its 50th anniversary and gathered around 700 participants, one of the largest meetings in its history. The location of the different ICPIG editions are shown in figure 1 and listed in table 1. Among thirty six editions, only four have been organized outside Europe (two in Japan, one in USA, one in Mexico). In Europe, Germany hosted five editions, and France and United Kindom four editions each.

More details about each edition (International scientific committee, local organizing committee, topics, ...) are presented on the ICPIG 2025 website.

Initially focused on fusion and basic plasma physics, ICPIG expanded to include low-temperature plasmas, plasma processing, environmental applications, and the study of electronegative plasmas, reflecting technological and societal [Fra07]. The Penning Prize, first awarded to Hans von Engel in 1991, became the von Engel Prize before evolving into the Engel & Franklin Prize around 2011, secured by the Gordon Francis Fund and Franklin's personal support to ensure its continuity [Fra07].

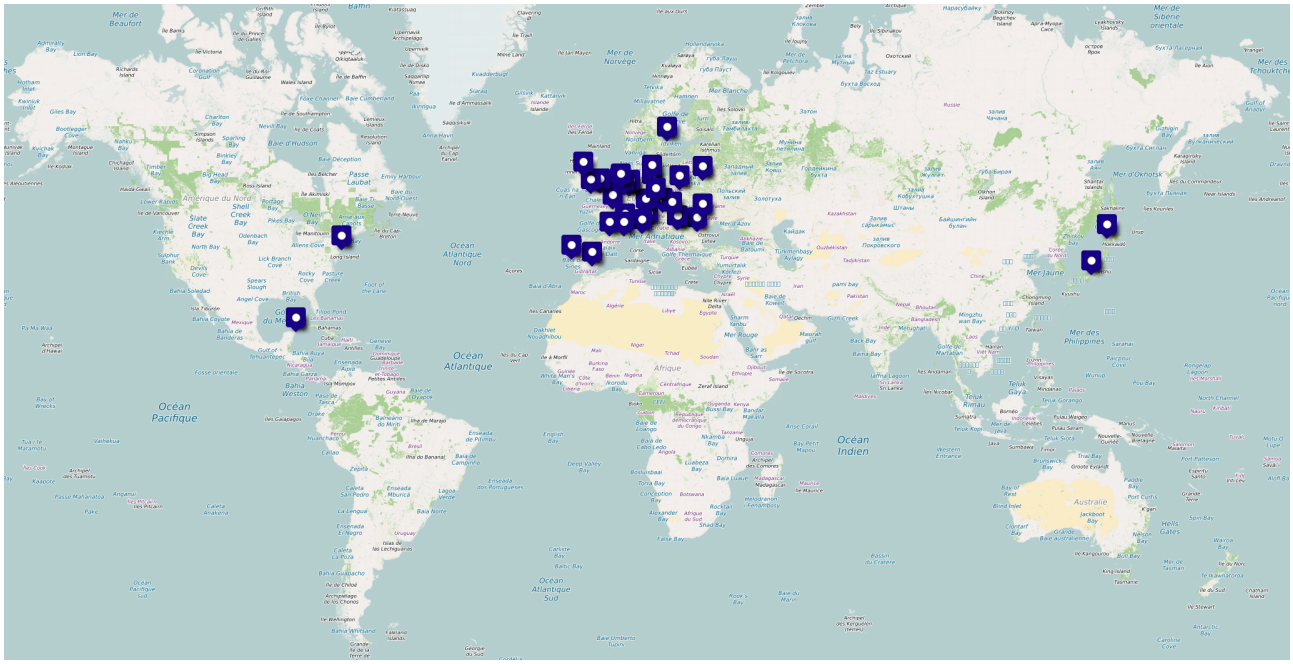

Figure 1: Locations of the different ICPIG editions. More details about each edition (International scientific committee, local organizing committee, topics, ...) are presented on the website: https://icpig2025.sciencesconf.org/resource/page/id/36

Structural changes at the 1971 Oxford ICPIG, a formal constitution and a rotating membership structure for the International Scientific Committee (ISC), were established, ensuring transparent and sustainable governance [Fra07]. ICPIG, inspired by the GEC, found a complementary partner in ESCAMPIG (European Sectional Conference on Atomic and Molecular Phenomena in Ionized Gases), alternating schedules and fostering collaboration within the plasma community [Fra07].

Year/edition	Location	Year/edition	Location	Year/edition	Location
1953/I	Oxford, UK	1977/XIII	Berlin, Ge	2001/XXV	Nagoya, Jp
1955/II	Delft, NL	1979/XIV	Grenoble, Fr	2003/XXVI	Greifswald, Ge
1957/III	Venice, It	1981/XV	Minsk, BY	2005/XXVII	Eindhoven, NL
1959/IV	Uppsala, Sw	1983, XVI	Düsseldorf, Ge	2007/XXVIII	Prague, Cz
1961/V	Munich, Ge	1985/XVII	Budapest, Hu	2009/XXIX	Cancún, Mx
1963/VI	Paris, Fr	1987/XVIII	Swansea, UK	2011/XXX	Belfast, UK
1965/VII	Belgrade, Yu	1989/XIX	Belgrade, Yu	2013/XXXI	Granada, Sp
1967/VIII	Vienna, At	1991/XX	Barga, It	2015/XXXII	Iasi, Ro
1969/IX	Bucharest, Ro	1993/XXI	Bochum, Ge	2017/XXXIII	Estoril, Pt
1971/X	Oxford, UK	1995/XXII	Hoboken, USA	2019/XXXIV	Sapporo, Jp
1973/XI	Prague, Cz	1997/XXIII	Toulouse, Fr	2023/XXXV	Egmond aan Zee, NL
1975/XII	Eindhoven, NL	1999/XXIV	Warsaw, Po	2025/XXXVI	Aix en Provence, Fr

Table 1: List of ICPIG editions sorted by year. The XXXV edition, previously plan in 2021, was postponed to 2023 due to the COVID19 pandemic.

2 Anecdotes and Legacy

Hans von Engel, born into Austro-Hungarian nobility, turned away from his family estate to pursue science. In the early 1930s, he and Max Steenbeck co-authored the first comprehensive textbook on gas discharges and low-temperature plasma physics, a work that shaped the field for decades. In 1939, von Engel left Germany, leaving behind his promising career at Siemens and a fruitful collaboration with Steenbeck. They would meet again years later, at the fourth ICPIG in Uppsala, each carrying the distinct paths they had followed through the intervening years. The first ICPIG in 1953 in Oxford established the conference's scientific foundation. The main subjects discussed were spark, arc, glow and high frequency discharges, Geiger counters and several fundamental processes [vEF53][3]. Landmark scientific milestones followed, including reports on Landau damping in Paris (1963) and advances in radio-frequency plasma generation.

At the 1961 conference in Munich, the construction of the Berlin Wall cast a shadow over the meeting and deeply concerned many participants, including Alexander von Engel. Aware of the profound impact of the political division of Europe on the scientific community, von Engel advocated for maintaining dialogue across the Iron Curtain. As a result, until the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the conference was deliberately held in alternation between countries in the Eastern and Western blocs, fostering scientific exchange despite the geopolitical divide.

Notable moments include the 1969 Bucharest meeting, held behind the Iron Curtain yet marked by unexpected openings to the West with young people who sang Beatles songs, a quiet gesture of connection beyond borders. It was during this conference that three members of the local committee, including Martha Bacal, decided to leave for the West, highlighting the tensions and hopes of the time[1].

Franklin [Fra07][2] recounts many anecdotes illustrating the life of the ICPIG conference series. He notes that for the 1971 meeting in Oxford, the organizers considered their greatest achievement to be the delivery of the contributed papers to participants in their home countries six weeks before the conference—a logistical feat accomplished using the diplomatic bag for the USSR and the US Air Force for the United States. Franklin also describes the challenges faced during the 1973 Prague meeting, which took place under the tense atmosphere following the Prague Spring. In a 1977 television interview in Berlin, Hans von Engel remarked that organizing a conference was rather like having a baby.

In 2021, ICPIG was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic but successfully resumed its cycle in 2023 and 2025, maintaining its tradition of continuity and adaptation. The XXVIth edition in Greifswald (Germany) represents a key milestone in ICPIG history since it was the appointment of Professor Leanne Pitchford (France) as the first chairwoman, marking progress in inclusivity and gender representation within the international plasma community, as noted by Franklin [Fra07][2]. ICPIG remains one of the longest-running and most respected international conferences in plasma physics, fostering scientific excellence, global collaboration, and intergenerational knowledge sharing while honouring the vision of its founders for over 70 years.

2.1 ICPIGs in Eastern Europe During the Cold War, seen by André Ricard, a western researcher

In this section, we present few anecdotes from André Ricard (CNRS, France). As previously stated, during the Cold War, ICPIG adopted an East-West alternation, providing a rare opportunity for scientists from both blocs to meet and exchange knowledge despite travel restrictions.

[1]Authors were informed by Mamiko Sasao (Doshisha University, Japan), a close friend of Martha Bacal, that Martha left for France after obtaining a scholarship to pursue her studies in Paris. Franklin in his original [vEF53][3] text does mention the name of the two other colleagues. The authors of the present lines have no information about them and their reason for leaving.

I will always remember that ICPIG, during the Cold War period, made it possible to meet researchers from Eastern countries—I think, for instance, of Polak and Slovestkii, among others.

Bucharest (1969) Upon our arrival in the evening with some colleagues, everything was closed. While wandering through the city in search of a restaurant, we realized we were being followed. On the ICPIG outing day, we ended up in a huge theater, packed to the brim. It was there that I discovered an incredible pan flute player: Zamfir, who later went on an unforgettable tour in the West. On the return to the airport, we French colleagues helped share the luggage of Martha Bacal, who was leaving for France permanently.

Prague (1973) Following ICPIG, I was invited several times to workshops in the countryside near Bratislava. During our discussions, my colleagues expressed a desire to remain socialist, for the sake of the social benefits (like crèches in factories). What they all wanted was to be able to travel freely, without the restrictions of the Stasi. After the fall of the Wall, a German colleague told me that now, it wasn't the Stasi that held them back—but the god Dollar! At one of those workshops, my wife wished to join me. But once she saw the remote location, she preferred to visit Prague instead. This caused significant trouble for the workshop organizers: they had to obtain the necessary permits for her to take the train and arrange her reception in Prague. I was quite embarrassed! Once, while traveling from Vienna to Bratislava for a workshop, I was forced to refuse to open a package containing an IR photomultiplier. The Slovak customs officer insisted, not understanding English. Eventually, tired of the situation, he pointed at me and said, "doctor-doctor." I nodded, and he let me pass.

East Berlin (1977) After ICPIG, the University of Greifswald organized a workshop, and we traveled by steam train from Berlin to Greifswald! Leaving Berlin, some buildings were still in ruins from the war, and tanks were visible along the border. In Greifswald, we were warmly welcomed, including a sailing trip on the Baltic Sea. The return journey was less idyllic: the train stopped halfway between Greifswald and Berlin. I was alone and didn't speak German. I had to change trains, but several were waiting, heading to destinations I couldn't understand. My visa was expiring that evening. Fortunately, a German advised me on the correct train to Berlin airport. A fond memory of stress!

Budapest (1985) What struck me was the restaurant menus listing many dishes—only for the meal to end with just goulash. There was also a small museum denouncing the crimes of Imre Nagy.

Moscow (1981) The ICPIG was boycotted following Sakharov's exile to Gorky in 1980[2].

2.2 My first international conference, ICPIG in Vienna 1967 by Nader Sadeghi

I found among my old photos two pictures from the ICPIG 8th edition in Vienna, 1967. If I remember correctly, this was the opening session of the conference, with (I believe) the President of the Republic of Austria sitting alone in the front row, and all the leading figures of atomic and plasma physics in the row behind him. In the other photo, one might (or might not) recognize a young PhD student[3] listening attentively to the interpreter. At the time, photos were still taken

[2]This edition was probably organized in Minsk, BY

[3]Nader Sadeghi

in black and white, and general lectures could be delivered in four languages—English, German, French, and Russian—with simultaneous interpretation. I have very fond memories of that conference, though also one major disappointment: together with my fiancée, who had accompanied me and would become my wife a few months later, we discovered that the famous Blue Danube was, in fact, very dirty and murky grey!

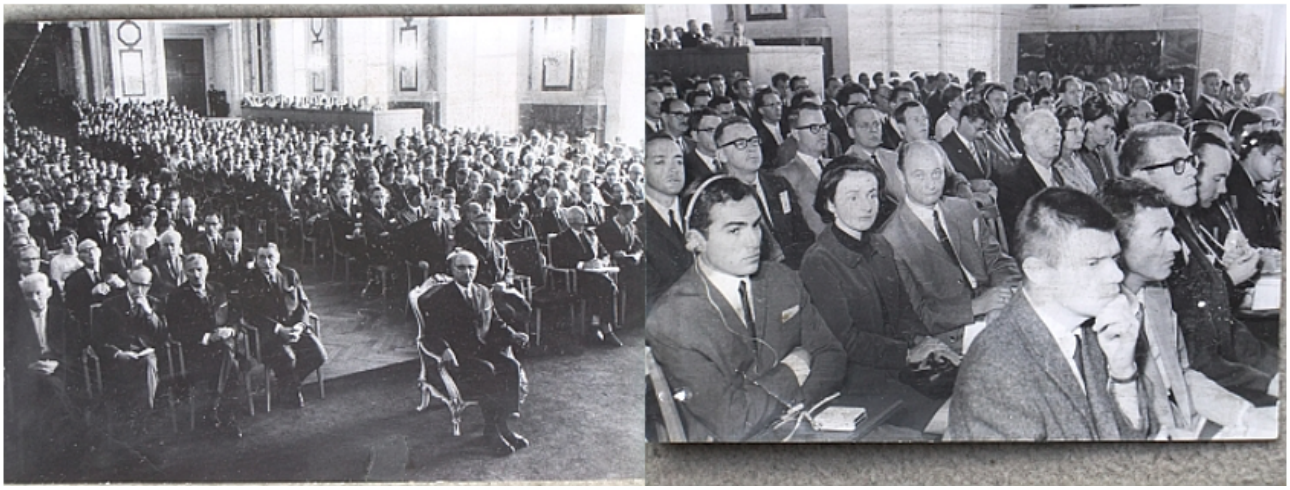

Figure 2: Two pictures from the Vienna edition in 1967.

2.3 The ICPIG in Minsk 1981 by Vladimir Demidov

In 1981, I had an opportunity to participate in the 15th Edition of the International Conference on Ionized Gases, which was held in the Soviet Union in the city of Minsk. By that time, I had graduated from the Department of Optics at Leningrad State University (LSU) and had been working as a research fellow in the Low-Temperature Plasma Laboratory at the same university. Our university actively participated in training postgraduate students for scientific institutions in socialist countries (mainly for Bulgaria, Hungary, Yugoslavia and the GDR), but trips of LSU employees even to these countries were quite rare. Research employees practically never traveled to Western countries (with rare exceptions). Therefore, participation in the work of the ICPIG was a rare opportunity for communication between Western and Eastern scientists. However, Western scientists declared a boycott of participation in the conference[4], and only a small number of scientists from Western countries came to Minsk. I think there were about 20 of them, but I could be wrong about the number. There were significantly more scientists from socialist countries (I think a little more than a hundred, but I could also be wrong). The total number of participants was about seven hundred. That is, mainly scientists from the USSR participated. In the USSR, I had the opportunity to participate in 2 or 3 internal scientific conferences on plasma-related topics annually. They were held in various cities of the USSR, so I was able to travel to many regions of central Russia, the Baltics, Ukraine, the Caucasus, Central Asia and Siberia. Thus, I had a lot of experience in participating in scientific conferences, but in Minsk there was still an international conference, although with limited international participation. I managed to practice my English a little. I remember that Professor S. D. Wagner from Petrozavodsk provided us with great assistance in translation. He was born in the USA, but as a child he was taken to

[4]The arrest and forced exile of Sakharov to Gorky in 1980 triggered a broad movement of support, particularly within the international community.

Russia by his father who went to help build socialism in the USSR with a group of enthusiasts from America. His father was immediately sent to the GULAG, but nevertheless S. D. Wagner was able (as he himself said, it took a lot of effort) to become a plasma physicist and work at the university. Somehow, he could keep English. He helped me communicate with quite a large number of foreign participants, which was certainly useful.

Upon arrival in Minsk, we were placed in a student dormitory, 4 people per room. It cost, as far as I remember, three and a half rubles per day (the official exchange rate of the ruble was then, if I am not mistaken, 1 US dollar = 0.9 rubles). We did not like the living conditions in the dormitory, and my scientific supervisor Prof. N. B. Kolokolov helped us move the next day to the hotel of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belarus, taking advantage of the fact that his brother was the Secretary of the Central Committee. The conditions of stay there were excellent. A room cost 2 rubles per day. This hotel had a good and very cheap restaurant, where, naturally, people from the street were not allowed. The conference itself was not badly organized, although there were some blunders from my point of view. For example, we were taken to a currency bar near the conference place. At the same time, the participants from the Soviet side could not have convertible currency in principle, since it was strictly prohibited. And people from the street could not enter this bar either.

2.4 Memory from ICPIG in Grenoble 1979 by Roman Schrittwieser

I came to ICPIG 1979 to present a paper on ion wave instabilities (Grid versus plate excitation of the electron current driven ion wave in-stability) … and ended up mastering the science of the unexpected: swapping out a car starter while lying under the chassis, sleeping at a campground to stretch the budget, and having my hang glider stolen from a parking garage near the conference center! I nevertheless enjoyed this conference in which famous names participated such as Von Engel, Hannes Alfvén, Bill Allis (MIT), and Ferdinand Cap, the former head of the Institute for Theoretical Physics of the University of Innsbruck and founder of the Innsbruck Plasma Physics Department.

3 Focus on the XXXVIth edition of ICPIG (2025)

3.1 Overview

The 36th International Conference on Phenomena in Ionized Gases (ICPIG 2025) was held from July 20–25, 2025, on the Schuman campus of Aix-Marseille University (AMU), within the Faculty of Law and Political Science in Aix-en-Provence. The sessions took place primarily in the Portalis and Mistral lecture halls, with poster exhibitions and informal exchanges hosted in the historic Pouillon Hall. The setting provided a stimulating contrast between the modern architecture of the Portalis amphitheater and the historical character of the Pouillon building, offering an inspiring backdrop for scientific dialogue.

3.2 Scientific Program and Exchanges

Each day was dedicated to intense scientific activity, running from about 8:30 to 18:30, and structured around plenary lectures, topical invited and contributed lectures in two parallel sessions, and poster sessions.

The opening ceremony featured addresses by Laurence Mouret, dean of the Aix-Marseille University Faculty of Sciences, Yannick Marandet, director of the PIIM laboratory, Sander Nijdam, chair of the International Scientific Committee, and Gilles Cartry, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee. Laurence Mouret pre-

Figure 3: Top, left to right: Ferdinand Cap (long-year head of the Institute for Theoretical Physics of the University of Innsbruck and founder of the Innsbruck Plasma Physics Department), William Allis (MIT), Hannes Alfven (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm) Bottom, left to right: Hans Von Engel, at the table on the left, Poul Michelsen (Riso, Denmark), Gheorghe Popa (Alexandru-Ioan-Cuza University, Iasi, Romania - in the 1990s he was long years rector of the oldest Romanian University), Siegbert Kuhn (Univ. of Innsbruck), at the table on the right Jens-Peter Lynov (Riso, Denmark), Franz Peter Stössel (Univ. Innsbruck, died in 2024), Jens Juul Rasmussen (Riso, Denmark) and Elmar Märk (Univ. Innsbruck, brother of the long-year rector Tilmann Märk of the Univ. of Innsbruck, and first Q-machine plasma physicist in Innsbruck - before me).

sented Aix-Marseille University and the Faculty of Sciences, highlighting the role of fusion plasma research at AMU, the existence of a dedicated institute, AMU's strong commitment to science through initiatives such as the Safe Place for Science programme, and the university's emphasis on gender equality. Yannick Marandet introduced the PIIM laboratory, organizer of the conference, and underlined the importance of fusion research at the Aix-Marseille site, including the activities of the ISFIN institute. Speaking on behalf of the International Scientific Committee, Sander Nijdam welcomed participants, presented the conference, and officially opened this new edition. Gilles Cartry presented the newly created interactive ICPIG map summarizing all the ICPIG editions, as well as the ICPIG history webpage referring to the memories of Franklin (2000 and 2007) as well as to newly collected testimonies about the ICPIG in the "old time".

The scientific content of ICPIG 2025 was remarkable in both breadth and depth, reflecting the vitality of the plasma physics community. The sessions provided a platform for exchange across disciplines, with lively discussions during and after presentations. The poster sessions, held in the Pouillon Hall, fostered direct and constructive dialogue between established researchers and young scientists. A particularly notable highlight was the special session dedicated to the memory of the late Bill Graham, during which his colleagues offered heartfelt tributes to his scientific and human legacy.

Figure 4: Opening speech by Laurence Mouret, dean of the Aix-Marseille University Faculty of Sciences.

On Tuesday, a keynote lecture was delivered by Isabelle Régner, Vice President of Aix-Marseille University for Gender Equality and Anti-Discrimination, who gave a remarkable and dynamic presentation on "The Influence of Gender Stereotypes on Cognitive Performances and Hiring Decisions". This lecture, well received by the audience, enriched the conference by broadening the perspective on diversity and inclusion in science.

(a) Tribute to Bill Graham.

(b) The Von Engel and Franklin prize was awarded by Sander Nijdam, Chair of the International Scientific Committee, to Ute Ebert.

Figure 5: Two key moments during ICPIG 36th edition.

Thursday featured further plenary and invited lectures. The Friday program concluded with the prestigious Von Engel & Franklin Prize lecture, awarded this year to Ute Ebert for her outstanding contributions to the understanding of streamer discharges. Four student poster prizes were also awarded, reflecting the high quality of contributions from young researchers.

The scientific contributions at ICPIG 2025 covered the full breadth of low-temperature plasma research, with notable trends emerging from the distribution of topics. Plasma diagnostics (15%) remained the largest single contributor, confirming its central and transversal role across plasma science. Several areas showed particularly strong activity this year, including non-equilibrium and atmospheric-pressure microplasmas (10%),

plasma in/with liquids (7%), and medical, biological and environmental applications (13%), reflecting the rapid growth of plasma technologies in multidisciplinary domains. Traditional core topics such as plasma–surface interactions (6%), low-pressure plasmas (7%), modelling and simulation (10%), and plasma processing (7%) also maintained substantial representation. A fraction of contributions addressed low-temperature plasma applications for fusion, in line with the local interest of the plasma community. Overall, the distribution of topics was consistent with the themes highlighted by the invited lectures, illustrating both the continuity and the evolving directions of contemporary plasma research.

The five General Invited Lectures provided a broad and insightful overview of several fast-moving areas in low-temperature plasma science. Davide Mariotti (University of Strathclyde, UK) presented the concept of "bulk to atoms and back", illustrating how atmospheric-pressure microplasmas can sustainably break down materials to atomic or cluster scales and rebuild them into functional nanostructures. Hirotaka Toyoda (Nagoya University, Japan) reviewed advanced diagnostic techniques for detecting high-energy species, underlining the central role of plasma diagnostics in both fundamental studies and applications. Jean-Paul Booth (LPP, CNRS, France) presented new approaches for in-situ measurements of surface reaction probabilities in low-pressure plasmas, highlighting recent progress in understanding plasma–surface interactions. Isabel Tanarro (Instituto de Estructura de la Materia, Spain) discussed the complex ion chemistry emerging in C_2H_2/Ar plasmas and the strong influence of nitrogen additives, highlighting reaction pathways that are relevant to the fabrication of advanced materials and to the laboratory production of astrophysical dust analogues. Zoltan Donkó (HUN-REN Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Hungary) reviewed the crucial role of secondary electron emission in the operation of low-pressure discharges, presenting recent advances on the in-situ determination of the effective secondary electron yield in capacitively coupled plasmas. During the week, several side meetings (Plasma Source Science and Technology board, ICPIG and ESCAMPIG International Scientific Committees…) took place in the Council room of the faculty.

Overall, the scientific exchanges throughout the week were of a very high standard, characterized by open dialogue, constructive criticism, and a genuine spirit of collaboration. Participants emphasized the richness of the discussions and the opportunities for new collaborations.

3.3 Social and Cultural Program

Beyond the scientific program, ICPIG 2025 offered a carefully curated social and cultural agenda. Coffee breaks and lunches were served under the plane trees on the Mirabeau forecourt, creating a relaxed and convivial atmosphere that encouraged informal exchanges. On three occasions, a caricaturist offered portraits of participants, adding a playful element to the week. The conference opened on Sunday, July 20, with a welcome cocktail on the Portalis forecourt, featuring traditional Provençal dance and music performed by the Roudelet Felibren ensemble, as well as a performance by magician Magic Ritchie. This convivial evening set the tone for a week that combined rigorous scientific exchange with cultural enrichment.

The Wednesday afternoon excursion provided participants with the opportunity to discover the region. Around fifty attendees visited ITER, the international nuclear fusion project, where they attended a presentation and toured the construction site. A larger group travelled to Marseille, embarking on boats for a tour of the Calanques National Park, with the chance to swim in the Mediterranean Sea against the stunning backdrop of the cliffs. Thursday evening's social event, held at the Hôtel de Caumont, unfolded under the hallmark of French elegance in a beautifully restored 18th-century mansion and art center in the heart of Aix-en-Provence. Participants enjoyed a guided tour of the Niki de Saint Phalle exhibition, dedicated to the pioneering artist and feminist known for her vibrant, unconventional works, before savoring a refined aperitif and dinner in the mansion's gardens and salons. A lyrical concert with soprano and baritone soloists accompanied by piano created a truly enchanting atmosphere, as the blend of voices and music resonated

through the exceptional gardens of the Hôtel de Caumont. The program also featured a magic performance, two photo booths for conference souvenirs, and, to close the evening on a high note, a rock concert by Fred Paul Lerussi's band in the grand gallery of the Hôtel de Caumont — a moment of pure joy and electrifying energy that carried participants away. Placed under the sign of French elegance embodied by the Hôtel de Caumont, the evening was further enhanced by excellent food and drinks that perfectly complemented this atmosphere of art, music, and conviviality.

3.4 Participation and Diversity

ICPIG 2025 brought together 399 participants from 38 countries, marking an increase of more than 10% compared to the previous edition. The participants included:

- Total participants: 399 with 213 researchers and 141 students
- Countries represented: 38
- Oral contributions:
  - General invited: 43% women (3/7)
  - Special session: 16% women (1/6)
  - Topical invited: 23% women (6/26)
  - Contributed lectures: 24% women (8/34)
  - Total: 24.65% women across all oral presentations
- Posters: 282

The conference maintained its commitment to inclusivity, with exemptions from registration fees provided to students and researchers from low- and middle-income countries, and reduced registration fees for students. Women represented 25% of contributors overall and 24% of oral presentations, with higher proportions among general invited speakers (43%). Students represented 39% of all contributors, demonstrating the vitality of the next generation of plasma scientists. A total of 72 oral contributions and 282 posters were presented.

3.5 Closing and Outlook

The closing ceremony, led by Sander Nijdam (ISC chair), Gilles Cartry (LOC chair), Marco Minissale (LOC co-chair), and Lénaïc Couedel (LOC co-chair), celebrated the scientific successes of the week. Gilles Cartry presented the statistics of the edition and warmly thanked the entire Local Organizing Committee for their dedication and commitment, as well as the International Scientific Committee and all participants for the excellent week of scientific exchange and collegiality. Sander Nijdam (ISC chair) first led the poster award ceremony, the announced the changes in the International Scientific Committee and concluded by announcing the selected host for the next ICPIG edition. Emile Carbone, Chair of the next Local Organizing Committee gave an introduction to ICPIG 2027. Sander Nijdam after acknowledging the ISC, the LOC and all the participants officially closed the 36th ICPIG edition.

Figure 6: ICPIG 36th edition conference photo.

3.6 Awards

The prestigious Von Engel & Franklin Prize has been awarded this year to Ute Ebert (Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica and TU Eindhoven, Netherlands) for her outstanding contributions to the understanding of streamer discharges.

Four poster prizes were awarded by the International Scientific Committee during the closing ceremony to students for the remarkable scientific and pedagogical quality of their work:

- Carmen Pascual-Fort (EM2C, CNRS, Centrale Supélec, Université Paris-Saclay, France) received an award for her poster entitled “Femtosecond laser-induced fluorescence for atmospheric plasma diagnostics: Stark detuning and power saturation effects”;
- Han Nguyen (Kanazawa University, Japan) received an award for her poster entitled “Subcellular Visualization of Cold Atmospheric Plasma Effects on Living Cell Surfaces Using Scanning Ion Conductance Microscopy”;
- Wouters Meekes (Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands) received an award for his poster entitled “Variable-pulse streamer discharges using an Impedance-matched Marx Generator”;
- Baptiste Disson (GREMI, Université d’Orléans, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France) received an award for his poster entitled « Breakdown elementary mechanisms within controlled nanometer scale electrode gaps”.

3.7 Sponsors

The 36th edition of ICPIG was organized with the help of several industial and academic/sponsors that are listed below:

- **Industrial Sponsors:** Hiden Analytical, Solayl RF Measurement ÷ & Control, System C Instrumentation, Omega Physics, Gensurf Recherche et Ingénierie, Plasma Matters, The European Physical Journal, Spark Cleantech.
- **Academic and Public Sponsors:** Aix-Marseille University (AMU), PIIM, ISFIN, CNRS, French Physical Society (SFP), Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropole, IUPAP.

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