Welcome Address for the 46th Annual Meeting on Nuclear Technology (AMNT 2015)
5 to 7 May 2015, Berlin

KTG (German Nuclear Society)
The Chair

On behalf of the German Nuclear Society I would like to warmly welcome you to the 46th Annual Meeting on Nuclear Technology. The members of our society once again conceived an attractive and diversified programme.

With four Focus Sessions we emphasize on “Remaining Operation” and “Waste Management” which are of particular concern to us in Germany. German nuclear power plants still contribute essentially – although gladly ignored by the public – to the security of supply cooperatively with the renewables. Therefore we do not only address high safety standards but also their further development, especially in the European context. Aiming at a rapid dismantling we are increasingly busy with the responsible disposal of all radioactive wastes and spent fuel. While the search for a final disposal site for high-level waste starts all over again, a solution for low and intermediate-level wastes is already within our reach.

For all these tasks we will still need nuclear engineers in Germany for several decades. Consequently, creating and preserving competence is of fundamental importance. Essential for education and research are proper equipment and international networking as well as an attractive working environment. As an open platform for interdisciplinary discussions our Annual Meeting also contributes to this.

With our – although involuntary – pioneering role due to the nuclear phase-out, we are in fact again ahead of the game, not only concerning the scope and diversity of the upcoming tasks in Germany but also applying our urgently needed know-how abroad. Globally still all competences in development, new build, operation and disposal are in demand. In lectures as well as personal discussions we can share our comprehensive know-how and know-why, and learn from each other’s broad experience.

That’s why I am particularly pleased that following our invitation the European Nuclear Society holds its board meeting and general assembly during our conference, certainly sharing interesting insights and news from Brussels with us!

Beyond professional exchange we want to discuss current and trend-setting topics with high-level representatives from society, politics and industry at our plenary session. Be it the “German Energiewende” in the European market, strategies and visions of internationally operating utilities or global communication challenges, it remains exciting until the very end!

Please look forward with me to a highly interesting programme as well as to our industry exhibition, which again provides an excellent ambience for exchanging ideas and networking.

I wish all participants for our Annual Meeting 2015 numerous contacts, interesting talks, new insights and a confident glance into the future!

Dr. Astrid Petersen