



The **BENEFRI – small molecule crystallography service** celebrated its 10th Anniversary on the 8th of November in Neuchâtel.

BENEFRI, a convention involving the Universities of Bern, Neuchatel and Fribourg, was established in 1993, and the branch convention in Chemistry was signed in 1994. The objective has been to promote cooperation between the Institutes of Chemistry of the three Universities, to economize on heavy equipment and to establish joint teaching and research projects. The **BENEFRI - small molecule crystallography service** was established in June 1997 with this aim in mind.

Over the last 10 years we have acquired two Stoe Image Plate Diffraction Systems, both equipped with Oxford Cryosystems cryostreamers, and a Stoe high resolution powder diffractometer equipped with a variable temperature cryostreamer. Collaborators involved in the service have included: *Dr. Antonia Neels*, who is now responsible for the new X-ray Diffraction Service created in Oct. 2006, and post-docs: *Dr. Eduard Rusanov* (now in Kiev); *Dr. Gael Labat* (now in Bern); and *Dr. Lydia Karmazin Brelot* (now in Strasbourg).

Over the last 10 years we have examined over 3000 crystals and measured at least 2500 of them. This has led to approximately 250 successful structure analyses per year, and 20 to 25 publications per year in which a member of the service has been involved.



Approximately 40 people gathered in Neuchâtel to celebrate the 10th anniversary and to listen to three speakers on very different subjects involving crystallography.

They included:

Prof. Silvio Decurtins, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry of the University of Bern who talked to us about “*Structural Aspects and Properties of Molecular Assemblies*” and how important the choice of anion is to crystallize some very interesting compounds with intriguing physical properties

Seen here on the right, in discussion with Prof. Fritz Stoeckli (NE)



Prof. Martin Albrecht, Department of Chemistry of the University of Fribourg, who showed how crystal structures analyses contributed to “*Pushing the Basicity of Carbene Ligands: New Opportunities in Catalyst Development*”

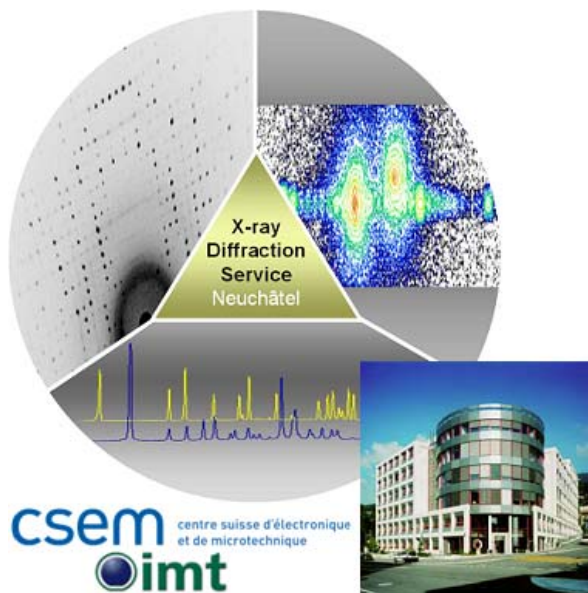


and

Prof. Alex Dommann of the Swiss Center for Electronics and Microelectronics (CSEM), who discussed “*Crystallography of Perfect Crystals*” and how important diffuse scattering is to examine lattice strain and texture during process development of devices in microtechnology.



In October 2006 a new X-ray Diffraction Service was created in collaboration with the Institute of Microtechnology of the University of Neuchâtel and the Swiss Center for Electronics and Microelectronics (CSEM).



The service continues to cater for the needs of the BENEFRi community and is also open to other University and Industrial customers. More information can be found on the web site <http://www2.unine.ch/XRD>

Neuchâtel, 8th Nov. 2007
Helen Stoeckli-Evans