

10th International Aerosol Conference

This was one of the largest scientific conferences dedicated to aerosol science ever organised and boasted over 10,000 attendees and hundreds of industrial exhibitors. Over the five days, I attended sessions on Aerosol Chemistry, Physics, Bioaerosol and Climate Modelling.

On the initial day (Sunday) of the conference there were several 'tutorial' like talks, including one by Urs Baltensperger of the CLOUD experiment at CERN. One illuminating aspect of the talk described the mechanism by which organic molecules auto-oxidise in the atmosphere, which was incredibly useful for me and gave me several ideas for further experiments and modelling that would be beneficial to both research groups I work with.

My contribution involved giving a 15min talk in the Aerosol Physics session regarding recent experiments and computational modelling undertaken in my PhD about the evaporation of organic aerosol. There were rigorous questions in the Q&A about possible ways the apparatus may influence the results, and several people approached me after the fact to compliment the science or ask further questions.

I was able to meet for the first time one of our group's frequent collaborators – Cari Dutcher from the University of Minnesota. During our conversation we had an idea for a new way to use model's acid dissociation her group produces within the data analysis for my experiments to compare the influence of this acidity on evaporation. This wouldn't have happened had I not attended the conference.

I also had very interesting scientific discussions with Thomas Berkemeier and James Davies, who also study (among other things) glassy aerosol.

Stephen Ingram