

Dear friends and partners,

at the end of 2024, I am taking some time to reflect again. I marvel at the many interesting people I have met, the many wonderful experiences, but also the challenges and farewells that the year brought with it.



Once again this year, the exhibition "boot" in Düsseldorf and the conference on corrosion protection in maritime technology in Hamburg provided me with inspiration for a wide range of activities in January.

What I'm really pleased about is that my son Sören has been able to build up a fulfilling job at feldlabor, which mainly consists of administrative tasks, delivering our chemical-technical products and collecting samples for laboratory analyses.



The whole year was dominated by evaporative cooling systems, cooling towers and wet separators, as all existing systems had to be inspected by experts for the second time by 19 August 2024. For this reason, there was unfortunately little time for many other professional ideas or relaxing with loved ones in my free time. You have to get through it, but it's foreseeable. And yet I still don't miss out on enjoying things outside the feldlabor, such as

hiking the wire trade route.



As the wire exhibition took place in Düsseldorf again this year, I was able to intensify many contacts with our partner Lubrimetal, especially in the German-speaking world of wire. As part of netzwerkdraht, I offered seminars on the topics of corrosion protection and the legionella regulation. I feel comfortable among the lecturers there.

The baptising of my third grandson Mattis in May was a wonderful family event.



Attending Intergalva in Bruges, Belgium, allowed me to go even deeper into the international world of hot-dip galvanising. Corrosion protection is a central aspect at feldlabor. Despite the general downward trend in the industry as a whole, the stability of feldlabor was maintained. This is thanks to further major orders for our own products, especially for hot-dip galvanising plants.





In the meantime, the NRW crayfish project has become a small part of my freelance work. In addition to crayfish training courses and an international crayfish symposium, another pond fishery was organised to reintroduce farmed crayfish to selected waters.

As expected, the bridge of Rahmedetal was not yet completed this year, meaning that the high amount of time required for sampling tours and other journeys was unfortunately not significantly reduced in 2024 either. Nevertheless, it was possible to realise the conversion to a GmbH in 2024.



A short but intensive trip to France during my holiday brought me closer to the interesting biological diversity of Brittany and then the geology of the Paris Basin. I would particularly like to recommend the worthwhile visits to the natural history museums in Concarneau and Paris.

Unfortunately, there was only one trip to Norway, this time in autumn, north of the Arctic Circle. I was once again able to experience the fascination of the Northern Lights, this time with an unrivalled intensity.



This year, a substantial donation was made to the German Sarcoma Foundation (www.sarkome.de), which is particularly committed to sarcoma research and patient care. Sarcomas are various types of soft tissue tumours that receive relatively little research funding and public attention due to their rarity. During the annual fundraising tour and at a patient day, I was able to significantly expand my insights into this world of diseases.

Many thanks to everyone who has been more or less closely involved with me and the feldlabor this year. A very special thanks goes to my lab colleagues Heike Bendlin and Natalie Zängler, who support the feldlabor alongside their regular jobs and do all the laboratory analysis, as well as my son Sören Feld, without whom I would not be able to cope with all the so-called little things.

With best wishes for a healthy 2025

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