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For more than a century, Darmstadt has been a centre of essential expertise in structural durability. Test and measurement equipment, computational methods and design philosophies have been developed. To illustrate the continuity of activities in this field several institutes and companies have grouped together to present the Symposium on Structural Durability in Darmstadt.

The objective of the Symposium on Structural Durability in Darmstadt – SoSDiD – is to present the current *state of the art* to the national and international fatigue community. Contributions have been gathered from German and international experts as well as Darmstadt research work in structural durability. The symposium is intended to supply a lively forum for discussing basic questions and current trends, bringing together scientists and engineers working in this field.

In order to pay tribute to the founders of the Darmstadt structural durability tradition the sessions have been titled: *Kurt Klöppel*, *Ernst Gaßner*, and *August Thum* sessions. According to their main research focus, lectures predominantly dealing with *materials mechanics* are considered in the *Klöppel*-session, those dealing with *variable amplitude loading in engineering structures* are grouped in the *Gaßner*-session, and the *Thum*-session is concerned with the *material science and technology related aspects of structural durability*.