

# International PM Community Converges in North America

## AT 2008 WORLD CONGRESS

"If you are involved with the PM industry or interested in it, this is the place to be," says Jim Dale, vice president, member and industry relations for the Metal Powder Industries Federation (MPIF).

The 2008 World Congress on Powder Metallurgy and Particulate Materials is sponsored by the MPIF and APMI International with the cooperation of various international organizations involved with the powder metallurgy industry. MPIF includes six separate trade associations aimed at prominent sectors of the PM business. APMI is a technical society for people working in PM technology or interested in growth related to the industry.

The world congress is a larger, more inclusive version of the MPIF's International Conference on Powder Injection Molding of Metals, Ceramics and Carbides, which meets annually and attracts fewer international representatives. Attendance at this year's world congress is expected to exceed 1,500 people from 45 countries with 425 technical papers in 133 sessions.

The world congress is hosted in North America once every six years because the



Technical sessions offer opportunity for technology exchange on a host of topics.

event alternates locations with two other major international PM organizations: the European Powder Metallurgy Association and the Japan Powder Metallurgy Association. In 2006 the world congress was held in Korea, and the next one is slated for Florence in 2010. Attendance at the event jumps 40–60 percent from the smaller PIM world conference because of

the substantial international participation, according to Dale.

The nation's capital was an ideal location choice for the world congress's planners. "Washington was chosen for the event this year because it is the kind of city that draws a good international crowd as a sort of gateway city to the U.S.," Dale says.



Equipment on display at the exhibit provides hands-on opportunities for attendees.

The Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, the event site, is a brand-new, inclusive facility scenically located on the Potomac River. MPIF organizers jumped at the opportunity to hold the event's meetings, technical exhibit and convention in the same place as the hotel, so attendees have more chances to network and interact with each other. The world congress audience includes buyers and specifiers from a wide array of industry specialists including manufacturers of injection molding equipment and processes, tooling and compacting presses, furnace belts, sieving machines, lubricants and sealers and monitoring equipment.

A 150-booth trade exhibition attracts 100 companies from North America, Europe and Asia to feature displays of process equipment, raw materials, powders, services and PM products. Open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, the exhibition is scheduled to avoid conflict with the major events, general sessions or program luncheons.

The technical program features six special interest programs on topics of broad interest to the wider marketplace. One such program is titled "Gears—The Next PM Frontier." The focus is development in gear technology, which will deal with advances in gear rolling, fatigue, gear specifications, material options and compaction technologies. Another special interest program is devoted to fatigue design, noting the frequent subjection to fatigue loading in many PM applications. The program will look at the latest design methods, materials and process techniques that may be used to improve the fatigue behavior and durability of PM elements.

Some other highlights of the congress include a general session about the global PM industry and a general session about energy concerns

in the industry featuring representatives from the U.S. Department of Energy. The annual PM Metallography Design Excellence Competition will be awarded during an event luncheon, with a grand prize of \$1,500. Entries feature photomicrographs of unique PM microstructures that demonstrate how the use of metallography is an analytical tool in research and development, problem solving and quality control areas of powder metallurgy, according to the competition brochure. Participants include manufacturers, users, researchers and suppliers of powders and powder-related equipment. Entries will be displayed in the exhibit hall daily.

The 2008 world congress is being held in conjunction with the International Conference on Tungsten, Refractory and Hardmaterials VII, which is sponsored by the Refractory Metals Association. The tungsten conference has been affiliated with MPIF for the last seven years, but this is the first year they will share the same location. The registration fee for the Tungsten conference includes admission to the world congress exhibition, luncheons and the opening and closing night dinners. To attend the technical sessions of both conferences, there is a small additional fee.

"The advantage (of holding the two events in conjunction) gives people involved with refractory metals the benefit to attend the world congress and visit the exhibit," Dale says. "One reason (they're being held in conjunction) is because a lot of Europeans are interested in coming to both. It is killing two birds with one stone. The technologies are interrelated, the difference is in materials."

The 2008 World Congress on Powder Metallurgy and Particulate Materials is being held June 8–12 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, National Harbor, Maryland. For more information, visit [www.mpif.org](http://www.mpif.org), or email [jtamasi@mpif.org](mailto:jtamasi@mpif.org).



**May 13-16—ESPRIT World Conference.** Grand Hyatt, Denver. The ESPRIT World Conference 2008 launches the latest version of DP Technology's flagship product, ESPRIT, a powerful, high-performance, full-spectrum pro-gramming system for milling, turning, wire EDM, and multitasking machine tools. During the 28-hour conference, technical product training, educational seminars, hands-on instruction and workshops for users of all ranges of experience take place. The intention is for attendees to streamline business on the machine shop floor. Representatives from every ESPRIT reseller will be in attendance, along with DP Technology representatives including all executive managers from the United States, Asia and Europe, in addition to product managers, research and development and applications engineering staff. End users are encouraged to attend to stay up to date on the latest software. A new feature to the conference this year is the ESPRIT Boot Camp, a three-and-a-half-day course for new users that introduces milling and turning programming.

**May 18-22—Conference on Lubrication and Wear.** Cleveland Convention Center, Cleveland. The Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers also refers to this event as its Annual Meeting and Exhibition. The meeting includes panel discussions and the presentation of around 400 technical papers, in which 17 consider wear as a subject, including enhanced characterization techniques of wear processes under a variety of conditions or with a variety of materials, coatings and wear surfaces. Ten peer-reviewed courses are offered for basic to advanced levels covering the best lubrication practices available for members and nonmembers. Eighty exhibitors will feature new products and technology in hydraulic fluids, system controls and filtration and contamination control equipment. For more information, visit [www.stle.org](http://www.stle.org).

**May 21-22—Swiss Machining Fundamentals Course.** Kennametal Knowledge Center, Kennametal Inc. Headquarters, Latrobe, Pennsylvania. This two-day educational course is provided by a partnership between PartMaker Inc., Rem Sales LLC and Kennametal Inc. to advance skills in process optimization and tool selection, and application for micro-machining applications. The course will detail the metal cutting processes of ID and OD turning for micro applications, with emphasis in areas such as rotating tooling and quick-change tooling for micro machines. The curriculum is aimed towards addressing the needs of process engineers, CNC programmers and tool engineers. Ted Woodward, manager of education programs for the Kennametal Knowledge Center, will be the instructor. Rem Sales' contribution to the course is a Tsugami SS-20 Swiss-type lathe, which handles cross and face milling, drilling, tapping, angular drilling, thread whirling and polygon turning. PartMaker is supplying the SwissCAM software for automating the programming of the Tsugami SS-20. For more information, contact PartMaker, at (215) 643-5077, or visit [www.kennametal.com](http://www.kennametal.com).

**May 22—Dallas and South/Southwest Regional NFPA Luncheon.** The Womack Machine Supply, Farmers Branch, Texas. The National Fluid Power Association is holding this roundtable luncheon for all members, but especially for the Southwest region members who are encouraged to invite customers, suppliers or distributors as guests. The 2008 series of regional roundtable meetings, the first of which was in Detroit and another of which will take place in Chicago later this year, all focus on the economic forecast and feature well-regarded economists as presenters. The Texas lunch event's speaker will be Laila Assanie, an economist who has been with the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas since 2003, where she conducts research on regional economic issues. The event is free

and intended to be a casual and effective means to meet other fluid power colleagues in the region. For more information, visit [www.nfpa.com](http://www.nfpa.com).

**June 4-6—Gear Manufacturing Technology Course.** Liebherr America, 1465 Woodland Drive, Saline, Michigan. The Gear Consulting Group offers this three-day AGMA course to teach theory and practical aspects of gear manufacturing. Participants will learn about everyday problems and appropriate responses to troubleshooting. Instructors Geoff Ashcroft and Ron Green of the Gear Consulting Group will cover material including gear theory, inspection, manufacturing, hobbing, shaping, tools, production estimating, hard finishing and gear shaving. The course's tuition includes all necessary materials, an AGMA reference manual and a certificate of completion. Two other versions of the course will take place later this year in California and North Carolina. For more information, contact the Gear Consulting Group at (269) 623-4993.

**June 16-17—Gear Failure Analysis Seminar.** Big Sky Resort, Big Sky, Montana. The American Gear Manufacturers Association presents this 17th annual Gear Failure Analysis Seminar designed to help manufacturers avoid gear failure by knowing what causes to be aware of and how to fix problems. This technical education seminar looks at specific types of gear failure like macropitting, micropitting, scuffing, tooth wear and breakage, and methods to avoid these issues. Expert Robert Errichello, of the GEARTECH consulting firm, will be leading the seminar using lectures, slide presentations, hands-on workshops and Q&A sessions to educate attendees about the reasons for gear failure. Participants will also receive Errichello's Failure Analysis Textbook and Gear Failure Analysis Atlas. Another version of this seminar is scheduled to take place in September, also at Big Sky. For more information, visit [www.agma.org](http://www.agma.org).