

IMTS 2010

Poised for Manufacturing Resurgence



The 28th edition of IMTS takes place at McCormick Place in Chicago, September 13-18.

Manufacturing is a hot topic everywhere these days, what with economic stimulus plans targeting the struggling industry worldwide. Many hopes are tied to a manufacturing recovery to bring us further up out of the economic doldrums of 2007–2008. Most indicators show that manufacturing is climbing back, so what better time for the International Manufacturing Technology Show (IMTS) 2010 to witness first hand the next generation's technology.

The biennial Chicago event takes place September 13–18 at McCormick Place. This is the 28th edition of the premier manufacturing technology show in North America. More than 1,100 exhibitors will span 1.2 million net square feet of exhibit space, attracting more than 92,000 buyers and sellers from over 116 countries. Visitors will see more than 15,000 new machine tools, controls, computers, software, components, systems and processes for improving efficiency.

The gear pavilion can once again be found in the North Hall. The other pavilions should also be of great interest. The metal cutting pavilion consists of everything from machining centers and assembly automation to flexible manufacturing systems and lathes. The tooling and workholding systems pavilion features jigs, fixtures, cutting tools of all types and accessories. In the alternative manufacturing processes pavilion, visitors can find waterjet, plasma-arc and laser systems, welding equipment, heat treating and other processes. The other pavilions include abrasive machining/sawing/finishing; controls and CAD/CAM; EDM;

machine components/cleaning/environmental; and quality assurance.

Another major attraction is the Industry and Technology Conference, which focuses on discussing new industry opportunities. The sessions aim to explore innovative technologies, business development and optimization, as well as workforce efficiency and productivity. Special emphasis this year will be placed on maintaining focus on short- and long-term goals during a tough economic environment. The conference is running from Tuesday, September 14–Friday, September 17 located in the West building.

The conference program focuses on six topic tracks that include materials engineering, which covers physical properties and R&D; machining technology and trends, which covers general cutting, turning, milling, grinding, tooling/workholding; alternative manufacturing processes looks at waterjet, laser, EDM, welding, fastening/joining; metrology, covering measuring, testing, 3-D inspection and standards; plant operations, including lean manufacturing, CAD/CAM, training/workforce, government, energy efficiency and the MTConnect open standard; and rapid prototyping.

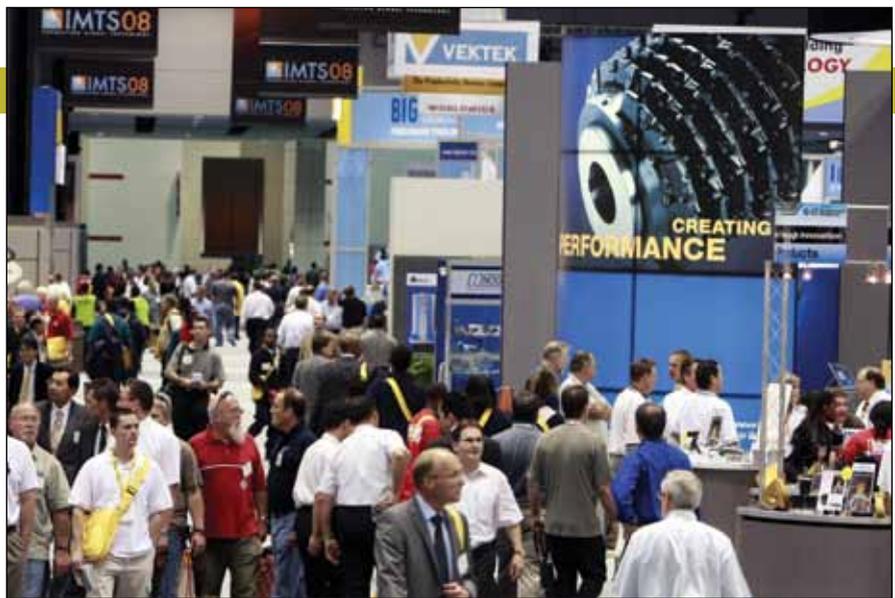
Although none of the sessions address gear generation specifically, there are many relevant topics that should be of interest. Some of these include New Technologies for Machine Tool Automation, from 11–11:55 a.m. on Friday; CAD/CMM, A New Category in the CMM Industry, from 11–11:55 a.m. on Thursday; Gaining 50 Percent Productivity with

Workholding, from 11–11:55 a.m. on Wednesday; Advanced Grinding Technology Leads to Measurable Gains, from 9–9:55 a.m. on Tuesday; Cutting Tools Engineered for Medical, from 1–1:55 p.m. on Tuesday; and there are also various lean and green topics, as well as various general manufacturing sessions.

New to IMTS this year is the Industry Inspiration Day, as part of the September 13 kick-off for the Industry **continued**



The gear generation pavilion in the North Hall is one of many attractions gear buyers will be targeting.



Along with the trade expo, other major attractions of IMTS 2010 include the Industry and Technology Conference and a full-scale exhibition of Lockheed Martin's F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter.

and Technology Conference. A roundtable panel discussion concludes a luncheon keynote program that will be held from 12–3 p.m. Keynote topics are aerospace, medical, automotive and energy.

“IMTS attendees repeatedly tell us that they come to the show to learn, to network and to find new resources and innovative manufacturing technology resources,” says John Krisko, IMTS director, exhibitions. “We are committing significant energy and resources to make the conference the premier educational offering available to the manufacturing industry.”

Representing the aerospace industry at the Industry Inspiration Day luncheon is Allan McArtor, chairman of Airbus Americas, who oversees the activities and strategy for Airbus in the United States, Canada and Latin America. Rene van de Zande, president and CEO of the Emergo Group, a consulting firm specializing in international medical device registrations, quality system compliance and medical distribution management, will cover the medical device and in vitro medical device industries. For the automotive sector, Jim Tetreault, vice president of North American manufacturing for Ford Motor Company, will lead that keynote discussion. And rounding out the panel is Denise Bode, CEO of the American Wind Energy Association, who is a nationally recognized energy policy expert.

IMTS attendees registered for a conference session will be admitted to the luncheon program. Exhibiting com-

pany representatives will be eligible to attend on an RSVP basis.

Another special feature exclusive to IMTS 2010 is an exhibition of a full-scale model of Lockheed Martin's F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter. The F-35 Lightning II is a 5th generation fighter featuring fully-fused sensor information, network-enabled operations, advanced sustainment and lower operational and support costs. Lockheed Martin is developing the F-35 with its principal industrial partners, Northrup Grumman and BAE Systems. Two separate, interchangeable F-35 engines are under development: the Pratt & Whitney F135 and the GE Rolls-Royce Fighter Engine Team F136.

The United States intends to buy 2,443 F-35s with more than 4,000 forecast to be built for U.S. and foreign customers combined. The F-35 program's overall value is estimated at \$323 billion, the largest defense program ever, according to the Association for Manufacturing Technology (AMT), IMTS show organizer.

“While the manufacturing technology featured at IMTS stands alone as a must-see, what's really exciting is seeing the end result from some of those machines,” Krisko says. “Everyone at the show will have the opportunity to learn about the plane's construction and the manufacturing technology behind it. We are thrilled to have this amazing example of an end product featured at IMTS.”

The F-35 will be on display in the

front of McCormick Place's West Building in booth W100. Photo opportunities may be available to attendees.

Make sure not to miss the next two issues of *Gear Technology*, which will feature much more IMTS coverage. In August, *GT* will feature detailed booth previews, so visitors can have a sneak peek at what gear-related products they may be interested in seeing. Also, a consolidated listing of booth numbers of most interest to gear industry visitors will help plan and sort through the often overwhelming complete listing found at the show. The September/October show issue will include more product previews and last-minute information about IMTS.

As always, stay tuned to *geartechology.com* for the latest news and information on all gear-related, as well as IMTS updates. For direct information from AMT, visit www.imts.com, or follow the show on your favorite social network, Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn (where you can also find the latest from *Gear Technology's* sister publication *Power Transmission Engineering*). ⚙️

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