

AGMA FTM: Where Great Minds and Manufacturing Mesh

By Jack McGuinn

Another year, another AGMA Fall Technical Conference.

But this is no ho-hum event. Not when every year, the conference attracts some of the greatest mechanical engineering minds on the planet, along with representatives of the world's greatest manufacturing entities. And who knows—perhaps one day there will be an extraterrestrial contingent—the science is that good. And all of it readily applicable to real-world manufacturing.

“The presentations on wind turbine design and testing, manufacturing considerations for large-girth gear systems, gear lubricants and bevel gear load capacity studies were all noted as practical topics for which the attendees can find direct use in their company's product lines,” says Charlie Fischer, AGMA vice president, Technical Division. (Twenty-four peer-reviewed papers were presented this year.)

Convened this year in Dearborn, Michigan, attendance was “definitely encouraging,” according to Fischer, with about 155 participants. Expect even greater numbers next year in Indianapolis as 2013 is a Gear Expo year—always an incentive for higher attendance.

Citing the attendee survey results, Fischer says “There were many positive remarks as to the value of the FTM this year. One such comment: ‘This is one of the most important meetings I attend each year—would not miss it.’”

Concurring with Fischer was Matt Mondek, current AGMA chairman and just the second to serve a two-year term since the length of service was extended.


“The coupling of the FTM with Gear Expo next year should result in even greater attendance, as we saw in 2011.”

Asked how he is enjoying his chairmanship, Mondek responds: “My selection and service as AGMA chairman has been a very rewarding, enlightening and enjoyable opportunity. I have been honored to represent a great association dedicated to supporting and providing valuable added services to its membership.”

As for the two-year term, “The change was made to allow the chairman a better opportunity to more thoroughly learn the association, to meet and get to know more members and have more opportunities to represent the association internationally. My tenure as chair will end next April at our annual event being held in Carlsbad, California (April 25-27, 2013). After that I will serve as Chairman Emeritus for two more years.”

Also worthy of note is the fact that the demographic seemed to skew a bit younger this year—indeed a welcome development, certainly by AGMA.

“The FTM has been a landmark event for literally generations of gear engineers, presenting practical and useful information on research and experience with power transmission systems,” says Fischer, adding, “But these days it can be considered an extension of the powerful educational programs AGMA offers. Companies realize this opportunity and many are sending their younger engineers to take advantage of the knowledge transfer and networking available.”

So now it is on to 2013—a Gear Expo year and another FTM. The Call for Papers has already gone out, and another strong showing is expected. 

Submitting 2013 Technical Papers

Prospective authors should be prepared to meet the following schedule:

Prepare a brief abstract—one page or less—of your paper and submit to AGMA headquarters by **December 20, 2012**.

January 11, 2013: Authors of selected abstracts notified and requested to prepare first draft.

April 12, 2013: First draft of selected papers due at AGMA headquarters for peer review.

June 4, 2013: Review comments returned to authors for preparation of final draft.

July 31, 2013: Final paper (with illustrations and figures) due at AGMA Headquarters.

For more information: Contact ftm@agma.org.

Gear Expo/FTM 2013

Co-located with the ASM Heat Treating Society Conference & Exposition. September 17–19, 2013
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