

Windpower 2009

RELOCATES IN LIGHT
OF RECORD GROWTH



It's not too often a trade show so far surpasses organizers' expectations for size that it must be relocated. This was just the dilemma the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) faced with the Windpower 2009 Conference and Exhibition, which was originally scheduled to take place in Minneapolis, but will now be held at McCormick Place, Chicago.

"Subsequent to our initial decision to go to Minneapolis, there was an unprecedented explosion in demand for Windpower exhibition space and

hotel rooms, which superseded even our association's aggressive planning for growth," says Randall Swisher, executive director of AWEA. "This was caused in part by the recent dramatic increase in interest in wind power by both government and business sectors. AWEA had planned for annual expansion of 20 percent to 40 percent based on growth over the past five years, but for Windpower 2008, attendance and the number of exhibiting companies were 85 percent higher than in 2007. The demand for show floor space for

2009, almost one year before the event, exceeds the entire available exhibition space in the Minneapolis Convention Center."

By August, exhibition space sold for the show already exceeded the entire scope of Windpower 2008. Attendance grew from 1,000 attendees at the 2001 event to 13,000 last year. At this size, only a handful of U.S. convention centers are large enough to host the show at all.

The event features over 776 exhibitors, 13,000 wind energy

professionals, a day of pre-conference sessions, three days of conference sessions and—of course—endless networking opportunities.

Attendees span every area of the wind industry including project developers and operators, turbine manufacturers, component and accessory equipment suppliers, construction and transportation companies, government agencies, academic institutes and non-profit organizations. Gear-related companies with booths to visit include Columbia Gear Corp., Winergy Drive Systems, Moventas, AGMA, The Gear Works-Seattle, Bonfiglioli, Brad Foote (Broadwind Energy), Centa Corp., Comer Industries, Emerson Power Transmission, Oerlikon Fairfield and Jahnelt-Kestermann Getriebewerke. Last but not least, don't forget to stop by the Gear Technology booth, number tktk.

The conference program features over 300 speakers and moderators, 150 poster presentations and 50 sessions on wind energy topics focusing on policy, business and technical subjects. The 2009 conference theme is Wind Power: Securing America's Energy Future.

Several day-long pre-conference seminars are offered in a range of subjects for more detailed technical education. As of press time, these topics had not yet been released, but last year's pre-conference seminars included the fundamentals of wind energy, what makes the development process successful, wind energy forecasting and safety.

"We are excited to be coming back to Chicago," Swisher says—Windpower 2004 was in Chicago. "The 'windy city' offers an ideal mix of hospitality and exhibition facilities in a vibrant downtown setting. We're excited to hold this event in a state that ranked in the top five for new wind project construction in 2007, and where new manufacturing jobs are being created thanks to this technology's rapid expansion."

Illinois legislation requires that 25 percent of all power for residential and small commercial customers be provided from renewable energy resources. Illinois investment in new wind projects is expected to hit \$8 billion by 2025, according to the AWEA.

Windpower 2009 Conference and Exhibition takes place May 4–7 2009 at McCormick Place, Chicago. For more information on exhibit space, email exhibition@awea.org or visit www.windpowerexpo.com.

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February 5-6—Root Cause Analysis Seminar. Holiday Inn Select Airport South, College Park, GA. Attendees will learn to perform root cause analysis using techniques including change, failure mode and effects, hazard-barrier-effects, fishbone diagram/cause & effects and timeline analysis. The seminar is designed for those responsible for identifying and reporting off-normal conditions, evaluating the conditions and their effects, identifying causal factors, recommending various types of corrective actions, tracking the implementation of corrective actions and managing the overall system. Instructor Ben Marguglio teaches how to use data codification, data grouping, data analysis and extent of condition as well as how to design, apply and manage problem reporting and corrective action systems. For more information, contact BW (Ben) Marguglio, (845) 265-0123, ben@hightechnologyseminars.com, or visit www.hightechnologyseminars.com.

February 19-20—Lean IT Workshop with Jean Cunningham. Holiday Inn-Elk Grove, 1000 Busse Road, Elk Grove Village, IL. If an IT system has a choke hold on the company's lean journey simply because the internal systems are hampered by outdated processes linked to the old batch and queue, this workshop with 2004 Shingo Prize for Research recipient Jean Cunningham will help jump-start the transition to lean. From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday and 8 a.m. to noon on Friday, Cunningham shares her own experiences as CFO and leader of IT for Lantech and Marshfield Door Systems in a presentation designed to benefit CIOs and CFOs, information application analysts, accounting managers, cost accountants, purchasing management planners and lean leaders in manufacturing companies. Cost is \$845 for AME members and \$995 for non-members. Advance registration

recommended. Visit www.ame.org for more information on speakers, event logistics/cancellation policy.

March 2-7—Taipei International Machine Tool Show TWTC and Nangang Exhibition Halls, Taipei, Taiwan. Known by the acronym TIMTOS, this machine tool show has expanded into the newly constructed Nangang Exhibition complex to offer twice as much space as before. Last year TIMTOS attendance grew by 17.75 percent from the previous show in 2005, attracting 4,180 international visitors from 88 countries. This year organizers expect attendance to exceed 4,500 international visitors and 30,000 local players in the machine tool industry. Exhibitors include Mazak, DMG, Haas, Sodick, Siemens, Mitsubishi, Heidenhain and Bosch Rexroth. Taiwan has maintained double-digit growth in machine tool production and is the fourth largest exporting country after Germany, Japan and Italy. For more information, visit www.timtos.com.tw.

March 3-4—PIM2009. Royal Plaza Hotel, Lake Buena Vista, Orlando, FL. PIM2009 is the international conference on powder injection molding held by the Metal Powder Industries Federation (MPIF) and its affiliate APMI International. The conference follows a one-day PIM tutorial on March 2 and precedes a two-day workshop on medical applications of powder injection molding. The workshop will look at bio-micro manufacturing, promote R&D and foster networking. The conference objective is to continue exploring major technological advances, help transfer technology and pursue new developments in PIM of metals, ceramics and carbides. For more information, visit www.mpif.org.

May 4-8—PMI Spring Short Course. Porous Materials, Inc. headquarters, Ithaca, NY. Porous Materials, Inc. holds a short course

twice a year gathering their experts in pore structure and characterization in addition to technical specialists from industries, research labs and universities. The course includes three days of intensive lectures, discussion and hands-on practice. Curriculum addresses theory and application of methods for determining pore structure and distribution in a wide variety of materials. Attendees will learn about the latest in porosity characterization techniques. It includes one-on-one discussions with staff, and each day ends dining out in Ithaca. For more information contact Al Teal at (607) 257-5544, (607) 257-5639 or visit www.pmiapp.com/shortcourse.

March 16—Kanban/Pull System/Inventory Reduction. Decatur Conference Center & Hotel, US Highway 36, Decatur, IL. A key component of most lean manufacturing strategies, this one-day Kanban workshop incorporates basic skills necessary to participate in Kanban implementation. Designed for individuals who may use or facilitate the use of Kanbans to move material and reduce waste. Kanban automates manufactured and purchased parts inventory cycles to reduce unwanted inventory and create waste-free processes. This event is sponsored by the Illinois Manufacturers' Association and the Manufacturers' Institute for Training, and it is also being held March 17 in Naperville, IL. For more information, contact Judy Parker at (800) 875-4462 x 3036, jparker@ima-net.org or www.ima-net.org/MIT/iso.cfm.