

WAX MATTERS

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European Ceramic Core Workshop

Held on Tuesday 25th & Wednesday 26th September 2007 at the Blayson Conference Centre, Cambridge, Blayson, Carpenter Certech, LBBC Technologies and Blade Tooling hosted a workshop on best practice for the use of ceramic cores. Production tours of wax manufacture at Blayson and core manufacture at Certech's Corby facility were included.



This was the second event on the subject and on this occasion was aimed at European investment casting foundries. Twenty two delegates from as far as Sweden, Israel and Turkey attended the workshop which also featured a guided tour of Cambridge and a dinner at St Catharine's College.

The focus was on the primary operations of the investment casting process involving the practical issues with regard to ceramic core materials and production, wax injection around them and the removal of the core. A paper on tool design and building by Neil France of Blade Tooling was presented and proved to be of great interest.

With the growth in their application for investment castings, the increasing complexity of internal passages and the ability to cast net shape monolithic components, the successful injection of the ceramic core in the wax pattern and removal of the ceramic core from the casting are paramount to the viability of the cast component. Correct tool design and build from the outset is critical.

The concept was that suppliers have a responsibility to pass on their knowledge and experience to both current and future generations of engineers, and most importantly to listen and learn from their customers. The workshop proved an ideal vehicle for this and some excellent interaction took place.

Reaction from the delegates indicates that the workshop was judged a great success and that a repeat event in the future would be welcomed.

Tokyo Seminar

The Japan Foundry Society Investment Casting Seminar 2007 was held 12-14 September at Gakushi-kaikan, Tokyo. The Seminar was supported by over 120 delegates and the opening

speech was given by Kikuo Kato, Chairman of JFS Inc.



This was followed by a Market Review of different World areas given by industry experts covering Europe and North America (Ron Williams), India, China, Korea, Taiwan and Japan.

The remainder of lectures covered a wide range of technical subjects and details are available on the JFS website www.foundry.jp. These lectures were presented by several international lecturers.

A reception was held during the evening of 12 September which included a traditional Japanese Magic Show. In addition several Plant tours for delegates were arranged for 14 September.

Blayson Agents Get Together



In June this year representatives of Blayson's global network of agents visited the company's

headquarters for the latest in their regular series of meetings. These events are seen as central to ensuring that the whole Blayson team is aware of developments in the company, particularly with regard to new products. It also provides a forum for wide ranging discussions on the worldwide industry served by Blayson.

2008 Dallas World Conference



USA's Investment Casting Institute is hosting the 12th World Conference on Investment Casting & Equipment Expo at the Adams Mark Hotel Dallas Texas from October 19th to the 22nd 2008.

The world conference is held every four years and is sponsored jointly by the Investment Casting Institute, the British Investment Casting Trade Association/Cast Metals Federation, and the European Investment Casting Federation.

Following the very successful conference in Edinburgh this time there will be a much stronger machinery and equipment element present. As usual there will be a full programme of technical papers and Ron Williams will chair the 2008 market review and give an overview of the global industry. Individual countries will be covered in detail by experts from the key regions of North

America, Europe, Japan, India, and of course China.

The review of world investment casting markets has become a regular feature of investment casting conferences but remains of singular importance to all involved in the industry. By reviewing the current state of global investment casting, companies large and small can gain an understanding of the changes and trends occurring and importantly have a view of how investment casting is likely to fare in the future.

Wax Developments

The continuing programme of R&D into new wax material and testing regimes is yielding some important developments.

The drive to find process related test methods that give practical guidance to foundries to facilitate best injection performance is looking very promising. The use of a pressure sensor in a specially made die is proving invaluable. The use of this together with a 'spiral die' is giving new insights into what happens inside the die when wax is injected.

New wax materials are close to completing initial development stages with the intention to release them for industrial scale production trials in the very near future.

Technical Director Dave Bond will be pleased to talk to interested companies about these products and how Blayson can help improve the manufacture of wax patterns. Contact davebond@blayson.com