

Making the Grade in Montreal

Editor's Note: Ken I'Anson was the keynote speaker at the Electronics Inc. shot peening workshop this spring in Montreal. His presentation was such a positive message on the importance of shot peening education that we wanted to share it with you.

Montreal Workshop – Keynote Address by Ken I'Anson
Why Are We Here?

Electronics Inc. and a supporting cast of instructors and trade show exhibitors have provided informational workshops around the globe. Only a few cities, such as Singapore, Atlanta, Phoenix and now Montreal, have brought us back for a second workshop. Why Montreal? Montreal is the undisputed hub of aerospace shot peening in Canada.

If you didn't know, the Montreal area hosts shot peening practitioners such as General Electric Aircraft Engines, Pratt & Whitney, Rolls-Royce, Bombardier, Air Canada, Sonaca NMF and Messier-Dowty. There must be close to 100 additional sub-tier suppliers that support these companies. Beyond the manufacturers, the Montreal area has a great amount of R&D activity and academic opportunities provided by McGill University, University of Montreal and NRC (National Research Canada). One of NRC's spin off companies, Tecnar, has developed a particle velocity sensor that measures the velocity of shot particles, on-line. This brings our industry one step closer to reducing our reliance on Almen strips.

Montreal is a "world class city". This beautiful, culturally diverse city hosts the world comedy festival, Just For Laughs (Just pour Rire), and a jazz festival. For car fans, Montreal has a Formula One race and an Indy Race on one of the city's islands.

This brings me to the second reason to ask, "Why are we here?" If you look at the shot peening industry from its beginnings in 1920 or 1930, many of the most significant changes or advancements have been made in the last 15 or 20 years. I believe that these workshops are contributing to many of the advancements. Our industry is networking and communicating like never before and networking is a major attribute of the workshops.

I also believe the shot peening workforce is better trained. Through attendance and participation at these workshops, our operators have an broader understanding of the process and specifications. In my opinion, since the workforce is networking and better trained, aircraft engineers have more confidence in the process. The engineering community can tighten the shot peening specifications and expect reliable and repeatable results.

In my 28 years in the shot peening industry, I've witnessed shot peening coverage requirements dropping to 100% and 200%. I believe this is a direct result of the use of digital Almen gages, specially-graded Almen strips, accredited training and saturation curve software.

The shot peening industry is now considered a repeatable, reliable manufacturing process and due to this fact, NADCAP has included shot peening in the processes that are audited and accredited.

Last point to the question, why are we here? We're here

to learn universal best practices. We're here to meet peers that we can network with in the future. We're here to discuss issues and problems with industry specialists and question the trade show exhibitors about their products and services that can benefit us in the future.

We're here to learn, be tested and put our newfound knowledge to practice.

I'd like to encourage each and every student to meet your fellow students. Discuss your issues with your peers. Build your personal network. Test your knowledge by getting tested and certified as a Level I, II or III shot peener. Stay active online with the www.shotpeener.com website.

Thank you for attending this workshop, I wish you the best of luck in this most interesting industry. ●



Ken I'Anson has been a major contributor to the EI shot peening workshops since their inception in 1991. He has contributed articles and papers that are used in the workshop training manual and has attended the workshops, as an exhibitor and speaker, since the first workshop. He also is the only speaker and exhibitor to take and pass the Level I, II and III exams.

Ken I'Anson is a Sales Engineer for Progressive Technologies. He has worked in the shot peening industry from the equipment side for 28 years. Ken has held positions over the years with Wheelabrator Corporation, Blast Cleaning Products (BCP), Blastworks Inc., and U.S. Filter. His experience is unique in that it has covered both centrifugal wheel peening and compressed air nozzle peening. Ken's present focus is on airframe and land-based turbine shot peening applications. He lives in Grimsby, Ontario with his wife and daughter. ●

Mastering Shot Peening Singapore Workshop

Date: March 25-26, 2008

Location: Pan Pacific Hotel

FAA accredited program

Visit www.electronics-inc.com for more information
or call 1-574-256-5001