Reflecting Back on ICSP-11, Looking Forward to ICSP-12

I have been fortunate to be the Conference Chairman for the International Conferences on Shot Peening (ICSP) in 1996 and 2011. In 1996, we held ICSP-6 in San Francisco. A beautiful city like San Francisco is an exciting place but for ICSP-11 the committee selected South Bend, a small midwestern town, because it was a less expensive venue during the ongoing global recession and its easy access for international travelers.

There were additional advantages to holding the conference in my "hometown"—South Bend is connected to Mishawaka, Indiana, where I live and the location of Electronics Inc. I was able to host the members of the International Scientific Committee at a small reception in my home. Access to the Electronics Inc. staff was also a tremendous advantage during the two years the committee spent planning the event. ICSP-11 gave Electronics Inc. a unique opportunity to hold a welcome reception and a tour of EI. I think this broadened everyone's perspective of the shot peening industry and increased their pride in their jobs.

There were many innovative concepts presented at the ICSP-11 conference. We tend to think of peening in terms of rotating wheels or compressed air for media acceleration but newer concepts are finding application in this industry. There were several presentations on ultrasonic energy for peening. One application describe a device called a Sonotrod which vibrates at a high frequency (20KHz) to excite balls in a special chamber to effectively peen gears or other small components. This technology was also applied to a hand-held apparatus with needles which can be used for treatment of welds that may provide up to a ten-fold extension in the number of fatigue cycles before crack initiation. Another version of this tool can be used for peen forming.

Conventional peening for fatigue life improvement has been used for a long time in medical implants but a recent development in fine particle peening of implants revealed the capability of both increasing the tissue adhesion and, even more importantly, inhibiting bacterial growth due to the nanoscale changes in the surface.

The commercial exhibition area also contributed to the advancement of peening science. A new highly controlled rotary flap peening apparatus was demonstrated that offered high precision and repeatability. There was also a new device that can optically measure peening coverage. Another innovation was the use of sub-size strips for measuring peening intensity in small holes and slots as an alternative for shaded Almen strips. Flow control of ceramic or glass bead was demonstrated with a new device with automatic dosing and measuring of the media flow rate.

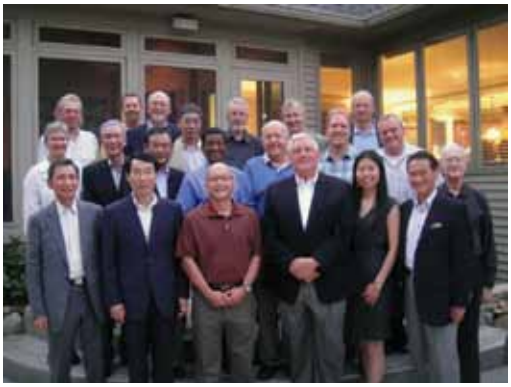
Looking Forward to ICSP-12

Where do we go from here? Goslar, Germany in 2014. Congratulations to Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Lothar Wagner (Clausthal University of Technology) for his selection as next chairman of the International Scientific Committee and conference host. He will be assisted by Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Volker Schulze (Universität Karlsruhe).

The former Imperial Town of Goslar has an 1000+ year history. Probably the discovery of silver and copper ore deposits induced the Saxon and Salic emperors to establish their largest and most secure palatinate here in the 11th century. For centuries it was the favored seat of government in northern Germany and at the same time a center of Christianity. Goslar was referred to as the "Rome of the North."

The Hanover international airport is only 60 miles from Goslar and the hotel "Der Achtermann" is well prepared to host the participants. Since Goslar is only about 20 minutes from Clausthal University, we know Dr. Wagner will enjoy the benefits of hosting the conference close to his hometown.

We all know that the rate of technologic innovations is ever increasing and we can only imagine what we will see in the next three years.



The Local Organzing Committee and the International Scientific Committee for Shot Peening at a party in my home.

South Bend's Mayor, Steve Luecke, gave a welcoming speech at the ICSP-11 dinner.