

Preface

Welcome to the International Thermal Spray Conference and Exposition 2008!

DVS – German Welding Society, ASM Thermal Spray Society and IIW International Institute of Welding proudly present the ITSC 2008 in Maastricht, The Netherlands. As our local Dutch partner for this event, we introduce NIL – Netherlands Institute of Welding and VTS – Vereniging voor Thermische Spuittechnieken.

Over the past years, ITSC has become the most valuable worldwide exchange market for trends in thermal spraying. At this year's event, we feature the latest developments in thermal spray applications, technology and science. We address key developments in several market focused symposia.

To strengthen the Thermal Spray Technology in its existing and future markets, ITSC 2008 broadens its use-oriented "Special Highlights" for growing and upcoming applications:

- Automotive
- Biomedical Coatings
- Gasturbines
- Printing and Paper
- Solid Oxide Fuel Cell

With the philosophy "one day one market" ITSC 2008 offers application oriented information straight forward towards the practical needs with an optimum of time invest for different industries.

There are 41 sessions with over 220 oral- and 140 poster presentations from 32 countries at ITSC 2008 that provide the most important source of thermal spray technical information available. Additionally, more than 40 exhibitors will provide the conference attendees with optimum information about their current and ongoing developments.

ITSC becomes more and more an important stage for emerging professionals in thermal spraying. In the "Junior Session" promising young talents, both from industry and universities, share their work. This session is accompanied by a special poster exposition. All visitors to this session can elect their favorite contribution, and the winner will be announced on the awards banquet.

DVS – The German Welding Society – in cooperation with the GTS – Association of Thermal Spraying – is supporting thermal spraying constantly and substantially in Germany and worldwide. Support is given in the fields of research, techniques, guidelines, papers, standards, regulation and certification, and in the field of personal training. Products and services are created and offered. It is our clear understanding – and we follow this strategy strictly – that all aspects of thermal spraying – research, techniques, training and certification – should be strongly linked. Once again ITSC in Europe is one of the best opportunities to link people and to strengthen our techniques.

With ITSC a substantial worldwide personal and technical network is created.

Whether you are an expert, an experienced engineer or scientist, or completely new to thermal spray, ITSC 2008 promises you the latest state of the art in thermal spray technology, valuable resources, and networking opportunities. The knowledge and experiences shared between you, the authors, instructors, students and exhibitors at this outstanding three-day-event is why thermal spray will continue to flourish in the next decades, with ever-increasing new market segments and new commercial opportunities.

ITSC 2008 is an opportunity not to be missed!

A very special thank you not only to the numerous authors of lectures and poster contributions, but also to the experts who are making themselves available for the Program Committee, Session Chairs, and the employees of all societies involved. It has been due to their work that a contribution has been made for the successful staging of the conference. Thanks to them for this most important parts of the conference preparations.

DVS is proud to be an active member of the international family of Thermal Spraying and we wish all authors, all exhibitors and all visitors, all our partners and friends – a great time here in Maastricht and a big success.

Last but not least, ITSC once again is stepping forward to the North American region in 2009: Bookmark your calendar now for ITSC in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA in May 2009.



Klaus Middeldorf
Chief Executive Officer
DVS – German Welding Society