Thermal Spray Society announces Hall of Fame recipients: Robert Unger and Kesong Zhou

Mr. Robert H. Unger and Professor Kesong Zhou have been selected to become members of the 2021 Thermal Spray Hall of Fame by the ASM Thermal Spray Society Board of Directors.

Mr. Robert H. Unger

Bob Unger was born in 1953 in Hanover, New Hampshire. He grew up in Concord, NH, before attending Dartmouth College, where he played football for the Ivy League champions, thee the hammer in track and earned an A.B. Degree in Biology.

He began his career in thermal spray as vice president of sales for TAFA in 1983. He was fortunate to be mentored by Merle Thorpe, a thermal spray pioneer and an inaugural ASM TSS HoF recipient. Bob was instrumental in TAFA’s growth. His successes included establishing arc spray as the process of choice for dimensional restoration of aircraft engines, boiler tube protection and countless other applications. He led the development and promotion of numerous new spray materials for these applications. He also helped establish liquid fuel HVOF as a key thermal spray process for valves, rolls and other wear and corrosion applications.

In 2004, he left TAFA and joined Polymet Corporation in Cincinnati as sales manager. He continued to promote the arc spray process and develop new spray materials for Polymet, a welding and thermal spray wire manufacturer. He has been instrumental in the development and marketing of new amorphous alloys for wear protection by arc spray.

Bob has served on the ASM TSS Board of Directors, as well as chairing and serving on numerous TSS committees. He has also served as his company’s representative to the International Thermal Spray Association since 1983. He has authored numerous papers and articles for the ITSC and industry publications, particularly in the areas of corrosion protection and boiler tube protection. He authored the Thermal Spray Coatings Chapter of the ASM Metals Handbook: Corrosion.

Bob continues to reside in Cincinnati, where he works as Thermal Spray Sales Manager, as well as remaining active in ASM TSS and the ITSA.

Award Citation: For enduring commitment and sustained service to the thermal spray community together with critical technical contributions fostering the development and acceptance of twin-wire arc and liquid-fuel HVOF thermal spray processes.
Mr. Ke-Song Zhou is the professor of Institute of New Materials, Guangdong Academy of Sciences and academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering.

Prof. Zhou graduated from Tsinghua University in 1965. He worked at Guangzhou research Institute of Non-ferrous Metals since 1971 and was formerly appointed as the president from 1992 to 2002. He was a Visiting Scholar from 1980 to 1982 at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

His research interests include the design of novel thermal spray process system, coating deposition behaviors and coating microstructure design of VPS, PS-PVD, APS and HVO/AF coatings. He also focuses his research on the applications of wear resistant coatings, corrosion-resistant coatings, oxidation resistant coatings, seal coatings and TBCs in the fields including aviation, nuclear fusion, petrochemical engineering, advanced equipment manufacturing and iron and steel industry.

Prof. Zhou has published over 200 academic papers and 18 national patents and has received several prestigious awards including China National S&T Progress Award and China Provincial S&T Progress Awards. In 2009, Prof. Zhou was selected as academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering.

**Award Citation:** Prof. ZHOU has promoted the development and dissemination of thermal spray technology and its industrial applications within China and around the world.