September 2014

The 2014 President’s Report

Dear Friends from the TS community,

This is my second (and already last) President’s Report. Indeed, on September 18th 2014, I officially handed over the reins to Dr. Christian Moreau (as TSS President) and Mr. Doug Puerta (as TSS Vice-President). 2014 has been another very busy, challenging and successful year for ASM’s Thermal Spray Society. Once again, we are financially sound and our volunteers, together with the ASM staff, have been up to the challenge.

Before getting to the details, I would like to reiterate the fact that it has been a true pleasure and an honour to serve you and the TS community. I have learned a lot, met fantastic individuals and worked with outstanding people.

I would like to thank all the volunteers & ASM staff members without whom a professional society such as TSS could not exist. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the TSS Board members and committee chairs for their sustained leadership and unswerving support. Last but not the least, special thanks to Mr. Francois Nadeau, TECNAR owner, for granting my time and supporting me during that great adventure.

Finally, I am very happy to confirm that the TSS is in great hands with Prof. Christian Moreau & Mr. Doug Puerta taking over the reins. I am convinced that they can count on your full & continued support.

Sincerely,

Luc
2014 at a Glance

PROGRAMMING

In 2012 (Houston) and 2013 (Busan), the TSS was the ITSC’s lead organizer. However, in 2014 the ITSC took place in Barcelona-Spain and was organized by the DVS, as per our rotation agreement. So a little “ITSC break” for our Programming Committee and all the volunteers!

This being said, the same volunteers worked hard to organize two world-class topical events:

1. **North American Cold Spray Conference (NACSC 2014)** successfully held in Bromont, Qc, Canada September 16\(^{th}\) & 17\(^{th}\) 2014. The conference featured:
   - 25x high-level presentations
   - More than 100 attendees
   - 6x table-top exhibits
   - A round table discussion (summary report will be made available to participants)
   - A golf outing activity the day prior to the conference opening
   - All that in the gorgeous Quebec’s Eastern Townships area

2. **Aerospace Coatings Conference**, to be held in Hartford, CT (October 8\(^{th}\) & 9\(^{th}\) 2014). Since the present report was prepared prior to the event, no statistics are available.

Of course, the Programming Committee also started to work on the organization of **ITSC 2015**, which will be held in Long Beach, CA (May 11\(^{th}\) to 14\(^{th}\)). Below are just a few of the many reasons why you should attend that event:

- First co-location with both Aeromat & IMS (International Metallographic Society)
- One registration fee gives access to presentations from all three conferences
- Largest exhibit floor ever
- Already 350+ abstracts received
- 3x main symposia
  - Fundamentals and R&D (Chaired by Dr. Jim Ruud from GE Global Research)
  - Applications & Case Studies (Chaired by Dr. Mitch Dorfman from Oerlikon-Metco)
  - Aerospace Coatings, joint symposium with Aeromat (Chaired by Dr. Rogerio Lima from NRC & Mr. Bryan Boyette from the US Navy)
- 4x high-level Plenary talks taking place on the exhibit floor
- The now traditional Oerlikon-Metco’s Young Professional Competition
- Gorgeous location & venue
- And much more!!!

PUBLICATIONS

The **Thermal Spray Advisory Committee** has released the second version of the **TS White Paper**. If you remember, the objective was to come up with a more international version as well as some addendums. Thanks to the participation of several TS experts, I believe that you will find the current version (available on the TSS Website) more substantial, useful and international. Many people contributed to that effort, but some special thanks are due to Dr. Mitch Dorfman, Prof. Armelle Vardelle and Prof. Christian Moreau.
Since my last TSS President’s Report, our very active JTST team has, in addition to the regular JTST issues:

- Published an ITSC 2013 special issue (280 pages)
- Published a special issue on Nanocomposite Coatings (200 pages)

Three special issues are planned for 2015, namely:

- ITSC 2014 special issue
- Suspension and Solution Thermal Spray
- ATSC 2014 (Asian Thermal Spray Conference) special issue

In 2014, our Journal’s impact factor (IF) remained at 1.5. An analysis us underway to identify the best actions to further stimulate the growth of the IF.

Also, I am proud to report that through the partnership with Springer, JTST now has an exposure to more than 9000 institutions (versus 7000 in 2012).

Once again this year, our journal is a key contributor to the TSS positive financials, with a direct contribution (DC) of 113k$.

Finally, the JTST committee has worked on other topics such as the ones (but not limited to) shown below:

1. Plagiarism policy (formal policy established and enforced) and use of and ithenticate software;
2. Working group to solicit more papers from industry;
3. Expanding the scope of the journal, for instance including papers that incorporate information on other surface technologies, basic science or applied technology papers;
4. Broadening awareness of JTST

**EDUCATION and TRAINING**

Our Training Committee, in conjunction with the ASM staff, has further developed its Thermal Spray Academy Curriculum featuring three distinct tracks, namely:

- Science/Engineering/Research
- Management/QC
- Operator/Technicians

Each track is comprised of base courses as well as some elective ones.

See next page for more details.

Also note that in 2014, the following short course has been successfully offered for the first time: Thermal Spray Safety Management (offered summer of 2014 at the Dome by Mr. Greg Wuest from Oerlikon-Metco)
TSS Training and Certificate Program

Advance your career through this robust curriculum in thermal spray training.

Learn introductory and advanced technical information, safety guidelines, as well as the best processes and procedures for this valuable surface application. Taught by respected industry experts, the program offers three course tracks, allowing you to tailor the program to your needs.

- Science/Engineering/Research Track
- Management/QC Track
- Operator/Technician Track

Elective specializations in aerospace, automotive, tungsten-carbide overlays, oil and gas, advanced diagnostics and robotics are also available.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE TSS TRAINING AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
Visit www.asminternational.org/tss
MEMBERSHIP, MARKETING and OUTREACH (MM&O) COMMITTEE

Over the last months, our MM&O committee had to work with limited resources but still managed to accomplish a lot. The members worked on the following:

- Finalize & use the TSS “sell-sheet” at various events
- Develop a membership retention strategy (underway)
- Leverage the White Paper and New Handbook to promote TS at non-TSS conferences and also with the other affiliate societies
- Explore the possibility to publish chapters of the handbook in other reputed magazines
- Promotion of short courses

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS COMMITTEE IS IN URGENT NEED OF NEW VOLUNTEERS

ACCEPTED PRACTICES COMMITTEE

Short after accepting reappointment last fall, the Chair of that committee had to resign for professional reasons. This, combined with the difficulty of hiring a new Chair, explains why the activities of that committee were somewhat on the ice for several months. During Q1-2014, I was able to hire a new Chair and the AP committee slowly restarted. Unfortunately, the new Chair also had to resign few weeks ago for professional reasons.

So as you can imagine, the AP committee’s projects did not progress as much as expected. Still, the TSS Board did approve the new name & purpose (wider scope) for that committee.

Clearly, one of the first actions for incoming President Moreau will be to hire a new (third in 12 months) Chair for the AP committee and to restart once again the activities.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS COMMITTEE IS IN URGENT NEED OF NEW VOLUNTEERS

SAFETY COMMITTEE

In 2014, Mr. Greg Wuest, Chair of the SC, gave for the first time the short course entitled *Thermal Spray Safety Management*. The course was offered at the Dome this summer and the feedback from attendees was highly positive.

The SC is currently working on:

- Promoting safety through the new TSS website. Various strategies are looked at, such as safety alerts, regulations updates, etc…;
- More direct collaboration with the Training committee;
- Engaging the student board members

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS COMMITTEE IS IN URGENT NEED OF NEW VOLUNTEERS

AWARDS and HALL OF FAME COMMITTEES

Thanks to our Awards & Hall of Fame committees, several of our thermal spray colleagues have received well-deserved recognitions in 2014. Let’s mention:

- 1x Hall of Fame Awards recipients (Dr. Mitch Dorfman from Oerlikon-Metco). New nominations are in the works for 2015;
- The 2014 TSS President’s Award for Meritorious Service (Mr. Charlie Kay from ASB Industries);
- 3x of our TSS colleagues received the 2014 ASM Fellow Awards (Prof. Javad Mostaghimi from University of Toronto, Prof. Hani Henein from University of Alberta and Dr. Dongming Zhu from NASA Glenn Research Center). Several nominations are in the works for 2015;

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- Oerlikon-Metco (Westbury, NY) selected for the ASM Landmark Award

Also note that the purpose of the awards committee has been slightly adjusted so to include the mission of recommending nominations to the Hall of Fame committee.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

In 2014, the Nominating Committee and the TSS Electorate have:
- Elected a new TSS President (Prof. Christian Moreau, FASM, HoF, Concordia University)
- Elected a new TSS Vice-President (Mr. Doug Puerta, IMR Test Labs)
- Elected 3x new TSS Board Members:
  - Mr. Chris Dambra (Oerlikon-Metco)
  - Mr. Daniel C. Hayden (Hayden Corporation)
  - Dr. Kumar Sridharan (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

**THERMAL SPRAY EXPOSITION COMMITTEE (TSEC)**

The TSEC was formed & approved by the TSS Board late 2013 and officially established in 2014. Its purpose is to work with the Programming Committee in order to develop strong programs which will lead to successful events for attendees, exhibitors and the TS community.

The TSEC is comprised of representatives from 11x TS-related organizations, starting with our Chair Miss Shari Fowler-Hutchinson, plus 1x ASM and 1x DVS representative.

The mission:
- The TSS Exhibitor Committee serves as a key interface between the exhibitor community, organizing committee and the ASM-TSS staff. The committee is charged with advising staff of ways to keep the trade show/events vibrant, active and beneficial to the association and its members;
- Members of the committee serve as ambassadors to the exhibitor community including exhibitor prospects. They carry the message of the value of ASM/TSS events to the business community and work with staff to ensure exhibitor satisfaction;

In 2014, the TSEC members first identified their main challenges as follows:
- Too many small/subject specific events – resulting in fewer attendees and weak ROI;
- Job shops have pulled out from exhibit – why, some report that they cannot spend the same amounts as large companies do?
- Location – how do we attract more attendees to different locations?
- Differences between DVS/ASM on services/tools/housing provided by local organizing companies – how do we standardize?

Then, for each event being organized, 1x representative from the TSEC was assigned as liaison to the organizing committee.

Even though the activities of the TSEC only started early January 2014, its members already contributed a lot by raising several key questions and proposing innovative ideas and approaches to further improve the overall experience for attendees at our various events. Many of those ideas are being tested during the two fall topical events as well as at ITSC 2015.
NEW WEBSITE & NEW LOGO

ASM, the mother Society, has recently undergone an extensive review of its brand and as a result has agreed on a new brand as shown below:

In the same spirit, ASM also developed and launched a new website platform. Following that effort, all the affiliate societies including TSS have been encouraged to reconsider their own brand and website.

Branding was identified as a strategic initiative in ASM’s annual strategic planning process. Over the years, ASM has received consistent feedback from members and the marketplace that its brand lacked clarity and was viewed as old fashioned and out-dated. Being able to better engage with students and emerging professionals was also identified as a strategic initiative for ASM and its affiliate societies. Antiquated brands don’t resonate with younger audiences.

There were basically two main parts to this project – to develop a brand platform and a refresh of the ASM logo. The brand platform’s main purpose is to crystalize and clarify who ASM is, what ASM does, and how ASM does it. This holds true for TSS and the affiliate societies too. The new logos are meant to be the visual representation of this crystalized new, modern, progressive and fresh position.

The affiliate societies, starting with TSS, can borrow equity from the relationship to each other and the significant amount of equity of the ASM brand due to ASM’s history in materials science and access to ASM’s 30,000+ members. In addition, modernizing the TSS brand will also allow it to move forward and better resonate with younger demographics. In addition, TSS will greatly benefit if its brand is more familial with the new ASM brand and the other affiliate society brands.

For TSS, the result of that effort is first our new logo shown below…

… and secondly our new website platform (http://www.asminternational.org/web/tss/) that I encourage you to visit.

Some Comments and Suggestions Moving Forward

After six intense years serving the TSS (2x as Certification Committee Chair, 2x as TSS VP and the last two as TSS President), I am taking the liberty to share with you a few concerns, comments and suggestions for the coming years.

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TSS WEBSITE

As I previously mentioned, the old TSS website has been migrated to the new ASM platform. However, the content was kept the same for the time being. I have asked several of our colleagues to look at the new website and get back to me with comments and suggestions regarding:

- Ease and speed of navigation
- Obsolete or incomplete content
- Missing content

I have recently compiled all the feedback that I received in a report that was transmitted to incoming President Moreau. My recommendation is that a “WEB-Committee” should be created as soon as possible and be tasked with:

- Using the report as the cornerstone to improve our website;
- Taking the necessary measures so that new content is provided on a regular basis (there is nothing worst than a “frozen” website), and of course that dated content (for instance, the Society News or event advertisement) is cleaned up rapidly;
- Establishing a strategy with the ASM IT team for easy publication of content

RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

As you very well know, it is always a challenge to recruit new volunteers. In my opinion, the Board members should assume a greater responsibility in that regards. Ultimately, it is a shared responsibility with the Chairs to ensure that all committees are sufficiently populated.

My recommendation: each TSS Board member should be responsible to find and hire at least one new volunteer per year.

Also note that, based on past experience, the optimal committee roster is comprised of 10 to 12 members. Such a roster provides the Chair with the flexibility to deal with members being occasionally on vacation, on travel for their organizations, or out of the office for personal reasons, thus not being able to attend some of the regular meetings. Believe me, it is extremely difficult for a committee to make regular progresses with only the Chair and 2-4 members over the phone most of the time.

MOST OF OUR COMMITTEES ARE IN URGENT NEED OF NEW VOLUNTEERS !!!

THERMAL SPRAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TSAC)

While the White Paper & Addendums project will always be a work-in-progress, it is 95% completed and as such the TSAC is ready for a new Challenge. However, I have to say that the committee itself is facing a challenge for some years now. Indeed, while the academic sector is very well represented, on the industry side we have only three members attending regularly, including myself.

So at this point, I feel I need to raise the yellow flag and ask the following fundamental question: why is it so difficult to get participation & opinions from the industry, which happens to be one of the main purposes of the TSAC?

I strongly believe that it should be a top priority to fully answer the above question in order:

- to conclude whether or not the TSAC is still pertinent, in its current form or in another one…
- to define a clear strategic planning in case the TSAC is still considered pertinent…
- …or to use the related volunteer resources for other purposes should the TSAC be declared non-pertinent anymore

WE SHALL MAKE SURE TO NEVER WASTE THE PRECIOUS VOLUNTEER TIME!

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NORTH AMERICAN COLD SPRAY CONFERENCE

It is no secret that the cold spray field (both research & applications) has been growing at a fast pace in the last 6 to 8 years. As a consequence, there are a growing number of events related to cold spray, to a point where those events have started to compete each other.

I hereby recommend that the TSS leadership should rapidly consider the following questions:

1. Is the NACSC still viable in its current format?
2. Does it make sense to have it every year, or could it be held every two years (with the exception of the years when ITSC is in North America)?
3. Would it make sense to partner or co-locate with other regular events so to mitigate the effects of the competition and to minimize risk?

CO-LOCATION OF EVENTS

I am personally a big supporter of the co-location concept whenever it is potentially a win-win for both organizations. It clearly is a golden opportunity for outreach, and past experiences (ITSC 2006 & Aeromat in Seattle, NACSC 2013 & Aeromat in 2013) all had a very positive outcome as much as I remember, both for attendees and for exhibitors. That is why we have great expectations for the 2015 co-location with both Aeromat & IMS.

I would recommend going down that route as often as possible, and not only for ITSC but also for topical events. For instance:
- the Aeromat people could have been interested to participate into our upcoming Aerospace Coatings Conference
- a topical event related to TBC and ceramic coatings in general could trigger the interest of the Canadian or American Ceramic Societies

BEFORE APPLYING FOR A TSS BOARD POSITION

Service on the TSS Board is a great experience, yet it comes with some serious responsibilities. One of the most important one is the ability to actively participate to the phone and face-to-face meetings. As much as I encourage you to serve on the Board, before you become candidate it is critical that you positively answer the following questions:

1. Do I have full management approval to serve, including attending some international events such as ITSC where most of the face-to-face meetings take place?
2. Can I commit to two or three 1h teleconferences in addition to the F2F meetings?
3. Can I assume my share of the typical Board member’s responsibilities such as mentoring Student Board members, being a committee’s Board mentor, finding new volunteers, etc…?

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I truly hope that the present report will be somewhat helpful for the next steps. Once again, thanks to everyone for their hard work and continued support. Sincerely,

Luc Pouliot, ing., M.Sc.A.
TSS President (2012-2014)