

Preface



SheMet Conference takes place for the 12th time in 2007 and, for the first time, it is hosted by the Manufacturing Technology Group of the University of Palermo.

I'm very honoured to chair this very successful Conference, which every two years represents a milestone for the Research and Development in the field of Sheet Metal Processing. Starting from its very beginning in 1992 in Birmingham, SheMet always provided an excellent opportunity to exchange knowledge and new ideas for the researchers coming from the universities

and the industries. Every two years SheMet Conference is an interdisciplinary and international forum, encouraging the close cooperation between material scientists, manufacturing and computer engineers and promoting the diffusion of research results and technology transfer in all the areas of Sheet Metal Processing and Characterization.

The relevance of scientific research in this field is demonstrated by the huge number of applications of Sheet Metal Processing and by the relevant contribution provided by Sheet Metal companies to the GPD of the most industrialized countries; on the other hand it is well documented by the number of scientific papers submitted for 2007 Conference. A so far unequalled number of 114 contributions from industries and universities all over the world demonstrates the vitality of such area, as well as the relevance and the importance of an high scientific debate on the most urgent research issues.

I am very proud to have had the possibility to include a set of keynote papers presented by qualified experts from industries and well recognized scientists working in this field. Their contributions, as well as the top international profile of the Scientific Advisory Board and the presence of Italy's leading Sheet Metal Processing companies in the Industrial Advisory Board, further demonstrate the importance of this Conference.

It's worth outlining that SheMet topics have been changing and adapting during its history, addressing the most important and urgent research issues. New aspects of Sheet Metal Processing have found large space in 2007 Conference and, as a consequence, special sessions were focused on them: incremental forming, new joining technologies, innovative high strength materials and their related forming technologies are just a few of them. Nevertheless other more conventional areas, such as bending or stamping, are not neglected: on the contrary dedicated sessions are focused on the most advanced research results in these areas.

Once more SheMet Conference reflects nowadays most important and interesting R&D issues concerning Sheet Metal Processing: SheMet proceedings provide a sort of the State-of-the-Art in this dramatically important industrial field.

I would like to use this opportunity to express my thanks and gratitude to my colleagues Prof. Livan Fratini and Prof. Rosanna Di Lorenzo, who did an excellent work in the preparation and the organization of the Conference, as well as in the selection and the management of the local organizing committee. Furthermore I wish to thank the authors of the Keynote Papers and the members of the Scientific Advisory Boards, who permitted the assessment of the high scientific level of the papers presented at the Conference. Finally I would like to thank all the authors and the presenters of the papers: their efforts and their contribution are the key for the success of the Conference.

I wish all the attendees to have a pleasant stay in Palermo. I hope that SheMet'07 will remain in their memory as an enjoyable and scientifically important experience.

Prof. F. Micari
Chairman, Organising Committee

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