

## Preface

Our harsh economic times necessitate innovation at all levels in the supply chain. The products from sheet metal forming industries feed in to all sectors from consumer electronics through medical devices to transport. The high demands such sectors place on commercial competitiveness, product quality and reducing environmental impact requires constant development of new and improved forming techniques and materials. An essential underpinning of these future developments is the close collaboration of academia and industry at all levels in the international supply chains.



The 15th biannual International Conference on Sheet Metal Forming, hosted at the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland, provides a forum for both industry and academia alike to present their latest findings in the area of sheet metal forming. There are 69 peer reviewed contributions from Industry and academia representing 23 Countries. The research presented covers a diverse field from the fundamental testing and characterisation of sheet metals to the development of new and innovative forming processes. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the authors and members of the international scientific committee for the excellent quality of the research work presented in these proceedings. We would also like to thank AutoFORM, Bombardier Aerospace and Catapillar Northern Ireland for supporting the conference and providing access to their manufacturing facilities.

The output of this conference is disseminated both in print and electronically by Trans Tech Publications. Papers are visible as Key Engineering Materials articles and can be traced through indexing systems such as SCOPUS, Ei Compendex, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, Chemical Abstracts and ISI.

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# **SheMet 2013, 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Sheet Metal**

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