

Preface

EuroSPF 2019, the 13th European Conference on Superplastic Forming, was held from 11th to 13th September in Matera (Italy) inside the Sant'Agostino hypogeum. The conference registered 70 attendees from several countries both European and extra-European.

During the Conference there were two keynote speeches made by prof. Terence G. Langdon (University of Southampton) on “The background to superplastic forming and the opportunities arising from new developments” and by Dr. Daniel G. Sanders (Boeing Research & Technology) on “Superplastic Forming and Diffusion Bonding of Titanium: State-of-the-Art Manufacturing Technologies for Diverse Aerospace Applications”.

The EuroSPF Conference series goes back to the first edition in France in 2001. Since then, the Conference took place each year, with the exception of the years when the international conference ICSAM was held, in different European countries (UK, Germany, Spain, Liechtenstein). The 13th edition was the first that took place in Italy and it was organized under the patronage of two Universities: University of Basilicata and Polytechnic University of Bari. Matera is a small town in between Potenza and Bari where the main campuses of the two Universities are located. It was chosen also because, in 2019, it was the European Capital of Culture. Further, the “Sassi” and the “Park of the Rupestrian Churches” of Matera are part of the UNESCO World Heritage.

There were several topics covered by 25 talks on the modeling of the behavior of superplastic materials and on the applications of the superplastic forming process. Main investigated materials were aluminium, titanium and magnesium alloys with few works also on steels. Applications were mainly focused on aerospace, automotive and biomedical fields.

The Conference was supported by University of Basilicata, Polytechnic University of Bari, Fontana Group, OMER S.p.A., ESI, Exemplar, FormTech GmbH and Gigant Industries.

During the Conference a Young Researcher Award sponsored by FormTech GmbH was attributed to M. Sc. Ricardo Tr  n from the Fraunhofer Institute for Machine Tools and Forming Technology IWU (Germany) for his presentation “Process development for a superplastic hot metal gas forming process of titanium hollow profiles”.

EuroSPF 2020 will be held in El Puerto de Santa Mar  a, in South-west Spain, located at the Bay of Cadiz.

*Prof. Donato Sorgente and Prof. Gianfranco Palumbo
Chairmen of the EuroSPF 2019
Matera, Italy*

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