

Guest Commentary

The primary purpose of any Society such as ASM International is to strive to help its members be well-informed in matters of interest and consequence to them. This, of course, ASM has done eminently well over decades by conducting conferences and seminars and through its highly esteemed publications. The creation of the *Journal of Thermal Spray Technology* is a noteworthy addition to ASM's roster of publications and a much-needed recognition of the burgeoning growth of thermal spray technologies.

But no worthy journal—or association—just springs into being. To be both useful and durable, each demands a good deal of thought, organization, and time.

In the case of thermal spray/ASM, our first contacts with Materials Park were in 1984. A group of us, including Jack Ritchie, Herb Herman, Frank Hermanek and Bob Mayhood, got together to discuss what the thermal spray industry needed. We were at that time split: the scientists met annually with the Vacuum Society in California (usually San Diego), and those of a more pragmatic nature met under the auspices of the American Welding Society as its C2 Committee. Our objective was to have one society that would combine the scientists, applicators, manufacturers, and users under one roof to provide a vehicle for interaction and cross-fertilization. The Thermal Spray Division of ASM, established in 1985, is the result of that goal, and it has been a resounding success.

The Division is our industry's activity. We all can make a difference. There is always a shortage of people to work on committees, take committee chairmanships, and move up the ranks to Division Chairman. Those currently active in the Thermal Spray Division have no hidden agenda; we only want to make the industry grow, succeed, and reach the objective outlined above. From a personal standpoint, I would like to encourage those who are not as active in the Division as they might be to come aboard. The networking and professional enhancement you will achieve will be far more valuable to your career than the time you spend. You will also learn from the people who "know the ropes" how to be more successful in your job. For a start, give Mark Smith, our current Chairman, or myself, a call—or drop us a note. We will be glad to advise you on the opportunities available; or, contact Ed Kubel, Manager/Technical Divisions at ASM, to express your interest.

I would like to address our vision of what the journal should be. Our objective with the *Journal of Thermal Spray Technology* is to present the premier publication in the thermal spray industry. Each issue must represent all the constituencies of our industry, among which are users, researchers, and manufacturers.

If we look at the four issues published to date, they include almost all peer-reviewed scientific articles. Having gone through the peer review process as an author, I know how painful and time consuming it can be. The precise documentation of all statements with references, procurement of high-quality artwork, etc., takes considerable time and resources. The Editorial Committee, which includes representatives from all constituencies of our industry, had these thoughts in mind when we met at Materials Week (Chicago, November 1992). The Editorial Committee's recommendation was that a mechanism be implemented to encourage papers from thermal spray practitioners. Thus, in the future, *JTST* will have papers that include case histories and some practical viewpoints of thermal spray. All papers will still be reviewed, since this is essential for any archival journal. But the point is that papers of a pragmatic nature will be reviewed in the light of being directly related to applications, rather than as scientific contributions. The Editorial Committee understands very clearly that the readership of *JTST* is a very diverse audience.

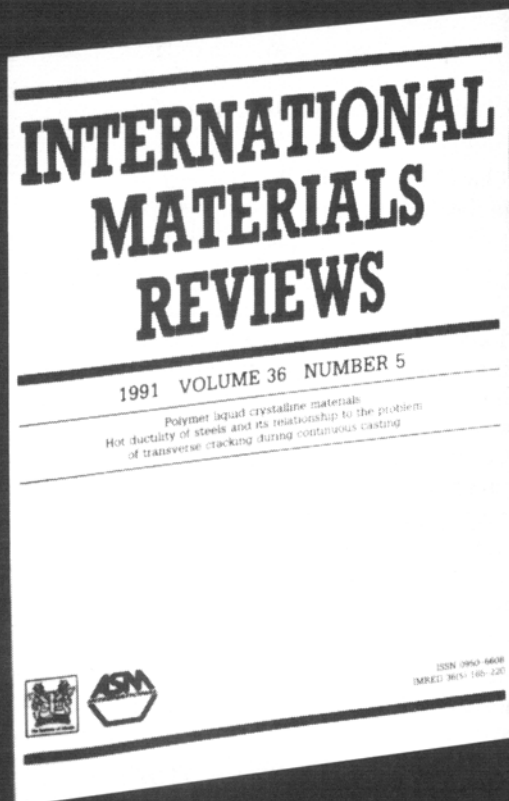
To be a comprehensive "Voice of the Industry," the *JTST* must include newsworthy items and events of the industry. I find the abstracts of pertinent patents and publications, as well as information on new products being introduced, very useful.

The Editorial Committee and Editor, Chris Berndt, welcome input from all readers on how the *JTST* can become more "user-friendly." In broadening the readership and contribution base, the *JTST* can promote our industry, which would make all our lives more secure, interesting, and fun. This, in turn, can contribute to the progress of the thermal spray industry and readers' professional status.

ASM's support of the thermal spray industry is significant. Plans to make the Thermal Spray Division even more viable are going forward rapidly. Our educational activities are growing under the guidance of Professor Ron Smith of Drexel University. ASM offers courses many times during the year and has just introduced a home study video course, which will be expanded in coming years. The Thermal Spray Division also interfaces with other societies and can provide you with networking connections as well. Our overseas activities are growing; we are now truly an international society networked with all the top thermal spray people worldwide. We have a Thermal Spray Division Council now in Europe, and if you need to know what is happening in countries from A to Z, and with whom to talk, just ask us!



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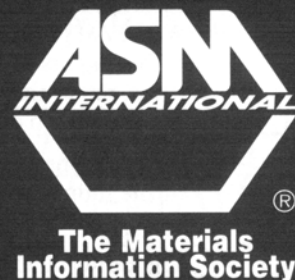
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