

Annual Report 2008



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Introduction by the President



Dear Colleagues,

Some see it as being the Shock-Doctrine (Nomi Klein, The Shock Doctrine The rise of disaster capitalism) initiated intentionally, others as the most severe recession of the last decades. Experts are searching for the root cause of our economic situation in Postwar-Keynesianism or asking

monetarist Milton Friedman and his "Chicago Boys" what to do. But apart from these economic essays and theories, to all of us the economic slow down is real and to some already severe!

We are all working in companies to feed our families and to keep or improve our standard of living. And that is what we need to do. It is not essential who is to blame, it is important to keep our jobs and companies to hang on.

Nevertheless, without the "shock" starting with the Lehman-Brothers bankruptcy, that shadowed our Euro PM 2008 in Mannheim, the public would never accept such hurting cuts. There is and was an overcapacity of car manufacturing in Europe. And to some of us in the European PM industry this was well known and not a shock at all. And wasn't the extreme oil price of last summer a significant sign? Whether the over capacity in cars is more or less than 400.000 cars per year is not ours to say. But it is substantial and we must realize that and adapt quickly to this new situation.

That does not mean we should go away from supplying to the automotive sector but we must provide better offers. That means component and business performance improvement.

An holistic view to our production, raw material, compacting, sintering etc may lead to better components and more favourable prices and I am sure that our clients in the automotive industry are more open minded now in changing approved processes than before the "shock".

PM is part of the new Globalized-World and this globalization gave tremendous business opportunities to all of us. The reverse side is that this recession is now also global and nearly all markets are down. Also intellectual property rights do not have a high value in these internet dominated times. Let us go back to the opportunities: PM is green, innovative, cost saving and in some areas

the only way, as the Tungsten, Uranium Molybdenum and MIM industries are proving.

We at EPMA have to thank you all. We gained new members in 2008 and most of the 2008 members are holding on! That is what we all need to do. Because these severe times will eventually end and those who adapt and modernize will be strong in the future.

Therefore we continue our efforts for PM like the Summer School or the Global PM Database, as in a way they are more essential than in the past.

20 years of EPMA is definitely an occasion to celebrate. In hard times people get closer. Please do so and enjoy the forthcoming Euro PM Congress in Copenhagen.

Let me wish you all success for the welfare of our industry and let me say "Glück Auf!" a blessing German wish for the coal mine workers from the pit foreman.

Yours sincerely

Ingo Cremer
President EPMA

Executive Director's Report



Overall 2008 was a positive year at the EPMA with the successful conclusion of our two major EU projects and a record high number of members. Clearly however the gathering impact of the recession became an increasing topic of concern in the final months of the year.

The Euro PM2008 Congress & Exhibition was held in Mannheim, Germany, at the end of September and with some 800 attendees and over 80 exhibitors, proved to be the second largest such Euro PM event we have organised. Part of the attraction was the development, at the request of members, of a special workshop for the ESPG group and also one for PM End Users.

One of our key activities is the promotion of PM in a variety of ways and during the year, as part of our commitment to increase our activity with PM End Users, we attended the European Automotive Components 2008 Congress where we both exhibited and, with the help of Prof. Paul Beiss, delivered a paper on the benefits of "PM as a light-weight technology". A large number of End User contacts were made and their details distributed to members. Additionally, we also attended trade events at both Equiplast in Barcelona and MACH08 in Birmingham. An updated version of the "Introduction to PM" promotional booklet was introduced in early 2008. This action was supported by press releases and a Europe-wide distribution to End Users and interested parties.

The Global PM Property Database continues to be a success story with over 7000 registered users, and work has continued on identifying fatigue data for inclusion on the site. A project with Granta Materials will see them launch a version of the database to their customers during 2009.

Our major Leonardo funded project "DesignforPM" was completed during the year and now provides a substantial source of information for End User designers and engineers. This is in the form of comprehensive e-learning courses that are available in five languages in a multi-media format.

The REACH environmental legislation is now active and a further workshop for members was both well attended and well received. We are continuing to develop both material and information for our

members on this important topic. Our role remains as a catalyst for ensuring the metal powder aspects of this detailed legislation are understood and communicated across the industry.

The fourth and final "PM Training Course" was hosted by Politecnico di Torino in Aquis Terme, Italy. We were again more than twice over-subscribed for the event which enabled the EPMA to train some 71 young graduates from 15 countries. Due to changes in EU funding rules we have not been successful in obtaining external follow-on funding for 2009. However, in its November meeting, the EPMA council decided that despite the recession it is essential that these courses should continue. As a result we are planning a slightly shorter but still comprehensive event, 'EPMA PM Summer School', towards the end of June 2009 in Kosice, Slovakia which will be underwritten from the EPMA's reserves.

We are also now looking ahead to October when we will be holding the Euro PM2009 Congress & Exhibition in Copenhagen, Denmark. Despite the uncertain economic climate we have already sold some 60 exhibition stands and a programme of some 200 technical papers will be complemented again by Special Workshops organized by both the ESPG and EuroMIM groups. We very much need the full support of members to make it a success.

In summary, 2008 was a good year for the Association with membership at record levels. However, we can see that 2009 will be a much more difficult year for both our members and ourselves and we will redouble our efforts to both support and provide value for money to members.

Jonathan Wroe
Executive Director

Highlights of 2008

- ***Euro PM2008 Congress & Exhibition in Mannheim***
- ***Successful Fourth PM Training Course***
- ***Overall membership at record levels***
- ***Increased promotional activity***

The Secretariat's resources continue to be involved in a wide range of activities, as can be seen from this Report. In addition to promotion and project management work we are active in benchmarking, statistics collection, production of brochures and guides plus support to our working and sectoral committees. Of special note is that Frances Holland reached the 30 year milestone with EPMA and previously MPR and was presented with a plaque to mark the event and the thanks of all involved with EPMA for her excellent efforts and dedication.

Our efforts to introduce scientific and technological realities into the structuring of the new REACH environmental legislation have continued. Once again EPMA's unique role as a "cross

material" industry orientated organisation is acknowledged by both members and outside agencies. We are now working to support members with the implementation of this complex legislation via seminars plus information development and provision.

The EU's FP7 programme has so far proved unrewarding due to both the increasing competition for these projects and the top down selection of favoured topics. We submitted two project applications, both of which received good results but not high enough to be funded. We were also partners in two other projects submitted by members neither of which has received final outcomes.

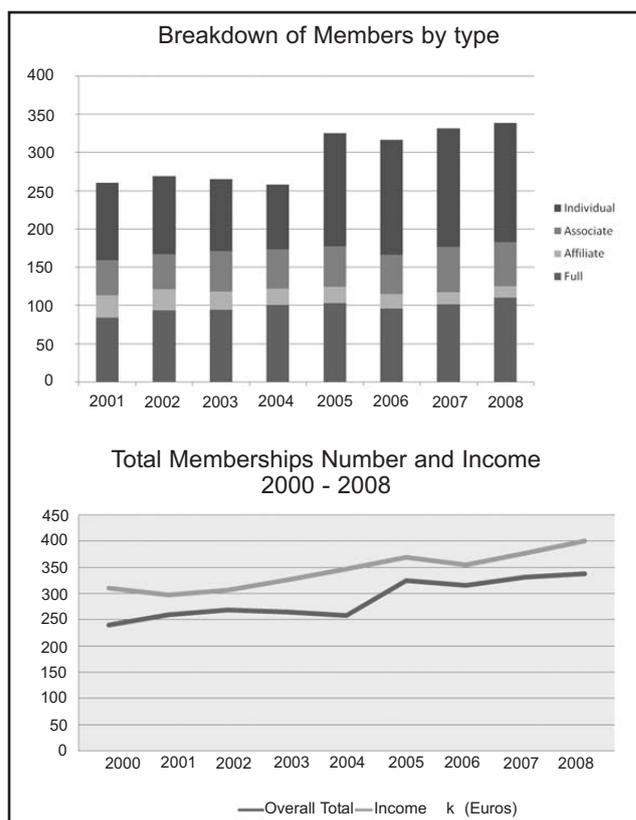
Membership

Membership Structure

Corporate membership increased to a record 183 companies during 2008 reflecting both our ongoing marketing efforts and also the previously positive state of the industry in Europe. 2009 will be a much tougher climate in which to operate but we will work to try and maintain as high a level as we can. The Membership totals by year are shown to the right:

Membership Subscription Rates

Due to the difficult market situation it was agreed at the November 2008 Council meeting that 2009 membership rates should be frozen at 2008 levels, additionally a "special contribution from reserves" was made available to existing corporate members who paid within the first two months of 2009 to offset part of the cost.



EPMA Membership

New members in 2008

EPMA was pleased to welcome the following into membership during the year:

FULL MEMBERS

Bodycote Hot Isostatic Pressing AB



Diarotech SA



Gruppo OMCD Spa



Loemi GmbH



Metallied Powder Solutions SA



NMD New Materials Development GmbH



Packaging International Technology Sweden AB



PMCTec GmbH



Polymer-Chemie GmbH



Rubini Sinterizzati srl



Sentes-BIR A.S.



Yuntinic Resources GmbH



ASSOCIATE

AcuPowder International LLC



Compax Inc



Hempel Special Metals AG



INDIVIDUAL

Gopinath, N

EU: Influencing Regulations and Legislation



The EPMA has, through a process of ongoing lobbying and positive contributions to debate, been able to position itself to participate in and influence, the EU's formulation of regulations and legislation.



EU Commission - Brussels

REACH

2008 saw a wide range of activities for members which included:

A regular REACH news flash that informs over 300 interested members per email about the latest developments of REACH and related legislation.

Several support actions were carried out to help members in their REACH communications up and down the supply chain and especially with the automotive industry. For this purpose "Letters to Suppliers" and "Letters to Customers" sections were created in our website REACH area.

The EPMA, in cooperation with Eurometaux, several REACH consortia and lawyers McDermott Will & Emery, made a REACH Model Agreement for an "EEA Only Representative" available for interested non EU members.

The third REACH Workshop was held in Brussels on 29/30th May 2008. About 50 delegates attended the workshop where 15 presentations were made and 10 REACH Consortia presented themselves. Overall the attendees rated the workshop as "very good".

In order to help the PM industry to comply with REACH and its duty of communication, the EPMA has been working together with the PM industry to develop a template for the communication on Uses, Occupational Conditions and Risk Management Measures from the Downstream User to the Registrant. As a result the template and the drafts of three different pre-defined templates will shortly be available on the EPMA website:

- Powder Mixing
- Pressing
- Sintering

Further Drafts (e.g. MIM and Post-Processing) are planned.

The EPMA continues to follow the technical working groups set up by Eurométaux especially on Exposure Scenario and Human Health but also on Environment, GHS implementation, Waste, Slag, Intermediates etc... and attend the report meetings (REACH Implementation and Interpretation, REACH Forum) and special workshops.



EPMA REACH Workshop in Brussels

Education and Training Projects

Attracting EU project funding

EPMA has performed very satisfactorily over recent years in its participation in, and initiation of, EU funded projects. These have included the DIENET, MODNET, MIMNET, Marie Curie and Leonardo programmes which have brought over €5 million of government funding into the European PM sector. Several of our projects have been used as exemplars by the Commission.

LEONARDO – DESIGN FOR PM

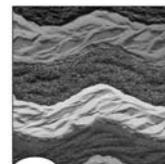
The project was successfully completed in September 2008. Thanks to the efforts of a mixed consortium of industry, training organisations and academia we now have a fully functioning e-learning site with courses on the three main areas of PM. These are designed not for experts in our field, but for End User designers and engineers who wish to understand more about how to implement the design of components made using the PM process.

The courses, which are free of charge to registered users, are in a multimedia format and are available in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish.

Thinking about using Powder Metallurgy ?
then find out more with

Design for PM

A new e-learning resource for designers and engineers



GAIN THE
BENEFITS OF
PM FOR YOUR
COMPONENTS

www.designforpm.net

MARIE CURIE – PM Training Courses

The fourth and final PM Training Course event in Acqui Terme was highly successful with 71 students taking part. Many thanks go to Politecnico di Torino, with support from the municipality of Acqui Terme, the event ran smoothly and within budget. Our targets were also met in terms of type/origin of student.

An application for a follow up series of events under the auspices of the EU funded CSA programme (for collaboration with Eastern Europe) was submitted but rejected.



Students at Acqui Terme Summer School



Acqui Terme

In September 2008 an application for a major four-year project for postgraduate students called an International Training Network (ITN) was submitted by TU Dresden. This programme would include in its activities research training, training in management skills plus summer schools for industry and academia. Unfortunately, at this date it appears that due to lack of resources the project, although meeting the requirements of the EU, will not be funded.

Given the difficulty of obtaining EU funding, it has been agreed by Council that SAS Kosice will host the next Summer School in June 2009 which is being underwritten by funds from the EPMA's reserves.

Research and Development Projects

As far as research and development work is concerned, the projects can be divided in two. Firstly large scale, mainly publically financed projects and then those projects where funding has been co-ordinated on a private basis by the Secretariat and using members' direct funding. This method has produced a number of smaller scale, but equally successful projects e.g. Nano Materials measurement and Bioavailability.

Publically Funded projects

EPMA continued as a core partner in a UK government funded programme PowdermatriX managed by CERAM Research in Stoke-on-Trent. PowdermatriX is a knowledge transfer network in particulate engineering, focused mainly on the advanced ceramic, powder metal, hardmetal and magnetics industries. Over 170 companies and 35 UK universities form the network which so far has developed over €4m in research funding. It is anticipated that the programme will be extended beyond April 2009.

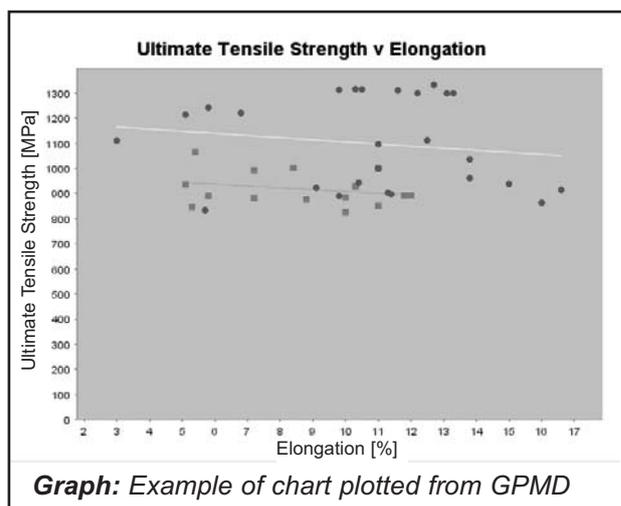
EPMA is currently a partner in a project proposal called RESTEST recently submitted under the EU Framework 7 by the Invention and Research Center in Budapest, Hungary. This €1.6m proposal relates to the inspection of green compacts and if successful will be of two years' duration



Member Funded Activities

Global PM Property Database

The database now has over 7000 registered End Users, at least 35% of which are from End User companies in a wide variety of industry sectors. In 2008 work continued on the project for fatigue data for ferrous parts. This involved a desk survey of selected grades of material being undertaken by Professor Beiss from the University of Aachen. This work is now complete and will be presented at the time of the 2009 General Assembly.



The need for the continued promotion of this uniquely detailed resource continues. In this respect we are working with Granta Design a UK based international materials software house in order for them to develop their own version of the software to be made available to their customer base in industry and academia.

Nano Project Stage 3

The objective of this project is to define 'Good Testing Practice' by improving the methodology for measuring the dimensions of sub-micrometre hard material powders. Three manufacturers, WBH, Sandvik HM, GTP (formerly Osram Sylvania), each supplied three powders in the range of 0.1-0.5 micrometre which have been characterised through interlab tests of the nine powder samples using gas adsorption, sieving and laser techniques. The exercise has been coordinated by NPL in the UK and a report will be provided for discussion at the EHMG meeting at the Plansee Seminar in May 2009.

Euro PM2008 – In the heartland of Europe

Mannheim, Germany was the host city of the Euro PM2008 International Congress & Exhibition organised and sponsored by the EPMA. A full topic event covering all aspects of PM Technology brought together delegates from some 45 countries including the Far East, Africa and the Americas. A first class technical programme of over 200 Oral and Poster presentations attracted over 800 participants, the second largest Euro PM event on record, with more than 80 exhibitors representing companies from all aspects of the PM supply chain. In addition, special seminars focused on Competitor Technologies, 'Quality in MIM' and a PM End User Workshop all added to the programme.

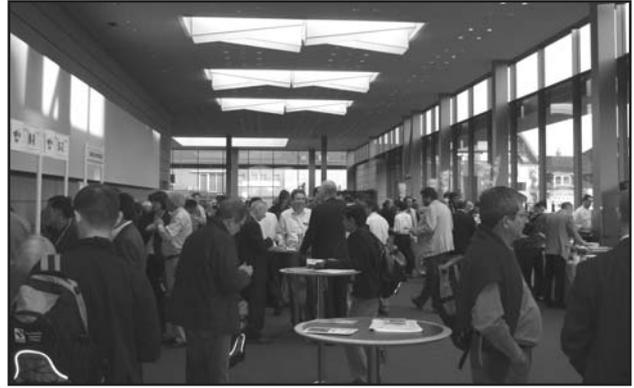


Euro PM2008 - Opening Plenary

During the Congress plenary session, EPMA President Mr Ingo Cremer presented a 'Review of the PM Industry from a European Perspective'. The keynote plenary speaker was Dr Thomas Hamm from FEV Motorenteknik GmbH who gave an excellent paper on the "Future of the Combustion Engine". The three EPMA Distinguished Service



Euro PM2008 Exhibition



Mannheim Congress Centre - Welcome Reception

Awards for 2008 were presented to Dr Winfried Huppmann formerly of Hilti AG Liechtenstein. Dr Gérard Raison from Aubert et Duval, France, and Mr Rudolf Reinstadler from Stadler SA in Spain. The event also saw the presentation of the biennial EPMA Thesis competition prizes, which were sponsored by Höganäs AB. The winner of the Masters category was Miss Nil Unal from Istanbul Technical University and the PhD/Doctorate Category was won by Dr Sastry Kandukuri from KU Leuven in Belgium.

The EPMA extends its sincere thanks to the many people who worked on the organisation of Euro PM2008. Special gratitude is due to the Congress Co-Chairmen, Mr Michael Krehl of PMG Holding and Professor Bernd Kieback of TU Dresden.

Thanks are also due to members of the Technical Programme Committee and, last but not least, the Session Chairmen who helped to make the technical sessions and workshops run with their usual efficiency. The 3 volumes of Congress Proceedings contain the text and key figures of the papers presented, both oral and poster, along with author details and references. Volumes can be purchased separately, or as a complete set. A CD-ROM version is available free with 2 or more volumes purchased. Details are available on the EPMA website in the Publications section.



Mannheim - Wasserturm

EPMA 2008 - The



Delegates at Euro PM2008 Plenary



EPMA Showcase at Euro PM2008



Dr Winnfreid Huppmann receives his Distinguished Service Award from Ingo Cremer



Frances Holland receives her Long Service Award from Jonathan Wroe



Exhibition at Euro PM2008



Technical Programme Committee Euro PM2008

e Year in Pictures



EPMA Annual Dinner in Budapest



Mr Rudolf Reinstadler receives his Distinguished Service Award at Euro PM2008 Mannheim



Dr Sastry Kandukuri receives his award for the Thesis Competition from Ingo Cremer



PM Training Course 2008



Prof Alberto Molinari at the launch of World Congress PM2010 in Washington



Dr Gerard Raisson receives his Distinguished Service Award from Ingo Cremer

EPMA Awards for Excellence in PM

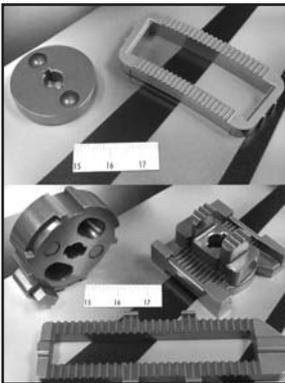


“EPMA Awards for Excellence in PM” was again focused on commercial exploitation as well as technical quality and attracted a strong entry.

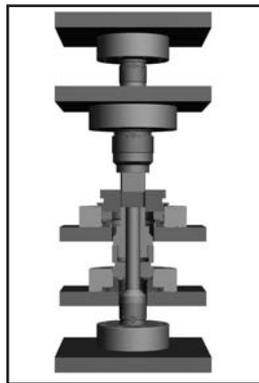
In the Components Category the Award of Merit went to Schunk Sintermetalltechnik GmbH for their entry of a Brake Band. The runner up in this category was Parmaco Metal Injection Molding AG for their MicroMIM Carrier with Sun Gear.

In the Materials/Production Equipment category the Award of Merit was given to Hoeganaes Corporation for their powder Ancorsteel 30HP and the runner up was Sintex a/s for their entry STX2000 new alloy for stainless components.

EPMA Awards Entrants for 2008



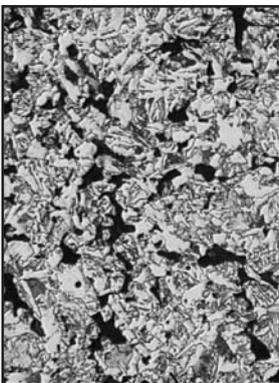
Ames - Components for Steering Column



Dorst - Intelligent Program Controller IPG



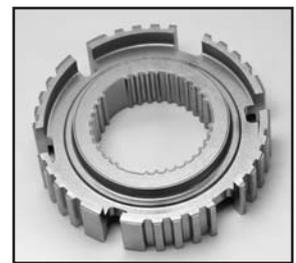
Erowa - PM Tooling System



Hoeganaes Corporation - Ancorsteel® 30 HP



OBE - Component Watch Case



Höganäs AB - Starmix Boost



Parmaco AG - Planetary-Carrier with Sun Gear



Schunk - Brake Band



Sintex A/S - STX2000 Alloy

Sectoral Groups

European Hard Materials Group (EHMG)

Chairmen: Dr Steven Moseley (Hilti), Dr Leo Prakash (UNIMERCO)

The EPMA is pursuing its efforts to increase its visibility in the Hard Materials community by promoting its activities in the web site or in the EHMG Group meetings.

During the Euro PM2008 Congress the EHMG organised a Special Thematic Workshop on Cermets, Ceramics and Superhard Cutting Tool Materials which took place on 1st October 2008.

An open EHMG meeting was also organised in the afternoon of October, 1st. It included updates of EPMA activities and of the NPL projects. Dr Andreas Lackner from CERATIZIT Austria also gave an excellent overview of the various types of hardmetal scrap and their general recycling methods.

European Structural Parts Group (ESPG)

Chairmen: Dr César Molins (AMES), Dr Peter Kjeldsteen (Sintex)

Due to a change in role Alberto Escribano (Fersint) has resigned as co-chairman of the ESPG and has been replaced by Cesar Molins of AMES who joins Peter Kjeldsteen.

The ESPG had an open meeting at Budapest on the 18th April 2008 with among others a presentation on The challenges of handling metallic powders through processes by Dr. Richard J Farnish and a interesting discussion on the state of business.

The ESPG also initiated this year Special Workshops for the PM Supply Chain during the Euro PM2008 congress with a special meeting for PM parts makers.

A Sector Watch Session: Presentations on other forming processes like investment casting, fine blanking and cold forging.

A most successful open debate between five parts makers senior managers (and the audience).

European MIM Group (EuroMIM)

Chairmen: Dr Frank Petzoldt (Fraunhofer IFAM), Dr Bruno Vicenzi (MIMItalia)

The EuroMIM had an Open meeting in Mannheim which was attended by 60 people. The total membership of EuroMIM now exceeds fifty organisations. There are several important areas that have been worked on during the period including:

A new draft ISO standard was discussed and is to be voted on in March 2009. It is hoped it will be completed by the end of 2010.

The extended 2008 benchmarking exercise, which was supported by twelve companies, the highest number so far.

We attended the Equiplast08 and Mach08 events during the year as part of the four year promotion programme.

Work has continued on revamping the Introduction to Metal Injection Moulding brochure and this will be reissued in mid 2009.

PMRADNET

The development of this group continues with two well supported meetings. The submissions under the second FP7 call were unfortunately not successful as reported elsewhere. The next meeting will take place in March 2009. Partners continue to work on a bilateral basis on student exchanges, joint projects and use of equipment.



Debate at ESPG meeting in Mannheim

Working Groups

Research Education Training (RET)

Chairmen: Prof José Torralba (UC3M), Dr Pierre Blanchard (Federal Mogul)

The RET hold an open group meeting on 5th of March in Mannheim. The meeting was chaired by Pierre Blanchard and José Torralba.

The motivation of the meeting was to discuss the outcomes and possible follow up of the Madrid meeting in October 2007 and the activities of the RET group.

One of the main outcomes of the Madrid discussion (“how to improve the promotion of PM technology?”) was finalised in this meeting by presenting the two special Workshops at the Euro PM2008 Congress and Exhibition in Mannheim.

Annual Meeting

The 19th EPMA General Assembly, which took place at the Hotel Grand Danubius in Budapest, was the first time the EPMA has held a formal event in Hungary as part of our ongoing efforts to build stronger links with central and eastern Europe. The two-day event which was attended by nearly 40 people from some 32 companies included the EPMA Annual Dinner as well as Board, Council and committee meetings.



Budapest

Two changes in the EPMA Board were announced - Philippe Gundermann of Erasteel has replaced John Boyle, who stood down as Treasurer, and Jan Tengzelius of Höganäs AB was co-opted as a Vice President of the Association. EPMA President, Ingo Cremer, thanked Mr Boyle for his longstanding support of the Association.

Environment Health and Quality (EHQ)

Benchmarking. Six newcomers participated in the 2008 Benchmarking exercise and, in total, fourteen sites participated. Revisions to the content and breadth continue, based on feedback from Members, to increase the value of this useful service. We also maintain the service advertising EPMA member quality accreditation on the EPMA website, which remains a popular area amongst the 230,000 visitors per year to the site.

The EPMA also provides, through the members' area of the web site, a set of information on REACH (Documents to Download, Letters to suppliers, Letters to Customers, Workshop contents, useful links etc).

The delegates also heard two keynote papers, the first was a most interesting review of the current financial crisis and its potential impact on industry, given by Mr Bastien Frien, editor of the FAZ Frankfurter Allgemeine in Germany. The second was an excellent paper, covering “Trends and Future Challenges in PM Pressing” by Mr Gerd Hinzmann who chaired a workshop on the same topic at Mannheim.

On the Council there have been several changes during 2008 and the new members are:

Greg Lavallee (QMP)
Harald Neubert (MIBA)
Lorenz Sigl (Plansee)
Thierry Faugeras (Federal Mogul).
Are all welcomed.

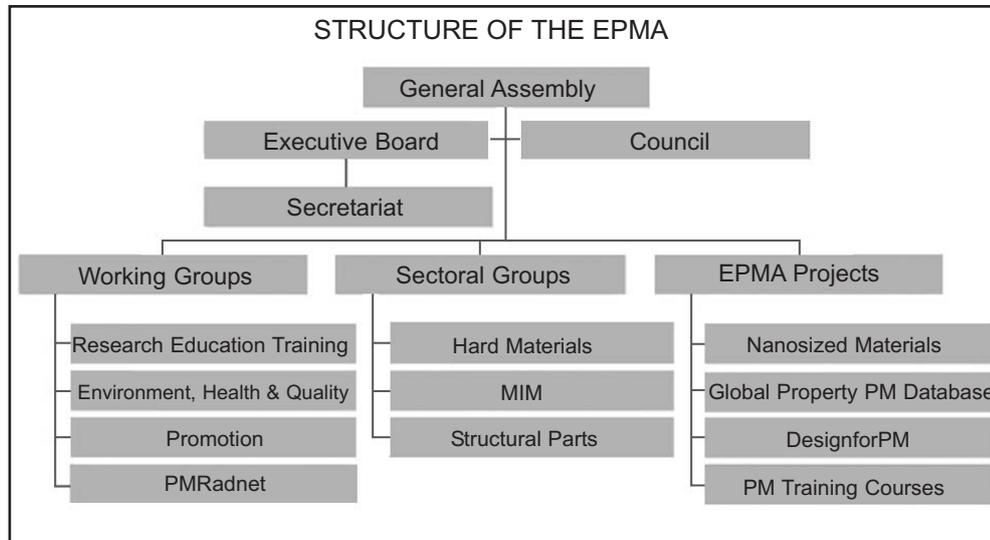


Council members at meeting in Budapest

Government and Management

Authority of the General Assembly

Under the Constitution, authority is vested in the General Assembly of members, which meets annually. A Council, directly or through its Executive Board, implements policies and decisions of the General Assembly and ensures effective operation between Assemblies.



The general structure of the EPMA

Council

The EPMA Constitution requires the Council to be composed of a minimum of seven individuals with voting power and appointed by the General Assembly. In practice, the Council has always been larger than its permitted minimum. Initially, it consisted of 12 members. In line with increases in the range and number of members it has subsequently been increased to the present

16. Seats on Council are allocated according to the number of Full Members in each of the sectors making up the EPMA's spectrum of interest; at the same time, consideration is given to ensuring an equitable geographical spread of Council members across Europe. Corporate Members in 2008 represented 27 countries worldwide.

The 18th Assembly elected a new Council and Executive Board for the period 2007-10.

Currently these are :

Representing PM Parts Sector

Volker Arnhold (GKN Sinter Metals, Germany)
Michael Krehl (PMG Füssen, Germany)
Cèsar Molins (AMES SA, Spain)
Harald Neubert (Miba AG, Austria)
Thierry Faugerat (Federal Mogul Sintered Products SAS, France)

Representing Powder Sector

Greg Lavallee (QMP Metal Powders Ltd, Germany)
Philippe Gundermann (Erasteel, France)
Jan Tengzelius (Höganäs AB, Sweden)
Thomas Witheford (Hoeganaes Europe, Germany)

Representing MIM Sector

Dr Martin Blömacher (BASF AG, Germany)
Dr Bruno Vicenzi (MIMItalia, Italy)

Representing Equipment Sector

Ingo Cremer (Cremer Thermoprozessanlagen GmbH, Germany)
Thomas Lambrecht (Dorst Maschinen und Anlagenbau, Germany)

Representing Refractory and Hard Material Sectors

Dr Lorenz Sigl (Plansee SE, Austria)

Representing PM Semi Sector

Dr Gérard Raison (Aubert et Duval Holding, France)

Contact details for Council Members can be found on the EPMA website

Executive Board (2007 - 2010)

Six Council members have been elected to the EPMA Executive Board for the period.

President – Ingo Cremer

Vice Presidents - Volker Arnhold, Thomas Lambrecht, César Molins, Jan Tengzelius

Treasurer - Philippe Gundermann

EPMA Secretariat

Day-to-day management is in the hands of the Executive Director and his staff. In January 2008 Rachel Burton-Pye joined us as Graphic Designer replacing Reena Sharma who left to get married. We welcome Rachel in her new post.



Jonathan Wroe
(Executive Director)



Olivier Coube
(Technical Director)



Frances Holland
(Congress Manager,
Office Administration)



Pauline Davies
(PM Publications,
invoices)



Joan Hallward
(PM Training Courses
Coordinator, Leonardo
Project Manager, Membership)



Andrew Almond
(Marketing, Exhibition
Manager & Promotion)



Rachel Burton-Pye
(Brochure Design,
Website)

Outlook

The economic recession dominates all conversation at present with the sharp decline in sales that took place at the end of 2008 showing no sign of improvement at present. The only brighter hopes are that, as yet, car makers are still trying to preserve their western European manufacturing and research facilities albeit with cutbacks and layoffs. The role of the European governments and banks is also critical; their schemes to free up credit and to improve car sales will hopefully bring some effect before long.

From the EPMA point of view, we will continue to work to support members wherever we can and to minimize the costs we incur so as to meet the tighter budgets now required in performing our services.

The prospects for Euro PM2009, which this year is an all topic event, are positive as at least two thirds of all stand space is already reserved and over 200 technical papers have been submitted.

REACH legislation implementation means EPMA's ability to operate as a 'single industry voice' will allow us to offer support where required by our members. The importance of coordination at a European level is thus demonstrated once more.

The EPMA Powder Metallurgy Summer School will again offer a tremendous, competitively-priced opportunity for training promising young people employed by member companies and organisations. We will continue to seek potential future funding from the EU.

We recognise the real and severe difficulties being faced by all companies at present and will redouble our efforts to provide support and service to members.

BALANCE SHEETS

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008

	NOTES	<u>2008</u>		<u>2007</u>	
		€	€	€	€
FIXED ASSETS	1		22,933		24,097
Equipment					
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	2	449,053		411,079	
Bank accounts		574,693		722,059	
		<u>1,023,746</u>		<u>1,133,138</u>	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors	3	<u>569,362</u>		<u>683,553</u>	
			454,384		449,585
			<u>477,317</u>		<u>473,681</u>
REPRESENTED BY:					
Accumulated fund at 1st January 2008			473,682		490,489
<u>Less:</u> Surplus of expenditure over income					(16,807)
<u>Add:</u> Surplus of income over expenditure			3,635		
			<u>477,317</u>		<u>473,682</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

	<u>2008</u> (€)	<u>2007</u> (€)
1. FIXED ASSETS		
Equipment brought forward	24,096	16,704
Additions during the year	6,477	16,345
Disposals during the year	-	(926)
	<u>30,573</u>	<u>32,123</u>
Less: depreciation @ 25%	7,640	8,027
	<u>22,933</u>	<u>24,096</u>
2. DEBTORS		
Sales ledger balances	284,472	404,206
Other debtors	164,581	6,873
	<u>449,053</u>	<u>411,079</u>
3. CREDITORS		
PM conference amounts due	1,080	1,397
Purchase ledger balances	15,651	15,571
Membership fees received in advance	385,436	395,064
PAYE owed to inland revenue	10,605	12,303
Taxation	7,503	8,282
Professional fees	4,044	4,756
Other sundry creditors	558	28,671
EU and other projects	144,485	217,509
	<u>569,362</u>	<u>683,553</u>

4. EXCHANGE RATES

The figures in the Income and Expenditure accounts have been converted at the actual rate of exchange for each month. The Balance Sheet figures have been converted at the closing rate of exchange as at 31st December 2008, which was £1 to €1.05029 (2007: £1 to €1.35883) and differences arising are shown in the Income and Expenditure account as 'exchange rate differences'.

As a consequence the gain in the operational surplus that would have otherwise occurred by the devaluation of sterling during 2008, has been mitigated by the reduction in value of the sterling bank accounts. This is in line with the policy agreed by the council in 2006 that in order to reduce the exchange rate exposure to the association, that a greater proportion of reserves are held in sterling.

