

# Editorial

## Thermal Spray Celebrates Centennial Anniversary at ITSC 2006 in Seattle



**From left to right: Peter Hanneforth (TSS Vice President & Technical Chair), Dr. Richard Knight (TSS President & General Chair), Thom Passek (ASM Director) at the ITSC 2006 Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.**

Celebrating 100 years of thermal spray technology, the 2006 International Thermal Spray Conference (ITSC 2006) took place in Seattle, WA, from May 15 to 18. For the first time, it was co-located with two other successful ASM conferences: the 17th AeroMat Conference & Exposition and the Fifth International Surface Engineering Conference (ISEC), making it a record-breaking event. The conference was co-organized by ASM International, German Welding Society (DVS), and International Institute of Welding (IIW).

The main idea behind the co-location was to give the audience of all three events a larger selection of technical presentations, company exhibits, and networking opportunities within fundamentally related fields and thus create more value for ASM members and participating exhibitors. According to the overwhelming feedback from attendees, this formula turned out to be a recipe for success. Overall attendance fell just short of 2000, of which the ITSC attracted more than 1100 attendees. There were 120 exhibiting companies covering a net floor space of more than 18,000 square feet. The ITSC technical session comprised more than 260 papers and a large selection of posters. The ITSC plenary

session speaker, Dr. Malcolm Thomas from Rolls Royce, drew not only a full house on Tuesday morning but also a lot of attention with his talk dedicated to "Surface Engineering in Aero Gas Turbines."

The main social event on the exhibition floor on Tuesday evening with complimentary food and beverages also attracted hundreds of attendees and gave the exhibiting companies additional opportunities to speak with their customers and potential prospects. It was during this event also that the new Thermal Spray Society (TSS) newsletter "International Thermal Spray and Surface Engineering (iTSSe)" was formally inaugurated. Another social highlight was the Wednesday evening cruise on Puget Sound, which gave the more than 350 attendees the opportunity to take a glimpse of the Seattle skyline and the waterfront lifestyle aspect of the "Northwestern Nirvana." On Thursday there was an extra day of technical programming scheduled due to the overwhelming submission of papers. There was also the traditional TSS Awards ceremony and a first-ever TSS General Membership meeting. Finally, attendees were given the opportunity to participate in tours to the nearby Boeing facilities and inspect the assembly lines of the most popular Boeing jet ever, the 737. The entire event was accompanied by—for Seattle—unusually beautiful weather with clear blue skies and warm temperatures, which made the many sightseeing attractions the city has to offer even more pleasant to explore.

Finally, the organizing committee wishes to thank all attendees and participants for making this another very successful event in the series of the ITSC conferences. In 2007, the ITSC will be in Beijing, China, from May 14 to 16, so please mark your calendars for another memorable event.

**Peter Hanneforth**  
TSS Vice President & Programming Chairman