

ICSP14—See You in 2021!

The current emergency due to the COVID-19 virus has suddenly changed everyone's life. Due to the restrictions caused by the need to control, reduce and hopefully annul the infection rate, the complete conference calendar in 2020 has been suppressed. ICSP14 has been postponed to next year considering the pandemic global situation. Now it is time to start thinking ahead to the new ICSP14 to be held in 2021.

It is really sad to write this article after recently making an announcement on the postponement of the 14th International Conference on Shot Peening that was to be held in Milan, Italy in September 2020.

Since that time we have received many high quality abstracts from all over the world and have been contacted by multiple companies interested in exhibiting their products and services at ICSP14. Everything was running fine and an exciting event was expected.

We all know what happened then. A pandemic was announced cause by COVID-19 or Corona virus with a terrible impact in terms of human lives and the global economy—effects that will last for years.

My country, and specifically the region where I live and where ICSP14 was planned to be held, was one of the first regions in Europe to be infected by the virus. Here the people suffered a lock down of over two months long. Indeed from the beginning of the epidemic, we immediately decided to postpone the conference, both to be on the safe side and to leave the calendar of the people free in an uncertain situation.

It was not an easy decision but I am sure it was the right one. And the fact that almost all conferences planned this year have been cancelled thus confirmed the rightness of our timely decision!

What about now? Indeed the situation is not normalized yet and restrictions are not over but step by step, they are being removed. In Italy, shops, barbers, restaurants, and hotels are now opening but they must follow a strict procedure to guarantee their own and their clients' safety. Despite all the restrictions in place, we can see the path back to a normal life and hopefully in some months we will defeat the enemy. A similar situation can be described almost everywhere in the world.

That is to say, it is time to start over the organization of ICSP14 for 2021!

The first aspect is that ICSP14 will be held at the Technical University of Milan (Politecnico di Milano). Indeed emergency measures due to Corona virus have been successfully implemented and now we are preparing for the

next semester to guarantee the students can safely attend the lectures and the exams. ICSP14 will take advantage of the improved and well-established communication technologies, including remote connections. In other words, if restrictions to avoid crowded places are still active and necessary next year, we will be able to adopt the actions needed for that. Even if the situation does not impose strict restrictions any longer, we will stay on the safe side by assigning large rooms to the sessions where we can have an appropriate ratio of busy/free seats for the audience and attendees.

Let me say, I know, you could wonder how many presentations will be expected next year. It is probably too early to try to forecast but I can say most of the authors of the abstracts that were submitted for 2020 before the lockdown have confirmed their willingness to present their ongoing research results and share them with the qualified ICSP14 audience in 2021.

I would like to add that, due to the emergency, new subjects and new applications of shot peening and related treatments could come along, increasing the interest of the conference.

The priorities of research and development are changing now due to the need to consider and possibly avoid new virus infections. This is affecting the research priorities and influencing almost every industrial sector, changing the design, the treatments, and the development of the products.

Shot peening can be involved in this process because it is a powerful tool to modify the material surface and then interface with the external environment. Combined with the additive manufacturing processes, shot peening can serve as a post treatment to be successfully implemented for this aim. I expect new contributions in this field, opening new opportunities for shot peening and allied treatments.

Another aspect to keep in mind is that the changed scenario with an increased competition among the players should encourage them to improve their product and shot peening is an attractive tool to this aim. ICSP14 is the best place to learn more about the latest results and achievements in shot peening. This is even more valid for exhibitors and multiple companies have confirmed their interest about ICSP14. We invite companies interested in shot peening to contact us for more details.

And, how about Milan? I am sure that most of you watching the television in the past few months have seen really sad images of Milan and its several attractions, all empty, completely free of people. The Cathedral (“Duomo”)

and the square around it, generally crowded with enthusiastic people in front of it, has been absolutely empty! And the Sforzesco Castle and the Naviglio channel, with its bars, restaurants and pubs that used to hold a lot of people at sunset drinking aperitifs, have been all closed!

But now we are happy that the situation is changing and they are re-opening following the procedure and the prescriptions given by the authorities. We are confident that in some months the situation will be fully normalized. We are ready to welcome you at the conference and guide you to the many attractions you can visit in Milan.

Finally, let me conclude by highlighting that we are now 100% active in the organization of the next ICSP14 in 2021. My team and I, as well as the International Scientific Committee, are concentrated on the organization of ICSP14 and we are doing our best to offer you a wonderful time in Milan next year.

We are still not able to fix a date but we can anticipate that ICSP14 will be in the summer of 2021. If you want to keep informed, take a look at the www.icsp14.org website.

I am looking forward to meeting you at ICSP14 in Milan next year! ●

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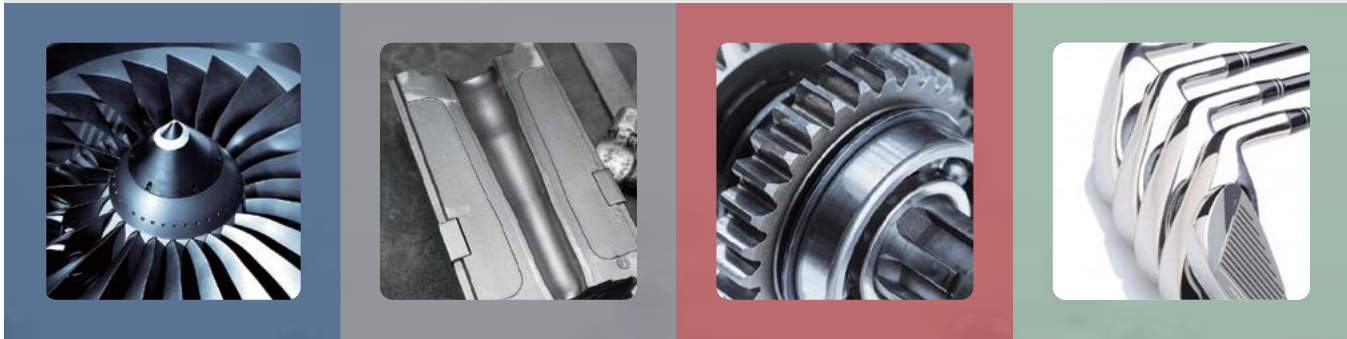


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