



## OPENING SHOT

Taylor Bowman | Editor | *The Shot Peener*

# Stepping Forward

My introduction to shot peening was not exactly traditional. I joined EI as an intern and spent my first two years in research and development before I ever touched a shot peening machine. My early experience in the industry revolved around testing, data, and product refinement rather than standing in front of a blast cabinet. Over time, my role evolved – from R&D to documentation to quality systems – and now, Editor of *The Shot Peener*.

That path has given me a unique perspective. I've had the opportunity to work alongside seasoned peening professionals as well as academic researchers who are pushing the boundaries of what we understand about the process. Seeing both the practical and the theoretical sides of shot peening has shaped how I think about where we are and where we can go.

I'm genuinely optimistic about the future of this industry.

We are at a point where automation is more accessible, data is more available, and analytical tools are more sophisticated than ever before. I hope to see shot peening continue to lean into those advancements – not just adopting new technology because it exists, but using it thoughtfully to improve consistency, expand applications, and better understand the processes we rely on every day.

One of the most encouraging signs of that progress was the collaborative spirit I witnessed at the 15th International Conference on Shot Peening. The open exchange between researchers, OEMs, and end users was a reminder that innovation rarely happens in isolation. When we share knowledge across roles and disciplines, the entire industry benefits.

I know I have big shoes to fill stepping into this role. *The Shot Peener* has long served as a place where experience is shared, ideas are tested, and progress is documented. My goal is to continue that tradition, delivering content that is practical, educational, and engaging for readers at every stage of their careers.

Shot peening has always balanced force with precision. As we look ahead, I hope this publication continues to reflect that balance: grounded in experience, informed by research, and open to what comes next. ●

## THE SHOT PEENER

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