



**Innovation and Creativity
at the Aluminium Two Thousand Conference in Florence**

**THE TECHNOLOGIES OF ALUMINIUM
PROTAGONIST IN THE FUTURE INDUSTRY**

An exciting and stimulating success: we really can't begin this article in any other way: all the people of aluminium world met in Florence (Italy) from 13 to 17 March 2007 for the 6th World Aluminium Two Thousand Congress. 350 Delegates from 36 Countries discussed all aspects of aluminium technology and market.



The Opening Session

As usual, the event was organized by our Interall Publications, the multi-faceted Italian Publishing Company, in cooperation with Italtelco, advanced technologies of aluminium, and Metef, the international aluminium exhibition. In addition, it was supported by AIM the Italian Association of

Metallurgy, Face, the Federation of Aluminium Consumers in Europe, F.A.R.O., the company specialized in financial market consultancy, Edimet, the multimedia network in the world of metals,

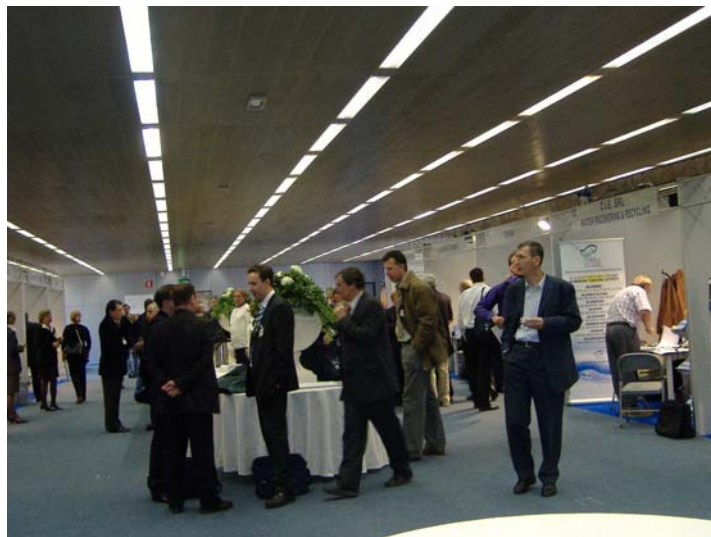
Centroal, the Italian National Association for the non-ferrous metallurgy, and Rivoira, specialized in industrial gas.

Russian and German delegates have been the most numerous participants together with the Italian habitués of “Aluminium Two-Thousand”. However, the presence of experts coming from as far as, India, Japan, South Africa, Ghana, Canada, USA, Colombia Chile and Kazakhstan, is a proof of the importance attached to chances offered by this unique event.

Real aluminium specialists are rare and far away from each other all over the world: that’s why they are so ready to grasp the occasion of meeting each other under one roof in a Conference where all aspects of aluminium technology are discussed, from casting to extrusion, rolling and finishing, throughout to downstream working and end uses, transport industry and measuring, welding and safety without forgetting the international panorama of the aluminium market during the plenary session on the first day of the conference.

There were four distinct sections represented: extrusion, die-casting, surface treatments, transport industry. As many as 90 papers were presented by famous technicians, researchers and managers from the most important aluminium companies at world-wide level. All of this resulted in three days of intense work.

The sessions took place in three separate conference rooms and during all the duration of the congress there was an exhibit space dedicated to exhibitors and sponsor companies.



Moreover, the persons that had accompanied the conference participants were able to enjoy a very interesting array of social activities that included visits in the splendid town of Florence and to medieval Siena.

The tiny San Gimignano and the peaceful hill of Chianti were the protagonists of the final sightseeing tour. Fortunately, the weather was our ally and we were accompanied by a wonderful sun for all five congress days.

An exclusive Classical Music Concert played by a young clarinet sextet in the Santo Stefano Church near the Pontevecchio brought all the participants in an evocative atmosphere.



Clarinet Sextet in Santo Stefano Church

The marvellous entertainment on the evening of the Gala Dinner at the Grand Hotel Florence, where music, dancing and a friendly atmosphere reigned supreme, closed the 3 conference days: no one wanted the Congress to come to an end.



Gala Dinner at the Grand Hotel Florence

But beyond these interesting details about the social events, pleasant to talk about but certainly not the most important part of the Congress, it's worthwhile reviewing the work carried out during the three days, doing so from a technical aspect.

The 6th edition of this specialised congress was opened by Dr. Walter Dalla Barba, president of Interall and chairman of the congress, who pointed the attention to the importance of Aluminium and of the technological development while safeguarding the environment: this is of “prime importance if one wishes to compete on the world markets”, he said. “The *time to market* concept, meaning the time that elapses between the creation of a new product and its placing on the market, is now, more than ever before, the crucial variable that decides the future of a company.”...”Try to anticipate the events and interpret today’s innovations in order to understand the trends of tomorrow, so you’ll always be ready and become a winner in the race of the future”.



W. Dalla Barba, Chairman of the Congress and Interall President during opening session

Although technological innovation has been the basic reason for the Conference to attract so many people from so many distant places, an interesting amount of time has been dedicated to market and economy discussions, also. It would be impossible to summarize all those communications, so here we can focus the attention on some of the high points only.

The field of the aluminium markets was presented by the speeches of P. Kauffmann, A. Kennedy about the competition, and D. Djukanovich with an aluminium price outlook by 2012. T. Becker, president of Estal, presented the European challenges.



Al Kennedy, Kennedy Eurotech, USA

Among the technological sessions, the most popular subject was extrusion, followed by finishing and transport industry. More general metallurgical sessions covered casting, rolling and smelting, followed by measuring and testing techniques.



T. Becker, Estal President

Speaking of the Extrusion section about dies, S. Andreoli of the company Compes spoke about the new instruments for the optimisation of extrusion dies, while P. Stratton (BOC, United Kingdom) contributed his valuable experience speaking about maximising the productivity of aluminium extrusion with nitrogen.

Another important extrusion session dealt with the die cleaning technology with the papers of Micro Technica and Italtecno.

Automation of the extrusion process and environmental protection and recycling were the subjects of some interesting papers presented by M. Pandit (Univ. of Kaiserslautern), U. Kohaupt, (Steinert company) and G. Makarov (Alusil).



J.M. Runge, Compcote, USA

In the session of Anodizing and coating, the papers presented by J. Runge of the American company Compcote emphasized a new approach and theory on the formation of porous anodic oxide finishes and the advancements in anodizing.

The aluconsultant A.D. Juhl spoke about a new approach to pulse anodizing, decreasing energy consumption and increasing productivity, while M. Leoni of the company Elca presented the computerization and automation of anodizing plants.



Anne Deacon Juhl, Aluconsultant, Denmark



M. Leoni, Elca, Italy

A. Battigelli (Italteco) illustrated a new interesting automatic racking system for profiles and also for small parts that allows an important reduction in labour costs.



A. Battigelli, Italteco, Italy

The technical advances in powder coating was presented by K. Kreeger of the American Nordson Corporation, and another interesting paper has been presented by C. Fontanesi of the chemical department of the university of Modena about the effect of organic compounds on the anodizing mechanism.

F. Vincenzi of the Italian company Italteco spoke about new finishes for the third millennium for the architectural market.



F. Vincenzi, Italteco, Italy

As long as the Smelting and casting session, remarkable papers illustrated some studies about aluminium alloys metallurgy (by the Russian company Viam), alloys for transport industry (Aluminium Rheinfelden and Sumitomo) and casting processes (Officine Meccaniche Presezzi and Rivoira).

The last work-day included a pre-treatment session with works about chrome free. There was an impressive discussion of the advantages of the chrome free products that solve all environmental problems and guarantee an excellent corrosion resistance (papers by Condoroil, Candor, Italteco, MacDermid and AD Chemicals).

In the second part of the last day, the third session was dedicated to a technical seminar for Russian delegates, about the new developments and advanced technologies for the aluminium industry, and it has had a great success.

All the papers were extremely interesting and particularly topical. Just one piece of advice if you are interested in the world of the Aluminium Two Thousand 2007 Conference: take a look at the CD-ROM and you will be able go through all the conference proceedings.

The CD Rom with the collection of the papers is available at Interall, faxing to +39-059-280462 or e-mailing to info@interall.it.