



North America's Largest Metal Forming, Fabricating & Welding Event

NEWS RELEASE:

FABTECH INT'L & AWS WELDING SHOW RETURNS TO CHICAGO

Event Expected to be 35% Larger than 2005 Show

MIAMI, FL., August 20, 2007 — The 2007 FABTECH International & AWS Welding Show returns to McCormick Place in Chicago. Taking place November 11-14, it is the largest event in North America dedicated to showcasing a full spectrum of metal forming, fabricating, stamping, tube & pipe, and welding equipment and technology.

Cosponsored by the American Welding Society (AWS), Fabricators & Manufacturers Association Int'l (FMA) and Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) and supported by industry partner the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the event is expected to bring in an estimated 25,000 attendees and 1,000 exhibitors covering 475,000 square feet of exhibit space. Buyers and sellers from over 75 countries will gather at the FABTECH International & AWS Welding Show to exchange products and services, network with peers, see new products, problem-solve, and educate the industry on the latest technologies.

Educational Programs

The FABTECH International & AWS Welding Show offers a comprehensive array of educational offerings. Led by more than 100 experts, sessions emphasize industry issues and trends, management and developments in forming, fabricating, welding, and related technologies.

The American Welding Society will present a complete line up of in-depth conferences and seminars, RWMA Resistance Welding School and a Professional Program showcasing the latest in welding research and new commercial developments. Topics include; friction welding, hot wire welding & cladding, welding of stainless steels, visual inspection, pricing and profitability, arc welding, and more. Complete information on AWS sessions and other society events, including the free International Brazing & Soldering Symposium and Introduction to Thermal Spray Coating Processes seminar, is available online at www.aws.org/show.

The FMA and SME will offer 45 technical sessions (including 25 new sessions this year) focused on management, operations/lean, automation, cutting, lasers, fabricating/forming, materials/processes, stamping, and tube & pipe. Sessions provide manufacturers involved in management, engineering, purchasing, product development and production, with the tools and techniques they need to advance their career. For session descriptions, visit www.sme.org/fabtech or www.fmafabtech.com.

Event Highlights

Leadership Summit: November 12 - *“Addressing the Shortage of Skilled Workers in U.S. Manufacturing”* – Key representatives from our nation’s government, local community, as well as the manufacturing sector, will come together for a lively and informative panel discussion to address one of the most important issues affecting the industry today. Experts and stakeholders will discuss the strategies, challenges and solutions to building a competitive manufacturing workforce in a challenging recruiting environment.



American Welding Society
www.aws.org



Fabricators & Manufacturers Association Int'l®
www.fmafabtech.com



Society of Manufacturing Engineers
www.sme.org/fabtech

Executive Forum Breakfast: November 13 - "How Manufacturers Can Find Growth Opportunities in the New Economy" presented by Michael P. Collins, author and consultant, MPC Management. This important session, designed exclusively for company leaders and decision-makers, will outline steps small and mid-size manufacturers can take to not only survive, but also compete and grow in a global economy.

FREE Business Improvement Seminars: November 12-14 - Specifically oriented to the needs of managers and business owners, sessions include: *Selecting Lean Building Blocks*, featuring a panel discussion with three Lean experts on Monday, November 12; *Job Shop Marketing*, presented by Rob Edwards, The Job Shop Company on Tuesday, November 13; and *Workforce Performance Improvement*, presented by Mark Ernst, Ernst Enterprises, LLC on Wednesday, November 14.

Laser Cutting Certificate Program: November 12 – 14 - This certificate program will build on fundamental knowledge of CNC operations and part design for CO₂ laser cutting. Attendees will apply this information in a uniquely designed hands-on demonstration area in the North Hall optimizing the operation of a CNC laser cutting machine. Visit www.sme.org/certificates for more information, including registration.

End User Forum: November 13 - This free forum brings together the end-user welding community for a one-of-a-kind, content-rich productivity learning experience. Presenters will cover real-life productivity issues and allow fabricators to engage in discussions with their peers away from the shop floor.

Innovation Theater: November 11-14 - Conveniently located on the show floor in the North Hall, the Innovation Theater will showcase free, 30-minute, exhibitor-led product and technology demonstrations throughout each day of the show. This is a unique opportunity for attendees to learn about some of the industry's latest innovations, what a product does and how it can benefit their own operation. A full schedule of presentations can be found online at www.fmafabtech.com or www.sme.org/fabtech.

Job Fair: November 12-13 - Representatives of companies seeking prospective employees will be on hand in the Job Fair/Workforce Development Pavilion to meet with professionals or students just entering the workforce. Employment service providers, schools and associations will also be in the pavilion to offer their support and assistance in workforce development and employment-related opportunities.

Professional Welders Competition: November 12-14 - Professional welders will compete on the show floor Monday and Tuesday for a chance to win a grand prize of \$2,500 and recognition as the best welder in America. Winners will be announced at the awards ceremony at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 14. Visit www.aws.org/competition for more information, including competition rules and safety rules.

Show Hours:

November 11: 11 a.m.– 4 p.m.

November 12: 9 a.m.– 5 p.m.

November 13: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

November 14: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

For more information about the 2007 FABTECH International & AWS Welding Show or to register to attend the show, visit www.sme.org/fabtech, www.fmafabtech.com or www.aws.org/show. For customer service, call SME at (800) 733-4763, or (313) 271-1500 (outside the U.S. and Canada). Or, call FMA at (800) 432-2832, or (815) 399-8755 (outside the U.S. and Canada).

Future show dates and locations: October 6 – 8, 2008 in Las Vegas, November 15 - 18, 2009 in Chicago, and November 2 – 4, 2010 in Atlanta.

ABOUT AWS:

The American Welding Society is the largest organization in the world dedicated to advancing the science, technology, and application of welding and allied processes including joining, brazing, soldering, cutting, and thermal spray. AWS provides a variety of industry services, including welding certifications, educational programs, scholarships and workforce development through our Foundation and publications. Visit the Society's Web site at www.aws.org.

ABOUT FMA:

The Fabricators and Manufacturers Association Int'l is a non-profit educational association dedicated exclusively to metal forming and fabricating professionals. FMA brings the metal forming and fabricating community together

through networking sessions, educational programs, volunteer opportunities, and award programs and provides the tools and resources needed by companies to improve operations. Visit www.fmanet.org for more information.

ABOUT SME:

The [Society of Manufacturing Engineers](http://www.sme.org) is the world's leading professional society supporting manufacturing education. Through its member programs, publications, expositions and professional development resources, SME promotes an increased awareness of manufacturing engineering and helps keep manufacturing professionals up to date on leading trends and technologies. Headquartered in Michigan, SME influences more than half a million manufacturing practitioners and executives annually. The Society, which celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2007, has members in more than 70 countries and is supported by a network of hundreds of technical communities and chapters worldwide.

ABOUT NAM:

NAM is the nation's oldest and largest broad-based industrial trade association representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states. Visit the NAM Web site at www.nam.org for more information about manufacturing and the economy.

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