

October 5, 2009

Manufacturing Conference Collocation Planned for 2011

The recommendation for collocation of the ASME Manufacturing Science and Engineering Conference (MSEC) and the NAMRI/SME North American Manufacturing Research Conference (NAMRC) is planned to be first implemented in June 2011 at a combined event, selected to be hosted by **Oregon State University**. Both conferences will be held simultaneously **June 13- June 17, 2011**. **Professor Brian Paul** and an organizing committee of five faculty members will host the combined event.

The recommendation for collocation was made as the result of a study by a task force composed of both ASME and SME members. The task force conducted a survey in June with about 500 total respondents from both organizations including strong participation from industry. Overwhelming support for conference collocation motivated the acceptance of the task force recommendation by executive committee of ASME Manufacturing Engineering Division and the Board of North American Manufacturing Research Institute of SME (NAMRI/SME).

Planning for the collocated conference at OSU is currently underway, and involves input and representation from both ASME and SME. Three NAMRI board members will join three from MED/ASME to form a coordinating committee (CC) to assist the host with preparation and help to leverage advantage of the joint event. The coordinating committee consists of CC Chair, **Professor Jian Cao** (NAMRI Secretary, Northwestern Univ.), along with members Steve Hayashi (NAMRI President-Elect, GE Research), Shiva Raman (NAMRI Scientific Cmt Chair, Univ. of Oklahoma), Larry Yao (MED EC Vice Chair, Columbia Univ.), Matt Bement (MED EC Program Chair, Argonne National Lab), and Kevin Chou (2011 MSEC program Chair, Univ. of Alabama).

Efforts are being made from both sides to address concerns noted in the original study, particularly scheduling, organization, and publication cost issues. Collocation of these conferences, each considered a premier research gathering in North America, is expected to draw more academic and industry leaders, create higher international participation, improve networking, and improve conference reputation for both ASME and SME. Perhaps the greatest benefit of collocation is the creation of a larger, higher-impact conference to better serve the needs of the manufacturing research community.

For information on planning of the collocated conference, please contact Dr. Jian Cao at jcao@northwestern.edu or Dr. Brian Paul at brian.paul@oregonstate.edu.