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TITANIUM 2009 CONFERENCE TO ANALYZE WORLD SUPPLY & DEMAND TRENDS

The International Titanium Association, sponsor of TITANIUM 2009, has announced it will devote two sessions to its industry-acclaimed World Supply and Demand Trends panels. The industry's 25th annual conference and exhibition is scheduled for September 13 – 16 in Kona, Hawaii.

This is the only symposium dedicated to the titanium business and the sole time and place key executives from the world's leading titanium producers, including RTI International Metals, TIMET, ATI Allvac, ThyssenKrupp, VSMPO-TIRUS and the Japanese Titanium Society gather to present their insights on global supply and demand. In addition, more than 70 market-specific experts will examine key consuming industry segments. According to Mike Metz, Conference Chair, "The inside knowledge shared at TITANIUM 2009 should help companies involved on any level with the metal make long-term business and investment decisions during this time of global economic slowdown."

Demand for titanium and supply of the materials needed to produce it have always been cyclical. In spite of tactics to even out the quantities of titanium manufactured and consumed from year to year, such as long-term pricing agreements and increased use of the metal in emerging, predictable-demand applications, titanium supply and demand is likely to continue to fluctuate dramatically, especially during this downcycle.

On the Supply side, panelists will examine changes that are occurring in the production and consumption of titanium ores, sponge, scrap and alloying elements from North America, Russia, China and Japan. Availability and merits of various feedstocks (rutile, ilmenite), melting techniques (VAR, CHM) and manufacturing capacities (notably China's nascent value-added manufacturing capabilities) could be examined.

On the Demand side, aerospace is, and will continue to be, the primary driver for titanium. Considerable time will be devoted to commercial and military engines and airframes. The panel will review the impact that the global recession and financial markets meltdown have had on demand and the long-term growth drivers that still make the aerospace segment such an attractive end market.

Further recognizing aero manufacturing's importance to the industry, an Airbus executive will present the firm's current Global Market Forecast as the TITANIUM 2009 keynote address.

Industrial markets, such as chemical processing and oil and gas production will also be examined, as will emerging markets. Internationally, European and ASEAN demand will be considered as the industry is affected ever increasingly by changes in population demographics, specifically in China and the ASEAN countries. Because TITANIUM 2009 will be held in Hawaii, in recognition of the significant growth of the Asian titanium industry, "We expect a delegation from Japan and participants from China, Korea and other Pacific Rim countries," Metz commented. As always, there should be strong European and Russian participation.

The event last year drew more than 1000 delegates and 70 exhibitors from 34 countries. "The number and diversity of attendees makes this a very cost-effective and efficient networking venue. Delegates can meet with a wide variety of customers and vendors, hear from leading industry executives and attend market-specific forums, all in one trip," said Metz.

TITANIUM 2009 registrations are running ahead of last year's pace. To register or get more information, visit www.titanium.org.

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