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TITANIUM 2009 CONFERENCE TO FEATURE MEDICAL APPLICATIONS PANEL OF EXPERTS

The International Titanium Association, sponsor of TITANIUM 2009, has announced it will devote one of the event's market-focused panels to medical applications for the metal. 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 industry and the sole time and place key executives from the world's leading titanium producers gather to present their insights on World Supply and Demand Trends. In addition, 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."

Titanium is the most bio-compatible of all metals and therefore ideal for orthopaedic implants and dental applications. At TITANIUM 2009, three speakers, hosted by a titanium industry executive whose expertise lies in the biomedical field, will deliver papers.

One medical panelist will present information on T-15Mo, a newer generation of beta alloys developed by his firm for orthopaedic trauma applications. Specific performance characteristics such as modulus, bending properties and fatigue life will be compared for beta annealed Ti-15Mo and conventional titanium alloys and use of the alloy in small maxillofacial plates and plates for stabilizing complex wrist fractures will be examined.

Titanium generally achieves direct biologic fixation with excellent clinical results, however the potential for long-term loosening does exist. A second medical panelist will present developments made by his company in Tritanium™, a new implant fixation interface comprising a highly-porous, pure Ti structure and Peri-apatite™, a hydroxlyapatite implant coating.

A new dental application that uses electron beam melting for rapid prototyping of titanium implants will be discussed.

Finally, academic research will be presented that examines the use of strain mapping applied to high-resolution transmission electron microscopy images to explain the hardening mechanism of the Ti-35Nb-7Zr-5Ta alloy.

The Medical panel is just one of the TITANIUM 2009 conference highlights. In addition, more than 70 experts from across the supply chain will examine consuming industries including aerospace, industrial, consumer and automotive. New and established manufacturing methods, as well as machining processes and powder technology will also be discussed.

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.

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.

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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