

CONFERENCE NEWS

NDT IN CANADA 2011 CONFERENCE



Authors and attendees from around the world were welcomed to the CANSMART workshop for Smart Materials & Structures, NDT in Aerospace and the NDT in Canada 2011 conference which was held in Nov 1-4, 2011 in Montreal, QC. Hailed as a resounding success, it attracted over 160 people with exhibitors, authors, students, and international delegates from the United States, France, Italy, Germany, China and Japan to beautiful downtown Montreal.

Everyone at the event was indebted to the support of the Sponsors which included Level 3 sponsor SAIT Polytechnic for the Early Bird mix 'n mingle reception, Level 2 sponsor Zetec for the Print Program, and the Level 1 sponsors CINDE Ontario chapter for six free student passes, the Quebec CINDE Chapter, Mohawk College, GE Measurements and Control Solutions and the International Pressure Equipment Association (IPEIA) for the daily coffee breaks, the Canadian Institute for NDE for the lanyards and USB thumb drives, and NDT.net for the Conference Management System (CSM) digital proceedings.



Getting acquainted at the Early Bird Mix 'n Mingle reception are (l to r) conference co-chairs Cindy Finley (Canadian Institute for NDE), Christian Boller (Fraunhofer IZFP), George Akhras (Cansmart) and Level 3 sponsor Tracey Cunningham (SAIT Polytechnic).



The opening plenary by Brenda Kulfan about the "Observations of Natures Creations and Evolutionary Development" inspired the audience and set the tone for the rest of the conference.



Plenary speaker Holger Speckman from Airbus accepts his speaker gift for his forward-thinking presentation about the "Remote NDT as a new possibility for In-service Aircraft using On-line Maintenance Assistance (OMA)".



Session chair Christian Boller thanks Uwe Ewert for his excellent technical presentation about the "Inspection of Plastics Fiber Composites with X- and THz Radiation".

The morning and afternoon of the first two days of the conference opened with plenary sessions which featured four exceptional presentations from Brenda Kulfan (Boeing, retired) Uwe Ewert (Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing BAM), Holger Speckman (Airbus) and Alan Browne (GM Research Labs).

The technical program had two tracks of technical sessions with papers about research for smart materials and structural health monitoring, technical applications for NDT in aerospace and general industry, and



Session chair George Akhras thanks Alan Browne for his fascinating presentation about "Shape Memory Alloy (SMA) Heat Engines".



SAIT instructor George Gavelis shares insights about his career in NDT with several of the students that attended.

developments in NDT training and certification.

The Career Zone had academic institutions such as SAIT Polytechnic, Mohawk College and the Centre technologique en aérospatiale (CTA) to share information about their academic programs and for students to post their resumes.

Students browsed the job postings and had the opportunity to meet prospective employers.

During the Awards banquet, these worthy individuals were recognized for their technical and professional contributions with CINDE Director and Past President / CEO Doug Marshall as the emcee. The award winners (pictured l to r) were: Dr. Michael Moles - Technical Achievement; Tim Deagnon - CINDE Fellowship; Walter Weber - W. E. Havercroft; Tim Auger - CINDE Fellowship. Some of the CINDE awards date back to 1977 and all of the recipients can be viewed on the CINDE website at <http://www.cinde.ca/awards.shtml>.



The Exhibit area allowed suppliers of leading NDT technologies and services to showcase their wares and stamp the ballot for the Grand Prize Draw held during the closing ceremonies.



Pictured left and center are George Akhras (Director Cansmart) and Cindy Finley (Chair CINDE) with 6 Royal Military College engineering students who attended free due to the generous sponsorship of the Ontario Chapter of CINDE.

Many other important contributors to the conference were also acknowledged at the dinner, including the Technical and Scientific Program committees and session moderators, but especially the CINDE staffers who worked so hard behind the scenes to organize the event and make everything work smoothly.

The technical program on Friday was followed by the announcement of the winner of the 2011 IOP Best Paper Award Winner Ms. Cheng Yang of the Center for Sensor Systems and Institute of Mechanics and Control Engineering - Mechatronics, University of Siegen, Germany for her paper entitled "A Novel Piezoelectric Paint Sensor for Non Destructive Testing" (co-written with Prof. Claus-Peter Fritzen). She was also the lucky winner of the conference Grand Prize of a Sony cybershot digital camera.



Conference co-chair George Akhras congratulates Ms. Cheng Yang, the 2011 IOP Best Paper Award Winner.

Planning for the NDT in Canada 2012 conference is already well underway, and it will reprise the 2010 collaboration with the Candu Owners Group (COG) international in-service inspection workshop. For more information and regular updates, please visit <http://events.cinde.ca/>.

— Reported by Larry Cote