



A year in perspective

The year 2018 has been an exciting one for the EICF advancing its value to members and stakeholders. Please find below some of the highlights

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Porto, City of the Bridges, facing the Atlantic



The 29th EICF International Conference & Exhibition held in Porto, 22 to 25 of April, with the theme “Addressing today’s and tomorrow’s Investment Casting challenges”, was a really successful event. Organized in cooperation with the Associação Portuguesa de Fundição (APF), with over 330 delegates from 27 countries, from 4 continents attending. In addition to the

Conference and Exhibition we also held a successful Turbocharger Seminar for the 4th time and the Industry visit to the Zollern facility in Portugal. Appreciation given by delegates and attendees through the available surveys highlighted the high quality of presentations and speakers. A much appreciated presentation was the Key Note paper “Winning in a world of change” presented by the respected business speaker Mr. Nadid Habib from the NOVA Business School from Lisbon.

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The Exhibition presented in 35 booths the latest advances in materials and equipment specific to Investment Casting with a broad international representation of industry leading companies

The conference social events provided an excellent opportunity for delegates to network, socialize and share experiences. Venues like the “Palacio da Bolsa” and the Cruise Terminal facing the Atlantic Ocean, provided the perfect environment



Photographs from the event are available to members, where they can be downloaded, please check [here](#)

Virgilio Oliveira, Managing Director of Zollern & Comandita in Portugal was recognized with an EICF memento, his contribution and personal involvement in the success of this unique conference in Porto.



INCAST Magazine becomes official magazine of ICI & EICF

Association activities are about cooperation and this applies also to cooperation between Associations. The Atlantic city of Porto was selected to cement the agreement reached by the Investment Casting Institute and the European Investment Casters’ Federation making INCAST the official magazine of both associations



The theme adopted by the EICF booth “Together we are stronger” was more than appropriate to symbolize the agreement. Since June 2018, the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the formation of the ICI in June 1953, the INCAST magazine is distributed to stakeholders at both sides of the Atlantic.

EICF New Chairman

The EICF Chairmanship term is for two years. At the EICF Annual General Meeting held in Porto on the 22 of April 2018, Virgilio Oliveira was elected Chairman of the EICF for the period 2018 – 2020. Since 1993 Virgilio Oliveira has been responsible for the Portuguese activities of the German Zollern group, producing automotive and commercial castings in a huge range of air melted alloys, as well as in super alloys casted under vacuum. Virgilio holds a Diploma in Economic Engineering and an MBA from the Porto Business School and he has been an active board member of the EICF for many years.



Steve Irwin (outgoing Chairman) presented to Virgilio Oliveira the cast scroll which represents the EICF Chairmanship during the transfer ceremony held at the Gala Dinner carried out at the Terminal de Cruzeiros in Porto. The new Chairman highlighted the important contribution of Mr. Irwin to the Federation during his term with important milestones such as the EICF Strategic Plan put in place, his good balance in Board management and Board members involvement, and the new projected EICF corporate image and web site.

New Members in 2018

The year 2018 has also represented a growth in the number of members of the EICF. A great welcome is given to :

- Certech UK
- Washington Mills Electro Minerals Ltd
- Magna Industrials Ltd
- PBS Velka Bites a.s.
- Qunhuangdao Fuge Science & Technology Co., Ltd
- Alucast s.r.o
- Materialise NV
- Buntrock Industries
- Solidscape, Inc.
- Kea Automation Ltd
- Saffroshine Organics Pvt. Ltd
- Investment & Precision Casting Ltd
- Saco Tec Components OY
- Eagle Engineered Solutions Inc.
- Eibar Precision Casting S. L

These new members represent strength and commitment to the values of the EICF

Cooperative Research & Industry Defence

Research is key to leading competitiveness. Within the EICF members, we have the privilege to count a series of reputed Research & Technology Organizations. With the coordination of Tecnia Research & Innovation the EICF has attended a “Call for comments” from the ECHA (*The European Chemicals Agency is the driving force among regulatory authorities in implementing the EU's groundbreaking chemicals legislation for the benefit of human health and the environment as well as for innovation and competitiveness*) relative to a potential restriction in the use of microplastics.



Production of the wax pattern is an essential step in the entire complex investment casting process as it guarantees the geometry requirements and surface conditions of the final component. Investment casting wax is a mixture of natural and artificial waxes, resins and different additives. One of the latter is a microplastic called XLPS or Crosslinked Polystyrene. The EICF working group submitted a report to the ECHA providing the impact assessment for the Investment Casting Industry on a potential ban on microplastics

Education & Qualification of IC Professionals

With its aspiration to provide an Investment Casting European education & qualification course the EICF has been in contact during the year 2018 with several Universities and Research Organizations. The difficulties in implementing this course at European level are genuine, but there is enthusiasm among those institutions to cooperate and build up such an important element to support the industry and to attract new professionals to it. Contacts and working activity will continue during 2019 in order to achieve this aspiration.

Cooperation with IC Associations

The EICF sustains relations with the Investment Casting Institute from America, the Japan Foundry Society from Japan, the Investment Casting Branch Association of China Foundry Association, the Taiwan Foundry Society and others in India, Brasil and Korea. These associations networking facilitate the interchange of experiences and the integration of world market and statistical data to the benefit of the European members.

All those associations were present or represented at the 29th EICF International Conference contributing with others to the global Investment Casting market review



ICI booth at the 29th EICF International Conference in Porto - April 2018

ICI , JFS and EICF are cooperating in the next WCIC, which will be the 15th World Conference on Investment Casting & Equipment Expo to be celebrated in October 18 – 21, 2020, at the Disneyland Hotel Anaheim, CA, USA.

EURO Seminar 2019 - Helsinki

The year 2019 brings us a new EICF event, this time it will be the EURO Seminar & Exhibition to be held in Helsinki 20 to 22 May 2019. The theme selected is “Alloy Melting and Pouring – Casting Best Practice” The seminar will be held at the “Marina Congress Centre”, a unique congress center located right in the heart of the city with waterfront location and only a short walk from Helsinki center.

The Seminar is structured over three days with a set of activities designed to ensure networking and knowledge sharing. The Seminar is organized in cooperation with the Association of Finnish Foundry Industry.



The seminar will present the latest status of the technology related with the relevant casting processes providing a total of 14 technical papers. The Exhibition has provision for 18 table top type booths. Industry visits are foreseen to the Investment Casting facility of SACOTEC and the prestigious rifle and cartridge brand of SAKO. A Reception Party and the traditional Seminar Dinner are also included to reinforce the networking activities among delegates.

Future EICF Events

Midterm planning for future events it is on its way and venues are confirmed for 2020 and 2021 events.

- 30th International EICF Conference to be held in 2020 at Vierländer region Bodensee (Lake Constance Four-Country Region), May 10 to 13, 2020. Bregenz (Austria) Kongresskultur
- 15th World Conference on Investment Casting & Equipment Expo to be celebrated in October 18 – 21, 2020, at the Disneyland Hotel Anaheim, CA, USA.
- EICF EURO Seminar 2021, Santander (Spain)

EICF Awards

During the year 2018 a new EICF award has been instituted to recognize the contribution of individuals to the EICF growth and development.

Once again the Porto conference was a perfect venue to present the awards in front of the community

The Gold Badge EICF award was presented to :

- Dr. David Ford (past EICF Secretary General 2003-2014)) *collected by Dr. Pam Murrell*
- Michael Ruenz (past EICF Chairman 2014-2016)
- Steve Leyland (past EICF Chairman 2012-2014)
- Giuseppe Fachinni (past EICF Chairman 2010-2012) *collected by Amadeo Torrens*
- Julie Boyce (EICF Administration Manager)



Lifetime Achievement Award

Following the trail initiated in 2016, the EICF Lifetime Achievement Award is recognizing the contributions over the whole of a career, of a European Investment Casting professional.

The 2018 Award was presented to Stephen Pilbury of REMET UK. Presenting the award, outgoing EICF Chairman Steve Irwin explained that Stephen had been associated with the industry from 1971. After 47 years in the Investment Casting industry, Stephen has now retired as MD of Remet UK Ltd, but will continue to stay close to Remet in his new role as a Non-Executive Director of Remet Corporation.



Speakers, Exhibitors & Sponsors

Speakers, exhibitors and sponsors are essential to the success of the EICF events. They are welcomed and encouraged to participate into the EICF events and technical sessions. These events are a unique opportunity to network with potential customers.

The EICF want to recognize and express gratitude to these genuine contributors who provide the essential elements that allow EICF events to run and to be of value and interest to delegates

EICF Activities Survey

The implementation of the EICF Strategic Plan put forward a whole set of new activities in which contribution from members and outcome for members is woven and interdependent. As a consequence a dedicated "EICF Activities Survey" has been launched, to have a better understanding of members' opinion in order to orientate those activities to meet those members' needs. Once again participation in the survey is fundamental to the success of those activities. Members are encouraged to actively participate i the survey

