

THE

LASER USER

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AILU

IN THIS ISSUE:

AI – Lasers That Learn

XXL Hybrid AM Process

Aluminium AM Performance

Shock Peening Curved Surfaces

Shock Peening Forging Dies

LASER SURFACE ENGINEERING:

ADDITIVE, SUBTRACTIVE & SHOCK PEENING

THE LASER USER

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Sub-Editor: Catherine Rose

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The Laser User is the house magazine of the Association of Industrial Laser Users. Its primary aim is to disseminate technical information and to present the views of its members. The views and opinions expressed in this magazine belong to the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of AILU.

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Cover image: Laser technology for tube processing - the ByTube 130.

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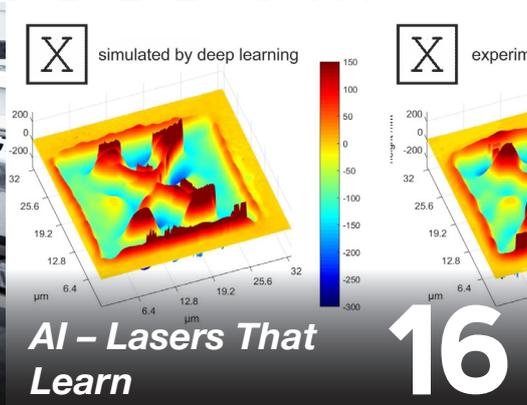
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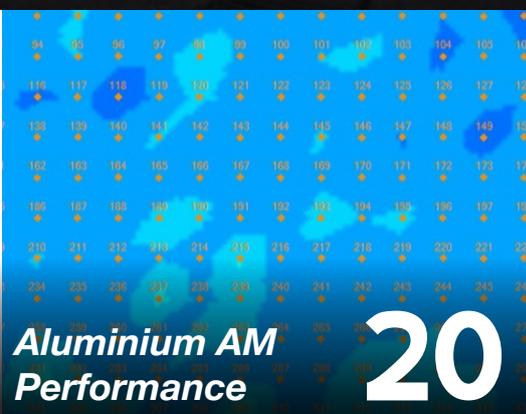
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ASSOCIATION NEWS

FIRST WORD

Meeting up in Munich at Laser World of Photonics was a great opportunity to network that I have missed since June 2019. Following on shortly after MACH 2022, this means I have met more members in April this year than at any time in the past 3 years – which was great! I did also catch Covid-19 at the NEC, but thanks to vaccines and good fortune wasn't actually ill.

Chance meetings and the unplanned conversations are great opportunities to connect people together and this was the main focus for me at Munich. At numerous events, I have been able to introduce potential partners, agents, employers and project partners to start mutually beneficial working relationships.

If you are looking to make new connections, you will find that the AILU network can provide almost anything you can need – and I am happy to point you in the right direction (or steer you towards someone who can). This is one of the less obvious and less tangible benefits of AILU membership, so why not get in touch via my email, or phoning the AILU office to reach out for more information. There is also a growing interest from people I meet in joining AILU – point people towards the website, where we have made it easy to join and pay online!

Dave MacLellan
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our recent Annual General Meeting was a lively affair bringing together our standing committee and some of our other members present at MACH, or online on Zoom. While I could not make it in person I can believe colleagues took full advantage of the show and surrounding hospitality.

LinkedIn has also been letting me know that the conference and industrial game is back in play and it's absolutely fantastic. I will be travelling this summer also to ISEM (Zurich, Switzerland), SFF (Austin, USA) and CIRP GA (Bilbao, Spain) following a number of fallow years for all of these meetings. While I can't wait for these communities to come back together I am equally conscious that we have learned lessons from the age of Zoom, the time of Teams and the season of Skype.

A special pleasure for me has been meeting colleagues, customers and stakeholders for the first time in person. I have been shocked to learn that almost everyone is taller in real life.

While we have lots of time to make up for I think we shouldn't forget how well we have done as a community over the last two years. With the support of various schemes (not least of all furlough) the lasers community in the UK has survived and pushed on and I am confident that customers of our technologies are waking up after a long sleep. The future is bright and I hope your next in-person handshake is a deal sealer.

Adam Clare
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RIC'S RAMBLINGS

Spring is in the air, although the temperature today and the near monsoon I had to drive through a couple of days ago suggests otherwise. At least we had a sunny and warm Easter break.

I had the pleasure of attending the AILU AGM recently, in person, in glorious 3D, in the NEC at MACH 2022. The content of the meeting was fine, the chance to meet some old friends was great, but the quality of the internet connection really let us down. I felt sorry for Adam, our President, and Dave who had to chair and navigate around a hybrid meeting where the internet signal was not much better than the old "dial up modem" from the 90s, in fact I think it was worse. I really do despair that in 2022 we are still having significant drop outs and loss of connection, especially in this new world of hybrid where half the folks are in the room and half floating somewhere in the interrupted ether. Surely, there must be a solution out there for this - maybe even a laser based one?

Moaning aside it was great to see that AILU is doing well, despite the pandemic. Back in 2015 when I was taking over from Neil Main as President, Neil and I faced the challenge of the retirement of Mike Green, who many of you will know and remember as one of the founders of AILU. At the time, a number of people (who shall remain nameless) told me that AILU was done for, not worth carrying on, forget the whole

thing! Well I took that as my cue to do exactly the opposite. Neil and I recruited Dave and AILU has not only survived it has positively thrived under his leadership and the superb commitment and skill of our AILU management team. Yes there are challenging times ahead, not least how we deal with hybrid meetings and rubbish internet connections. Nevertheless, I feel positive about the future for AILU, with the continued support of you, its valued membership, and the firm and skilful hand at the tiller there is much reason to be optimistic.

Mach 2022 by the way was excellent, it appeared to be a competition as to who could bring the biggest and best flat-bed machining system to the NEC and there were lots of laser-based tools there too. What a relief that we can all get back to meeting up and doing business over a coffee and a handshake!

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