

CCEFP Researchers "Wow" Conference Attendees

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As an attendee at the 2nd Annual Conference for CCEFP (Center for Compact & Efficient Fluid Power--see sidebar, page 45), the best adjective for this experience is "inspiring."

As the audience of industry members, professors and students listened to project papers presented on the on-going process of fluid power research--it was truly inspiring to see the progress from last year's annual meeting.

After a welcome from Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE)'s President, Hermann Viets, and Dean of Applied Research, Tom Bray, the conference was underway.

As you may know, the Center is broken down into three major "thrust" areas: Efficiency Projects, Compactness Projects and Effectiveness Projects. In addition, there are test beds where research findings are applied.

Projects in each of these areas were reviewed, and researchers had 15 minutes to present and answer the myriad of questions. In addition to the many projects being integral to a specific test bed, some are linked to other projects in the Center.



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Two days were devoted to reviewing all 22+ research projects and four active test beds currently underway at the Center's seven universities. Research focused on critical topics such as noise, haptic controls, improved materials, increased efficiencies, fluids, textured surfaces, cavitation, etc.

Interesting reports were given on the CCEFP's Education and Outreach program, which includes partnerships with the Centers' three affiliated organizations: the Science Museum of Minnesota, Project Lead The Way and the National Fluid Power Association (NFPA).

The Science Museum has completed an interactive display that illustrates a key feature of a hydraulic hybrid vehicle, and more displays are planned, all in the hope that they will be disseminated to other science museums worldwide. The Museum's Fluid Power Youth Science Team not only helps with exhibits, but also teaches and demonstrates fluid power in and out of the museum (i.e., local schools).

Project Lead The Way's pre-engineering curriculum includes five middle school units and eight high school courses that are taught at 2,951 schools across our great nation. Through funding from the National Fluid

Power Association, fluid power content is being developed for some of these courses, with experts from industry as well as Center staff and faculty serving as subject matter experts. CCEFP faculty will also participate in Project Lead The Way teacher training workshops this summer.

In addition to all this awesome news, CCEFP and NFPA, together with fluid power associations across the world, have cooperated in developing two fluid power videos. The Center's video focuses on fluid power basics and applications, while NFPA's video highlights fluid power careers. Both videos have already aired on Twin Cities Public Television (Minneapolis/St. Paul) and are now available for distribution, a great step in the exposure of fluid power to the general population.

These are just a few of the 20 projects that the CCEFP Education and Outreach program includes, and several others are waiting in the wings. All in all, very exciting advances for fluid power and motion control technology in the United States.

The 2nd Annual Conference was wonderfully hosted by MSOE, and participants were able to tour

the Fluid Power Institute, headed by Tom Wanke, the Rapid Prototyping Center and the Fluid Power Education Seminar Training Labs--certainly beautiful, state-of-the-art facilities. In addition, the conference was wrapped up with a reception at the Grohmann Museum (<http://www.msOE.edu/manatwork>). The "Man at Work Collection" showcases more than 700 paintings and sculptures from 1580 to present day--in a word, fascinating, this is a must-see when you're in Milwaukee.

For more information, visit www.ccefp.org.

Photo Identification

1. Tom Wanke explains the FPI.
2. Grohmann Museum Rooftop.
3. Stunning floor mosaic.
4. MSEO FPI lab.
5. MSOE student project.
6. Exquisite "Man At Work" art.
7. Poster session project.
8. Students hear about careers.
9. Q & A at poster session.
10. Research presentations.
11. MSOE hosts conference.

