

Preface

The ICNFT is a forum for researchers and professional practitioners to exchange ideas and experience and to discuss aspects of leading-edge novel forming technologies designed to meet the needs of manufacturing industry in present and future years. The former three ICNFT conferences were held in China in 2004, in Germany in 2007, and in China 2012 respectively. The 4th ICNFT addressed not only research, development and applications of new forming technology but also the latest achievements in forming composites and other advanced high-performance materials. Delegates had an opportunity to exchange thoughts and opinions on technological trends and future challenges, and were encouraged to discuss cultural perspectives of globalization as well as international collaboration perspectives, through the networking activities organised by the conference.

Delegates from 18 countries/regions submitted 150 abstracts to the conference and 128 full papers were accepted by the conference and published in the conference proceedings. There were two keynote sessions for 7 plenary lectures and 20 parallel sessions for 132 oral presentations. These covered fields of forging, extrusion, drawing, sheet forming/hot-stamping, rolling/roll forming, hydro- and tube forming, micro-forming, powder technology, materials and characterisation, tooling and heat treatment, design and modelling, and other manufacturing processes. The contents dealt with new/enhanced forming processes for both conventional materials and new materials. They well reflected the state of the art of the current forming technology and gave a strong indication to the trend of developing new forming technology.

As the wish of the 1st ICNFT, the momentum generated by exchanges of ideas and formation of new collaborative links was being maintained through the 4th ICNFT. Participation from industry in this conference will particularly enhance the industrial relevance of the research in developing future forming technology.

We would like to thank our industrial sponsors, namely RITAI (Shanghai) Auto Standard Component Co. Ltd, AP&T Group, PAB Group, ESI Group SA, and other sponsors, namely The Institute of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE), Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), Consortium of UK University Manufacturing Engineering Department Heads (COMEH), European Technology Platform for Advanced Engineering Materials and Technologies (EuMaT), European Nanotechnology Technology and Innovation Platform (NanoFutures), China Society for Technology of Plasticity (CSTP), Arbeitsgemeinschaft Umformtechnik (German Academic Metal Forming Association) (AGU), and National Key Lab on Precision Hot Processing of Metals of China.

Thanks are extended to the Conference Organising Committee: Conference Administrator, J. Zhao, for her hard work in managing the conference, including papers, administration and other conference affairs; Paper Manager, Q. Zeng, for his effort in managing paper submissions; A. Lynn, for his work for setting up and updating the conference web-site; and other committee members: G. Anyasodor, S. Chen, H. Hijji, K. Huang, A. Jagadeesan, X. Liu, W. Nawang, T.M. Supri, Y. Tian, C. Wang, X. Wang, Z. Xu, S. Yang, Y. Zhao and M. Zulkipli, for their effort in checking and formatting the papers and in ensuring smooth running of the conference. Their enthusiasm and professionalism ensured the success of the conference.

Yi Qin
Chairman of the 4th ICNFT
1st August 2015