

ALTA 2020 Online



Nickel-Cobalt-Copper, Uranium-REE, Gold-PM, In Situ Recovery, Lithium & Battery Technology
CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION
ALTA - a leading platform for innovation since 1995

The metallurgical event of the year, ALTA 2020 Online, the 25th annual conference, took place from 9 - 27 November. All content, including over 100 papers, will be available for on-demand viewing until March 2021. Key conferences included the Nickel-Cobalt-Copper plus Hydromet Processing of Ni-Co-Cu Sulphides Forum & Panel, and In-Situ Recovery plus Application of ISR to Copper Forum & Panel.

Ni-Co-Cu

As with other recent events, the Global Battery Industry featured, from both the resource and technology side. Novel ways to store

(3D printing) and utilise mine tailings were covered, along with process optimisation of heap leach and solvent extraction operations from both modelling and case studies. Seabed nodule harvesting and processing papers were presented, as well as some proprietary systems.

ISR

Papers on commercialisation and scale-up of the current In-Situ Recovery processing options (new mine development / underground / worked tailings) were coupled with economic and geological approaches, making for an informative Conference on this growth area. As Alan Taylor put it in his own presentation, the sector is 'Coming of Age' rapidly in the present climate, with environmental concerns topping the global agenda.

There will be further reporting in the next issue.

www.waltametcom.au

Sulphur + Sulphuric Acid 2020

The well-attended CRU Sulphur + Sulphuric Acid 2020 Live + Virtual Conference took place in mid-November. In *Practical aspects of remote site support activities during the Covid pandemic*, Collin Bartlett, Metso Outotec focussed on digitalisation, and more specifically how it has enabled remote site support. Boris Nestic of Chemetics looked at *Smart sustaining capital projects - Using new technology to unlock value in your plant*. With aging assets in many parts of the globe, executing 'sustaining capital' projects, addressing a capacity or environmental need, requires systematic methodology for reviewing such targeted debottlenecking, emissions reductions, energy efficiency

improvements and/or reduced maintenance initiatives from project inception.

Tom Brouwers of DuPont MECS delivered on *Effective emissions management and reduction in sulphuric acid plants with the help of advanced catalyst types*, covering the impact of catalyst selection on SO₂ emissions reduction, sulphuric acid capacity gains, energy use and extended operating periods. There were further informative presentations from Fluor B.V., Haldor Topsoe, DuPont MECS, NORAM Engineering, P&P Industries, SensoTech and others in the Sulphuric Acid Track. There will be further reporting in the next issue.

www.eventsrugroup.com

wire China and Tube China 2020

The wire China and Tube China fairs were jointly held at Shanghai New International Expo Centre (SNIEC) from 23-26 September 2020. The trade fairs took place safely and at a distance, in compliance with all applicable hygiene regulations - a real atmosphere of optimism was noticeable in the halls. A total of 725 exhibitors, including 640 Chinese companies, came to wire China and presented their innovations on a total area of 54,000 sq m. Two national pavilions from Germany and France complemented the trade fair events.

At Tube China, 221 companies presented

on a total area of 18,000 sq m. Tube China was supplemented by THERMPROCESS China and Saw EXPO China. In special theme pavilions, 20 companies from the fields of thermal process technology, sawing and alternative cutting technologies presented their innovations. More than 36,000 visitors came to the four trade fairs on four days in total. The next trade fair dates for wire China and Tube China with THERMPROCESS China and Saw EXPO China are 26-29 September 2022 in Shanghai.

www.wire-tradefair.com

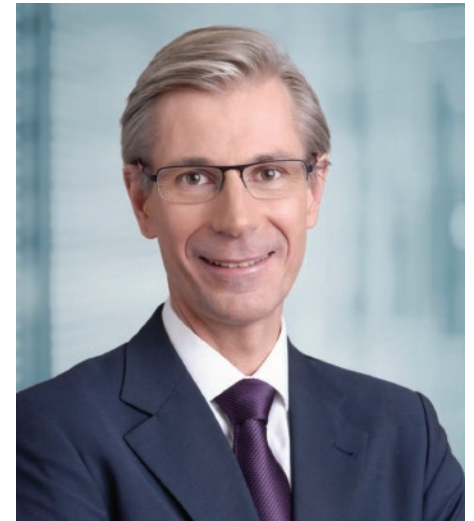
Properzi holds virtual In-house Fair

Continuus-Properzi has run an In-house Fair from 7-11 December 2020, which were the first set of revised dates for wire/Tube 2020 before they were cancelled. The programme comprised various technical events throughout the week featuring presentations, face-to-face meetings, videos and many other opportunities to learn about Properzi knowhow. There was a dedicated Copper

day on 8 December, with TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY services in addition to IULIUS 4.0, which is Properzi's response to Industry 4.0, on 9 December. The Properzi PRO-FORM and TRACK & BELT INGOT CASTING technologies were also highlighted on 11 December. There will be a further report in the next issue.

www.properziit

Battery Recycling Congress Q&A



Roman Stifner of the Austrian Non-Ferrous Metals Federation.
Photo: ICM

ICBR 2020, the 25th International Congress for Battery Recycling took place in both real and virtual worlds from 16 - 18 September 2020 in Salzburg, Austria. All presentations, panel discussion and workshop were featured on-site and streamed virtually. Conference bulletins featured an interview with Roman Stifner, Managing Director of the Austrian Non-Ferrous Metals Federation:

What is the role of a national federation like yours?

My organisation represents 100% of the companies operating in the non-ferrous metals and mining and steel industries in Austria and is the result of the merger between two federations. We are very active on both national and EU levels and provide full advisory services, information and advocacy in multiple domains, including labour and environmental law, all trade issues.

What are the key challenges you see for your member companies?

Our companies are acting on a global market so national and European legislation needs to create a level playing field for all. The environmental legislation in Europe is very restrictive and at the same time there is protectionism still in place in geographical areas outside Europe, so I believe the European institutions need to be bolder on the international stage.

What about batteries and the circular economy?

There are several issues here. One of the key concerns for industry is access to raw materials in Europe which is proving very vulnerable in places. I also believe that there can be no circular economy in Europe without primary raw materials, both recycled and primary materials are essential in particular for the new mobility applications, and ideally the sourcing of new material should start in Europe.

www.icmch/icbr-2020