



## AIST MENA Member Chapter Formalized

The AIST Middle East North Africa (MENA) Member Chapter was formalized as AIST's 22nd Member Chapter by the board of directors on Thursday, 1 July 2021 at AISTech 2021 in Nashville, Tenn., USA.

During the show, the AIST Board of Directors met and approved the association's 22nd Member Chapter, the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) Chapter. The approval is the capstone of a multi-year effort to create a group for steel professionals in Middle Eastern and North African countries.

"We are excited about AIST's growth in this region, which has a proud history of iron- and steelmaking, and we have much to learn from one another," O'Malley said.

Much credit for this effort is due to Mohamed Saied of EZZ Steel in Egypt and Karim Alshurafa of SMS group Inc. Through their persistence, what started as general conversations about a new Member Chapter became formal in-depth discussions, which led to a three-day virtual forum in November 2020, the first formal programming AIST has conducted which was focused on the MENA region.

Nearly 170 people attended that event, many of whom had never heard of AIST. But for those that hadn't, they will soon hear more as the chapter builds up its technical programming agenda.

The approval of the MENA Member Chapter came at the tail end of the conference and helped cap off what, for many, had been an eventful and productive week in Nashville.

