



European Member Chapter Formalized

The Association for Iron & Steel Technology is pleased to announce it has established a European Member Chapter, marking the association's formal expansion into the EU. The AIST board of directors approved the chapter's formation during its annual meeting, which was held at AISTech 2017 — The Iron & Steel Technology Conference and Exposition, 8–11 May, in Nashville, Tenn., USA.

AIST has been exploring the potential for a European chapter since 2009, when members in Italy began discussing the need for a regionally based chapter to expand the reach of AIST's programs and services. A steering committee was formed, and over the next eight years, it thoroughly investigated whether an AIST European chapter could offer value-added programs, conferences and training that would be complimentary to other European steel associations.

As part of that effort, AIST (and the steering committee) organized five European-oriented Steel Forums in Italy (listed at right).

- **2016:**
20–21 October, Danieli, Buttrio, Italy
Tours: Danieli, Acciaierie Bertoli Safau and Ferriere Nord SpA
- **2015:**
22–23 October, TenarisDalmine, Dalmine, Italy
Tour: TenarisDalmine
- **2014:**
9–10 October, Pomini Tenova, Castellanza, Italy
Tours: Pomini Tenova and Acciaieria Arvedi S.p.A (Cremona)
- **2013:**
26–27 September, Pomini Tenova, Castellanza, Italy
Tours: Pomini Tenova, Tamini, ASO Siderurgica and T.E.S.
- **2012:**
18 October, Pomini Tenova, Castellanza, Italy
Tour: Pomini Tenova

[Read full event details at AIST.org/EuropeanEvents](http://AIST.org/EuropeanEvents)

Pierluigi Molajoni, steel economist, provided perspectives on Europe and China during his keynote speech on the steel industry intensity of GDP at the 2016 AIST European Steel Forum.



In reviewing the attendance and feedback from those events, and after benchmarking other regional steel programming, the steering committee concluded that there was indeed room in the market for a European chapter.

The AIST European Member Chapter represents a significant step forward for the association as we look to broaden internationally. Our goal is to increase international membership to 25% of our roster by 2020. We're closing in on that goal, but there's more work to do. And while we're already represented in North America, South America, Asia, Australia and India, having a formal European presence should greatly help in building our network in service to our European-based members.



2016 AIST European Steel Forum attendees listening intently during the session.

As a whole, the EU accounts for nearly 17% of the world's crude steel production, ranking behind only China. Individually, six EU countries — Germany, Italy, Spain, France, Poland and Austria — rank among the world's top 20 producers. Additionally, the EU's steel production is spread across 500 sites that together employ around 319,000 people. For comparison, the U.S. steel industry has 95 production sites and directly employs 142,000.

Moreover, the European Union has a long and proud steel tradition that has given rise to many important technological innovations and some of our most renowned machine builders.

The AIST steel fraternity is indeed global, and we have much to learn from one another. So we will continue to extend our international presence to create a knowledge base and network that's truly global in scope. AIST's mission is to advance steel technology, and we aspire to be the global leader in networking, education and sustainability programs. We will do so through knowledge-sharing, paving avenues for our members to access global markets, and engendering passion for steel among the next generation of steelmakers.

If you're interested in learning more about the AIST European Member Chapter, to become a member of the chapter, or to host a future event, please contact Stacy Varmecky, general manager — membership and marketing, at svarmecky@aist.org or +1.724.814.3066.



AIST European Steel Forum Steering Committee members formalized the chapter during AISTech 2017.



AIST's 22 Member Chapters represent more than 70 countries around the world, and are an integral component in facilitating the exchange of ideas and strengthening AIST's global network. The chapters host programs through technical symposia, town hall forums, keynote presentations, product fairs and plant tours. This programming serves to disseminate knowledge and strengthen the steel community for the greater benefit of our members, their employers and our industry.

The AIST European Member Chapter will serve the following 28 countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

Inaugural AIST European Member Chapter Executive Committee

Chair:

Mauro Bianchi Ferri, managing director, Acciarium Srl

Vice Chair:

Paolo Losso, president and chairman of the board, Danieli Corp.

First Vice Chair:

Lydia Stromei, regional director — Global Sales, Tenova Inc. (provisional)

Secretary/Treasurer:

Jernej Pretnar, area manager, Quaker Chemical

Programming Chair:

Mauro Milocco, head of development and product design — steelmaking, SMS Group S.p.A.

Membership Co-Chairs:

Alessandra Spaghetti, global technical marketing, Sandvik Italia SpA;
Maria Elena Fabiani, CEO, SIME SRL;
Gianluca Maccani, sales manager, BM Group