The AIST Road Show crew was excited to travel to two locations in California recently — each with rich steelmaking histories that include dramatic rebounds in the 1980s. It was great to have the opportunity to meet with employees from USS-POSCO Industries (UPI) in Pittsburg, Calif., USA, on 12 January 2016 and California Steel Industries (CSI) in Fontana, Calif., USA, on 14 January 2016.

Renamed in 1911 after the eastern birthplace of the steel industry, and AIST’s home base, Pittsburg, Calif., has been the site of steel manufacturing for more than 100 years. UPI was created in 1986 through a partnership with United States Steel Corporation and Pohang Iron and Steel Co.

More than 220 UPI employees stopped by the AIST Road Show tent for breakfast and lunch to learn about the value of AIST membership and how AIST’s training programs and networking opportunities will benefit their careers. Adam Krey, manager of purchasing, said, “One benefit of hosting the AIST
Road Show is you can reach a lot of people at one time and talk to them about AIST as a whole. It’s a great way to increase participation in the San Francisco Member Chapter.”

Spraying Systems Co. sponsored the Road Show visit at UPI and offered a tabletop display of its products. Bo Buhl, sales engineer at Spraying Systems, said, “It was great to visit with so many contacts, old and new, in a relaxed atmosphere. There was some great dialogue and I have a lot to follow up on. And the burgers were fantastic!"

Two days later, the AIST Road Show packed up stakes and journeyed to Fontana, Calif., to visit CSI. More than 300 CSI employees enjoyed breakfast and lunch while discussing ways AIST can help them advance their professional development and improve their plant’s efficiency.

Beginning operations in 1984, California Steel Industries occupies part of the plant built by Henry Kaiser to meet the demand for steel on the West Coast during World War II. The northern half of the former Kaiser Steel’s plant is now the California Speedway. In addition to other films and videos, James Cameron filmed Terminator II’s climatic Arnold Schwarzenegger-cyborg showdown at CSI.

Robbie Woods, senior fire and safety engineer for CSI, said, “The AIST Road Show has allowed our employees to see firsthand what AIST is about. AIST is about getting to network with other people, realizing what the industry has
to offer and seeing what the newest technologies are that our employees could benefit from. Today we’ve had over 300 employees go through the Road Show and I feel it’s been a great success for our company and AIST as well.”

AIST staff members were able to provide information on how the association can provide all employees with networking opportunities through its 22 local Member Chapters and 30 Technology Committees, as well as improving their specific skill sets through AIST’s numerous Technology Training programs.

The AIST Road Show enables AIST to accomplish its mission of advancing the technical development, production, processing, and application of iron and steel by visiting facilities and interacting with and providing support to the people who make up the industry and our association.

Thank you to Adam Krey, UPI; Rod Simpson, UPI; Adrian Deneys, Praxair; Robbie Woods, CSI; and Brad Bray, CSI for making the third and fourth AIST Road Shows a success.

If your company is interested in hosting the AIST Road Show, or would like to become a sponsor at an upcoming visit, please contact Bill Albaugh at balbaugh@aist.org or +1.724.814.3010. We hope to see you soon!

Ron Ashburn (right), AIST executive director, presented a plaque recognizing AIST’s appreciation to Ted Tamai (left), president and CEO of UPI, and his executive vice presidents, for their efforts in promoting the AIST Road Show.

USS-POSCO Road Show Visit Sponsored by

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