



22nd
Annual

AIST Crane Symposium

The 22nd Annual AIST Crane Symposium was held on 7–9 June 2015 at the historic Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pa., USA. Each year for the past 22 years, the symposium has delivered practical information and experiences from crane maintenance personnel, crane manufacturers, equipment manufacturers, and engineering consultants who strive to make electric overhead traveling (EOT) cranes and their runways the safest, most reliable, durable machinery and equipment

in the industry. The two-day program included presentations focused on safe work practices and ergonomics, electrical, mechanical, and structural maintenance techniques, crane inspection technologies and best practices in EOT crane modernizations. On Tuesday, 9 June 2015, Bobby Askew, AIST Cranes Technology Committee chair, presented the Crane Innovator of the Year Award to Joe Bavuso, union safety representative, United States Steel Corporation, recognizing him for bringing forth the

latest in technology and increasing efficiencies in operational and maintenance practices for the continuous improvement of heavy industrial cranes. Mr. Bavuso presented “U. S. Steel Crane Mechanical Maintenance Training,” highlighting the efforts U. S. Steel has made to improve its EOT maintenance training.

It was yet another “international” Crane Symposium, as the 200-plus registered attendees represented six different countries: Germany,



Bobby Askew presented representatives from the Navy Crane Center with a plaque of appreciation for hosting a tour at a previous Cranes Technology Committee meeting (left to right): David Shephathiah, Tim Simon, Michael Johnson, George Naser, Bryan Barber and Askew.



Bobby Askew (left), Cranes Technology Committee chair, presented the AIST 2015 Crane Innovator of the Year Award to Joe Bavuso (right).

Nucor Corp. and Steel Dynamics Inc. have utilized the AIST Crane Symposium as an educational and networking opportunity for their respective crane maintenance departments by co-locating their company crane maintenance meetings with the symposium. Both companies leverage the Crane Symposium attendance to focus their intra-plant communications that bring continuous improvement benefits to their companies.

“Without the Symposium, this meeting might not have happened, definitely not as quickly as it did. We have a huge attendance each June, with representation from most mills. We exchange safety, reliability and upgrading equipment information, along with new, innovative ideas about what the different crane groups in each mill are doing,” said Bobby Askew, Nucor Steel—Hertford County, and AIST Cranes Technology Committee chair.

At the 22nd Annual Crane Symposium, Steel Dynamics Inc. held its first meeting for representatives from its mills, similar to what Nucor has done for years.

Belgium, Spain, Netherlands, Canada and the U.S. There were 87 producers from 20 different crane-using companies and 37 individual facilities, accounting for 44% of the total attendance. Seven of the 22 presentations were technical case studies by producer attendees. Also in attendance were representatives from the aluminum industry, titanium industry and the U.S. Navy Crane Center. Nucor Corp. again had the largest delegation in attendance (22 attendees from eight facilities:

Hertford, Texas, Nucor-Yamato Steel Co., Gallatin, Tuscaloosa, Utah, Kankakee and Decatur), followed by Steel Dynamics Inc. (18 attendees from five facilities: Roanoke, Columbus, Pittsboro and Butler and Steel of West Virginia) and ArcelorMittal (12 attendees from seven facilities: Dofasco, Belgium, Coatesville, Burns Harbor, Cleveland, Weirton and Indiana Harbor). Other companies with significant attendance were the Navy Crane Center, Ellwood Quality Steel, Jersey Shore Steel

Co., United States Steel Corporation, Benteler Steel, Gerdau, Pro-Tec, Tata Steel IJmuiden, Charter Steel, Carpenter Steel Corp., Warren Steel Holdings and Alcoa Aluminum. ♦