38-year life member

David Domanski

With over 43 years of experience in electromagnetic stirring (EMS) systems, David Domanski has established himself in the steel industry, combining technical knowledge with decades of global industry experience. After earning a mechanical technologist degree from Durham College in Oshawa, Ont., Canada, in 1981, he began his career at Ferrco Engineering as a draftsman in the rolling mill department. In 1982, he joined J. Mulcahy Enterprises (JME), later acquired by Inverpower Controls and then ABB, where he spent about 35 years designing and supplying EMS systems. Over the years, he advanced from draftsman to production manager, sales manager and ultimately business unit manager, responsible for global profit and loss, sales and service for billet and bloom EMS systems. Since 2017, Domanski has served as sales manager – maintenance services at SMS Concast Canada, overseeing EMS system service and consultation; service and service sales for ConDrive mold oscillation devices for North and South America; and has successfully set up an EMS service workshop. Currently, he is working on developing a new, larger facility dedicated to service of EMS and ConDrive mold oscillation devices. Committed to using his knowledge to support customers with retraining, maintenance consultation and service support, Domanski has designed, produced, maintained, sold, consulted and managed all aspects of EMS systems for billets and blooms.

When did you first hear about AISE/ISS and how? Was there someone who introduced you to the association?

I started working in the steel industry in the early 1980s, when continuous casting was somewhat new and many small companies were being formed that specialized in new and improving technology fields. I was the fifth employee in a small engineering and equipment supply company in the new commercially applied field of electromagnetic stirring. Being young in such a small group, I wore many different hats, including drafting, design, purchasing, manufacturing and eventually sales. In the early 1980s, our small group started having booths at AISTech, which I participated in in the booth. The original members of the company already had AIST memberships. That experience opened my eyes to how much I could learn about this evolving industry. I joined in 1987.

What was your first level of involvement in AIST? How did your involvement progress over the years?

I have been involved in a vendor booth every year at AISTech since the early 1980s. I started going to see papers in the early 1990s and eventually saw an advantage in joining the Continuous Casting Technology Committee, where I have been an active participant in two meetings a year. I had the privilege of co-authoring several technical papers presented worldwide, and for the AISTechs over the years. I was fortunate to co-author a paper with Len Beitelman and Ian Deeks that won the Continuous Casting Best Paper Award in 2015, titled "Continuous Casting of High-Carbon Alloy Steel Billets."

How has AIST membership benefited you in your career?

I have so many good colleagues that I have met and developed relationships with over the years, including customers, vendors and like-minded individuals. I use these relationships to learn what's new, solve some of my problems, and I help solve some of theirs.

Talk about your career path. How did you enter the steel industry? How has the industry progressed from when you started to the present day?

I started my career as a young mechanical draftsman, freshly graduating as a mechanical technologist. I benefited greatly by being in a very small company, where I was involved with every aspect of operating the business. As our small group grew, I naturally grew also. Eventually, the company was sold from a family business (JME) to a multinational company (ABB), I became the business unit manager and had P&L responsibility for our global operation for billet and bloom electromagnetic stirring. With this group, I directly participated in several electromagnetic stirring patents and papers. In 2018, I took on a fresh role with the SMS group to build a thriving electromagnetic stirring service/support business and facility for North America. I now am involved with service for some other products on the caster head. Over the years, I have witnessed so many new developments in technology, and how continuous casting has become so much more understood. The pioneers that I was mentored by are almost all retired. I was very involved in R&D projects that were collaborated with universities, producer R&D groups and R&D for our own electromagnetic stirring products.

Are there any current projects within the industry you are working on?

I am excited about the SMS group new ConDrive oscillation mechanism, which I have the lead service sales responsibility in the Americas. We outgrew our footprint at the SMS Concast Canada - Accumold facility and are currently setting up brand new workshop to support our growing electromagnetic stirring and ConDrive service business. On new electromagnetic stirring system sales, I sometimes participate with front-end sales when needed, on difficult installations to help find solutions. My ongoing activity is to meet with existing electromagnetic stirring users and train them in maintenance, and observe where they are with their metallurgical objectives. I see so many plants that original team members are now retired, and new members don't fully understand what the equipment does, or how to maintain it.

If you were to recommend AIST to a new graduate just coming into the industry, what would you tell him/her?

For new graduates, or young people entering this industry, I would certainly advise them to join AIST, especially becoming a committee member. Get involved! By doing so, you get a much better appreciation of how technically advanced this industry is and how they can make a difference in its future. Expanding their knowledge of this business will only help them develop for their future. ✦