

# Make It Your Kind of Show

This is the exciting time of the year when our welding industry is on display in Chicago at the AWS Welding Show. This is the 55th year for our Show, and we look forward to demonstrating to the world the many solutions through welding that can positively impact the global economy.

With our partners at FABTECH, we feel that the FABTECH International & AWS Welding Show has a lot to offer. Following are just some of the highlights:

- **Location.** Chicago has always been a great venue, and the facilities are first class for a Show of our magnitude. To quote Frank Sinatra, Chicago is "My Kind of Town" for the Show.
- **Welding.** When AWS refers to welding it does so in the broad definition of the term. When we say welding is on display, we mean welding and its allied processes, including joining, brazing, soldering, cutting, and thermal spraying.
- **Exhibitors.** The number of welding exhibitors will total close to 460 with 160,000 square feet within the welding part of the Show. You'll find exhibits on every type of welding product and process, and exhibitors willing to share their expertise. The total square footage including welding, fabrication, and tube and pipe is 475,000.
- **NAM (National Association of Manufacturers).** NAM has joined the FABTECH/AWS alliance as an Industry Partner, which should assist in drawing additional attendees.
- **International Thermal Spray Association.** This year's exhibition features a special pavilion of thermal spray-related exhibitors and an introduction to thermal spray coating processes.
- **Leadership Summit.** The shortage of welders is one of the hottest topics in welding today; come hear industry leaders discuss ways to solve the problem.
- **Conferences.** Friction Welding and Hot Wire Welding and Cladding are just two of the top-notch conferences taking place this year.
- **Seminars.** Eight continuing education seminars will provide you with opportunities to increase your practical knowledge.
- **RWMA.** The Resistance Welding Manufacturing Alliance Welding School will be held.
- **Professional Program.** This comprehensive program focuses on the latest in welding research and commercial developments. In addition, you can view the entries in the AWS Poster Session.
- **Education Sessions.** These free sessions will highlight the latest developments in education and training.
- **AWS Professional Welders Competition.** Stop by and watch professional welders as they demonstrate their skills for prizes.
- **International Brazing and Soldering Symposium.** Features information on research and applications.
- **Job Fair and Work Force Development Pavilion.** Representatives from prospective employers will be on hand.
- **End User Forum.** This forum was created to bring together the end user welding community.
- **Image of Welding Awards.** Special awards will be presented to those companies and individuals who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in promoting welding.
- **FABTECH Technical Sessions.** More than 40 technical sessions in 10 technology areas are being offered.

These are just some of the events that will be held at this year's Show. I believe there's something to interest everyone involved with welding. We're anticipating approximately 25,000 individuals attending during the four days of the Show. I hope you'll be one of them. Please join us in Chicago and experience "My Kind of Show." You will be glad you did.



Ray W. Shook  
 AWS Executive Director

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