See if this sounds familiar. Your job demands that you have quick access to reliable information on a diverse variety of technical subjects. You need to find it fast because of expanding duties in today’s competitive world. And it needs to be inexpensive because budgets are tighter than ever. Getting to the right source is critical, because a timely and helpful answer for a colleague or a customer can be a huge competitive advantage.

That, in summary, describes the work environment for many of the more than 500 technical professionals who responded to STLE’s recent member-needs survey. Those same respondents also gave STLE high marks for being a trusted source of information, education and training on tribology and lubrication issues. STLE was rated as a highly valuable source by 84 percent of the respondents, finishing at the top of a list of 12 information providers.

One of STLE’s newest member services supports this need for high-value information in a high-pressure world and demonstrates our commitment to stay atop the list of preferred providers when it comes to reliable technical information.

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For the past year, subject matter experts from STLE’s technical committees have been working with our professional staff to develop a series of technical e-newsletters that offer information, ideas and solutions for some of the most important topical areas related to lubricants and tribology. The newsletters provide links to STLE resources in a variety of formats, with the information ranging across basic concepts and ideas, recent research, practical applications, best practices, case studies, how-to tips, trends, news and hot topics. They are published on a quarterly schedule.

Five newsletters already exist covering the following technical areas:

- Environmentally Friendly Fluids
- Grease
- Metalworking & Metalworking Fluids
- Power Generation
- Synthetics and Hydraulics.

Four more are planned on Bearings, Gears and Seals, Condition Monitoring, Engine/Drive Train and Lubrication Fundamentals.

The first e-newsletter released, Metalworking & Metalworking Fluids, covers a variety of topics within the metalworking field, including the benefits of using fluids, the chemistry involved in formulating them, how to manage them, as well as solve problems, and the various health, safety and environmental issues that affect them. To date, there have been more than 20 original contributions by experts and top practitioners in this technical discipline.

One of the more recent additions to the newsletter program, Environmentally Friendly Fluids, covers a variety of topics within the bio-based, environmentally friendly or green arenas, including lubricants, greases and more. The debut issue from April 2013 includes four original articles, four archived Webinars, four TLT articles and podcasts.

For a closer look at all of the newsletters and detailed instructions on how to begin receiving the latest information when released, go to: https://www.stle.org/resources/technews.aspx. The site also explains how you can become a contributor to the newsletter that matches your area of expertise.

These technical newsletters are consistent with STLE’s value proposition, which invites you to “Connect, Learn and Achieve” with the resources provided by STLE. I think you’ll find this is one more tool from STLE that hits our target of improving your ability to compete in the global business environment.