



STLE Update

WHERE SCIENCE MEETS THE BOTTOM LINE



Mission Statement:

To advance the science of tribology and the practice of lubrication engineering in order to foster innovation, improve the performance of equipment and products, conserve resources, and protect the environment.

STLE membership supports and expands your professional abilities through:

Education: Top-rated and affordable courses are offered live at a variety of locations or through the new [LubeLearn](#) on-line education program.

Certification: Earn recognition and valuable credentials through two STLE-sponsored programs: Certified Lubrication Specialist (CLS) and Oil Monitoring Analyst (OMA).

Professional Networking: Offered at two major international conferences, local section meetings or one of 23 technical committees and industry councils.

DECEMBER 2004

WELCOME

STLE Update provides our 4,000 members worldwide with news about STLE and practical content useful to technical professionals. Here's what's happening this month.

Professional identity and development programs gain in importance

A growing percentage of members are finding new or enhanced value from STLE programs related to professional identity and development. For example, as 2004 draws to a close, more than 900 individuals now hold either the [Certified Lubrication Specialist \(CLS\)](#) or [Oil Monitoring Analyst \(OMA\) certification](#). That represents nearly 25% of the total membership.

The percentage seems likely to continue growing in 2005 with the introduction of the new Certified Metalworking Fluids Specialist (CMFS) program. STLE membership files show that more than 1,300 people regard metalworking fluids as one of their primary areas of technical interest or involvement. The first CMFS certification exam is on target to be held at the May 2005 Annual Meeting, according to members of the committee developing the exam.

Continuing professional education takes center stage in Las Vegas

Professional development also is the driver behind the seven technical education courses being offered at the 2005 STLE Annual Meeting in Las Vegas from May 15-19. Interest in the 2005 program is expected to be strong, based on course attendance at the 2004 meeting that jumped by more than 50%. The more than 250 students gave five-star ratings to the instructors and the course content offered at the Toronto meeting.

For 2005 in Las Vegas, the course line-up includes an updated version of the popular "Lubes 101" basic course, which is the perfect introduction to the fundamentals of lubrication, lubrication principles and lubricating materials. New on the program for this year is a two-day Metalworking Fluids Certificate Course and a completely revised one-day course on Seals and Sealing Materials. [Preview all seven courses.](#)

Annual Meeting technical sessions offer a different type of credentialing

While a certification program has much more limited appeal to people in the research and scientific segment, one might say STLE "credentials" this part of our audience by publishing their papers in our journals and giving them a respected platform to present their work at our meetings.

Technical presentation submissions for the 2005 Las Vegas meeting reflect the value and importance people place on the STLE program. Submissions for the Las Vegas meeting topped the 2004 total by nearly 20%. The four-day conference (Monday-Thursday) will showcase more than 300 technical presentations that have been selected by STLE's Annual Meeting Program Committee.

Complete program information and registration materials will be mailed to all members in January. Individuals who submitted an offer of presentation for the Las Vegas meeting will receive an e-mail notice confirming their participation in early December. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your presentation,

Upcoming Meetings:

STLE's
2005
Annual
Meeting

May
15-19
Las
Vegas





E-mail your comments to
STLEUpdate

OMA

The following questions capture the kind of knowledge tested on the CLS and OMA exams, but are not actual test questions. See below for correct answers.

1. What is the number one cause of industrial motor failures?
2. What are the three major components that make up a typical grease?
3. When reviewing oil analysis results, what is more meaningful than trending values?

Terms of the Profession

Fretting Corrosion: The deterioration at the interface of two contacting surfaces under load, accelerated by relative motion between them of sufficient amplitude to produce slip.

Microtribodynamics: The study of tribology (friction, adhesion, wear and lubrication) and dynamic interaction in miniature systems.

Billet: A square form of semifinished steel that later is rolled into a finished product, such as a bar.

Quiz Answers

1. Over greasing of bearings
2. Base oil, a thickener and additives
3. Absolute numbers

**STLE
information and services
are available online at:**

www.stle.org

please contact the STLE Conference office at ctomala@bacon-hedland.com or call 630-323-7212.

Professional development opportunities available closer to home, too

STLE's many local Sections across North America also offer members the opportunity to expand or refresh their technical knowledge without traveling far from home. Use this [summary chart](#) to track Section activities and contact names in your area. Current information is also available on the STLE website (www.stle.org) or by calling the membership department at STLE headquarters. Remember, too, that unlike some other organizations which require a separate payment to join a local affiliate, Section membership is included free as part of your STLE membership dues.

TLT readers speak out about lubricant shelf life and labeling

The December issue of **Tribology & Lubrication Technology** (TLT) magazine carries a Sounding Board poll that drew comments from nearly 250 respondents. They were commenting on two questions: *What do you think are the most critical factors in determining lubricant shelf life?* and *Would manufacturers, marketers and end-users benefit from shelf-life labeling?*

On question one, proper storage techniques were judged to be the number one factor in determining the shelf life of lubricant products, followed closely by such issues as temperature and contamination control, packaging materials and the composition of additives. It was a split decision on the second question. A slight majority felt there were too many variables in determining the life span of lubricants for such a system to be effective. Others felt the labeling would be helpful in at least establishing a baseline for users.

Read expert reviews of new technical books at STLE.ORG

The [Tribology and Lubricants Publications Center](#), featured as part of the STLE website, includes five new technical books dealing with metalworking fluids and operations, mechanical seals, lubricant additive chemistry and basic principles of lubrication. Member discounts and online ordering service are available on all five titles. The Center also offers an expert review on three of the books, written by STLE's Director of Professional Development Dr. Robert Gresham.

Newest title to be added is *Coolant Filtration 2nd Edition - Additional Technologies*. The text covers coolant cleaning and handling for metalworking operations where coolants are used as part of the process. The publication also provides the latest thinking on specific metalworking applications with some comprehensive guidelines. This book, as well as many of the other titles on the site, are excellent references for individuals seeking to expand or refresh their technical knowledge when preparing for one of the STLE certification exams.

WTC 2005 abstracts due in December

Abstracts are **due now** for the 2005 World Tribology Congress (WTC), which will be held in Washington, DC, September 12-16. Co-sponsored by STLE and ASME Tribology Division, in conjunction with the International Tribology Council, the WTC will bring together scientists, researchers and engineers from over 50 countries, as well as participants from over 33 cooperating associations. To submit an abstract for this prestigious event, or for general conference information, visit the [WTC 2005 website](#).

Thanks and best wishes from the STLE Leadership and Staff

As we close out the year, the staff and leadership team wish all STLE members a happy holiday season. We thank you for supporting the organization in 2004 and look forward to another great year in 2005.

Schedule Note: STLE headquarters will be closed in observance of the holiday season during the week of December 27. It will reopen on Monday, January 3, 2005.

The Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers

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