

ACRC 2009 Merton C. Flemings and Ray H. Witt Awardees

Mr. David Weiss and Mr. Hubert Koch

The Advanced Casting Research Center (ACRC) of the Metal Processing Institute (MPI) is pleased to announce the winners of the Merton C. Flemings and Ray H. Witt Awards for 2009. Each year the ACRC recognizes two individuals who have made significant contributions to the metal casting industry. These awards will be presented on June 3rd at the Spring ACRC dinner.

The Merton C. Flemings Award

The Merton C. Flemings Award, established in 1991, is given to an individual who significantly contributed to our understanding of solidification processing fundamentals, which have been applied commercially in the foundry industry. This year's recipient is Mr. Hubert Koch.

Hubert is Director of Research and Development at TRIMET ALUMINIUM AG, Essen, Germany. TRIMET provides primary and secondary aluminum alloys and operates two die casting plants. Prior to joining TRIMET, Dr. Koch was Vice President, heading the Service Staff and the Technical Center of Rheinfelden Aluminium, GmbH. He was directly responsible for the development of the series of alloys where Mn was substituted for Fe to prevent soldering during die casting, thus enabling the die casting of crashworthy automotive components having high strength and ductility. Dr. Koch earned his doctorate at the Technical University of Berlin in 1984 and worked as a laboratory project manager for VAW for 4 years before joining Rheinfelden in 1988.

The Ray H. Witt Award

The Ray H. Witt Award, established in 1999, is given to an individual for his/her leadership in the aluminum casting industry, for investing resources to broaden the technology base; for introducing advanced concepts and techniques; for encouraging the education and training of new talent and for inspiring others to advance the industry through technical achievement. This year the award is given to Mr. David Weiss.

David is the Vice President of Sales and Engineering for Eck Industries, Inc. He is responsible for development and application of high performance alloys and casting concepts for their foundry and customers. Eck Industries is an acknowledged leader in the production of high strength aluminum alloy and aluminum alloy composite castings. Weiss participated in the development of the lost foam casting process for magnesium alloys for which he shared the Howard Taylor Award from the American Foundry Society (AFS); he has worked on modified low pressure casting techniques for sand molds and has patented a hybrid high-pressure shell casting process. He received a second Howard Taylor Award for his work on low pressure casting of magnesium. He is past chairman of the AFS Aluminum and Magnesium divisions and is currently the research chairman of the Magnesium division.