

XIV INTERNATIONAL SPECIALISED EXHIBITION «WELDING-2010»

XIV International Exhibition on welding and related processes «Welding-2010» was held from 18 till 21 May at Exhibition Complex «Lenexpo» (St.-Petersburg). This Exhibition has a more than 40 years' experience, and is considered, by right, one of the most representative events in the post-Soviet space. Its popularity is predetermined by the fact that St.-Petersburg is a city with an enormous research and industrial potential, a major centre of ship building, power machine building, motor-car construction and transport, and a recognised cultural centre.

Today St.-Petersburg and the North-West region of Russia make up the major welding engineering consumption market. In this connection, the Exhibition is the most important event, which meets challenges of further development of welding production in Russia and promotes upgrading of the Russian industrial sector and accelerated transition to a higher level of technological advancement.

The Exhibition was organised by Open Joint Stock Company «Lenexpo» with the assistance of the National Welding Committee of the Russian Academy of Sciences, National Agency for Control and Welding, Alliance of Welders of St.-Petersburg and North-West Region of the Russian Federation, known exhibition company «Messe Essen GmbH» (Germany), and Society of Machine Builders of China. Official support was rendered by the Government of St.-Petersburg, Russian Union of Manufacturers and Entrepreneurs, and Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Exhibition took place in a super-modern pavilion with a floor area of about 9000 m².

The main goal of the Exhibition was to establish numerous and mutually beneficial contacts to ensure successful commercial application of advanced innovation technologies, widening of volume of automation and robotisation of technological processes, and improvement of training of professional staff, specialists and welding operators.

About 200 companies from Belarus, Hungary, Germany, Italy, China, Russia, USA, Ukraine, Finland, Czechia, Switzerland and Sweden took part in the Exhibition. Among them were the leading Russian

and world manufacturers of welding equipment and consumables, R&D organisations, small businesses and trade missions. Many companies chose particularly St.-Petersburg and Exhibition «Welding» to hold their presentations and first shows of their welding equipment and technological processes. Among the participants were the leading Russian manufacturer of welding equipment «RPC «Engineering-Technological Service» (NPF ITS), ESAB (Sweden), «Abicor Binzel», «Svarochnaya Tekhnika» (Russia), «Lincoln Electric» (Russia), «Dukon» (Russia) – official dealer of «Lorch», «Dalex», «Fimer», Elma Tech, «Translas», «Koike», «Shtorm» (Russia), Russian and CIS offices of EWM (Germany) and «Blueweld» (Italy), «Thermal Dynamics» (USA), «Polysoude» (France), «ARGUS Pipeline Service» (Russia), «Kron SPb» – representative of «Oerlicon», «Air Liquide Welding», FRO, SAF in Russia, and «World of Welding» – representative of «Sol Welding» (Italy), etc. As already noted, partners of «Lenexpo» in organising the Exhibitions were Messe Essen and Society of Machine Builders of China. International pavilion «Essen Welding Pavilion» was arranged at the Exhibition. It comprised expositions of 12 companies from Germany, Hungary, Italy and USA, including one of the leaders of the world welding equipment market – «Carl Cloos Schweisstechnik GmbH», which specialises in production of robotic welding and cutting systems, development of new high-productivity processes and equipment, such as for hybrid laser-arc welding.

Of high interest to visitors was exposition of Company «MTI» (USA), which is the world leader in manufacture of friction welding machines. Equipment of the Company covers all currently existing types of friction welding: inertia, continuous drive, linear and rotation. They are used to advantage in agricultural machine building, aircraft engineering, aerospace engine construction, motor car construction, oil and gas industry, defence, and for making bimetal joints.

19 companies demonstrated their developments at the national booth of China. Among them were 9 companies from the Tianjin province, which presented





advanced welding technologies, equipment and consumables.

One should note wide-scale advances of China's manufacturers of welding consumables. For example, Company «Tianjin Bridge» (founded in 1957) is one of the 40 largest enterprises in this province and one of the largest manufacturers of welding consumables in China with an annual sales volume of 600,000 t. The range of products includes 350 types of welding consumables produced under the «Bridge» trade mark.

Company «Tainjin Sainteagle Welding» produces a wide range of rutile electrodes for low- and medium-carbon steels, electrodes providing decreased content of diffusible hydrogen in deposited metal, electrodes for welding low-temperature and heat-resistant steels, and gas-shielding electrode materials for tungsten-electrode welding without extra argon shielding.

Ukraine was represented at the Exhibition by the Kramatorsk Factory for autogenous equipment «DONMET», Odessa Open Joint Stock Company «Zont» (subsidiary in Russia – «Avtogenmash Ltd.» in Tver), Kakhovka Factory for electric welding equipment (agency in Russia – Closed Joint Stock Company «Kakhovka», Belgorod), Simferopol Motor Factory, E.O. Paton Electric Welding Institute of the NAS of Ukraine, Ilnitsky Factory MSO, and Factory «Artyom-Kontakt».

Special activity was noted at the booth of the E.O. Paton Electric Welding Institute. Many visitors expressed interest in modern developments of the Institute, specific places of their application, and innovation projects of the last years. Positive estimates were said about the publication of the Institute – «Avto-matcheskaya Svarka» Journal, owing to the possibility of obtaining from it the most diverse information on topical problems of welding production, acquaintance with novelties, as well as abstracts from the leading profiled world journals.

International Scientific-and-Technical Conference «Advanced Technologies and Development of Welding Science and Practice» was held during the Exhibition on 19–20 May. Papers «Evaluation of Residual Life of Welded Structures» by N.P. Alyoshin (Russia), «Advanced Welding Technologies and Related Processes» by K. Middeldorf (Germany), «Development and Application of Standards in the Field of Welding Production» by A.I. Chuprak, «Russian Welding Electrodes in a Period of General Recession» by Z.A. Sidlin (Russia), etc. were presented at the Conference and arose much interest.

The work in the presentation zone of the Exhibition followed a special program. It included presentations «ESAB Solutions for Welding and Cutting to Increase Efficiency in Ship Building» by ESAB, demonstration of Russian novelties – developments of AVTOVAZ, master classes for advanced training of welders by using adapted simulators (Nevsky Polytechnic Lyceum), Russian-German cooperation on innovations in welding industry – application of welding simulators at training centres of Germany and Russia, energy-saving technologies and environmental protection in welding production, new welding consumables, issues associated with development and application of technologies and equipment, and fine arts in welding.



An interesting initiative of the Exhibition organisers was holding a forum of young welders – meeting of young welding specialists from technical institutes of higher education and vocational colleges, as well as graduates of secondary schools with leading welding specialists. The «Welding. Process Application Fields» film was demonstrated, papers were presented on application of welding under the water, in space and in medicine, presentations were made by heads of welding chairs of the St.-Petersburg institutes, winners of the city competition of welders were awarded, and concert was arranged within the framework of the forum, the goal of which was to acquaint young people with a range of up-to-date welding equipment and help them to get an idea of the new joining technologies.

Summarising, it should be noted that the Exhibition left a favourable impression. It became a real tool for development and improvement of manufacturing, allowed a wide information exchange, strengthening of scientific and business cooperation and establishing new contacts. Also, it gave impetus to creative explorations.

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