



Innovate

June 2003
Issue 02

An update for our members, associates and manufacturers

Activities in brief...

Forging New Metals Work
– Closure on Waste Project and birth of another

Electroplaters Shine a light on Environmental Change

Manufacturers – train and win awards for Quick Changeover Improvement Projects

Consulting by AMC - the best way to find solutions and improvements ... fast

The National Packaging Covenant – AMC wraps it up once more.

Pharmaceutical Focus Group – a prescription for excellence

Sustainability – Focus for a new group of Aussie industry professionals

Advanced Manufacturing Centre
Suite G12/Bay 7
Locomotive Workshop
Australian Technology Park
Eveleigh NSW 1430

Tel: 61 2 9209 4209
Fax: 61 2 9209 4470

Email: farhad@atp.com.au
Website: www.amc-atp.com

Metals Group Forge Ahead

Following AMC's success in its National Industry Waste Minimisation Project (NIWMP), now concluded, we secured funding from NSW EPA for AMC's **"Implementing Cleaner Production in the Metals Industry"**.

At the end of the NIWMP the metals industry participants were particularly enthusiastic, prompting the AMC's consultant Phil Goode and project co-ordinator Kris Cooke to find a way to continue the good work. The EPA's Industry Partnership Program provided the ideal vehicle.

The AMC's Metals Industry group is a team from 12 manufacturers of varying sizes using a range of processes related to metal fabrication and machining. Participants assess their operations for opportunities to develop individual cleaner production plans. The plans are put into action with AMC support and the knowledge and experience of all participants. By the end of the program they look set to achieve benefits of **\$1.2million per annum** from reductions in energy, water and raw material consumption plus valuable resource recovery through re-evaluation of their waste streams - a win for the companies' financial bottom line and a win for the local/global environment.

Register your interest in a similar group contact Kris Cooke 02 9209 4051.

Electroplaters Group Shines

Electroplating is a small but vital specialist industry serving Australian manufacturers. To help keep this industry viable the Australasian Institute of Metal Finishing (AIMF), NSW EPA, Sydney Water and AMC have been working together to look at Stage 1 of

Environmental Change in the Electroplating Industry. This project relies on active industry participation to firstly determine its needs in Stage 1, then to put forward strategies for the electroplaters to achieve triple bottom line improvements for industry.

After successful completion of Stage 1, AMC's consultant David Somerville and Margie Kennard report that Stage 2 has been accepted for funding as a NSW EPA Cleaner Production Industry Partnership Project.

Quick Changeover Awards

Awards for Excellence are now being offered by AMC to NSW manufacturers for a Changeover Improvement Project. Program fees start from \$3,500 per company (workshop and awards entry).

AMC acknowledges the Association for Manufacturing Excellence for their kind sponsorship of the main award.



NSW companies may be eligible for a 50% subsidy to attend from DSRD.

Companies joining the program will:

- Learn how to achieve 50-75% reductions in changeover times
- Gain low cost access to the best training and peer knowledge
- Motivate their teams by sharing knowledge and experiences with other companies in friendly competition
- Train their team to expand quick changeover practices company wide
- Enter the awards, inspire your team and raise the profile of improvement activities within the company

The overall winner will receive the complete video "Excellence Library" from Association for Manufacturing Excellence valued at about \$2500.

Contact Peter Fisher 0414 704 336 or the AMC 02 9209 4209 for details.



AMC Consulting

Virtual Plant Simulates Future Reality!

Consultation in simulation modelling, optimization and flowcharts of manufacturing processes were carried out in conjunction with the University of NSW, Dr Farhad Shafaghi, AMC's Executive Director and Dragan Bejatovic, AMC IT Systems Manager. They carried out simulation modelling work with various manufacturing clients in the pharmaceutical industry. A basic model of client's manufacturing areas was developed to successfully identify and solve process issues; now the 'what if' scenarios are being played out in the 'virtual' manufacturing plant before the eyes of management. Many managers see simulation studies as the most exciting new tool in a long time. **It gives the wisdom of hindsight – in advance!**

What is Simulation Modelling? Why Simulation Modelling?

It gives the ability to change different parameters and assess the impact on capacity, labour, hours, storage space, etc over various timeframes. It creates a sufficiently accurate reflection of the manufacturer's proposed process to address the main operational concerns that require investigation and lead to plant and resource optimisation. Further development of the model can be used as a tool in future assessments of the area and help justify expenditure on plant and equipment.

AMC Pharmaceutical Focus Group – prescription for excellence!

After completing their Blister Packaging work in 2002, the focus group is reviewing new projects for this year with issues grouped under Human Resources (eg enterprise agreements), Quality (eg exporting to Japan) and Manufacturing. Dr Peter Fisher, AMC consultant and Sally Jackson, AMC Project Co-coordinator are ready for more exciting breakthroughs in 2003.

APICS Journal

AMC researches and edits the Journal of Enterprise Resource Management for the Australasian Production and Inventory Control Society (APICS). Andrew Aschner, of AMC (member of APICS for 23 years) is editor, Sally Jackson is Production Manager.

Andrew describes APICS as a *spiritual home* for Enterprise Resource Management professionals. Articles from around the globe are gathered, selected on overall merit and relevance and published. It is distributed to APICS members and other subscribers. (see *Journal abstract on AMC website*.) To submit papers for publication in the APICS journal please contact Sally Jackson on 02 9209 4209 or email s.jackson@amc.atp.com.au

Community Outreach

AMC has commenced its NSW EPA funded Community Outreach Project to help companies start, assess or expand these activities. The project shares knowledge on the types of outreach activities that leading companies have found successful and will also establish a roadmap for undertaking Community Outreach work. AMC's Peter Fisher and Sally Jackson will guide the group in working together leading to greatly improved activities for little extra individual effort.

NPC – It's a Wrap!

National Packaging Covenant (NPC) is a Federal Government initiative to involve companies in reducing the environmental impact of packaging throughout the supply chain and support kerbside recycling.

In the last couple of years AMC has run over 20 workshops in six states to help companies fulfil their obligations. One workshop focuses on creating an action plan and the other on understanding reporting requirements. AMC continues to run these valuable workshops, contact Kris Cooke 02 9209 4051 or k.cooke@amc.atp.com.au for details.

Australian Sustainable Business Alliance

ASBA exists to promote and facilitate sustainable business development in Australia. It assists companies invest, compete and profit in a sustainable manner and reduce risks from restriction imposed by regulation. ASBA encourages business and industry to be proactive in developing their own environmental agenda in consultation with stakeholders and the community.

Each member forms part of the network of industry practitioners with access to a unique source of knowledge and expertise on sustainability issues. Contact Kris Cooke 02 9209 4051 or k.cooke@amc.atp.com.au for details.

Congratulations CCMA

The newly formed **Central Coast Manufacturing Association** looks set to play a big role in advancing the interests of Central Coast industry. The inaugural CCMA Innovation Awards were held in March 2003. CCMA aims include forming purchasing clusters, giving training information, providing forums and networking opportunities, advising on contracts for work and many other practical activities.

Contact CCMA on 02 4365 5074, info@ccma.com.au or visit their website www.ccma.com.au

New Look Website

AMC's Sally Jackson has been busily updating and improving our website. It now has more information and better reflects AMC's image and direction. We show more project details with some excellent downloads such as the Waste Minimisation self help tools.

If you have any questions or would like more information on any of the items covered in this issue contact us on 02 9209 4209 or projects@amc.atp.com.au