

Letters to the Editor

To the editor:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) conducted a study under Contract DE-AC07-76ID01570 titled "Underutilized Technologies in the Steel Industry: A Survey," which has significant implications regarding the funding of future research projects by the government. Technologies that met the objectives of the study were identified from the literature and through discussions with personnel of domestic and foreign steel companies, governments, equipment manufacturers, consultants, and academia. A total of 67 individuals, whose positions ranged from chairman and chief executive officer to research engineer, in 35 organizations were included in the study.

It was found that underutilization of technology was a problem in the industry, particularly the integrated sector. The basis for the problem reflects managerial issues that adversely affect the ability of the industry to obtain financial support, inadequate knowledge and competence of personnel who specify and operate new technologies, and a lack of entrepreneurial spirit that is required for assuming the risk of installing new technologies. Based on the nearly unanimous opinion of the interviewees, the following recommendations were made to the DOE:

- Disseminate to the industry and public operating statistics as a function of industry sector and comparatively within a sector with more detail than is currently available.
- Provide the industry with information about technologies used in other industries that might be useful in the production of steel.
- Encourage the implementation of regulations regarding the closing and upgrading of facilities that are no more restrictive than those used by other countries.
- Assist in expansion of the industry's continuing education programs by providing the infrastructure for the exchange of people between industry and national laboratories, universities, research organizations, and foreign public and private steel-industry-related organizations.
- Encourage the formation of an independent central research laboratory for the entire (integrated and minimill) industry along the lines of Sematech, and subsequently support it on a long-term basis. This approach, rather than the current project-oriented approach used by the DOE, would eliminate the concern of many that current DOE programs are often inappropriate by adopting a research program that is defined and executed by industry in a nonpolitical, technical environment, thereby increasing the probability that technologies of interest to the industry are developed and implemented.

A modified version of the report that is directed toward DOE's agenda is available from the DOE. This version contains questionable analyses and deletes specifics regarding the interviews, but I can provide information regarding these items to those who are interested.

To the extent that the discomfort expressed by the interviewees with present government

services and method of funding industrial research is an accurate representation, it is time to make these feelings known so that the "will of the people," perhaps under the umbrella of TMS and other professional societies, is reflected by appropriate government action.

William DuBroff
SMTC Program Manager
Clemson University

To the editor:

In the June 1994 *JOM*, note is made of the National Science Foundation Presidential Fellowship awarded to Siu-Wai Chan of Columbia University. However, it is incorrectly stated that he has been a member of TMS since 1990. Women have a low enough profile in technical fields without one of us being misidentified by gender! Please, in the future either double check your assumptions or write in a gender-neutral manner.

Janine C. Borofka
Chief Metallurgist
Axel Johnson Metals

[Shame on us. Generally, we take great measures to verify our pronouns and to use gender-neutral language in nonspecific and ambiguous situations. Unfortunately, this one slid past us; at least knowing that we can still make this kind of error will serve to make us more vigilant in the future. Please accept the staff's apologies and thanks—ed.]

To the editor:

In the April 1994 *JOM*, I read William M. Mueller's article, "Mining and Metallurgical Delegation Visits Russia" (page 37), with great interest because I worked for 17 years in field of extractive nonferrous metallurgy in Russia, including 15 years with Norilsk Metallurgical Combine.

Because of my familiarity with Nadezda Metallurgical Plant I found an error in the column 3 of the article. The incorrect information is in the sentence: "Later, the delegation visited the Nadezda Metallurgical Plant, which is directed by Sergei Ershow." The Norilsk Metallurgical Combine includes three metallurgical plants: the Copper Plant (Mr. Buruchin, director), the Nadezda Metallurgical Plant (Mr. Fillipov, director), and the Nickel Plant (Mr. Ershow, director). Thus, the sentence should read, "Later, the delegation visited the Nickel Plant, which is directed by Sergei Ershow."

Solomon Roytberg

To the editor:

With regard to your April 1994 editorial (page 2), "Play it again, Sam" should be attributed to Jack Benny. Shortly after *Casablanca* came out, Jack did a hilarious take-off on his

radio show where he said the line repeatedly. Any time he couldn't think of a smart answer to someone's wisecrack, which was frequent, he would turn to Rochester and say "Play it again, Sam"; Rochester, in his inimitable voice, would croak out, "You must remember this. . . ." The next morning all of America had a new one-liner.

Benny's version undoubtedly increased ticket sales for the movie, and perhaps changed it from just another war movie to its "classic" status.

"You could look it up." (Casey Stengel)

Samuel A. Bradford
Professor Emeritus
University of Alberta

Letter to the Readers

Frequently, I hear the comment that *JOM* should publish letters to the editor. I always reply that we do, we just do not get enough to publish them monthly. For example, the last Letters to the Editor section appeared in the June 1994 issue.

If you are among those readers who would enjoy more letters to the editor, I encourage you to help prime the process by writing one. As you can see from the above, letters can take many forms, from serious or humorous commentary on what we have published to observations on larger professional and technical issues. If you wish to participate, address the correspondence to me at 420 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, Pennsylvania 15086; fax: (412) 776-3770; e-mail: robinson@tms.org.

Letters are generally edited with a light hand to best preserve the writer's tone and intent; further, letter writers are always shown a proof of the edited letter to approve prior to publication. When appropriate, a rebuttal to the letter may be published as well. I look forward to hearing from you.

James J. Robinson
Editor, *JOM*

Corrections

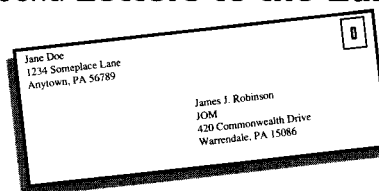
February 1994

In the article "Zirconium-Based Composites for Orthopedic Applications" by V.A. Ravi et al., the heading "Surface Roughness R(μm)" in Table 3 on page 52 should actually read "Surface Roughness R_s (μm)."

March 1994

In the article by John S. Dunning et al., the citations for references 16 and 17 should not have appeared on page 42.

Send **Letters to the Editor** to



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