

61st ICOSPA Presidents Council Meeting Held in Cleveland

The Precision Metalforming Association (PMA) hosted the 61st ICOSPA Presidents Council Meeting September 22-24, 2026, in Cleveland, Ohio, USA.

The program included the Presidents Council meeting, plant tours and networking dinners, giving ICOSPA leaders opportunities to exchange ideas, discuss industry challenges and connect with colleagues from around the world. The meeting marked the first in a three-year series of ICOSPA events hosted in the United States.

A Message From ICOSPA President Brian Murphy

On behalf of PMA and the U.S. delegation, thank you to everyone who joined us for the 61st ICOSPA Presidents Council Meeting.

It was a pleasure to welcome our colleagues from China, France, Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom to PMA's headquarters in Cleveland and spend the week together sharing ideas, visiting manufacturing facilities and building relationships across our associations and industries.

One of the most valuable aspects of ICOSPA is the opportunity to develop friendships and partnerships around the world. The conversations and experiences we shared in Cleveland reflect what makes this organization special and will help advance our industry for years to come.

As we look ahead, I am excited to build on this momentum and welcome ICOSPA members to the United States for the 22nd ICOSPA International Congress, September 15-17, 2027, in Chicago. I look forward to seeing everyone there as we continue working together to strengthen our industry.

Sincerely,

Brian Murphy
President, Eagle Metals
PMA Vice Chair and ICOSPA President



SAVE THE DATE

**22nd ICOSPA International Congress - 15th September to
17th September 2027**



22nd ICOSPA International Congress

22nd ICOSPA International Congress: September 15-17, 2027, in Chicago

PMA is proud to host the 22nd ICOSPA International Congress September 15-17, 2027, at the InterContinental Chicago Magnificent Mile in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

The Congress will take place the same week as FABTECH, North America's largest metal forming, fabricating, welding and finishing event, giving attendees the opportunity to experience both events during one trip. More information about FABTECH is available at www.fabtechexpo.com.

PMA staff and member-led ICOSPA Congress planning committees are finalizing arrangements for the conference. The program will feature presentations by industry leaders, reports from ICOSPA member countries, networking opportunities to develop international business relationships, and plant tours showcasing innovative manufacturing technologies.

Confirmed tour locations include Amada Schaumburg Solution Center, ODM Tool & Manufacturing, Principal Manufacturing Corporation, Termax Corporation and Walker Manufacturing Group.

The complete list of plant tours, speakers and the detailed agenda will be available soon at www.pma.org/icospa-congress. Registration will open in March 2027.

PMA looks forward to welcoming metalforming leaders from around the world to Chicago for the 22nd ICOSPA International Congress!

Schedule at a glance:

Tuesday, September 14, 2027

6:00-8:00 p.m. – Optional Reception for Early Arrivals

Wednesday, September 15, 2027

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Presidents Council Meeting

1:00-4:00 p.m. – Congress Opening Session

6:00-9:00 p.m. – Themed Reception and Dinner

Thursday, September 16, 2027

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Plant Tours

Evening on Own

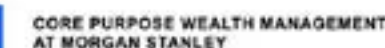
Friday, September 17, 2027

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Congress Session

6:00-9:00 p.m. – Closing Gala

Note: FABTECH takes place September 13-16. ICOSPA Congress attendees can visit FABTECH on their own on Monday, Sept. 13; Tuesday, Sept. 14; and the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 15.

Thank You to the 2027 ICOSPA Congress Sponsors!



JAPAN



Cost pressures and skills shape the outlook

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

Japan continues to grow, but weak household spending and business investment leave smaller manufacturers facing a difficult trading environment. A weak yen adds to imported energy and material costs, while labour shortages and rising wages put further pressure on stamping businesses.

KEY PRIORITIES

Fair price negotiations remain a central concern for small suppliers seeking to pass on higher costs. Carbon pricing, trade measures and supply-chain disruption are also prominent in the country report. Automation, digitalisation and AI are being explored to improve quality, address labour shortages and retain experienced employees' knowledge.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY

JMSA's Next-Gen Committee is bringing younger managers together for training and relationship building. The association also highlights opportunities for international collaboration on AI and workforce training.

Full country report: [View online](#)

UNITED STATES



Trade uncertainty remains a major challenge

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

PMA's August business conditions survey points to broadly steady conditions, with modest improvement in expectations and incoming orders. Shipping levels have remained relatively stable, while some businesses report longer lead times. Workforce expansion continues among many surveyed companies.

KEY PRIORITIES

Tariffs on metals and metal-containing products remain a major concern, alongside high steel prices, energy costs and changing sourcing requirements. Suppliers are managing logistics pressures, customer demands and uncertainty across international supply chains. The report also highlights growing electricity demand associated with AI infrastructure.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY

PMA reports membership of 1,146 companies and continues to develop workforce support through METALFORM EDU and Metalforming Edge. Lisa Lehman has joined as executive director of membership and engagement. Planning is progressing for the 2027 Forming Our Future conference and the Chicago ICOSPA Congress.

Full country report: [View online](#)

FRANCE

Reindustrialisation depends on competitiveness



INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

France's report describes a mixed economic picture, with fragile manufacturing activity and uneven demand across customer sectors. Aeronautics, defence and energy offer opportunities, while heavy industry and construction remain under pressure. Industrial investment and innovation continue to receive government support.

KEY PRIORITIES

Low-carbon electricity is an important industrial advantage, but energy affordability, taxation and regulatory obligations remain concerns. Decarbonisation and electrification require sustained investment. FIM and FIMMEF are addressing steel trade measures, CBAM and packaging requirements, with particular attention to their effect on downstream manufacturers.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY

FIMMEF's skills work highlights shortages in tooling and cutting professions and the need to align education with industrial requirements. Priorities include strengthening technical career pathways and preserving industrial know-how. The next FIMMEF Technical Congress, organised with CETIM, is planned for 2027, covering materials, process control and emerging technologies.

Full country report: [View online](#)

UNITED KINGDOM

Energy, steel supply and automotive resilience



INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

The UK report describes modest growth and continued pressure from energy and input costs. Manufacturing conditions remain sensitive to demand, trade uncertainty and supply-chain disruption. Automotive suppliers face additional challenges around customer continuity, the transition to electric vehicles and international market requirements.

KEY PRIORITIES

CBM is supporting members with British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme eligibility and evidence preparation. Steel safeguarding remains a major lobbying priority, particularly the availability and cost of specialist imported steel for downstream users. Other workstreams include CBAM preparation, employment changes and cyber resilience, alongside support for the JLR and wider automotive supply chain.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY

CBM is increasing member engagement and developing closer cooperation with European associations on shared policy and supply-chain issues. Skills and training support remain priorities. Planning is underway for a Steel Day in Sheffield and the CBM Annual Dinner & Awards, alongside Members' Days and Fastener Expo preparations.

Full country report: [View online](#)

GERMANY

Regulation and digitalisation drive member support



INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

Germany's report reviews supplier business confidence, economic performance, employment, steel prices and industrial energy costs. Cost competitiveness and reliable access to materials remain important themes for metalforming businesses.

KEY PRIORITIES

IBU is supporting members with steel trade measures, origin evidence and CBAM calculations. Packaging requirements and industrial electricity relief are also on the agenda. Automotive data-sharing through Catena-X offers potential benefits for traceability, quality and carbon-footprint information, but members highlight the time and cost of implementation.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY

IBU continues to provide AI seminars, practical case studies and exchanges with universities and technology businesses. Its focus is on helping companies identify useful applications and overcome implementation barriers. Further activities include sales and market-development support and a joint association stand at IZB in Wolfsburg.

Full country report: [View online](#)

CHINA

New markets create opportunities for metalforming



INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

China's report highlights resilient manufacturing and trade, with stronger demand in technology-intensive sectors. New-energy vehicles, energy storage, server hardware and medical equipment are creating opportunities for stamped and fabricated components. Traditional vehicle components, standard appliances and construction hardware face weaker demand or tighter margins.

KEY PRIORITIES

US tariffs, EU steel trade measures and carbon requirements are increasing export complexity. Manufacturers are expanding overseas, often following existing customers. Skills availability, local material supply, investment payback and carbon-footprint capability are important challenges. Policy support focuses on equipment upgrades, digitalisation and greener manufacturing.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY

CCMI's programme includes technical conferences, simulation and production training, industry standards and economic surveys. MetalForm China brings together forging, stamping, sheet-metal and related technologies. The next exhibition is listed for 29 June–2 July 2027 in Shanghai; the full report provides the wider events and training programme.

Full country report: [View online](#)