

in the final analysis

“Difficult to see. Always in motion is the future.”

—Yoda, *Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back*

We're all friends by now, right? Assuming such, there is something that all friends should know about each other: *Star Trek* or *Star Wars*? Passions run deeply for both, and those passions can be intense and mutually exclusive. Personally, I favor *Star Trek* over *Star Wars* as I enjoy the potential realism of science fiction just a bit more than the never-gonna-happenism of science fantasy. Just a bit. That said, I'm a big fan of both franchises. One of my favorite denizens of either universe is Yoda—the world's second most famous green Muppet (after Kermit, of course). I love his philosophy of self-empowerment, his mad light saber skills, his grumpy monk demeanor, and, most of all, his syntactically peculiar eloquence. Worthy of much screen time he is. Another of Master Yoda's talents is the ability to sense the future, but, as the above quote recognizes, sensing the future is not the same as seeing the future. One is never quite sure of the outcomes.

I was pondering the uncertainty of the future a few weeks ago as the TMS 2016 Annual Meeting & Exhibition (TMS2016) was conducted in Nashville, Tennessee. The meeting was successful according to our usual metrics—not the record-flirting attendance that we typically experience in Orlando and San Diego, but very respectable for a first-time destination that is somewhat less accessible for international travelers. The convention center was excellent, as was the adjacent Omni, our headquarters hotel. Five years earlier, when TMS entered into the agreement to hold TMS2016 in downtown Nashville, the meeting venue was nothing more than artist renderings. Booking the facilities not only sight unseen but site unbuilt was risky. But based on the TMS2016 attendee survey results, the meeting and Nashville lived up to their promises. We will certainly keep the home of country music on our radar for future TMS conferences, Annual and otherwise.

I don't need Yoda's Jedi powers to know where the TMS Annual Meeting & Exhibition will be convening in coming years. I have insider information! So that you don't have to use the Force to see that same future, let me give you insight on how to mark your calendar:

- **2017: February 26–March 2, San Diego, California:** In addition to TMS2017, we are also welcoming Energy Materials 2017 (organized by TMS and the Chinese Society for Metals) and the 3rd Pan American Materials Congress (organized by TMS and eight other professional societies in the Americas) as meetings within the meeting. Bonus: The event will open with a new Sunday evening plenary session (focused on the future of global energy).
- **2018: March 11–15, Phoenix, Arizona:** Returning to Phoenix after almost three decades, this event will feature another meeting within the meeting with the 2nd International Conference on Computational Design and Simulation of Materials (organized by TMS and the Chinese Society for Metals). The event will also include programming organized by the Federation of European Materials Societies.
- **2019: March 10–14, San Antonio, Texas:** A return to the location where the TMS Annual Meeting and Exhibition experienced its best-ever attendance (4,500+).
- **2020: February 23–27, San Diego, California:** Continuing our three-year rotation with the southern California destination.
- **2021: March 7–11, Orlando, Florida** (not in Walt Disney World but at the Orlando World Center Marriott): This will be the 150th anniversary of TMS when one counts its ancestry within the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers (AIME).
- **2022:** I can't give details just yet, but a special collaboration in Atlanta is a strong possibility.

Any plans after 2022? Yep, we're booked in San Diego for 2023 (March 19-23) and 2026 (March 14-19). Beyond that? Nothing yet. Get busy, we must!

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