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Editorial

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ASMET, the Austrian Society for Metallurgy and Materials, invited decision-makers, engineers, developers, industry experts, scientists, and students to the fifth Metal Additive Manufacturing Conference—MAMC 2020—with the main focus on the processing of metals.

Although this was already the fifth conference out of the very successful MAMC-series, the organization was very challenging because of the Covid19-pandemic. The conference had to be organized as a virtual conference from September 30th till October 2nd, 2020. As in the previous years, the organization committee had planned a physical conference in Vienna. Due to the strongly increasing numbers of infected people in Vienna and due to travel restrictions from European countries, the second attempt was a hybrid version, which was then changed to a purely virtual conference.

The virtual version of the 5th MAMC-event attracted over 100 participants from more than 10 countries. The technical programme consisted of 46 oral presentations showing the latest trends and innovative developments along the entire additive manufacturing process chain as well as numerous novel applications. Compared to the last MAMC-events, these were approximately 50% of the participants and presentations.

We used the online web tool Hopin for the conference. This software enabled us to offer, on the one hand, virtual conference places to our sponsors for attracting participants to visit their company. On the other hand, virtual discussion rooms after each session were available, which offered the opportunities to have intense discussions between the speakers and conference participants. A special thank you goes to our scientific chairs for moderating the conference and direct the question and answers for every single presentation. Due to the fact this was the first virtual conference for ASMET, most presentations were pre-recorded. We were quite pleased with the performance of the conference, which was also confirmed by the feedback we received from our participants.

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Another reason for the success of the 5th MAMC was the very interesting scientific programme, which was organized together with the scientific committee of the conference Professor Franz Haas, Professor Herbert Danninger, Professor Jürgen Stampfl and Professor Nader Asnafi. The scientific programme covered the following main topics:

- Powder for MAM
- Laser Melting, Electron Beam Melting & Direct Energy Deposition Processes
- AM Process- and Quality Control
- Post-processing of AM parts
- Tools, Space and Aircraft, Automotive, Medical and others
- Recent Research Topics

Out of these very interesting scientific areas, six papers have been chosen dealing with the topics of Powder for MAM and the Characterization of AM-Powder for this issue, BHM 1/2021.

Further details of the presentations can be found in the conference proceedings, which can be ordered from ASMET (please contact yvonne.dworak@asmet.at).

We ask you to reserve the date for the 6th MAMC in your diary. The 6th Metal Additive Manufacturing Conference—MAMC2021—will take place November 3rd–5th, 2021 in Vienna (Austria).

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