

EABS Newsletter

European Association for Brazing and Soldering

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A short note from the Chairman

Since circulation of the Spring 2008 Newsletter we have the following matters to report:

1. We have received a further set of interesting statistics from Blackfoot Hosting in regards to the 'hits' being made on the EABS Website. The details concerning the site activity provided to us by Blackfoot are given below.
2. The Autumn Technical Training Seminar in Maastricht scheduled for October 2007 had to be cancelled, and the date re-arranged for 6th to 8th May 2008. A full Report on the May event will be found on page 2 below
3. Details of the 8th Annual EABS-Solvay Aluminium Brazing Seminar in Hanover, Germany, scheduled for 2nd and 3rd September, were circulated. Bookings for the event were such that it rapidly became 'over-subscribed. A Report on the event is to be found in page 3 below
4. We held the EABS Annual General Meeting. A brief Report is to be found on page 4 below. The Minutes of the Meeting will be sent to Members by e-mail in the near future.
5. The installation of a pdf creator on our computer has proved to be very useful. As you will recall, this has enabled us to ensure that a 'cut and paste' facility will no longer be available in relation to the data on the CD that we distribute to delegates at our seminars. The use of pdf versions of the data was first implemented at the Tungsten Carbide Brazing Seminar in February, and was the format used for the Maastricht event in May and the EABS-Solvay Seminar in September.

Website Statistics

The following Table make interesting reading!

Period	No. of unique visits	No. of visits made by the unique visitors	Number of pages visited by all visitors	Total number of hits
1st July 2006 - 30th June 2007				
Total	4845	5940	14349	34120
Monthly Average	404	495	1196	2843
1st July 2007 – 30th June 2008				
Total	4644	6203	15514	37400
Monthly Average	387	517	1293	3120
1st July 2008 – 31st August 2008				
Total	714	1139	2426	5664
Monthly Average	357	569	1213	2832
Forecast to 30th June 2008				
Total	4700	6489	15925	39564
Monthly Average	392	540	1327	3297

It seems clear from the above Tables that the traffic to our website in the past two years has seen satisfactory growth. It is, of course, not easy to identify with any guarantee of certainty what has driven this much improved interest in our site, however a detailed analysis of the month-by-month figures showed that in the two months following the circulation of the data concerning the EABS-Solvay Aluminium Brazing Seminar scheduled for early September 2008, the total hits on the site improved by about 10%

Amongst the mass of data that we can obtain from the Blackfoot Hosting statistics of the activities that relate to the visits to our site we are also able to determine the countries from which our 'visitors' come. The top 12 Countries, in alphabetical order in the past twelve months were:

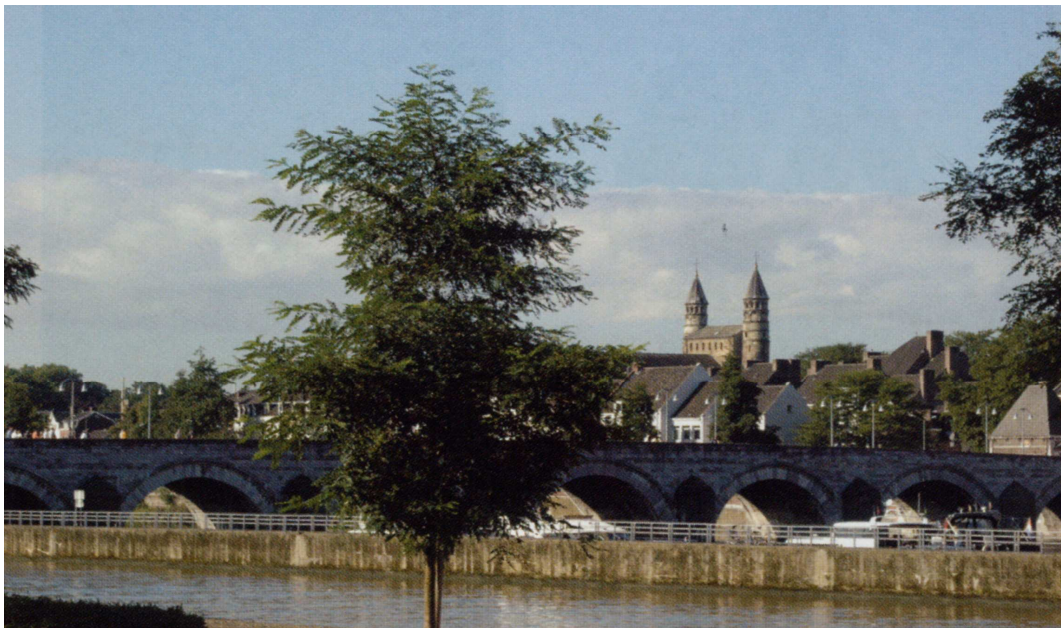
Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Poland, Spain, Sweden,
The Netherlands, U.K., and U.S.A.

Visitors from each of these countries called up more than 100 pages of the website. A further 20 countries called up between 50 and 99 pages. As a consequence it is reasonable to say that our website is receiving visits from people who have more than a passing interest in the brazing process, and that such visitors come from across the world. It is also interesting to note that the majority of unique visitors stay on the site for between 3 and 5 minutes, with some staying for up to 30 minutes. Clearly, the overall pattern of visits to the site can be seen as the evidence that supports the view that the world 'out there' thinks that EABS has something that is unique, and that we are doing things that are of interest to them!

Finally, it will be interesting to check the accuracy of the Forecast as the year progresses. This is a matter that will be covered in Spring 2009 Issue of the Newsletter

EABS Spring Seminar- Maastricht

In common with the joint EABS-Solvay Fluor GmbH Aluminium Brazing Seminar, the presentation of a Seminar in Maastricht by EABS has become an Annual event. Maastricht, as can be seen from the photograph, is a very pleasant town with the town centre being blessed with an excellent selection of restaurants; and May is a good time of year to enjoy the delights of eating 'outside' in a convivial atmosphere!



A tourist view of Maastricht from close to the centre of the Town

The Seminar was held between 6th and 8th May, and was attended by 19 delegates from 12 companies. Six Nations were represented at the event, The UK, Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, Poland, and for the first time at an EABS event, Romania.

At the 2007 Seminar we had introduced the concept of inviting guest-speakers to present a Paper on aspects of their professional speciality. This proved to be very popular with the delegates, and so the option was repeated at this Seminar. Dr Paul Stratton of Linde Gas AG gave a 90-minute presentation on atmosphere technology for protective- and reducing atmosphere furnace brazing; Dr Harald Krappitz of Innobrazo GmbH talked for 90 minutes on aspects of paste technology for the filler materials used in furnace applications followed by a detailed appraisal of the hard-surfacing of materials by the Brazecoat Process where one of tungsten carbide- or chromium carbide-containing pastes are used. Perhaps the high spot of the presentation was the short video showing how, by using the process, it was possible to hard-surface the entire *interior* of a tube! In the example demonstrated the use of this technology increased the service life of a particular tube from about 10 days to more than 6 months! Finally, Mr Wolfgang Baumann of VerMoTec GmbH spoke for a little over an hour on Automated Brazing, drawing from the details of a large number of the machines that his company have constructed over the years to highlight the specific points of the technology that he was explaining. Again, the delegates were very pleased with these papers, since it was clear that all the speakers had a wealth of 'hands-on practical' experience of their subject to call upon when writing their Papers.

The format of inviting specialist guest speakers to our Spring Conference is one that we plan to expand in the proposed event that is being planned for presentation in March 2009.

8th Annual EABS-Solvay Aluminium Brazing Seminar

This seminar was presented on 2nd and 3rd September at the Conference Centre located on the Solvay Fluor GmbH site in Hannover, Germany. Four of the 38 delegates that had booked a place informed us on 1st September that they were unable to attend, and so 34 delegates attended. These were representing 17 companies drawn from the following 13 countries. (Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Romania, France, Luxembourg, Spain, Mexico, United Kingdom, Thailand, Italy and Brazil)



Delegates to the 2008 Aluminium Brazing Seminar in the Applications Laboratory of Solvay Fluor GmbH, Hannover.

The programme followed the usual pattern: the first day being devoted to an appreciation of the versatility of brazing, with special emphasis being placed on the flame brazing of aluminium together with a detailed examination of the theory and practice of the Process Analysis route to problem solving, with the second day being devoted to the theory and practice of the Nocolok® Furnace Brazing Process, together with a visit to the R&D and Laboratory facilities on the site.

All delegates and lecturers attended the informal Seminar Dinner at a restaurant located only a few hundred metres from the hotel where all the delegates were staying on the edge of the site that also includes the Hannover Zoo! At least one delegate was heard to remark that the restaurant and food were beyond expectation, and there was the additional advantage that if ones legs failed to work properly at the end of the evening the hotel was in 'crawling distance'! This was the third time that we have used this restaurant for the Seminar Dinner, and it is, indeed, an excellent choice!

Overall, the Seminar was very successful, and it is hoped to present the seminar for the 9th consecutive year in early September 2009. The plans will not be finalised until January 2009, and as soon as they are known full details will be up-loaded to the EABS Website.

Seminar Programme for 2009

The plans for a series of seminars to be presented during 2009 were discussed at the Management Committee Meeting held on 2nd October.

- 1.The Chairman reported that we already have a booking in late March at the Novotel, Maastricht, for the fifth presentation of the EABS Spring Technical Training Seminar. The programme for this event will include specialised Papers from at least five guest-speakers, so continuing the pattern that proved so successful in May 2008.
- 2.Planning for a joint seminar with Johnson Matthey Metal Joining concerning the brazing of Tungsten carbide and PCD is at an advanced stage. The programme will certainly include some guest speakers. The event will be held in Basle, Switzerland, during early June.
- 3.The ninth annual presentation of the joint EABS-Solvay Aluminium Brazing Seminar will take place in Hannover, Germany during late August/early September.

Full details of each of these seminars will be posted on the EABS Website as soon as the programme of each event is finalised.

There was also some discussion relating to the possibility of arranging a two-day seminar in either The Czech Republic, or Slovakia, or Poland. This would be concerned with the various aspects of furnace brazing technology. The Chairman and Hon Sec. were asked to undertake the necessary research and report back to the Committee.

The EABS Annual General Meeting

The 2008 Annual General Meeting of EABS began at 14:30 on 2nd October in The County Room of the Keele Management Centre, Keele University, Staffordshire. The date and timing of this Meeting was selected to coincide with the meeting of the Management Committee that had been held at the same place in the morning.

The meeting followed its usual course, with the Reports presented by The Chairman and The Treasurer being accepted. The programme of Seminars planned for 2009 was approved, and the outline details will be posted to the EABS website in the course of the next few days.

The existing Management Committee was re-elected, and Mr Keith Hale was unanimously elected as the member to fill the vacancy that we had. Keith, a metallurgist by discipline, is Managing Director of CuP Alloys Limited, Chesterfield, England, and has 39 years experience of Brazing Technology at all levels. His wealth of experience of both the needs of the market and the technology of brazing will be an invaluable asset to EABS in general and to the Committee in particular. Welcome to the Committee, Keith!

The EABS Technical Article

The EABS Technical Article in MS Word has a size of about 800KB, and if circulated with this Newsletter the total size would be a document that was close to 1.6MB in size. Consequently it will be e-mailed to all Members separately, together with the Minutes of the AGM. It is anticipated that this second mailing will take place during the course of the next few days. Once it has been circulated to the Membership, the article will be filed in the EABS Technical Library as **Document 1.17**

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EABS Secretariat/ Newsletter/Autumn 2008