

APRA European Symposium 2016 in Birmingham

Successful APRA European Remanufacturing Symposium Birmingham – a review

From April 20th - 22nd remanufacturing professionals from all over Europe and even Japan have met in Birmingham, UK, for this year's APRA European Remanufacturing Symposium.



The Symposium was aimed at a broad audience of those interested in learning about trending topics in the automotive remanufacturing industry as well as those wishing to discuss the latest technical developments, opportunities and challenges within the sector.

The conference covered commercial, technical and legal aspects and offered exclusive insights into industry leading remanufacturing plants. A variety of networking opportunities was also on offer, combined with evening entertainment to ensure delegates enjoyed their time in the UK. Three days of presentations and intense discussions have provided the delegates with the latest information from the industry and have highlighted priorities that should be on everybody's agenda:

Reverse Engineering – a key aspect of a successful remanufacturing business

Reverse Engineering is a crucial factor for successful remanufacturing nowadays and has therefore seen an increasing demand in the automotive industry. However, the ability to apply reverse engineering successfully depends on multiple elements, from the ability to be able to access, measure and understand Can Bus information, to having the right testing equipment up to capable engineers with an understanding of the functionality of the original part and the skills to replicate its characteristic details.

3-part Panel-Discussion – successful last-minute programme change

The topics chosen for the panel discussions really hit the bull's eye and delegates actively joined in to discuss EU Government funding, G7 and Venture Capital + future threats and opportunities for automotive remanufacturers. At the same time, discussions have confirmed the demand to deepen a major subject in remanufacturing, being engineering.

Universities and Research Institutions – valuable partners for the remanufacturing businesses

Delegates have shown a high interest in the science and research part of Symposium and all presentations were incredibly well received. This part of the Symposium has demonstrated that academic and industry expertise needs to be fused in order to enhance capacity and innovation in remanufacture. In addition, it has provided successful methods and examples of how to analyse and improve remanufacturing technologies and processes.



Case studies from the Horizon2020 project called ERN (European Remanufacturing Network) were presented and the founder of APRA Europe, Mr. Fernand Weiland, from FJW Consulting Germany, launched his latest book Make-New-Again, Remanufacturing in all industry sectors in Birmingham.

A further topic that has perhaps been a bit disregarded in the past sparked the delegates' interest: Remanufacturing vs. Trademarks, Patents and Product Liability. It is immensely important for businesses to be on top of these and definitely a subject that requires regular updating.



Political relations can create business opportunities for SME's

APRA was delighted to have Amanda Milling, MP for Cannock Chase as one of the key note speakers at the GALA-Dinner. As a Member of Parliament, Amanda has worked with ATP on a variety of projects over the past years and her relation with the company is a perfect example of how local politics can positively influence a business. During her speech she motivated the delegates to get involved with local politicians in order to raise the profile of certain topics. During the dinner she has spoken to several of the delegates and listened to their industry specific concerns, which she has promised to address and discuss at the Houses of Parliaments. UK remanufacturing businesses can hopefully profit from those efforts in the future and businesses in other European countries can follow ATP's example.

Plant visits – ATP Industries Group and Carwood Diesel Injection plant

APRA members ATP and Carwood have invited the delegates to take an exclusive 'look behind the scenes' of their industry leading plants in Staffordshire and the Midlands.

As one of Europe's largest independent remanufacturers of automatic transmissions, manual transmissions, and torque converters etc. ATP's proven expertise and solid reputation has led to becoming the major remanufacturing partner to a world-wide portfolio of OEM's and their commitment to delivering continuous high quality is recognised by a wide variety of quality accreditations and awards. **A day after the plant visit, ATP has been awarded a 2016 Queen's Award for Enterprise in the Innovation category.**

The award was made for "Having demonstrated substantially improved performance, via outstanding innovation, over a 2 year period."

ATP won the prestigious accolade for developing a highly complex and technically advanced transmission test suite that permits the precise validation and calibration of the electronic, hydraulic, mechanical and software functions of the product. This ensures that the high quality levels expected by OEM customers are consistently achieved and this in turn increases productivity and customer satisfaction as well as reducing potential warranty costs.

Delegates were also highly impressed by Carwood's state-of-the-art Diesel Systems Plant and particularly by **its leading edge production assembly clean rooms certified to ISO14644, Class 7**. The clean rooms were installed 4 years ago to ensure OE standards are maintained at the highest level with particle contamination limits down to 0.5 microns. Plant visits like these are offered to show our members what other remanufacturers have done to achieve competitive advantage and/or to secure OE business.

The discussions over the 3-day event have shown, that the remanufacturing industry has changed tremendously over the past decades and still is, from day to day, at an incredible speed. For companies to keep up with the ever changing challenges and to be aware of opportunities to remain successful in this fast paced environment, it is vital to maintain a network within the industry and to receive relevant information. APRA's objective always was and will be to facilitate these requirements and to support the industry by being the voice of remanufacturing

