



ALUMINUM
EXTRUDERS
COUNCIL

AEC Management Conference

September 22–24, 2026

Intercontinental Chicago Magnificent Mile

**Hotel
Deadline:
August 31**



members.aec.org/ManagementConference



Scan the QR Code

AEC Management Conference

September 22–24, 2026

Intercontinental Chicago Magnificent Mile • Chicago, Illinois

Plan to join us!



ALUMINUM
EXTRUDERS
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Visit members.aec.org/ManagementConference for program updates!

The Management Conference brings together executive, operational, and technical leaders for timely insights, fresh perspectives, and practical strategies shaping the future of the aluminum extrusion industry. Explore the trends, challenges, and opportunities that may influence your business operations, including:

- Building, training, and retaining the next-generation industry workforce
- Navigating global aluminum supply and demand, market shifts, and trade case impacts
- Responding to unfair and illegal imports affecting the industry
- Advancing aluminum decarbonization and keeping pace with fast-moving sustainability developments
- Understanding economic policy, political decisions, and financial outlooks that influence business planning
- Driving, measuring, and sustaining process improvement across your organization

Why Attend?

- Engage in meaningful conversations about the issues AEC members are facing now—and what's coming next.
- Gain sharper insight into the aluminum market, economic conditions, fair trade, workforce needs, sustainability, and other business-critical topics.
- Strengthen connections with peers, suppliers, producers, and industry leaders who share your priorities and challenges.

Hotel Accommodations

Intercontinental Chicago Magnificent Mile

505 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611 USA

Phone Reservations: 877.424.2449

Mention AEC to receive the special rate.

Online Reservations:

members.aec.org/ManagementConference

Reservation Deadline: Monday, August 31, 2026

A block of rooms are reserved for the AEC Management Conference attendees at the special rate of **\$279 per night (plus taxes and fees)**.

The Group Rate reservations deadline is **Monday, August 31, 2026**.

After that date, the group rate cannot be guaranteed and reservations will be accommodated on a space-available basis at the prevailing rate, which may be higher than the group rate.



Schedule at a Glance

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Committee and Team Meetings
(See details on page 5)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Committee and Team Meetings
(See details on page 5)

3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Registration Open

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Welcome Reception in Tabletop Expo

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Registration Open

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast in Tabletop Expo

8:00 a.m. – Noon GENERAL SESSION

Noon – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Focus Sessions
(See details on page 4–5)

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Reception in Tabletop Expo

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

7:00 a.m. – Noon Registration Open

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast in Tabletop Expo

8:00 a.m. – Noon GENERAL SESSION

Noon Conference Ends

The Management Conference program is curated to foster a deeper understanding of cutting-edge issues that are critical to all aluminum extrusion professionals and their businesses.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Committee and Team Meetings

(See details on page 5.)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Committee and Team Meetings

(See details on page 5.)

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception in Tabletop Expo

Kick off the conference by reconnecting with colleagues, meeting new industry contacts, and exploring the Tabletop exhibits. The Opening Welcome Reception offers a lively setting to visit with select Supplier and Producer Members and discover the latest products, services, and solutions shaping the aluminum extrusion industry.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast in Tabletop Expo

8:00 a.m. – Noon

General Session

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Focus Sessions

(See pages 4–5 for details.)

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Reception in Tabletop Expo

Visit with AEC Supplier Members while networking with fellow AEC members and enjoy snacks and refreshments.

Wednesday General Session Highlights



Safety Panel on Enforcement

Evan Neale, *Service Center Metals*;

Phillip Russell, *Ogletree Deakins*;

Janette Courtney, *Bonnell Aluminum*;

MODERATOR: Chris Anderson, *Pennex Aluminum Company LLC*

This panel discussion will provide a forum for sharing agency enforcement experiences by AEC member management on Safety issues, including those enforced by OSHA and the EPA, with the added perspective of an expert OSHA attorney familiar with compliance and enforcement concerns of aluminum extruders. As panelists share experiences at their facilities, an interactive discussion with attendees will explore best practices and air concerns when preparing agency audits, inspections, and dealing with impending enforcement actions.

AEC Update

Jason Weber, *AEC*

Hear the latest information about the Council and its plans and programs from AEC President, Jason Weber.

AEC Initiatives Panel: Business Excellence, Industry Promotion and Workforce Development Updates

Jason Bachman, *Alexandria Industries*;

Guy Charpentier, *Bonnell Aluminum*;

Carl Czarnik, *Bonnell Aluminum*

Hear the latest on AEC endeavors, events and member offerings from the Chairmen of AEC's key steering committees.

Supplier "Take 5" Presentations

Select Supplier and Producer Members each take five minutes throughout our program to brief members on the products, equipment, services and innovations they have to share with extruders.

AEC Focus Session Schedule* • Wednesday, September 23

Choose one session in each time slot. As always, you can move between tracks to attend the most relevant session for you.

Promoting the Industry

1

Helping Members Compete and Excel

2

Trade & Management Issues: Is Your Company Prepared?

3

1:15 PM
to
2:15 PM

Unpacking the Midwest Premium: Facts and Fiction about How Midwest Premiums are Discovered and Applied to Extrusion

Greg Wittbecker, Wittsend Commodity Advisors

The Midwest Premium is a critical pricing component but is one of the least understood parts of the aluminum value chain. Industry expert Greg Wittbecker explains how the Midwest Premium is discovered, what market signals and supply factors influence its movement, and how it is typically applied to extrusion billet, raw materials transactions and pricing. Misconceptions are clarified to better understand how the premium affects cost structure, competitiveness and commercial decision making in today's market.

All-Access Member Education Platform for LMS & Webinars

Craig Werner, Intelligent Extrusion LLC

Learn about the Council's new LMS Platform, now located within the AEC Member database. Platform navigation, current LMS content and the addition of AEC's Tech Webinar archive to the platform are reviewed. Learn the ways your employees can access this exclusive member educational platform and further your company's onboarding and training initiatives with AEC's LMS and webinars on-demand resources.

Fair Trade in Action: Enforcement and Compliance

Robert DeFrancesco, Wiley Law

Jason Weber, AEC

Explore how U.S. trade laws are enforced and what companies can do to support effective enforcement. This session will examine customs compliance, circumvention, transshipment, evasion, and the information needed to identify and address potentially unfair trade practices.

2:30 PM
to
3:30 PM

What the Industry May Look Like in 5 Years

Greg Wittbecker, Wittsend Commodity Advisor

Johnny Pangborn, Metal Star Consultants

Lynn Brown, Long Point Associates

Greg, Johnny and Lynn speculate on what the North American extrusion industry may look like in 2023 based on their knowledge of current trends and other factors.

Automotive Market Outlook

Matthew Robinet, S&P Global Mobility

Matthew Robinet, Senior Analyst, provides the North American Light Vehicle Forecast for the Automotive Group at S&P Mobility, will update members on the current automotive climate and the latest information that directly affects the aluminum extrusion industry.

Defending the Domestic Extrusion Industry

Robert DeFrancesco, Wiley Law

Learn how the aluminum extrusion industry uses trade cases, administrative reviews, scope proceedings, and other legal tools to defend domestic manufacturers. Speakers will discuss current priorities, emerging threats, and the ongoing work required to preserve fair competition in the U.S. market.

3:45 PM
to
4:45 PM

Sustainability/EPD Tool Update

Lynn Brown, Long Point Associates

Learn how AEC Members are becoming third-party certified with the AEC's new Environmental Product Declaration/Product Carbon Footprint (EPD/PCF) tool for extruded products. This session prepares your company to have plant and product-specific EPDs ready to meet your customers' sustainability requirements and enables your company to develop and build an environmental database.

Every Second Counts, Structuring Your Data to Make Better Decisions

Craig Werner, Intelligent Extrusion LLC

This session shows Members how to turn yesterday's data into foresight for making better business decisions. Craig's tutorial helps you effectively structure your company's key data to improve productivity, efficiency and quotation accuracy. Concepts are demonstrated with data, models and results achieved. Data-driven insights are reviewed for making accurate quotations. You'll discover how to create the optimum recipe for each profile and learn how to meet scheduling challenges for more efficient profile production on multiple presses.

Understanding Tariffs: Customer Communication and Considerations

Jason Weber, AEC

This session will explore common questions surrounding tariffs and their application, including considerations that may arise in discussions between extruders and their customers. Speakers will provide general information and perspectives to help attendees better understand the issues involved.

*AEC reserves the right to substitute speakers and alter the schedule as needed.

Workforce Development

4

1:15
PM
to
2:15
PM

OSHA Enforcement Preparation

Phillip Russell, Ogletree Deakins

Learn steps to take now to prepare your teams for OSHA inspections, audits, citations and enforcement actions related to plant safety. Identifying what to do when OSHA knocks on your doors, and what documentation, safety procedures and protocols are most critical to your employees' well-being are reviewed in this informative session.

2:30
PM
to
3:30
PM

Transforming Onboarding into a Retention Machine

Brad Federman, PerformancePoint LLC

The typical transactional approach to onboarding is a critical mistake. With brutal 30-to-90-day attrition rates, onboarding cannot be another administrative hurdle – it must be a deliberate, high-impact act of cultural reinforcement. This session challenges HR leaders to reimagine the early days of the employee lifecycle, transitioning from “paperwork and steel toes” to an onboarding experience that immerses your new hire’s mindset with core values, safety covenants and operational expectations. Create a strategic onboarding launchpad that anchors new hires to your organization to insulate against early turnover to win the retention war.

3:45
PM
to
4:45
PM

Train-the-Trainer Workshop Preview

Duncan Crowdis, Alexandria Industries;
Michael Todisco, Apprenticeship Connections

Learn about the Council’s first-ever Train-the-Trainer (TTT) Workshop, designed especially for those who will deliver on-the-job training to Die Technician and Extrusion Press Operator apprentices enrolled in AEC’s Apprenticeship Program. Hear specifics about how to select the right personnel to become trainers and receive TTT training, the module areas outlined for training in each of these critical skills areas, and the “why” of establishing industry leading critical skills training to reinforce the highest standards for our next-generation workforce. Enrollment in the Apprenticeship Program is required for those attending the TTT Workshop!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Industry Standards Team

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. B&C Team

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Casting Team

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sustainability Team

10:30 a.m. – Noon Surveys & Reports Team

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Webinars Advisory Team

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET Committee
(by invitation only)

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Finishing Team

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Executive Committee
(by invitation only)

Die & Tooling Team

8:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Academic & Edu Engagement Team

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Safety Team

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Marketing Team
HR & Talent Team

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Business Excellence
Industry Promotion
Workforce Development

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Noon – 3:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
(by invitation only)



AEC reserves the right to substitute speakers and alter the schedule as needed.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23



Train-the-Trainer Rollout

Michael Todisco, *Apprenticeship Connections*;
Duncan Crowdis, *Alexandria Industries*

Preview the Council's first-ever Train-the-Trainer workshop offered this Fall to Members' trainers enrolled in the AEC Apprenticeship Program for Extrusion Press Operator and Die Technical apprentices. This session reviews workshop content and shares details, on how to enroll in the program and how to determine your workshop trainers, presented during the in-depth Focus Session.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast in Tabletop Expo

8:00 a.m. – Noon

General Session

Thursday General Session Highlights

AEC Trade and Legal Update

Robert DeFrancesco, *Wiley Rein LLP*

This session will provide an overview of recent trade and legal developments affecting the aluminum extrusion industry. Attendees will hear updates on key matters, ongoing industry priorities, and the broader trade environment relevant to AEC members.

Aluminum Industry Keynote

Karen McBeth, *S&P Global Energy*

Karen McBeth, Director, Metals Strategic Engagement & Intelligence for S&P Global Energy, will provide a look at the current state of the aluminum industry, including aluminum supply and demand outlooks and data, billet pricing trends, and the impact of government policies such as the US 232 tariff and USMCA negotiations on the market, as well as other issues that will give members a better understanding of global aluminum business conditions.

AEC Town Hall

Jason Weber, *AEC*

Join us for an open interactive forum session for AEC members to ask questions and discuss the future state of the AEC.

The Road Ahead: Aluminum Extrusion Industry Roundtable

Panelists TBA

This interactive closing roundtable will bring together perspectives on the issues shaping the aluminum extrusion industry, including market demand, trade policy, workforce, supply chain conditions, and emerging opportunities. Attendees will be invited to ask questions, share observations, and discuss the industry's outlook.



ET '27 Update

Jerome Fourmann, *Rio Tinto*

Get the latest information on the aluminum extrusion industry's most important and highly respected technical conference, the Fourteenth International Aluminum Extrusion Technology Seminar & Exposition – ET '27. Get ready and prepare now to attend ET in April 2027 – so be sure to register your Teams early!



**Scan the QR Code
For Online
Registration!**



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• INTERCONTINENTAL CHICAGO MAGNIFICENT MILE, CHICAGO, IL

REGISTRATION FORM

Or Register Online at members.aec.org/ManagementConference

Only those registered may attend the Management Conference functions. Registration includes all program sessions, take-home materials, scheduled receptions, meals and break refreshments.

(Please print legibly – One registrant per form)

Full Name _____

Preferred First Name for Badge _____

Company _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State _____

Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

☐ Check here if you need additional assistance during the event. AEC will contact you.

Registration Fee

Event (U.S. dollars only)

☐ Extruder Member

☐ Supplier/Producer Member

\$1,275

REGISTRATION FEE TOTAL =

\$

Cancellations

Registration fees will be refunded only if written notice is received at the Executive Office on or before **September 11, 2026**. A 20% administrative fee will be deducted from the refund. Attendee substitutions may be made at any time.

FOR AEC OFFICE USE ONLY

ENTERED _____ ID# _____ TYPE _____

CHECK# _____ AMOUNT\$ _____ BADGE# _____

Payment

NOTE: For your protection, please **do not email form** with credit card information. Please fax or mail completed form to AEC.

☐ Check enclosed for \$_____ or Credit Card ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

Please make check payable to Aluminum Extruders Council

Required for credit card payments:

Print Name of Cardholder _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Billing Address (if different than above) _____

For your protection, this portion of the form will be destroyed after processing your credit card information.

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ V-Code _____

(3- or 4-digit verification code)

Hotel Reservations & Information

Intercontinental Chicago Magnificent Mile

505 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611 USA

Online Reservations:

members.aec.org/managementconference

Phone: 1 (877) 424.2449

Please Mention AEC to obtain the special rate.

Hotel reservations, cancellations and changes must be made directly with the Intercontinental Chicago Magnificent Mile **no later than August 31, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. CST** to receive the special rate of **\$279 per night** (single or double) plus taxes and fees. **After August 31, 2026, the group rate cannot be guaranteed** and reservations will be accommodated on a space-available basis at the prevailing rate, which will likely be higher than the AEC group rate.

Send completed registration forms
and payment to:

Aluminum Extruders Council (AEC)

1930 Innovation Way, Suite 232
Libertyville, IL 60048 USA

Secure Fax: 847.238.3859

Tel: 847.416.7219

Email:

mvazquez@tso.net or mail@aec.org

NOTE: For your protection, please **do not email**
form with credit card information.

Please fax or mail completed form to Aluminum
Extruders Council (AEC).



1930 Innovation Way, Suite 232
Libertyville, IL 60048 USA

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