

Fraunhofer invites you to

5th Executive Summit Current Trends and Challenges faced by American Automotive BIW-Metal-Forming

Organized by Leading Insights

Location: Troy, MI USA

Dates: September 24-26, 2025



Preliminary Program

Day 1: September 24th

- 9:00 Opening / Registration / Networking
- 9:30 **Welcome** | Dan Stewart (Automation Alley) & Christian Kovacs (Leading Insights SRL)
- 9:40 **Welcome and Overview** | Russell Zarras (Fraunhofer USA)

Session 1: Current Challenges In Americas Automotive Industry

- 10:00 **TBD** | German-American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest
- 10:20 **How New Technologies And AI Are Transforming Automotive Manufacturing** | Frank Schieck (Fraunhofer IWU)
- 10:40 **Integration Challenges With Press Hardened Steels And Gen 3 Steels In BIW Structures** | Sarah Tedesco (GM Motor Company)
- 11:00 Coffee Break

Session 2: Material And Semi-Finished Product Trend

- 11:30 **Press Hardened Steels** | Patel Parth (ArcelorMittal Dofasco G.P.)

5th Executive Summit

Current Trends and Challenges faced by American Automotive BIW-Metal-Forming

Day 1: September 24th CONTINUED

- 11:50 **Boosting Tool Life And Process Stability In Dry Metal Forming: Practical Approaches With Diamond-Like Carbon Coatings And Surface Finish Modifications** | Lars Haubold (Fraunhofer USA Center Midwest)
- Session 3.1:** Engineering And Process Innovations Part 1
- 12:10 **TBD** | Kannan Kidambi (AutoForm Engineering USA Inc.)
- 12:30 **The Need For Improved Metal Forming Simulation Material Cards** | Daniel Schaeffler (Engineering Quality Solutions)
- 12:50 **TBD** | Jennifer Smith-Veluz (BUTZEL Cosulting)
- 1:10 **Lunch**
- Session 3.2:** Engineering And Process Innovations Part 2
- 2:20 **TBD** | Clifford Butcher (University of Waterloo / Forming and Crash Lab)
- 2:40 **TBD** | Austin Biskner (Plante Moran)
- 3:00 Coffee Break
- Session 4:** Machines & Equipment
- 3:40 **Precision Under Pressure: Hot Stamping Technologies For Large Automotive Bodysides** | Paul Thom (ANDRITZ, Schuler Pressen)
- 4:00 **Increasing Local Part Ductility Of Press Hardening Steel Grades Using The Thermal-inline-Printer** | Pascal Oesterreich (Schwartz Inc.)
- 4:20 **Improved OEE Through Coated Roller Technology In Furnaces Of PHS Lines** | Susan Rozak (Saint-Gobain Performance Ceramics & Refractories)
- 4:40 **End of Day 1**
- 6:00 **Networking Reception @ Royal Park Hotel, Rochester, MI, USA**

5th Executive Summit

Current Trends and Challenges faced by American Automotive BIW-Metal-Forming

Day 2: September 25th

9:00 **Opening / Registration / Networking**

Session 5: Parts Manufacturing

9:50 **Reviving The Skill Trades - The Rebuilding Of Skill Trades Reimagined** | Rick Teague (Telos Global)

10:10 **Hot Stamping - Trends & Innovations I** Paul Belanger (Gestamp BIW R&D)

10:30 **TBD** | Edward Schleichert (Magna Automotive Services GmbH)

10:50 **HFQ Simulation Fidelity: Methodologies And Applications** | Mohamed Mohamed (HFQ Technology Associates)

11:10 **Coffee Break**

Session 6: Post Processing Support

11:30 **TBD** | Richard Davis (TRUMPF Inc.)

11:50 **TBD** | Paul Boghal (Rhino Industrial Laser Solutions)

12:10 **TBD** | Jasen Friedrich (Fronius USA LLC)

12:30 **Lunch**

5th Executive Summit

Current Trends and Challenges faced by American Automotive BIW-Metal-Forming

Day 2: September 25th CONTINUED

Session 7: Tool And Automation Technology

2:00 **TBD** | David Ventura (VCS Cicoon)

2:20 **Latest Developments On Gas Springs Applications** | Ignatio Garcia Acha (Azolgas)

2:40 **TBD** | Thomas Ausmann (NSM Magnettechnik GmbH)

3:00 Coffee Break

Session 8: Digitalization & AI

3:30 **Adaptive Inline Monitoring Grants Efficiency For Your Production** | Michael Selent (SELMATEC)

3:50 **TBD** | Fritz Ebner (MEPROTEC GmbH)

4:10 **Intelligent Sensor & Data Systems For The Forming Industry** | Christian Conrad & Thorsten Müller (Fraunhofer IZFP)

4:30 **Conclusions** | Frank Schieck & Christian Kovacs

4:50 **End of Day 2**

5th Executive Summit

Company Visits

Day 3: September 26th

ANDRITZ Schuler USA, Canton, MI

Michigan Ave., Canton, MI 48187

- 8:45 Registration / Arrival
- 9:00 Company Presentation
- 9:20 Service & Modernizations
- 9:40 Laser Blanking
- 10:00 Press Shop of the Future
- 10:30 Shopfloor Tour
- 10:45 Travel to New Location

ANDRITZ Schuler USA, Canton, MI

7145 Commerce Blvd., Canton, MI 48187

- 11:00 Hydroforming Introduction
- 11:20 Hydroforming
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:30 Wrap-up and Goodbye
- 12:45 End of Andritz Schuler Company Visit

5th Executive Summit

Company Visits

Day 3: September 26th CONTINUED

ABB Inc. Robotics

1250 Brown Rd., Auburn Hills, MI 48326

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1:00 | Registration / Arrival - Innovation Room |
| 1:15 | Presentation and Q&A from Ed Marchese |
| 1:45 | 3 Goups rotating each stage - 1. Customer Experience Center |
| | 3 Goups rotating each stage - 2. Training Lab |
| | 3 Goups rotating each stage - 3. Factory tour |
| 2:15 | Wrap-up and Goodbye - Innovation Room |
| 2:30 | End of ABB Inc. Company Visit |