

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



PROGRAM

5th Executive Summit - CURRENT TRENDS AND CHALLENGES FACING AMERICAN AUTOMOTIVE BIW- METAL-FORMING

DAY 1: September 24th, 2025

09:00 OPENING / REGISTRATION / NETWORKING

WELCOME

09:30 10 **Dan Stewart** | Automation Alley & **Christian Kovacs** | Leading Insights SRL

09:40 20 **“WELCOME” ON BEHALF OF FRAUNHOFER USA AND BUSINESS OVERVIEW** | Russell Zarras (Fraunhofer USA Inc., Plymouth MI, USA)

Session 1 **CURRENT CHALLENGES IN AMERICAS AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY**

10:00 20 **NAVIGATING THE CROSSROADS: CHANCES FOR GERMAN COMPANIES, CHALLENGES, AND INVESTMENTS IN THE US** | Britta Schneider (German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, Inc., Chicago, IL, USA)

10:20 20 **KEYNOTE: HOW NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND AI ARE TRANSFORMING AUTOMOTIVE MANUFACTURING** | Frank Schieck (Fraunhofer IWU, Chemnitz, Germany)

10:40 20 **TARIFFS AND INVESTMENT OUTLOOK FOR THE U.S. AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY** | Jennifer Smith-Veluz (BUTZEL Consulting, Washington, DC, USA)

11:00 Coffee break

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Session 2 **MATERIAL, ENGINEERING AND PROCESS INNOVATIONS**

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|-------|----|--|
| 11:30 | 20 | INTEGRATION CHALLENGES WITH PRESS HARDENED STEELS AND GEN 3 STEELS IN BIW STRUCTURES I Sarah Tedesco (GM Motor Company, Detroit, MI, USA) |
| 11:50 | 20 | ARCELORMITTAL'S NEW GENERATION PRESS HARDENED STEEL & SERIAL APPLICATIONS I Patel Parth (ArcelorMittal Dofasco G.P, Hamilton, ON, Canada) |
| 12:10 | 20 | THE NEED FOR IMPROVED METAL FORMING SIMULATION MATERIAL CARDS I Daniel Schaeffler (Engineering Quality Solutions, MI, USA) |
| 12:30 | 20 | HFQ SIMULATION FIDELITY: METHODOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS I Mohamed Mohamed (HFQ Technology Associates, London, UK) |

12:50 Lunch break

Session 3 **QUALITY ASSURENCE AND ASSEMBLY**

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|-------|----|---|
| 14:10 | 20 | ASSEMBLY IN THE DIGITAL PROCESS CHAIN I Bob Judkins (AutoForm Engineering USA Inc., Troy, MI, USA) |
| 14:30 | 20 | ADAPTIVE INLINE MONITORING GRANTS EFFICIENCY FOR YOUR PRODUCTION I Michael Selent (SELMATEC Systems, Scharnebeck, Germany) |
| 14:50 | 20 | INTELLIGENT SENSOR & DATA SYSTEMS FOR THE FORMING INDUSTRY I Christian Conrad & Thorsten Müller (Fraunhofer IZFP, Saarbrücken, Germany) |
| 15:10 | 20 | CHARACTERIZATION AND PREDICTION OF PHS1800 FORMABILITY IN INDUSTRIALLY-REPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS I Clifford Butcher (University of Waterloo / Forming and Crash Lab, Waterloo, ON, Canada) |

15:30 Coffee break

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Session 4 **MACHINES & EQUIPMENT**

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| 16:00 | 20 | PRECISION UNDER PRESSURE: HOT STAMPING TECHNOLOGIES FOR LARGE AUTOMOTIVE BODYSIDES Paul Thom (ANDRITZ, Schuler Pressen, Gemmingen, Germany) |
| 16:20 | 20 | INCREASING LOCAL PART DUCTILITY OF PRESS HARDENING STEEL GRADES USING THE THERMAL-INLINE-PRINTER Pascal Oesterreich (schwartz Inc., Naperville, IL, USA) |
| 16:40 | 20 | IMPROVED OEE THROUGH COATED ROLLER TECHNOLOGY IN FURNACES OF PHS LINES Susan Rozak (Saint-Gobain Performance Ceramics & Refractories, Worcester, MA, USA) |

17:00 **End Day 1**

18:00 **NETWORKING RECEPTION @ ROYAL PARK HOTEL, ROCHESTER, MI, USA**



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5th Executive Summit - CURRENT TRENDS AND CHALLENGES FACING AMERICAN AUTOMOTIVE BIW- METAL-FORMING

DAY 2: September 25th, 2025

09:00 OPENING / REGISTRATION / NETWORKING

Session 5 TRENDS IN PARTS MANUFACTURING

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| 09:30 | 20 | FUTURE OF MOBILITY: DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES
CREATE NEW REALITIES Austin Biskner (Plante Moran,
Southfield, MI, USA) |
| 09:50 | 20 | REVIVING THE SKILL TRADES - THE REBUILDING OF SKILL
TRADES REIMAGINED Rick Teague (Telos Global, Caryville, TN,
USA) |
| 10:10 | 20 | GIGASTAMPINGS TO REDUCE COMPLEXITY & COSTS Paul
Belanger (Gestamp BIW R&D North America, Auburn Hills, MI,
USA) |
| 10:30 | 20 | TBD Edward Schleichert (Magna Automotive Services GmbH,
Munich, Germany) |

10:50 Coffee break

Session 6 TOOLS, AUTOMATION AND SUPPORT

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|-------|----|--|
| 11:20 | 20 | MONITORING METAL STAMPING PROCESS THROUGH THE
GAS SPRINGS Mikel Rodriguez (Azolgas, Vitoria, Spain) |
| 11:40 | 20 | 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 Mid-
West, USA) |

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12:00 20 **TBD I** Mike Austin (Diversified Tooling Group, Madison Heights, MI, USA)

12:20 20 **TBD I** Jasen Friedrich (Fronius USA LLC, IN, Portage, USA)

12:40 Lunch break

Session 7 WORKSHOPS

14:00 30 **LIVE PRESENTATION ON THE HANDLING OF PH-INSPECTOR / PH-ANALYZER AND REMOTE CALIBRATION UNIT I** Michael Selent (SELMATEC Systems, Scharnebeck, Germany)

14:30 30 **TBD I** Christian Conrad (Evidence & Fraunhofer IZFP, Saarbrücken, Germany)

15:00 20 **CONCLUSIONS I** Frank Schieck & Christian Kovacs

15:20 Coffee break Farewell

16:00 End Day 2

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DAY 3: September 26th, 2025

COMPANY VISIT - ANDRITZ SCHULER USA, CANTON, MI

42770 Executive Dr., Canton, MI 48188

08:45	15	Registration / Arrival
09:00	20	Company Presentation Kevin McAllister / Telvi Zanin
09:20	20	Service & Modernizations Andy Osborn
09:40	20	Automation & Digitalization Mathias Wildermuth
10:00	30	Press Shop of the Future Tiago Vasconcellos / Uwe Kreth
10:30	15	Shopfloor Tour Peter Pfund / Robert Moeller / Daniel Naegele
10:45	10	Drive over to

COMPANY VISIT - ANDRITZ SCHULER USA, CANTON, MI

7145 Commerce Blvd., Canton, MI 48187

11:00	20	Hydroforming Introduction Klaus Hertell
11:20	40	Hydroforming Chris McMahon
12:00	30	Lunch
12:30	15	Wrap-up and Goodbye
12:45		End of Andritz Schuler Company Visit

COMPANY VISIT - ABB INC. ROBOTICS

1250 Brown Rd., Auburn Hills, MI 48326

13:00	15	Registration / Arrival - Innovation Room
13:15	30	Presentation and Q&A Ed Marchese
13:45	90	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
15:15	15	Wrap-up and Goodbye - Innovation Room
15:30		End of ABB Inc., Company Visit

16:50 End