Poland Chapter part of seminar that combined industry and academia

On Dec. 8, 2011, the faculty of the Non-Ferrous Metals of AGH University of Science and Technology (AGH-UST) and the Poland Chapter of WAI put on a technical seminar at AGH-UST's headquarters in Krakow, Poland, that drew more than a hundred attendees.

"We were quite pleased with the scope of the program and the calibers of the presenters as well as all the people who helped make it possible," said Jan Pilarczyk, the president of WAI's Poland Chapter and a professor at Czestochowa University of Technology (CUT). The event included representatives from business and scientists from universities as well as research institutes that are part of a consortium called NOEL, a body that seeks to further research efforts between industry and universities into modern materials and technologies designed for transfer of electric energy.

Prof. Tadeusz Knych's presentation was "Material-exploitation problems of overhead power and railway lines."

The program, "Modern materials and technologies based on nonferrous metals for electrical power engineering," was held under the honorary patronage of Prof. Krzysztof J. Kurzydłowski, director of the National Research and Development Centre (NRDC) in Poland. It included scientists from AGH-University of Science and Technology in Krakow, Warsaw University of Technology, Czestochowa University of Technology, the Non-Ferrous Metals Institute and the Railway Institute. Industry representatives from the following key enterprises also participated: TF Cable, NPA–Modern Aluminum Products Skawina, KGHM Polish Copper, Belos PLP, FPE–Electrical Power Conductors Factory and Non-Ferrous Metal Rolling Labedy. Also present were owners of Polish energy and railway infrastructure businesses, such as PSE Polish Power Grid Company and PKP Polish Railways.

Speaker NRDC Director Krzysztof Kurzydłowski.

Conference topics addressed the demand for creating energy saving and environmentally friendly systems of railway transport, especially in advanced countries that need railways with high speeds and dependable electro-energetic nets. Recent achievements of materials engineering are increasingly based on technologies using properties of rare-earth elements. Such advances are not simple and require systematic and long term inter-disciplinary research, which is one of a focus of the NOEL consortium.

The seminar program began with presentations from Prof. Krzysztof Fitzner, dean of the Non-Ferrous Faculty of AGH-UST; Prof. Krzysztof J. Kurzydłowski, director of the National Research and Development Centre; and Prof. Jerzey Lis, rector of AGH-UST, among other consortium representatives. In the second part of the seminar, the lectures were concerned with the actual and projected needs of Polish overhead and railway lines. They included lectures presented by Prof. Tadeusz Knych and his team, who in 2009 and 2010 won the WAI's Marshall Yokelson Award for the best papers in the Nonferrous Division. Those lectures included: materials and exploitation problems of overhead power and railway lines (Prof. Knych); new materials, technologies and products for transmission and distribution energy systems and blackouts energy crises (Dr. Andrzej Mamala); and materials and technologies for energy supplying of energy saving and ecological railway systems particularly for high speed trains (Dr. Artur Kawecki.)

The last part of the seminar, moderated by Pilarczyk, was the presenting of the Schneider Memorial Awards for 2011 to Prof. Zbigniew Śmieszek, presented by Prof. Józef Zasadzinski, a 2007 recepient of the award; and to Prof. Knych, presented by Prof. Henryk Dyja, CUT dean of Materials Processing Technology and Applied Physics. ■

At the Schneider Memorial Award presentations, l-r, are CUT's Zbigniew Muskalski, Jan Pilarczyk, Bogdan Golis, Henryk Dyja (faculty dean), Zbigniew Śmieszek (winner), Tadeusz Knych (winner), Krzysztof Fitzner (faculty dean) and Józef Zasadzinski (NOEL consortium director).

Seminar participants included, front row l-r, NOEL Director Prof. Jozef Zasadziński, AGH-UST Rector Prof. Jerzy Lis and NRCD Director Prof. Krzysztof J. Kurzydłowski.

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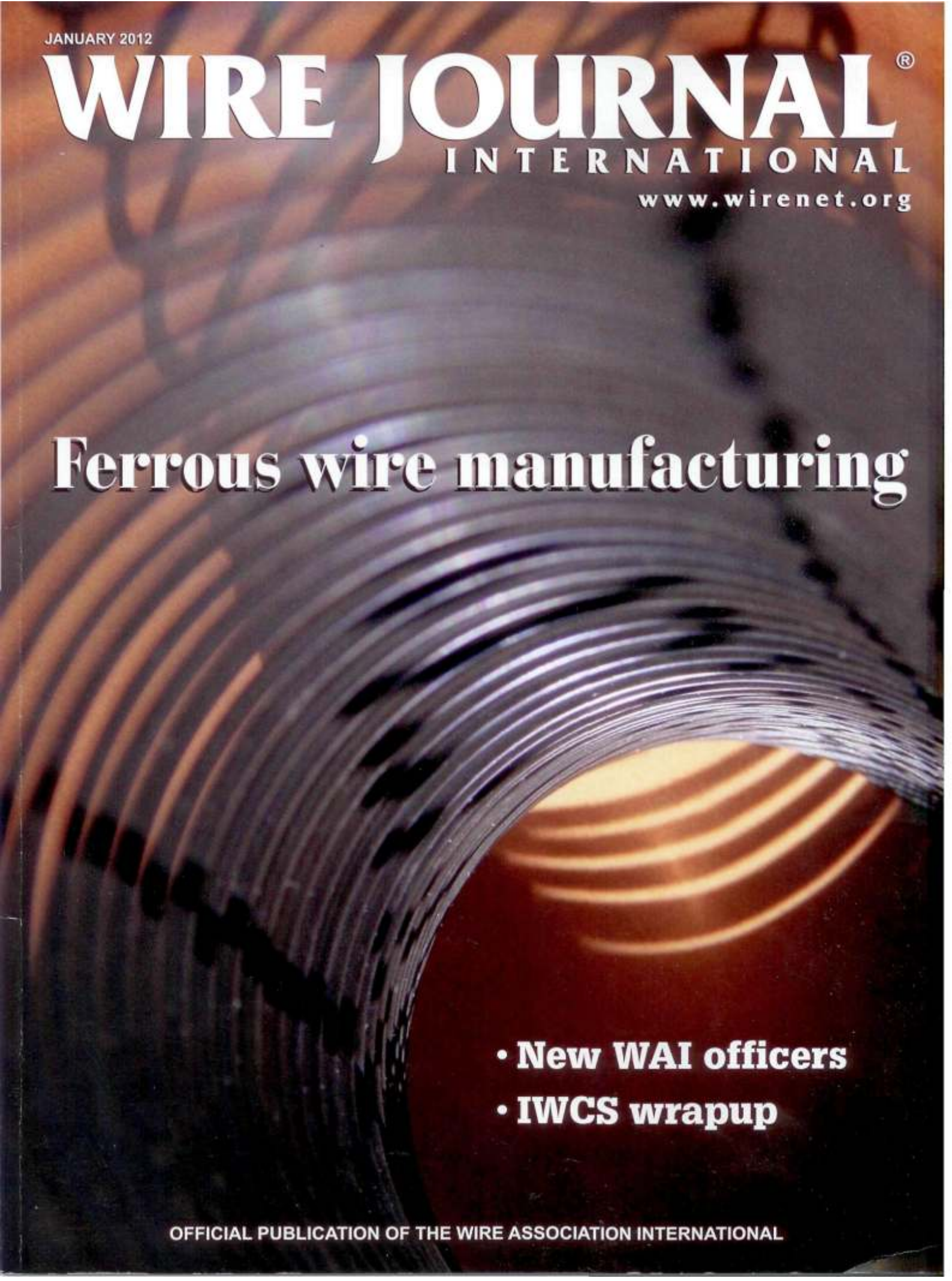

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