

“Refractories for Non-Ferrous Applications”



Sixty-first Annual Symposium on Refractories

sponsored by

**The Greater Missouri Section
and Refractory Ceramics Division of**

THE AMERICAN CERAMIC SOCIETY

at

**Hilton St. Louis Airport Hotel
St. Louis, Missouri**

on

March 31st – April 1st, 2026

PROGRAM

“Refractories for Non-Ferrous Applications”

Monday, March 30th, 2026

5:00 P.M. Kickoff Social Event – Westport Social <https://westportsocial-stl.com>

Tuesday, March 31st, 2026

7:15 A.M. Registration and Coffee

8:00 Morning Technical Sessions
Welcome and Introductions

Greater Missouri Section Chairman

Jason Lonergan

Missouri University of Science & Technology

Refractory Ceramics Division Chair

John Waters

RMA

Co-Program Coordinators

Dan Gower

Refractory Minerals Co.

Kimberley Peterson

Christy Refractories

8:15 A Review of Corundum Formation in Aluminum Furnaces
Roger Smith – Plibrico Company, LLC

8:45 Hydrogen Resistance of Synthetic Alumina Based Castables at 1150°C and 1400°C
Andreas Buhr & Sebastian Klaus – Almatiss GmbH, Germany; Stefan Kulper – Almatiss B.V., Netherlands; John Holloway – Almatiss, Inc. USA; Isabelle Henn – Universitat Koblenz, Germany; Jerry Dutton – Stourbridge, UK

9:15 Refractory Performance in Evolving SRU Conditions
Daniel Starr - HarbisonWalker International
J. Jacob Dupree - J.T. Thorpe & Son, Inc.

9:45 Coffee Break

10:15 Phosphates in Non-Ferrous Refractory Systems: Roles and Insights
Simon Horn - Chemische Fabrik Budenheim KG, Germany

10:45 The Importance of Back-up Insulation for Refractory Applications in the Aluminum Industry
Tom Viverito & Tom Steele - Morgan Advanced Materials

11:15 Development of Refractory Aggregate from Secondary Aluminum Salt Dross
Paul Ormond - PHOcon, LLC

11:45-1:00 Luncheon Banquet

Afternoon Session

- 1:00 Presentation of the T.J. Planje St. Louis Refractories Award to **Tomas Richter, MaterialsPro Technologies LLC**
- 2:00 Refractory Raw Materials for Non-Ferrous Applications – Binders (1st Part)
Chris Parr, Christoph Wöhrmeyer, Scot Graddick, Frederic Lacoue & Jean-Michel Auvray – Imerys
- 2:30 Refractory Raw Materials for Non-Ferrous Applications – Aggregates (2nd Part)
Chris Parr, Christoph Wöhrmeyer, Scot Graddick, Frederic Lacoue & Jean-Michel Auvray - Imerys
- 3:00 Coffee Break
- 3:30 Refractories for Smelting and Melting of Copper, Titanium, Aluminum and other Applications
Ruth Engel - Refractory Consulting Services
- 4:00 Chromium-Free Refractories for Copper Converter
Somnath Mandal – Steel Flow Control Group
Ilona Jastrzębska – AGH University of Krakow, Poland
- 4:30 Questions & Discussion
Co-Program Coordinator
- 5:00 Closing Remarks
Greater Missouri Section Chairman
Jason Lonergan
Missouri University of Science & Technology
Refractory Ceramics Division Chair
John Waters
RMA
- 5:00-7:00 Exposition and Cocktail Hour
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|--|------------------------------|
| AC Tech | R-E-D Industrial Products |
| Almatis, Inc. | Refractory Minerals |
| AluChem | TAM Ceramics |
| BassTech International | The American Ceramic Society |
| Calucem | The Refractories Institute |
| Christy Minerals | US Electrofused Minerals |
| Cremer Erzkontor N.A. | Washington Mills |
| Elkem Silicon Products | |
| GNPGraystar | |
| Gorka Cement | |
| Hindalco/GBL | |
| Hunter Chemical LLC | |
| Imerys | |
| Kyanite Mining Corp | |
| Mintura | |
| MO S&T – Advanced Characterization Core Facility | |
- 7:00 Dinner Buffet

Wednesday, April 1st, 2026

- 6:30 A.M. Refractory Ceramics Division (RCD) Breakfast Meeting
- 8:15 Morning Technical Sessions
Welcome and Introductions
- Greater Missouri Section Chair**
Jason Lonergan
Missouri University of Science & Technology
- Refractory Ceramics Division Chair**
John Waters
RMA
- Co-Program Coordinators**
Dan Gower
Refractory Minerals Co.
Kimberley Peterson
Christy Refractories
- 8:30 High-Performance Sintered Bauxite and High-Purity Brown Fused Alumina: Novel Brazilian Sources for Non-Ferrous Refractories
Paschoal Bonadia, Irenilson Lima & Mateus Curado – Bautek, Brazil; Matheus Naves, Roberto Rettore & Vitor Domiciano – RHI Magnesita, Brazil; Otávio Borges, Luis Falsetti & Victor C. Pandolfelli – Federal Univ. of São Carlos, Brazil
- 9:00 Optimization of Phosphate-Bonded Refractories for Non-Ferrous Applications
Dan Gower & George Gower - Refractory Minerals
Ben Markel, Dawn Hill, Allison Slominski & William Headrick – RHI Magnesita
- 9:30 Understanding the Mechanism of Alkali Corrosion of Spinel Refractory
Manoj K. Mahapatra & Rajat Durgesh Ramteke – University of Alabama at Birmingham
James G. Hemrick – Oak Ridge National Lab & University of Alabama at Birmingham
- 10:00 Coffee Break
- 10:30 Non-Contact Dilatometry as a Tool for Refractory Selection Under Thermo-Mechanical Cycling
Gibran Sánchez, Martin Miranda & Alejandro González – Pyrotek, Mexico; Hugo Sereno & Antonio Pola – Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico, Mexico; Héctor Camacho – Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez, Mexico
- 11:00 Nb₂O₅ Additions for the Development of Special Aluminas
Vania Salvini – SOLVE High Temperature Ceramics & Federal Univ of São Carlos, Brazil;
Matheus Santos – REDLAB, Brazil; Otávio Borges, Luis Falsetti, Victor C. Pandolfelli & José Anchieta Rodrigues – Federal Univ. of São Carlos, Brazil; Paschoal Bonadia – ACTECH, Brazil;
Rogério Torres – Companhia Brasileira de Metalurgia e Materiais, Brazil
- 11:30 Rheology-Performance Correlation in Microsilica Suspension-Based Dry-Gunning Material: Evidence from industrial trial
Izak Cameron - Materials Innovation, Elkem Silicon Product Development, Norway
- 12:00 Questions & Discussion
Co-Program Coordinator
- Greater Missouri Section Chairman**
Jason Lonergan
Missouri University of Science & Technology
- Refractory Ceramics Division Chair**
John Waters
RMA
- 12:30 Greater Missouri Members Meeting