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North America's Largest Metal Forming, Fabricating, Welding and Finishing Event

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## **FABTECH - ADVANCEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY SINCE 1981**

North America's largest metal forming and fabricating event debuted in Cleveland, Ohio in 1981. Over time, to meet industry demand and with the support of satisfied exhibitors and show visitors, FABTECH expanded to include the long standing AWS Welding Show in 2005 and the METALFORM trade show in 2008. In 2009, the Chemical Coaters Association, International joined to sponsor the Finishing Pavilion and Conference. Since its beginning, FABTECH has grown from a regional trade show serving a few hundred attending companies, to North America's most authoritative event for metal forming, fabricating, welding and finishing.

FABTECH's origin and continued strength are formed by the partnership of leading industry associations. Co-sponsors include the Fabricators and Manufacturers Association, International (FMA), Rockford, Ill, the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), Dearborn, Mich., the American Welding Society, Miami, Fl., The Precision Metalforming Association, Independence, Ohio and the Chemical Coaters Association, International, Sarasota, Fl. Together, FMA, SME, AWS, PMA and CCAI wield technical expertise and industry insight unmatched among associations in the manufacturing sector. FABTECH's mission is to bring buyers and sellers together in a convenient venue that facilitates business relationships, networking, education, and the buying process. The event features world-class exhibits of the latest technologies and innovations in equipment, products and services plus extensive industry-targeted education.

Today, while the audiences have significantly grown and the technologies displayed on the show floor have evolved, FABTECH continues to be at the forefront of serving forming, fabricating, welding and finishing industries. FABTECH exhibitors are leading original equipment manufacturers and importers of key manufacturing technologies including metal forming & fabricating, tube & pipe, welding and finishing processes. Annually, FABTECH exhibitors introduce hundreds of new products on the exposition floor. Among the specialized products being displayed are: arc welding, assembly, bending & forming, brazing & soldering, business services, coil processing, cutting, fastening & joining, finishing/paint & powder coating, finishing/plating, gases & gas equipment, hydroforming, inspection & testing, job shop/contract mfg., lasers, lubrication, maintenance & repair, material handling, metal suppliers, plate & structural fabricating, press brakes, punching, resistance welding, robotics, roll forming, safety & environmental, saws, software, machine controls, stamping, thermal spraying, tool & die, tooling, tube & pipe fabricating or welding and tube & pipe producing, welding consumables, and welding machines.

FABTECH serves the smallest job shops looking for a competitive edge to the largest Fortune 500 manufacturer seeking innovative solutions to complex problems. High-level company executives, manufacturing and engineering professionals and business owners from major industries, including aerospace, agriculture, appliance, automotive OEMs and their suppliers, construction, heavy equipment, military and defense, mining and utilities, recreational equipment, and non-automotive transportation, attend FABTECH to discover new technologies and source products to improve their business. Cutting-edge educational sessions, informative keynote speeches and other special events keep show visitors returning to FABTECH every year.



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## **FABTECH Milestones**

- 1981 Debuts in Cleveland, Ohio with 161 exhibitors covering 42,925 net square feet
- 1983 Relocates to Rosemont (Chicago), Illinois
- 1985 Net square feet and number of attendees nearly double after just two shows
- 1987 Gains national recognition as the 187th largest show in the Tradeshow 200 listing of North America's largest shows with 106,770 net square feet and 293 exhibitors
- 1989 Tube & Pipe Pavilion introduced with 25 exhibitors covering 5,385 net square feet
- 1991 10 successful years of serving the fabricating industry
- 1993 Attendance tops 20,000 for the first time
- 1995 Exhibit space sells out - PRESSTECH Pavilion introduced
- 1997 Outgrows Rosemont and moves to McCormick Place. Welding Pavilion introduced
- 1998 First even year and annual FABTECH is held in Cleveland, Ohio
- 2001 20th Anniversary show with 21 of the original and continuous exhibitors
- 2005 AWS Welding Show joins FABTECH and AWS becomes a FABTECH co-sponsor  
The AWS Welding show debuted in the 1950s and continues to exist through FABTECH
- 2006 FABTECH exhibitor growth moves even-year show to Atlanta, Georgia for the first time
- 2007 Attendance tops 30,000 for the first time. Honored as one of the Fastest 50 by Tradeshow Week
- 2008 METALFORM joins FABTECH and PMA becomes a FABTECH co-sponsor  
FABTECH even-year show held in Las Vegas, Nevada for the first time
- 2009 Finishing Pavilion added and CCAI becomes a FABTECH co-sponsor  
First FABTECH Mexico co-locates with AWS Weldmex and METALFORM Mexico in Monterrey, Mexico
- 2011 Largest show to date at McCormick Place, Chicago, Ill. A record 35,000 attendees from over 80 countries, 1,300 exhibitors and 505,000 net square feet

Keep up-to-date with the latest information regarding FABTECH at [www.fabtechexpo.com](http://www.fabtechexpo.com)

## **About the Co-sponsors:**

### **FMA**

Based in Rockford, Ill., the **Fabricators & Manufacturers Association International** is a professional organization reaching more than 135,000 industry professionals world-wide focused on improving the metal forming and fabricating industry. Founded in 1970, FMA brings metal fabricators and fabricating equipment manufacturers together through technology councils, educational programs, networking events, award-winning magazines and co-sponsorship of FABTECH. FMA has a technology affiliate, the Tube & Pipe Association, International (TPA), which focuses on the unique needs of companies engaged in tube and pipe producing and fabricating. Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs® is the charitable foundation of FMA. Visit [www.fmanet.org](http://www.fmanet.org) for more information.



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### **SME**

The **Society of Manufacturing Engineers** is the world's leading professional society supporting manufacturing education. Through its member programs, publications, expositions and professional development resources, SME promotes an increased awareness of manufacturing engineering and helps keep manufacturing professionals up to date on leading trends and technologies. Headquartered in Michigan, SME influences more than half a million manufacturing engineers and executives annually. The Society has members in 70 countries supported by a network of hundreds of chapters worldwide. Visit SME at [www.sme.org](http://www.sme.org).

### **AWS**

The **American Welding Society (AWS)** was founded in 1919 as a multifaceted, nonprofit organization with a mission to advance the science, technology and application of welding and allied joining and cutting processes, including brazing, soldering, and thermal spraying. Headquartered in Miami, Florida and led by a volunteer organization of officers and directors, AWS serves more than 60,000 members worldwide and is composed of 22 Districts with 250 sections and student chapters. For more information, visit [www.aws.org](http://www.aws.org).

### **PMA**

The **Precision Metalforming Association** is the full-service trade association representing the \$113-billion metalforming industry of North America - the industry that creates precision metal products using stamping, fabricating, spinning, slide forming and roll forming technologies, and other value-added processes. Its nearly 1,000 member companies also include suppliers of equipment, materials and services to the industry. PMA leads innovative member companies toward superior competitiveness and profitability through advocacy, networking, statistics, the PMA Educational Foundation, FABTECH and METALFORM tradeshow, and MetalForming magazine. Visit [www.pma.org](http://www.pma.org).

### **CCAI**

The **Chemical Coaters Association International** is a technical and professional organization that provides information and training on surface coating technologies. CCAI's foundation is its series of active local chapters across the U.S. that conduct technical meetings on all aspects of organic finishing. Chapters serve as an excellent forum to discuss regional concerns while offering outstanding networking opportunities for finishers and suppliers. CCAI works to raise the standards of finishing operations through educational meetings and seminars, training manuals, certification programs, and outreach programs with colleges and universities. Visit CCAI at [www.ccaiweb.com](http://www.ccaiweb.com).

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