



MINT INDUSTRY COMMUNIQUÉ

MDC PRESIDENT Mr Jahng-Shick Bahn, Korea Minting, Security Printing and ID Operating Corp (KOMSCO)

MDC VICE-PRESIDENT Ms Honey Mamabolo, South African Mint

MDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Mr Ross MacDiarmid

MDC 2021 Ms Christine Roux, South African Mint

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

At the recent MDC Internal Affairs meeting, Chair of the MDC Technical Committee Mr Manfred Matzinger-Leopold provided the annual update on the important work of the Technical Committee.

He started by reminding the Mint Directors of the Committee's objective – To identify key issues relating to 21st Century coinage materials, machines and processes and prepare strategies to address these issues.

The work of the Technical Committee through the engagement of experts, sometimes requiring research and importantly sharing knowledge among members, has helped – and will continue to help – address the technical challenges the industry is facing.

With membership of 25 full members, 24 associates and 1 academic member, and through the work of 18 sub committees covering some of the topics detailed below, the Technical Committee is covering a wide list of issues that can and will make the industry more efficient and effective.

Topics include:

- New materials
- Colourization
- Die surface coating
- Automation and industry 4.0
- Surface protection
- Coin design
- Coin anti-counterfeiting
- Environmental best practice
- Performance benchmarking

- Ethical sourcing
- Customer service.

And in the previous year the Technical Committee made significant progress on a range of processes and approaches including:

- Application of visual technology in Minting
- Automated die finishing
- Challenging the limits of tri metallic coins
- Continuing need to address the challenge of coin surface protection and anti-tarnishing technology
- Creation of guidelines for:
 - Burnishing
 - Quality assurance
 - Tarnishing and surface protection.

Current issues that are part of the broader agenda for MDC and on the program for the Technical Committee are:

- Future payment systems
- Coin security
- Environmental protection and minimising the broader environmental footprint of the industry.

I commend the work of the MDC Technical Committee to you and note that it has continued to work on 75% of its projects with no or very limited impact from the COVID pandemic. This is due to the high dedication and motivation of the

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NEXT MDC WEBINAR - 23 APRIL 2021

In partnership with Reconnaissance and sponsored by the Poongsan Corporation, MDC will hold its next webinar on 23 April 2021. The topic will be:

“The Critical Role of Coins in a Functioning Payment System”.

Please encourage your key stakeholders such as policy makers and those in Central Banks to attend.

COIN AWARDS TO GO VIRTUAL

Given the announcement to postpone the MDC Conference until 2022, MDC Directors have also agreed to hold a virtual Coin awards program in 2021 to recognise those submissions received by the South African Mint in the lead up to the originally scheduled MDC 2020 Conference. The awards will be judged and a virtual announcement 'ceremony' conducted this year. The event will involve the South African Mint and MDC Secretariat, and be conducted and facilitated by Reconnaissance. Details relating to the competition, judging panel and timing of the announcement of winners will be made available in the April edition of the Mint industry Communique.



MDC CONFERENCE POSTPONED TO 2022

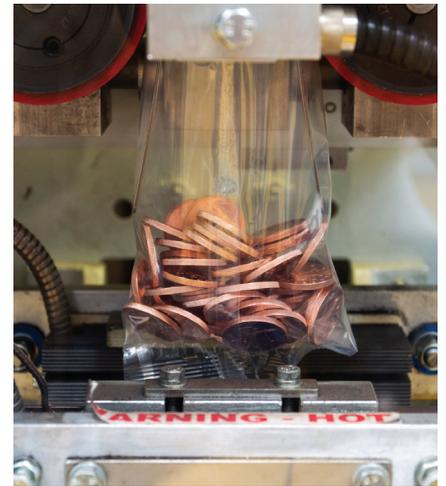
This is formal notification that the MDC Conference planned for later this year has been postponed to 2022 and will now be held in either South Africa or Canada. The Managing Director of the South African Mint, Mrs Honey Mamabolo, presented to the recent MDC Internal Affairs meeting on 23 February proposing a number of conference options due to the COVID pandemic. MDC Directors have considered these options through a survey and will announce the result of that process in the April edition of the Communique.

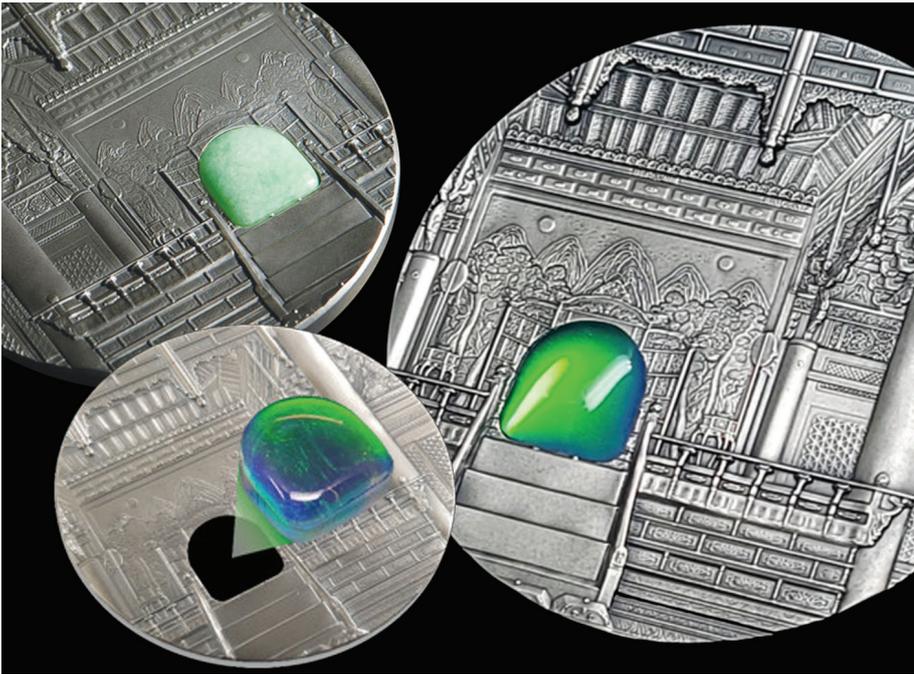
Details relating to the date and specific locations will be announced but what was agreed and can be confirmed is that, subject to a continuing improvement in management of the COVID pandemic, the Conference will be held in 2022. In the meantime, on behalf of MDC Directors, I thank Mrs Mamabolo and her team for the conference preparations made to date and her gracious willingness to present some postponement and possible swap options.

COIN REGISTRY

This is a reminder that, under the determined stewardship and management of Mr Pascal Rencker from Monnaie de Paris, MDC has a coin registry that is the central database into which all circulating coin designs should be placed. The database helps to ensure there is no duplication of coin specification around the world so that coins in one country cannot be substituted in another country.

The database is also a great source of information that can be used by MDC members when considering change. For more information contact Mr Pascal Rencker at pascal.rencker@monnaieparis.fr





A NEW TECHNOLOGY TO DIFFERENTIATE VISUAL EFFECTS OF MINT PRODUCTS

Traditionally mints use pure metal materials to mould specific patterns onto the surface of their products. More recently, mints have begun to visually differentiate products by inserting a gemstone or crafted glass such as crystal, jade, or emerald stained glass into the surface, which has also increased the value of product collection.

In line with these recent market trends, KOMSCO has developed a new technology using fine chemistry material. Named Photonic Crystal Stone or CRYSTALEON™, the technology is based on photonic crystal that has structural color using nanoparticles, thereby optimizing the material itself and its structure.

Similar to gemstone, this material is

transparent and has a shiny reflective color under certain observation conditions. However, it also has a distinctive feature – a transmissive color that is a complementary color of its reflective color. For general minerals, it is difficult to find a material in which the reflective and transmissive colors have a complementary relationship. Although this can be found in artificial materials specially designed to a photonic crystal structure, this is the first time that it has been commercialized.

KOMSCO is developing the mass production process for CRYSTALEON™. It is expected to complete process development in the first half of 2021 and release products with new technology in the second half of this year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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Committee convenors and members.

Should a Mint or supplier wish to become involved in the Technical Committee's work please contact the Committee Chair Mr Manfred Matzinger-Leopold at manfred.matzinger-leopold@austrian-mint

The next Technical Committee virtual meeting will be held on 19 & 20 May 2021 in the form of 2 video conferences.

NEW FEATURE: THE INDUSTRY SUPPLIERS

From next month, the Mint industry Communicate will be featuring industry suppliers to the industry in the form of a brief case study. In April we will start with the Poongsan Corp, sponsor of the MDC Webinar in April.

The MDC Secretariat will be writing to all major suppliers in the next month inviting them to not only provide a case study but also to present their products / programs and importantly any new innovations or technological improvements.



NEW FEATURE: MINTS OF THE WORLD – INNOVATION AND LEARNING

Last year we encouraged member Mints to present their most innovative products or programs as a way of recognising our industry's work and to importantly encourage other Mints to consider the initiative for themselves. Building on that idea, this year we are inviting Mints to provide a brief case study with a particular emphasis on a specific innovation or learning, again as a way of helping other Mints address similar opportunities and or challenges.

The Korean Mint (KOMSCO) is featured in this edition with the Singapore Mint to be featured in April and the Kazakhstan Mint in May.

Please circulate to relevant staff and interested industry members to help build our collective voice.