

2021 Shot Peener of the Year

Michael Schmidt

Congratulations to Michael Schmidt—our recipient of the 2021 Shot Peener of the Year award. Since 1992, *The Shot Peener* magazine has recognized individuals for their contributions to the shot peening industry.

“Michael Schmidt received the award because of his contributions to two SAE committees: The Surface Enhancement Committee (SEC) and the Aerospace Surface Enhancement Committee (ASEC). His contribution has been valuable because of his connection with GE and their rigid specifications. He brings a perspective from the aero-engine community not available elsewhere. He was the driving force in the updates to the SAE J2277 spec on coverage. He has a knack for reading ballot proposals in detail and finding both typographic and technical errors,” said Jack Champaigne, Editor of *The Shot Peener* magazine and Chairman of the SEC and ASEC committees.

Mr. Schmidt is a Principal Engineer at GE Aviation and he has been with GE for almost 11 years. His answers to the following questions will give more insight to his contribution to the shot peening and the aerospace communities.

The Shot Peener: Why did you join the SEC and ASEC committees?

Mr. Schmidt: I attended my first SEC and ASEC conference in conjunction with EI Shot Peen training in 2012. I had recently accepted the role as the Mechanical Surface Enhancement Special Process Technology Leader for GE. The committees provide a unique opportunity for suppliers and OEMs to meet and discuss opportunities and challenges facing the shot peening industry.

When specifications leave room for interpretation that could drive different results, I always strive to achieve common language that doesn't require interpretation. If you sit back on the sideline and don't participate, you can't complain about the outcome. These committees allow all members to have an equal voice to ensure the industry stays on a positive path, supporting the end user whether it is the flying or driving public.

The Shot Peener: Has your involvement in the committees benefited GE?

Mr. Schmidt: I believe the involvement in the committees has been positive to GE. Everyone on these committees has a voice; it is my role to support the industry and GE Aviation. While we all leave the specifics of our companies at the door, the goal for consistent and quality delivery by peening suppliers to the customer is positive for any manufacturer or processor in the

industry. The best way to ensure that is to be a participant in all steps of the process.

The Shot Peener: In addition to your contributions to the SEC and ASEC, you are very active in Nadcap. Describe your involvement with Nadcap.

Mr. Schmidt: I serve on the Non-Conventional Machining and Surface Enhancement committee for Nadcap. I served as the committee Vice-Chair from February 2015 to February 2017, and then as the committee Chair from February 2017 to February 2019. We kicked off multi-year efforts to update and improve audit check sheets used for supplier audits, and the technology specific handbooks to ensure consistent understanding and application of the Nadcap criteria.

Working in conjunction with the Nadcap Staff Engineer, Mark Hunkele, we were able to develop a more succinct and subjective method to quickly evaluate auditor consistency and focus on the more technical tasks during the meetings. We also began efforts to determine audit length based on risk levels associated with supplier machine counts. Mark continues to be a great asset to the team. All this was in addition to the ongoing efforts to refine, improve, and clarify audit criteria to drive consistent and quality output.

The Shot Peener: What are your thoughts regarding receiving the 2021 Shot Peener of the Year award?

Mr. Schmidt: I am honored to receive the 29th anniversary award of the 2021 Shot Peener of the Year. I believe it recognizes both GE Aviation and my commitment to the committees and the technology behind this very critical special process. I feel privileged to be included with my industry peers in receiving this award. Thanks!



Jack Champaigne, Editor of *The Shot Peener* magazine, presented the Shot Peener of the Year award to Michael Schmidt at the 2021 Shot Peening Workshop in November.