

2022 Shot Peener of the Year Yoshihiro Watanabe

CONGRATULATIONS to our 2022 Shot Peener of the Year—Dr. Yoshihiro Watanabe. Since 1992, *The Shot Peener* magazine has recognized individuals for their contributions to the shot peening industry.

Dr. Watanabe is the President and CEO of Toyo Seiko. Toyo Seiko manufactures and markets shot peening media and shot peening related equipment.

Dr. Watanabe has contributed to the advancement of shot peening throughout his career by volunteering his time to the International Scientific Committee for Shot Peening, the Japan Society of Spring Engineers, and the Aerospace Metals Engineering Sub Committee (AMESC) of the Aerospace Materials Division of SAE. He is a board member of the Japan Society of Shot Peening. Dr. Watanabe has been appointed Secretary of the International Scientific Committee for Shot Peening and as President of Toyo Seiko, he hosted the Tenth International Conference on Shot Peening in 2008. Dr. Watanabe graduated from Gifu University in Japan with a Ph.D. degree in Mechanical Fracture in 1995 and has worked in the shot peening industry since he joined Toyo Seiko in 1989.

“Toyo Seiko’s slogan at their website is to ‘turn anti-peening fans into fans’. Under Dr. Watanabe’s leadership, Toyo Seiko is excelling at this and that’s why he was chosen as the 2022 Shot Peener of the Year,” said Jack Champaigne, Editor of *The Shot Peener*. “Toyo Seiko’s products, like their cut-wire shot and Coverage Checker, have enhanced the integrity and repeatability of the shot peening process and thereby gained the trust of demanding industries like aerospace and automotive,” he added. “We also recognize the experience and knowledge he brings to our SAE committee with his guidance on media properties.”

The following interview gives more insight into Dr. Watanabe’s contribution to the shot peening industry.

The Shot Peener: When did your interest in shot peening begin?



Dr. Yoshihiro Watanabe received “The Shot Peener of the Year” plaque from Jack Champaigne at the 2022 USA Shot Peening and Blast Cleaning Workshop

DR. WATANABE: I became involved in shot peening 33 years ago when Toyo Seiko and Toyota Motor Corporation developed conditioned cut wire shot which had the highest hardness at the time for the application of carburized gear. We conducted joint research with a university to see if this cut wire shot had any merits compared to the popular cast steel shot.

The Shot Peener: Which of your products do you feel have contributed the most to “turning anti-peening fans into fans”?

DR. WATANABE: Feeling doubts that coverage has been measured accurately by visual inspection, Toyo Seiko developed the Coverage Checker that automatically measures coverage. We have sold about 100 units so far and I think that this contributes very much to improve the reliability of shot peening. I am very pleased that our efforts and research have been recognized and evaluated.

In addition, since 2007 I have supported the annual Shot Peening Workshop in Japan for the Japanese people by a collaboration between the Japanese Society of Shot Peening and Electronics Inc. (EI). During this period, more than 500 Level 1 and Level 2 students have been certified. We will continue to work to spread shot peening technology in Japan with the cooperation of EI.

The Shot Peener: *The Shot Peener* staff was very pleased and appreciative that you came to the USA Shot Peening Workshop to receive the award. Please share with us your thoughts on receiving the 2022 Shot Peener of the Year award.

DR. WATANABE: I am very honored to have been selected as Shot Peener of the Year. I was very surprised. I believe that my mission is to be an ambassador of shot peening and I will develop what is necessary for peening technology in order to contribute to the perpetuation of peening technology. ●