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History of NAMRI and NAMRC

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The North American Manufacturing Research Conference (NAMRC) is a flagship event of North American Manufacturing Research Institution of SME (NAMRI/SME), a premier international forum where academic and industrial leaders in manufacturing interact with each other and advance the field. The distinctive feature of NAMRC is the presentation and critical discussion of research on technical innovations and new methods, as well as applications of cutting-edge technology around the world.

The first NAMRC was organised in 1973 by a group of researchers who were interested in discussing and disseminating research results in the field of manufacturing. For its first few years, the event was known as the North American

Metalworking Research Conference, but the word “manufacturing” soon began to be used to recognise the expanding base of research. From its inception in 1973 until 1981, NAMRC was facilitated through its Scientific Committee. In 1982, NAMRC became an affiliated organisation of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) and became known as NAMRI/SME.

NAMRI/SME brings together researchers from universities, government laboratories, and industrial think tanks located around the world for the purpose of advancing the scientific foundation of discrete-parts manufacturing. This group’s work covers refining existing fundamental technologies and developing emerging technologies and processes for material removal, addition and forming, as well as novel research on manufacturing systems, such as modelling and simulation, planning and scheduling, monitoring and control, etc.

A bound volume of the papers presented at NAMRC each year has been produced, in the titles of Proceedings or Transactions, from 1973 until 2010, to serve as a permanent record of the research ideas and results presented and discussed at the annual conference. Beginning in 2011, Proceedings of NAMRI/SME was published in CD format only, and in 2015 the Elsevier’s Procedia Manufacturing became the electronic publishing venue for the Proceedings of NAMRI/SME with open access. The blue cover design illustrated at the beginning of this article mimics the traditional appearance of the Proceedings of NAMRI/SME in bound volume.

At NAMRC over the past 46 years, many important scientific and technological milestones have been set by internationally renowned researchers. With wide accessibility and availability, the NAMRI/SME Proceedings in Procedia Manufacturing will continue the archival record that has faithfully documented the tremendous evolution of manufacturing science and engineering in recent decades. On this front, NAMRI/SME welcomes new contributions to be submitted to NAMRC in the near future.

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