



ZIA AGM & Annual Conference 2023

Istanbul, Türkiye, 12-14 September



Conference theme: Where East meets West

Programme

Tuesday 12th September

Technical site visit to Sanıkey Seramik, Gebze (includes welcome, H&S briefing, site visit, Q&A, and lunch for all)
Departure from Swissôtel at 09:30 promptly, return to hotel at approximately 16:00
(Details will be provided to those delegates who have signed-up to the technical visit)

Day 1: Wednesday 13th September

08:00 - 13:00 Registration desk open
08:30 - 09:30 **ZIA Board Meeting** (ZIA board directors only) - meeting room EIGER
10:00 - 11:30 **ZIA Annual Meeting of the Assembly** (all ZIA members) - meeting room GENEVE

12:00 - 13:00 • Lunch (all conference delegates) •
13:00 - 13:15 Welcome, opening remarks, antitrust compliance and safety briefing

Session 1. Session chair – Fidel García-Guzmán

13:15 - 13:45 **Keynote Address: Zircon Market Update** - Gavin Diener, TZMI
13:45 - 14:15 **Indian Zircon Market Overview** - Deependra Singh, IREL Ltd, India
14:15 - 14:45 **Advances in Milling Technology** - Dietmar Alber, Hosokawa Alpine
14:45 - 15:15 • Networking interval and refreshments •

Session 2. Session chair – Kapil Kumar

15:15 - 15:45 **Why Zircon is Critical to Rolls-Royce** - Dr Emma Jones, Rolls-Royce
15:45 - 16:15 **Zircon as a Critical Mineral** - Alister MacDonald, TCMS
16:15 - 16:45 **Zirconium in the Nuclear Power Industry - a Growing Demand?** - Simon Marshall, INEL
16:45 - 17:00 Closing remarks, end of Day 1
18:00 Cocktail reception and transfer to Conference Banquet Dinner
19:00 - 22:00 Conference Banquet Dinner

Day 2: Thursday 14th September

08:00 - 10:00 Registration desk open
08:15 - 08:30 Welcome, antitrust compliance and safety briefing

Session 3. Session chair – Jeff Engle

08:30 - 09:15 **Keynote address: Navigating Global Volatility: a Macro- and Micro-economic View**
- Robert Willock, Economist Intelligence Unit
09:15 - 09:45 **Ceramic Research Developments & New Applications**
- Prof. Servet Turan, Eskişehir University Ceramics Research Centre
09:45 - 10:15 **Radiation Protection Developments Affecting the Zircon & Zirconia Industry**
- Nick Tsurikov, Calytrix Consulting
10:15 - 10:45 **ESG Data Trends in the Zircon & Zirconia Industry** - Dr Rajesh Singh, Sphera
10:45 - 11:15 • Networking interval and refreshments •

Session 4. Session chair – Angelika Priese

11:15 - 12:45 **Technical Panel Discussion**
12:45 Closing remarks and end of conference
13:30 • Lunch, Swissotel Garden Chalet (all conference delegates) •

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Keynote speakers



Gavin Diener • CEO, TZ Minerals International (TZMI)

Gavin Diener has technical, management and business skills gained through experience in plant operation, pilot plant test work, plant design and commissioning, process optimisation, business and market analysis, operations management and product development. Prior to TZMI, Gavin spent 16 years at Anglo American Group in mineral sands, gold and iron operations. He previously worked at the Namakwa Sands project where he was involved in smelting and minerals processing. He graduated from the University of Natal with a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering.



Robert Willock

MENA Director and Regional General Manager, Economist Intelligence Unit

Robert Willock is the Director of the Economist Corporate Network based in Dubai, covering the MENA region. Robert works closely with network members to help inform their business strategies through political, economic and operational insight and to connect them with their senior leadership peers. He is also the Regional General Manager and leads the EICN teams and programmes across Johannesburg, Dubai, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Seoul and Tokyo. Robert is a business journalist, editor and publisher with 25 years' experience covering a wide variety of sectors, including hospitality, retail, construction, energy and transport, and has a particular interest in human capital management.

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Technical Panel Discussion

Featured panellists:



Dr Emma Jones
Rolls-Royce plc, UK



Prof. Servet Turan
Eskişehir Technical
University, Türkiye



Dietmar Alber
Hosokawa Alpine AG



Angelika Priese
Imerys Fused Minerals
Moderator



Alister MacDonald
TCMS Pty Ltd



Brad Snow
Doral Fused Materials Ltd

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Speakers



Deependra Singh • Chairman and Managing Director, Indian Rare Earths Ltd (IREL)

Deependra Singh is the Chairman and Managing Director of IREL (India) Limited, a Central Public Sector Undertaking under the aegis of the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India. Prior to this, he was Marketing Director at IREL and Corporate Planning and Business Development Director at EDCIL (India) Ltd. He has over 30 years' experience across a range of areas including strategic corporate planning, project management, production planning and control and human resource management. He is an engineering graduate and has an MBA in Marketing. Deependra actively participates in several professional bodies and is currently President of the Rare Earth Association of India.



Dietmar Alber • Business Development Director, Hosokawa Alpine AG

Dietmar Alber has been employed at Hosokawa Alpine, Germany since graduating in 1986. With 37 years of experience, he has held various positions, including Sales Manager for Asia and Middle East, Team and Area Manager, and Operations Director for Mineral and Metal activities. Since 2017, Dietmar has been the Business Development Director, seeking new opportunities in applications and business fields for industrial minerals. Throughout his career, he has overseen the implementation of over 300 processing plants for minerals like calcium carbonate, talc, zircon sand, graphite, quartz/silica, feldspar, recycling glass, and wollastonite.



Dr Emma Jones • Manufacturing Engineer, Rolls-Royce plc, UK

Dr Emma Jones is a Manufacturing Engineer for Rolls-Royce's Civil Aerospace Division. Emma has a master's degree from the University of Birmingham, UK, in Chemical Engineering and her doctoral thesis focused on understanding the impact of raw material variation on investment casting refractories. Whilst at Birmingham University, Emma completed and supervised several zircon-based research projects, primarily in zircon powder characterisation and shell mould formulation.



Alister MacDonald • Director, TCMS

Alister MacDonald is a specialist in the technical marketing of critical minerals, metals, and chemicals with a deep understanding of supply chain issues from mine to market. He has extensive global experience with over 35 years in market research, supply chain analysis, business development strategy and technical marketing services, in advanced ceramics, mineral sands and downstream products, plus rare metals and precursors.

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Speakers continued



Simon Marshall • Director, INEL, UK

With over 40 years' experience in the nuclear industry, Simon Marshall is a Director of INEL, which provides independent nuclear expertise to investors, governments, vendors and academia. Simon has had senior roles across the entire nuclear fuel cycle, notably with BNFL and Westinghouse in the UK, Sweden, USA and South Africa. Simon is a graduate of Manchester University (Physics), and an Honorary Fellow of the Nuclear Institute.



Prof. Servet Turan • R&D Coordinator and Board Head, Eskişehir Technical University

Servet Turan is a Professor at the Materials Science and Engineering Department and the Director of the Advanced Technologies Research Centre at Eskişehir Technical University in Turkey. He obtained his BSc degree from Istanbul Technical University (1988) in Metallurgical Engineering. He then moved to England where he obtained his MSc from Leeds University (1990) and PhD from Cambridge University (1995) where he worked on the characterisation of ceramic composites using high resolution transmission electron microscopy. Servet is the Deputy Chairman of the Turkish Society for Electron Microscopy and Turkish Ceramic Society. His research interests centre on the performance, processing, property, structure relationship in silicon nitride-based advanced ceramics, thermoelectric materials and more recently in lithium-ion batteries.



Nick Tsurikov • Director-Owner, Calytrix Consulting

Nick Tsurikov is a specialist in radiation protection with over 30 years' experience in the management of NORM. He currently works as a radiation protection consultant with a broad range of projects worldwide. Nick's previous involvement with the mineral sands industry includes advice to 12 mineral sands companies and to over 20 logistics operators. Nick is a Member of the Radiological Council of Western Australia, an advisor to the TENORM working groups of the USA Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, a member of scientific committees, and a speaker at radiation protection conferences. His work experience includes over 20 IAEA Technical Cooperation missions to 16 countries, over 30 consultancy meetings at the IAEA and participation in drafting and reviewing technical documents, guidelines and regulations.



Dr Rajesh Singh • Senior Director, Sphera

Dr Rajesh Singh is an experienced expert in ESG strategy, Life Cycle Assessment, Eco-design, climate change, and decarbonisation strategy. With over 30 years of experience, he was a founding member of thinkstep in India and played a pivotal role in promoting LCA and EPD concepts for 15 years among industries and academics. His career includes 16 years of work at the Steel Authority of India. Rajesh assisted more than 100 companies in developing ESG frameworks, conducting over 300 Life Cycle Assessment/EPD/Eco-design studies, and conducting various internal and external reviews across diverse sectors, including steel, aluminium, glass, energy, textile, agriculture, packaging, automobile, chemicals, building/building materials, and FMCG. He holds a doctorate in Sustainability Management from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and has published over 25 papers in international journals.