

Preliminary Agenda – 2 June 2025

Times, descriptions, and presenters may change.

Confirmed Speakers & Topics

Presentation – Engineering in times of crisis

Francesco Russo PhD PE, Founder and Principal, Russo Structural Services

The presentation highlights examples from the emergency response and repair of major steel bridges including the Sherman Minton Bridge in Louisville, KY, the PA NJ Turnpike Connector Bridge near Bristol, PA, and the Hernando De Soto Bridge in Memphis, TN. Each of these projects was an emergency response where engineers, NDT personnel, fabricators, and contractors were called upon to respond to a field emergency, each the result of an inspection finding. In the case of the Sherman Minton Bridge, a significant number of internal weld defects were found during an in-depth inspection and the project eventually grew in scope to an emergency closure and strengthening of the bridge. In the case of the PA NJ Turnpike Connector Bridge, a full fracture was discovered by a painting crew, leading to immediate closure, emergency inspection of hundreds of welds, and bridge repair. And for the Hernando De Soto Bridge, bridge inspectors discovered a partial fracture of the main tie girder carrying the main span over the Mississippi River. This required an immediate bridge closure, inspection of all similar welds in the bridge, and emergency repair. The engineering and construction challenges for these projects are highlighted. The collaboration of all parties was notable in restoring these critical lifeline bridges in record time.



Presentation – Combined Method of Pre-Tensioning

Chad Larson, Senior Bolting Officer LeJeune Bolt Company

The combined method of pretensioning has been approved in the latest editions of the RCSC Specification for Structural Joints Using High-Strength Bolts and the AISC Specification for Structural Steel Buildings. Learn about the history and concepts behind the new pretensioning method, how it differs from existing practices, and most importantly, how it improves upon them. We'll take a deep dive into the science of the combined method, demonstrate how it can improve reliability, and how it brings quality and efficiency to bolting. And we'll peek at what bolting might look like 5yrs.



Presentation – It's Time to Build In Quality vs. Depending on Inspection

Terry Logan, Owner/Vice President, Atema / DOT Quality Services

In structural steel, we depend on inspection AFTER a part is made to determine its acceptance. What's really needed is a means to build in quality via a change in processes and procedures, to ensure part conformance during production. How many times have you heard these phrases immediately after parts are determined unacceptable. First, where was QC? Second, who was the operator and why did they do it (aka, it's their fault). This indicates the process depends on inspection to ensure quality after the parts are completed. This presentation will cover topics of when to inspect, and by who other than the inspector. It will also cover what to change within processes, and work instructions/procedures so dependence on inspection is eliminated. This presentation will cover topics of when to inspect, and by who other than the inspector. It will also cover what to change within processes, and work instructions/procedures so dependence on inspection is eliminated.

