



Optimising the workability of gold and silver is our goal. Using innovative alloys are able to solve the most common production problems. Giving to gold ductility, malleability, castability, brightness and resistance to oxidation. Reducing the scraps. Our Research department projects and systematically tests the performances of our products, using the most advanced analysis instruments. Pro-Gold: exclusive know-how is at your complete service.



EDITOR'S COMMENT

Optimising Manufacturing and Product Quality

This title was the theme to the 8th International Technology Symposium, held at the jewellery fair in Italy, VicenzaOro1 in January this year. I do not have to tell you that optimising quality is important for competitiveness and impacts on production costs, delivery and customer satisfaction.

One aspect of this is to get the best from your existing technology and 2 presentations focused on this. Another step in one's progress is to take up one of the new technologies but we are often reluctant to do this until we are sure of the benefits it will bring. There is nothing better than to learn at first hand the experiences that others in the industry have had in implementing new technology to improve one's own confidence and take the plunge. A further 2 presentations provided first hand experience of laser and CAD/CAM technologies and the benefits that these can bring to jewellery production.

Finally, we would all like to reduce working inventory and improve production throughput by being better organised and more efficient in our manufacturing. We all hear about 'lean manufacturing' being applied in the major engineering industries, but can it be profitably employed in our industry? Well, some progressive companies are finding benefits and we were fortunate that one major company was willing to share their experience. This was the leading presentation at the Technology Symposium. I predict others will follow this approach shortly.

As is traditional, we publish the papers presented by leading experts from the jewellery industry at the Technology Symposium in this issue. Let me take this opportunity to thank the Vicenza Fair for their sponsorship and support of this leading and successful event.

It was good to meet some of our readers on the WGC stand at VicenzaOro 1 and to discuss technical aspects of jewellery. I hope to meet more of you at the Santa Fe Symposium in May. Incidentally, the new Handbook on Soldering, launched at the Fair, was popular as was the new Italian edition of the Handbook on Casting Defects (The English edition is our best-seller).

New design!

You will note this issue has a new cover and style to bring this publication 'on-brand' with the new brand image for gold. The contents, of course, maintain our usual high standards. I hope you like the new image!

Need technical information?

We receive many enquiries from the industry worldwide for technical information. It is not always easy for many of them to find information in a form that is useful. Much information can be found in the pages of this magazine, of course, but I do recommend our range of technical manuals and handbooks to you. These are used by many large and small producers as training aids for new staff, too.

Our website, www.gold.org, is also a 'goldmine' of information and has a strong jewellery technology section. Got a query? Look at our website for the answer first!



Christopher W. Corti
Editor

Note: Both English and Italian editions of this issue will be found on our website, www.gold.org

The Summer 2002 issue will focus on Manufacturing Processes

TECHNOLOGY
SYMPOSIUM, VICENZA

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