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# THE SPOTLIGHT

## Boeing Executive Dr. Dianne Chong Tours Solar Atmospheres Plant

Dr. Dianne Chong, Ph.D., FASM, recently toured the Solar Atmospheres headquarters in Souderton, PA. Dr. Chong is the Vice President, Materials, Manufacturing, Structures & Support in the Operations & Technology department of Boeing Engineering. Prior to her role as Vice President, Dianne was Director of Materials and Process Technology for Boeing Commercial Airplanes. She is a past President of ASM International (2007-2008), and the recipient of the 2012-13 ASM Liberty Bell Chapter William Hunt Eisenman Award.

Senior executives and sales management from both Solar Atmospheres and Solar Atmospheres of Western Pennsylvania escorted Dr. Chong throughout her tour. "We were honored to host Dr. Chong and give her an in-depth look at our thermal processing operations" said Roger Jones, Corporate President Solar Atmospheres. Dr. Chong's visit consisted of an extended tour of Plant "A," lunch, and further discussions about Solar's capabilities. The discussion topics included Solar's vacuum carburizing and vacuum gas nitriding processes, annealing services, heat treating of tooling, brazing, sintering and special processing.



Left front, Mike Moyer, Sales Dir., Dr. Chong, Boeing, VP Materials, Mfg., Structures & Support, Tim Steber, Sales Mgr., Left Rear, Don Jordan, Corp. Metallurgist, Bob Hill, President, Solar Atmospheres of WPA, Roger Jones, Corp. President, Solar Atmospheres, Inc.

## Technical Leadership Articles

Solar Atmospheres continued to push the frontiers of research and development in 2013. Several of our key technical people were honored to publish technical articles in industry-leading technical journals or give presentations at industry-leading technical conferences over the last 12 months. Below are links to several of these technical resources.

- "Gas vs. Liquid Quenching: A Direct Comparison in Jominy Hardenability," by Bob Hill, published in *Industrial Heating* magazine, November 2013. [www.solaratm.com/articles/jominy-hardenability](http://www.solaratm.com/articles/jominy-hardenability)
- "In-Situ Oxidation of Steels as an Effective and Economical Pretreatment for Uniform and Consistent Vacuum Gas Nitriding," by Trevor Jones, presented at the 2013 ASM Heat Treating Society Conference, September 2013. [www.solaratm.com/articles/oxidation-nitriding](http://www.solaratm.com/articles/oxidation-nitriding)
- "Methods of Improving Vacuum Furnace Insulation Efficiencies," by Real Fradette, published in *Industrial Heating* magazine, September 2013. [www.solaratm.com/articles/insulation-efficiencies](http://www.solaratm.com/articles/insulation-efficiencies)
- "Maximizing Vacuum Furnace Gas-Quenching Performance," by Nick Cordisco, published in *Industrial Heating* magazine, July 2013. [www.solaratm.com/articles/gas-quenching](http://www.solaratm.com/articles/gas-quenching)
- "How to Reduce Energy Requirements for Efficient Vacuum Furnace Operation," by Nick Cordisco & Real Fradette, published in *Industrial Heating*, August 2013. [www.solaratm.com/articles/reduce-energy](http://www.solaratm.com/articles/reduce-energy)
- "Vacuum Solution Nitriding of Martensitic Stainless Steel Holds Promise," by Don Jordan, published in *Advanced Materials & Processes* magazine, July 2013. [www.solaratm.com/articles/solution-nitriding](http://www.solaratm.com/articles/solution-nitriding)

Other technical articles can be found by going to [www.solaratm.com/media/technical-paper-downloads/](http://www.solaratm.com/media/technical-paper-downloads/). You can have confidence that Solar Atmospheres is a technical leader in the thermal processing industry. If anyone can resolve a difficult thermal processing situation, it's the technical team at Solar Atmospheres.

VACUUM HEAT TREATING • BRAZING • CARBURIZING • NITRIDING  
THE METAL PROCESSING ADVANTAGE

## Mr. William R. Jones Receives the MTI Heritage Award



From left: Mr. Buster Crossley, President, Texas Heat Treating, Inc., 2011-2012 MTI President, Mr. William R. Jones, CEO, Solar Atmospheres, Inc., Mr. Jim Roberts, VP Sales, Eclipse Combustion, Inc., and 2012-2013 MTI President

Mr. William R. Jones, CEO of Solar Atmospheres, Inc. received the Heritage Award at the Metal Treating Institute (MTI) Fall Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, on October 12th. This most prestigious award is given in recognition of the individual's lifetime commitment to the betterment of the commercial heat treating industry with one or more notable accomplishments. Only nine people in the seventy-eight year history of MTI have ever received this award.

MTI 2011-2013 President, Mr. Buster Crossley, presented the award by introducing Mr. Jones as an "icon in the world of heat treating." He went on to say, "When you hear his last name, you know who is being talked about. He is a graduate of Penn State with a degree in electrical technology, with more than 40 years of experience developing vacuum furnace, and processing technology. He is a Fellow of ASM International (FASM), and received the national Eisenman Award for applications of vacuum technology for outstanding contributions in practical industry applications. He served as President of Abar Corporation for five years, and in 1978 founded the Vacuum Furnace Systems Corporation (VFS) to engineer and build vacuum furnaces. In 1983, he and his son, Roger, formed their own company, Solar Atmospheres, to make use of the technology advancements they had

discovered, and set out to apply them into the commercial heat treating arena. Mr. Jones holds numerous patents related to vacuum furnace design and application. He has authored numerous technical articles and papers for ASM, the Metal Treating Institute, and *Industrial Heating* magazine."

## Mr. Roger A. Jones Named HTS President

Mr. Roger A. Jones, Corporate President of Solar Atmospheres, has been named president of the ASM Heat Treating Society (HTS) for the 2013-2015 term. The Heat Treating Society is an affiliate of ASM International. The Materials Information Society provides high-quality materials information, education and training, networking opportunities, and professional development resources for materials users, producers, and manufacturers. Over the next 24 months Mr. Jones will continue to promote the heat treating industry, its image, and its technology.

"This is certainly an exciting time for me," said Mr. Jones. "All the fantastic comments I received from ASM and the staff were breathtaking. It is certainly an honor to become President of the ASM Heat Treating Society, especially since I will have the opportunity to celebrate ASM International's 100th Anniversary with them this year."



Roger Jones, Solar Atmospheres Corp. President, HTS President (2013-2015)

## Robert Hill Named President of MTI and Fellow at ASM



Bob Hill, FASM, President Solar Atmospheres of Western Pennsylvania accepting MTI President Gavel.

Solar Atmospheres of Western PA president, Mr. Robert Hill, was recently elected the 70th president of the Metal Treating Institute, Jacksonville Beach, Florida. Mr. Hill has served on the Institute's Board of Governors since 2008. He was instrumental in establishing the organization's Technical Standards Committee in 2011 and has served a variety of different committees including the Programming Committee, the Executive Committee, a Benchmarking Committee, and the Strategic Planning Committee.

In other news, Bob was presented the high honor of ASM Fellow (FASM) in the field of materials at the October 29th ASM's 100th Anniversary Annual Awards Dinner in Montreal, Canada. Industry professionals and technical leaders alike recognized Mr. Hill's achievements for "expanding

the applications and technical knowledge of vacuum heat treating titanium for the future of lightweight and energy efficient commercial and military airframes."



Right: Dr. Gern Mauer ASM President presenting Bob Hill with the ASM Fellows award.



## New Hires: Plant Expansion, Corporate Marketing, Sales Teams



*Stephen Prout, President  
Solar Atmospheres Southeast*

Mr. Stephen Prout was selected as president of the new Solar Atmospheres southeastern plant following the announcement of Solar's intended expansion into the aerospace and automotive rich geographies of the southeast United States. Steve has a long and successful history in management roles in the commercial heat treating industry with companies that include American Brazing, Bluewater Thermal Solutions, and most recently, Bodycote Thermal Processing.

Roger Jones, Corporate President, noted that "Steve's first task is to acquire a site for the new plant. We see the southeastern United States as a significant growth market and we plan to bring our vacuum furnace heat treatment expertise to that region within the next 3-5 years."

The Solar family of companies, including Solar Atmospheres, Solar Manufacturing, and Magnetic Specialties, hired Mr. Douglas Glenn as Vice President of Corporate Marketing. "Bringing Doug onto the corporate management team allows us to continue moving our marketing efforts forward and better serve our customers," said Roger Jones, Corporate President, Solar Atmospheres. "Doug's market knowledge and years of marketing and sales experience adds a valuable resource to Solar's already formidable executive team. We're excited to have him on board."



*Doug Glenn, Corporate  
Marketing Vice President*



*Mike Paponetti  
Sales Manager, SAWPA*

Solar Atmospheres of Western PA (SAWPA) and Solar Atmospheres of CA (SCA) each announced the hiring of a new sales manager. Mr. Michael Paponetti will use his 18 years of heat treating / brazing technical knowledge to maintain and promote sales throughout the country for SAWPA. Prior to accepting this position he served as President of Expert Brazing and Heat Treating in Massillon, Ohio. SAWPA president Bob Hill said, "He is an excellent match for this position and a strong asset to our Solar team." Michael can be reached on his cell at 724-699-9854 or via email [mikep@solarwpa.com](mailto:mikep@solarwpa.com).

Mr. Stephen W. Lodge Sr. is the new Outside Sales Manager for Solar Atmospheres of CA. Steve's 34 plus years in the aerospace and industrial metals industries will be invaluable in promoting and maintaining sales in the western United States, Canada, and Mexico regions. SCA president, Derek Dennis said, "For our customers' sakes, we're thrilled to have Steve join Solar. He is one of the most talented, experienced, and customer-sensitive sales people in this industry and in our region." Steve can be reached on his cell at 909-248-6093 or via email [steve@solaratm-ca.com](mailto:steve@solaratm-ca.com).



*Steve Lodge  
Sales Manager, SCA*

## Employees Present Bill & Myrt Jones with Solar Atmospheres 30th Anniversary Gift



*The Solar Mailbox*

Solar Atmospheres employees wanted to express their gratitude to Bill and Myrt Jones for achieving an impressive 30-year milestone in business. Employees at Solar Atmospheres of Western PA had an idea about a gift they could give to the Joneses for always working to provide the best equipment and a good safe working environment for all their employees.

Lloyd Ramsey, a 2nd shift furnace operator at Hermitage, had a plan to build a one-of-a-kind mailbox for the Joneses in the likeness of a vacuum furnace. His only obstacle was obtaining the most identifiable part of any vacuum chamber; the curved domed front and back heads. SAWPA Sales Manager, Mike Johnson, contacted their customer, Compco Industries, who is a major supplier of formed metal tank heads. Compco invited Mike and Lloyd to visit their Columbiana,

OH, plant where they searched Compco's inventory and successfully located the correct size heads for this job. Lloyd applied his master woodworking skills to this project and built the mailbox in his home garage. The finishing touches were completed by Keith King, SAWPA's Quality Technician. Keith grew up painting automobiles. Lloyd had seen many of Keith's custom paint jobs and had total confidence that Keith would do a professional job painting the mailbox in Solar's trademark yellow color.

The gift was presented to the Joneses at Solar's 30th Anniversary Banquet which was held at Indian Valley Country Club in Telford, PA. Bill and Myrt Jones and everyone in the audience were most impressed with the gift. In fact, Bill was overheard saying "the door fits so perfectly, let's put a seal on it and pump her down!" The unique mailbox will be proudly mounted in front of the 1969 Clearview Road building for everyone working, visiting, or just passing by to see.



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**Upcoming Tradeshows**

Visit us at these upcoming industry events.



Booth 302, Jan. 29-30, Orlando, FL



Booth 3952, Feb. 11-14, Anaheim, CA



Booth 217, Mar. 5-6, Grapevine, TX



Booth 1907, Mar. 9-13, San Antonio, TX



Solar Atmospheres is closed on  
 December 24th & 25th for the Christmas holiday and  
 January 1st for New Years Day.



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