

Four Bonus Reasons to Join an Emerging Technology Committee

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In today's rapidly evolving manufacturing landscape, keeping up with emerging technologies isn't optional; it's essential. That's why AGMA launched its Emerging Technology Committees eight years ago: to help member companies stay informed and future-ready.

At the time, I understood the need for this effort, but what I didn't anticipate were the unexpected bonuses committee members have uncovered by participating in this free, accessible resource. While our standards development committees benefit from a century of bringing together specialists—bevel, worm, precision, you name it—the Emerging Technology Committees offer something different. They're a cross-section of the industry: executives, machinists, salespeople, engineers, Gen Z to Baby Boomers—all coming together to explore the unknown.

This unique mix leads to surprising discoveries and unexpected benefits. Here are four ways committee members have found added value from being involved:

1. Find Your Inner Geek—In Unexpected Places

The topics we explore—blockchain, artificial intelligence, powder bed fusion, and more—are novel for almost everyone in the room. That's the point. Rather than leaning solely on deep expertise, members draw on curiosity, backed by a strong knowledge base.

The result? Fascinating, cross-disciplinary conversations. When tech entrepreneurs who've created new machines sit down with gear veterans, the knowledge exchange can lead to streamlined processes, problem-solving breakthroughs, shortened lead times, or even new products.

2. Get Your Hands Dirty

These aren't passive discussions. Committee members shape the direction of research and conversation. Interested in how 3D printing could repair gears? Say the word. Want to explore AI-driven tools for your documentation process? We'll get the right people in the room. Curious about robotics, cybersecurity, or additive manufacturing for cutting tools? Let's go there together.

Discussions evolve to meet the specific needs of the gear industry. Whether it's tackling long lead times for castings or navigating CMMC 2.0, these committees are places where pain points are addressed—and possibilities uncovered.

3. Feel Like You've Won a Golden Ticket

Committee participation connects you with forward-thinking professionals and opens doors to exclusive opportunities. From early access to emerging trends to curated events, the benefits are real.

We've partnered with AMT and NTMA to host in-person think tanks. We've led guided tours at RAPID since 2019, invited more than 100 outside experts into our discussions, and hosted nearly 50 webinars. Our work has led to meetups, facility tours, collaborations, and even white papers. This isn't just a seat at the table, it's a front-row seat to what's next.

4. Discover Something That Helps Your Business

Ultimately, what you gain here isn't just knowledge—it's impact. Many members leave with something they can use immediately: a faster way to print fixtures, a predictive maintenance idea, a new contact who can solve a tough technical challenge.

These committees are idea incubators. The ROI isn't hypothetical; it's in your shop floor improvements, your process optimizations, and your strategic pivots. It's professional development with a real-world payoff.

The Future Is Being Built—Join Us

Joining an Emerging Technology Committee won't just keep you current—it will change how you think, work, and lead in this industry. Whether you're an engineer, a manager, or simply curious about what's next, there's a place for you here.

Jump in. The future is already taking shape—and we want you to help shape it.

