

## **RAPDASA 2018-2019 Chairman's Report**

### **RAPDASA Management Committee:**

#### **Executive committee:**

Chair: André F van der Merwe  
Treasurer: Pauline Bullock  
Past chairman: Thorsten Becker  
Secretary: Jenny van Rensburg

#### **Members:**

CP Kloppers  
Malika Khodja  
Kobus van der Walt (LOC)  
Devon Hagedorn-Hansen  
Anton du Plessis  
Willie du Preez (LOC)  
Deon de Beer (LOC)  
Adam Imdaadullah  
Ian van Zyl  
Didier Nyembwe

The focus of the Rapid Product Development Association of South Africa has emerged from product development into manufacturing. Additive manufacturing has become the household name of this emerging intervention. The disruption affects the whole supply chain, traditional thinking of manufacturing and consequently company culture. Out-of-the-box thinking can now be realized. We capitalize on the innovation opportunities.

Industry involvement now extends beyond AM product suppliers and several industry case studies on applications were demonstrated.

Commercialization through scale up is the primary focus of several initiatives and is already supported through several funding mechanisms. The Collaborative Programme in Additive Manufacturing provides funding for research, whilst the High-End Infrastructure Fund funds equipment - both from Department of Science and Innovation.

#### **Brand positioning:**

The company Visibiliti has been appointed to better brand RAPDASA. We started small and have seen improvements in many aspects. We are proud to partner with Visibiliti. They report to the RAPDASA executive committee.

#### **Membership:**

RAPDASA membership is automatically obtained by attending the yearly conference. However, management committee had several requests from industry for interim membership. Going forward the membership structure has to be addressed to provide more value to all stakeholders.

**Governance:**

RAPDASA management currently serves the function of management and governance. Considering the growth and the maturity of the association, good governance needs to be reconsidered. The appointment of a management team is recommended. The management team would be responsible for day-to-day management of the associations' affairs that often include various administrative functions. A part-time secretary has already been appointed. It is recommended that a Chief Operating Officer be appointed, responsible for continuation from year to year. The elected management committee would drive new initiatives and projects. Once established as a long-term programme, management team would take over responsibility for continuation.

**Association:**

- Partnered with PtSA to share industry members
- Membered with Brand SA
- Membered with National Science Technology Forum NSTF
- Supporting South African Technology Network SATN

**New initiatives:**

- The Dimitrov scholarship fund was initiated to support students to attend the conference. Several funds were received, and the first student is supported to attend the 2019 conference.
- Junior Design Competition for school children – initiative by Petra Rees of Why Toyz
- RAPDASA supports Adriana Marais going to Mars – a full knowledge support commitment has been made to support innovation of products and processes to support the sustainability of the mission.
- Woman in 3D printing
- Corporate membership with CIRP\* - to be completed
- I AM Africa

**Annual Conference:**

The annual conference in 2019 is a huge success and the number of delegates has again shown huge growth with 230 delegates of which 60 students. Peer reviewed papers presented are 35 of which 31 are published in the proceedings and 4 in a special edition of the SAJIE journal.

A software system, CVENT, is being tested to provide a digital platform for RAPDASA events. The software is being phased in and at the 2019 conference the mobile app was used to provide schedule and information to delegates.

**Programme Committee:**

It was decided to initiate a permanent programme committee that would serve over years, and not report to the annual changing conference chairman. The purpose is to provide continuation to the peer review process. The 2019 conference programme committee would therefore continue into the new year. The members and the chairman of the programme committee would be elected in an agreed procedure. The chairman of the programme committee is automatically a member of the management committee.

**Open Days:**

Successful Industry Open Days were held in Johannesburg and in Port Elizabeth. Industry open days are driven by stakeholders in Additive Manufacturing and endorsed by RAPDASA. A RAPDASA member would present at the open day.

**Closure and acknowledgement:**

The chairman wishes to thank the management team for their commitment through the year. Also, the conference organizing committee for their passion and dedication. A specific recognition goes to the chairman of the programme committee, Kobus van der Walt. A very special thanks to Jenny van Rensburg for her commitment as secretary for many years. As Jenny takes a step back, we welcome Rynette Coetzer as secretary of RAPDASA.