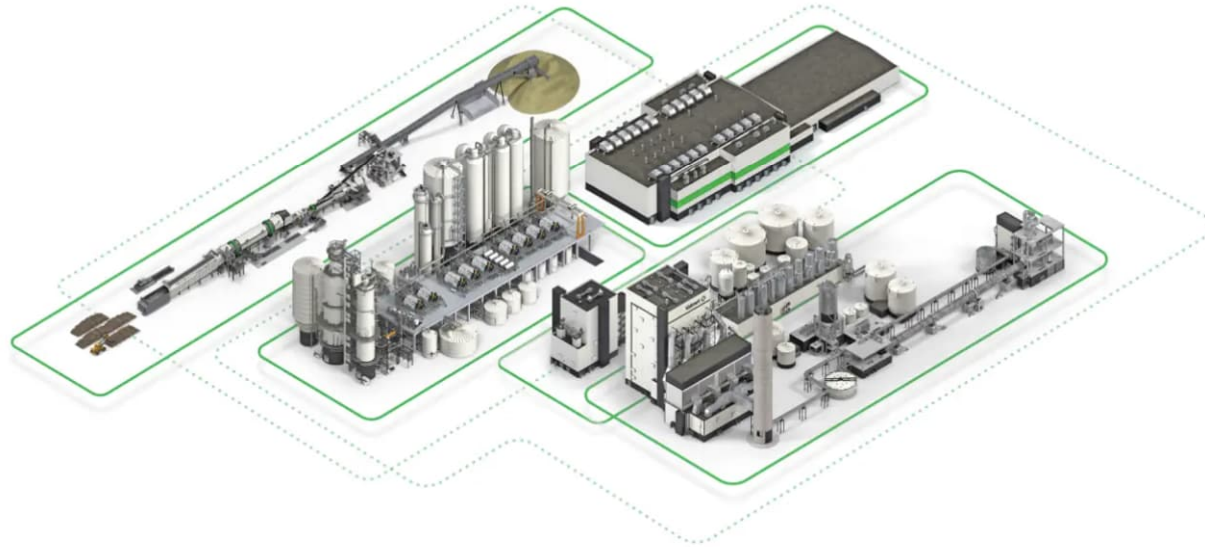


Valmet Technology User Group Conference



February 17-20, 2025 | Orlando, Florida
Host and Presenter Biographies

Michael D Nelson

Host for Shoe Press Users Group

- Director – Board, Paper and Tissue Solutions, North America, Valmet
- Office in Beloit, Wisconsin
- 39 years of experience as a supplier partner to the Paper Industry:
 - Beloit Corporation, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries & Valmet
 - Engineering, Applications & Sales, Operations
- Received Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Marquette University
- Hobbies include being an outdoor / sports enthusiast - fishing, basketball, gardening, cooking

“I enjoy this event because it allows us to bring training to our partners while valuable connections are created, and it is a venue that helps us to understand how we can further meet customer needs.”



Bryan Cawkins

Host and Presenter for Shoe Press Users Group

- Business Manager, Field Services, North America, Valmet
- Based in Beloit, Wisconsin
- 36 years of experience in the Paper industry, 34 years in Pressing
- Subject Matter Expert for Shoe Pressing, Deflection, Compensated rolls, and Hydraulic systems
- Educational background in electrical engineering, applied experience primarily in paper machine hydraulic systems
- Enjoy all outdoor activities and travel

“I love to participate and present at the Shoe Press Users Group because it improves my understanding of customer challenges and makes me a better service provider.”



Derrick Pinnow

Presenter for Shoe Press Users Group

- Field Service Manager – Press/Calender, North America, Valmet
- Based in Beloit, Wisconsin
- 10 years of experience in the Paper industry
- Knowledge on Pressing and Threading
- Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin - Platteville
- Interests include camping, physical fitness, and firefighting/EMS

“I enjoy participating in SPUG because being involved in the collaboration of Valmet and customer experts to discuss concepts and problems is rewarding.”



Ari Linnankoski

Presenter for Winder Users Group

- Global Product Manager, Winders, Field Services and Rebuilds, Valmet
- Based in Järvenpää, Finland
- 38 years of experience in Valmet, mainly for Winders
- Subject Matter Expert for winders; Process, Automation systems (Siemens), hydraulic and pneumatic systems
- Educational background in electrical engineering, applied experience primarily in winders controls, hydraulic and pneumatic systems
- Enjoy all things home improvement, garden work and travel

“I look forward to presenting at the Winder Users Group because it improves my understanding of North American customer challenges, and hope it makes me a better service provider.”



Seppo Somero

Presenter for Shoe Press Users Group

- Product Manager, Press felts and belts, PMC, North America, Valmet
- Based in Atlanta, Georgia
- 37 years of experience in the Paper industry and most in pressing
- Educational background is in computer science, business and technology. Background is in computers (programming) and press in general.
- Hobbies include traveling, golf and other outdoor activities

“I enjoy meeting different people and learning more at this event!”



Roger Jensen

Presenter for Shoe Press Users Group

- Project Engineer – Board, Paper and Tissue Solutions & Service Center Manager, North America, Valmet
- Based in Beloit, Wisconsin
- 36 years of engineering and production management experience
- 29 years in automotive & mining. 7 years in Paper industry
- Focus on legacy shoe press module repair
- BS Mechanical Engineering, Six Sigma Green Belt & Lean Master Facilitator
- Part-time professional pyrotechnician & avid snowmobiler

“I love participating in SPUG to learn about issues and their solutions from the people that use this equipment every day and assisting with solving problems.”



Esa Rajala

Presenter for Shoe Press and Winders Users Groups

- Global Senior Manager, Field Services, Valmet
- Based in Tampere, Finland
- 25 years of experience in the Board & Paper Machinery
- Subject Matter Expert for Pressing, Shoe Presses, Rolls, Wet End
- Educational background in mechanical engineering, applied experience primarily in paper machine wet end
- Enjoy motorcycling and golf

“I love to participate and present at this event because it improves my understanding of North American customer challenges and makes me a better service provider.”



Maarit Malmberg

Presenter for Shoe Press and Winders Users Groups

- Global Engineering Manager, Board and Paper, Services, Valmet
- Based in Rautpohja, Finland
- 25 years of global experience in the Paper and Board industry in Valmet
- Expert for Shoe Presses, Deflection compensated rolls and Machine Engineering from Headbox to Dryer Section area
- Education in Paper Machine Engineering with additional expertise in Technological Competence Management
- I like cycling, downhill skiing and traveling, while also enjoying to spend time with my teenagers

“This event provides a great platform for exchanging ideas, learning from our customers, and exploring innovative solutions together.”



Patrick McCann

Host for Winders Users Group and Finishing Users Group

- Business Manager, Finishing Improvement Projects, North America, Valmet
- Based in Appleton, WI
- 25 years of experience in the Paper industry
- Started in field service then various groups including design engineering, small rebuilds, purchasing, applications engineering and construction management
- Expertise in finishing equipment and construction
- Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering
- I enjoy spending time with my family, traveling and the outdoors

“Being able to facilitate open conversations across customer job functions and organizations is my favorite part of this conference.”



Nick Baltz

Host for Winders and Finishing Users Group

- Field Service Manager, Finishing Controls, North America, Valmet
- Based in Appleton, Wisconsin
- 13 years of experience in the Paper industry:
 - 12 years in pressing
 - 1 year in finishing / winding
- Subject matter expert for Shoe Presses, framework assessment, and Field Service processes
- Mechanical engineering educational background.
- Applied experience primarily in press equipment service and engineering.
- I enjoy spending time outdoors with my family and young kids. Camping, hiking, and live music are some of our favorite activities.



“I enjoy getting further insight into the daily challenges of our customers and connecting that to my work. I always look forward to learning from the diverse experience of the experts that gather for this event.”

Pierre G elinas

Host & Presenter for the Wet End Users Group

- Business Manager, Board & Paper Machines, Improvement Projects
- Based in Trois-Rivi eres, Qu ebec, Canada
- 39 years of experience in the Paper industry
- Subject Matter Expert for the Wet End with deep knowledge in Headbox design & operation.
- Mechanical Engineering Degree from University of Sherbrooke, Qc
- Enjoy Running, Hiking, Down Hill Skiing and love to repair anything that can be repaired.

“This is my first time at such an event, and I am eager to meet customers and help them out with their Wet End Challenges.”



Dave Hammes

Presenter for Wet End Users Group

- Senior Product Manager – Wet End (Headbox, Forming and Press), North America, Valmet
- Based in Beloit, Wisconsin
- 40 years of experience in the Paper industry, (Beloit/Valmet)
- Subject Matter Expert for Headbox and Forming section
- Educational background in mechanical design, applied experience primarily with the Wet End. Broad application knowledge from the Dryer through Reels.
- Enjoy all outdoor activities (golf, hunting and fishing) and family life with my wife/children/grandchildren

“Open discussions with customers on their experiences and issues expands our overall knowledge – which has been a big part of my enjoyable career.”



Eddie Thorne

Presenter for Wet End Users Group

- Field Service Manager, Wet End, North America, Valmet
- Based in Beloit, Wisconsin
- 22 years of experience in the Paper industry
- Subject Matter Expert for Headboxes and Former
- Trade qualified Machinist, with hands on Paper Machine knowledge from 22 years in Process from Operator to Mill Manager
- Enjoy spending time with my family, 5-month-old twins and getting outdoors

“I am looking forward to this event as it is my first ever and am looking forward to presenting, meeting the customers face to face and gaining a better understanding of their issues.”



Todd Vanden Heuvel

Host and Presenter for Finishing Users Group

- Senior Product Manager, Reels, Calenders and Coaters/Sizers, North America, Valmet
- Based in Appleton, Wisconsin
- 25 years of experience in the Paper industry, 25 years in Reels
- Held various other positions within Valmet, starting out my career in the Field Services Team for Reels, focused on Controls and Automation areas of the business. Was then promoted to Valmet Intelligent Roll Product Specialist, followed by Product Manager for Reels.
- AAS Degree in Electro-mechanics 1999
- Enjoys doing mostly anything outdoors

“I really enjoy interacting with people during these events. I hopefully can pass on some knowledge to both experienced personnel and those new to the industry.”

