

MEDIA RELEASE



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FULL PROGRAM FOR TECHNICAL AND MAINTENANCE CONFERENCE RELEASED

Hands-on technical sessions demonstrating practical ways to reduce fuel consumption will be the highlight of the 2008 Technical and Maintenance Conference program, released today by the ATA and ARTSA.

The 2008 Technical and Maintenance Conference (TMC) will take place at the Moonee Valley Function Centre in Melbourne from Sunday 9 – Tuesday 11 November.

This year's TMC will focus on 'Doing the Job with Less Fuel', with conference sessions designed to provide delegates with practical ways of reducing fuel consumption and fuel costs, through better technology, maintenance and operations.

ATA Chairman Trevor Martyn said each conference session will be led by some of the industry's most reputable suppliers and technical specialists.

"Accomplished transport professional and consultant, Mark McKenzie will set the scene by providing delegates with a snapshot of the current fuel market and the reasons why they should care about fuel prices," Mr Martyn said.

"Workshop managers and their staff are playing an increasingly significant role in keeping trucking businesses viable and at the same time they have to understand the incoming emissions trading scheme.

"Delegates will leave this session with a better understanding of what emissions trading will mean for industry and how they can respond to this very complex but important economic reform," Mr Martyn said.

Mr Martyn said the TMC program will then look at the issue of green versus clean, where international product support manager and vehicle tester for Detroit Diesel, Terry Bistue, will lead a session about the development of current and future heavy duty truck engines and the optimisation of fuel economy and emissions.

Mr Martyn said he looked forward to the staging of the first-ever Apprentices Day at TMC, on Monday 11 November.

"Apprentices will have the opportunity to take part in a number of hands-on sessions demonstrating the latest engine technologies and alternative fuels development. They will also be able to hear, see and touch a range of new technologies and maintenance methods that are making their way into everyday workshop operations," he said.

"Monday will also include our two part session, 'Maintenance Opportunities for Reducing Fuel Consumption', that will provide delegates with ways to deliver major fuel savings through improved workshop and operational practices.

"The focus will then shift from the workshop onto what drivers can do to increase fuel efficiency. The session 'Driver Skills for Fuel Efficiency' will see transport company representatives share their methods of dealing with increasing fuel costs through speed management and driving techniques," Mr Martyn said.

National Voice of the Australian Trucking Industry

“On Monday night, we will award the 11th annual Craig Roseneder Award for Technical and Maintenance Excellence in the Workshop at the Castrol Awards Dinner. This will be an opportunity for delegates to network with their peers, away from the business end of the conference.

“The much anticipated Workshop Manager’s Forum will take place on Tuesday morning. This session will see past winners of the Craig Roseneder Award discuss what’s old, what’s new and what’s to come in the workshop,” Mr Martyn said.

Mr Martyn said Tuesday’s sessions will see workshop safety come under the spotlight; with an industry panel profiling safety in their businesses, performance indicators and opportunities for improvement.

“A strong focus of the 2008 TMC is on Wednesday morning applicability. We are confident that the conference program will provide delegates with practical measures they can implement in their workplace as soon as they return to work on Wednesday morning,” Mr Martyn said.

The full program and links to the online registration from can be found at the ATA events website www.ataevents.net.au.

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