



Associazione CMM Club Italia

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Introducing the Associazione CMM Club Italia

Dear colleagues and friends,

as you have seen in the website and in the documents in the bag, this meeting is organised by the *Associazione CMM Club Italia*, together with the Politecnico. You might wonder what this CMM Club is and what the relationship to ISO meetings. I would like to spend the few lines below to introduce the CMM Club to you, and to point out its relevance to the standardisation activity.

The CMM Club is a non-for-profit society established in 1997 with the goal of promoting the awareness and knowledge of dimensional metrology, and of coordinate metrology in particular, in the nation and its industry. The initiative sprang from the INRIM (*Italian National Research Institute of Metrology*, at that time named IMGC-CNR), which provides the scientific direction and the patronage, and keeps the presidency, as a guarantee of the impartiality and rigour of the society. Nonetheless, the whole of the CMM Club would not be in place without the energetic input of some industrial and academic members in particular, who have worked unceasingly over the years to develop and promote the society.

The idea of the CMM Club is not ours: we borrowed it from the Australian *CMM User Group* started by Eric Thwaite and Carl Sona; about at the same time, also our colleague Kostadin Doytchinov borrowed the idea, developing the *ACMC Association for Coordinate Measurement Canada*. What we have done here in Italy is developing this idea into a full society (our colleague Mike Deni was with me among the legal founders), hopefully fit for the Italian situation.

Today the CMM Club scores some 70+ corporate members, including CMM users, manufacturers, service providers, and scientists. As a result, we are proud in saying that the society represents the national community of the CMM. The society is self-sustained, based on the member fees and on the registration fees of the periodic seminars. It is also based on the volunteer work of some members, particularly those elected in the Steering Committee.

The main activities of the CMM Club are along three lines: training, information, standardisation (in Italian, it sounds like a watchword: *Formazione, Informazione, Normazione*). For the training, we organise seminars (named InTeRSeC) once or twice a year, touching on topics we consider important at that point in time; we also organise courses on an aperiodic basis. For the information, we publish the specialised biannual journal *Probing* and its bimonthly electronic news supplement *Probing Flash*; a website with a secure part is also available at the www.cmmclub.it. For the standardisation, we think that the very competitive and globalised world of CMMs and dimensional instrumentation could not survive and prosper without a proper standardisation base. For this reason, the CMM Club has always aimed at this activity, both by supporting the participation of Italian experts at the ISO/TC213 meetings, and by diffusing the knowledge of the relevant standards in Italy through seminars, articles, etc. The very fact that all sponsors of this meeting are members shows the attention the society has given to this activity.

Further details about the CMM Club Italia can be found at the www.cmmclub.it. Please, do not hesitate to contact me if you are interested or just curious about it.

Thank you for the attention, and enjoy the meeting!

Alessandro Balsamo
President, CMM Club Italia