

As was communicated at the 28th International Meshing Roundtable, after 28 years Sandia National Laboratories has decided to step back from organizing and operating the IMR. Sandia's contribution to the meshing community through sponsoring this Roundtable is incalculable and we are all grateful for what they have created and provided to the meshing world. However, we now need to work together to find the best road forward for the IMR to continue to support and grow the meshing community.

**At the end of this email you will find a link to a survey where you can provide feedback and guidance on what is described below.**

## **IMR Exploratory Committee**

At the 28th IMR, an Exploratory Committee was created consisting of Suzanne Shontz, John Chawner, John Verdicchio, Trevor Robinson and Scott Canann. I, Scott Canann, was selected to chair the Exploratory Committee. In addition, Kathy Loeppky has been a vital part of the IMR for years now and has been a key resource to the Exploratory Committee, providing us with historical context for past Roundtables, budget figures from past conferences among many other helpful insights. Of course, we will continue to be in touch with representative(s) at Sandia as we move forward for whatever is needed – things like access to financial reserves, questions about legal issues, previous contracts signed for publications, etc.

This Exploratory Committee is not to be confused with the Organizing Committee which runs the conference each year. We have an Organizing Committee in place already and like all previous years, they will elect a conference chair from their members once the IMR's future direction is set. The Exploratory Committee will transition into a governing body to fill the role that Sandia traditionally had of providing oversight, setting up rules, controlling high level finances/budget decisions, etc.

The purpose of the Exploratory Committee these past few months has been to determine what feasible options exists for the IMR to continue and to thrive. An emphasis has been placed on finding ways to allow the IMR to keep its identity, while also looking for ways to grow. What we mean by "keeping our identity" is continuing to meet yearly with peer-reviewed papers, research abstracts, posters, invited speakers, etc. In addition, we want to continue our history of awarding best paper, best student paper, best technical poster, meshing maestro, IMR fellow, etc. Some options include being fully integrated into other large existing conferences, but our hope is to continue much as we have been, but inside an organization that can allow us to grow and thrive for many more years to come.

The Exploratory Committee has met frequently and has constantly been in touch. A large amount of legwork has been done chasing down legal issues, as well as future potential homes for the IMR. It is now time to communicate what we have found and get your feedback before any final decisions are made.

## **Options Ruled Out:**

- **Find a replacement for Sandia (Government Lab, Company or University)**
  - This would be an awesome choice, especially if we could basically continue as we have been, but with a new sponsor.
  - We approached a few potential candidates (and perhaps more effort could have been put into this option), but ultimately no such sponsor was found, so we moved on from this option
- **Rotating Owners**
  - The premise here is for each Roundtable, a different organization (company, government lab, university, etc) agrees to be the "owner" for each roundtable in a rotating fashion. This idea is based on how the Tetrahedron workshop is run.



<b>SIAM</b>	SIAM International Meshing Roundtable or SIAM Meshing Workshop	No, Required to co-locate with another SIAM conference (separate events, same location)	Yes, (required)	Yes	Not sure	Not sure	Yes, (and Asia)
<b>USACM</b>	International Meshing Roundtable	Yes	Yes, Would require coordination if done before/after USNCCM)	Yes	Yes	Possibly	Yes, Would have to work through sister organizations
<b>ACM Siggraph</b>	International Meshing Roundtable or ACM Siggraph International Meshing Roundtable	Yes	Yes	Required to accept < 50% of submitted papers	Yes	50%	Yes, (and Asia)

## SURVEY

The Exploratory Committee invites your feedback and advice. The link below is to an anonymous, brief, online survey about the future of the IMR. We would appreciate that surveys be completed by Tuesday, **February 18**.

### [Future of IMR Survey](#)

If you have questions or feedback you wish to give directly to me, feel free to contact me at my email address listed below.

Warmly,

Scott Canann  
scott.canann@siemens.com