



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

### **IFC 2020 Cancelled Due to COVID-19 Safety Concerns**

Due to the worldwide outbreak of the potentially deadly SARS-CoV-2 virus (“coronavirus”), the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors has decided to cancel the International Forging Congress (IFC) 2020 scheduled for September 19-21, 2020 at the Marriott Magnificent Mile Downtown, Chicago, IL.

The World Health Organization, on March 11, 2020, declared the coronavirus outbreak a worldwide “pandemic.” All fifty states, including Illinois, have declared the coronavirus outbreak to be a public health emergency. As with other states across the nation, Illinois has also activated the National Guard to address this crisis, has shut down all non-essential businesses, has ordered people in the State to stay at home, except for essential activities, and has prohibited “any gathering of more than ten people,” with violators potentially subject to arrest. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the coronavirus outbreak a “national emergency.” The President has also barred travel to the United States by all foreign nationals who have visited any one of various foreign countries within the last month, including China, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

The basis for the decision to cancel IFC 2020 was the safety concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that FIA cannot be assured that the venues' configuration, where IFC 2020 activities are scheduled to be held, could be arranged in a manner to provide sufficient protection for delegates and exhibitors against the transmission of COVID-19.

#### **Delegates Who Have Registered to Attend IFC 2020**

Delegates who have registered and paid to attend IFC 2020 will be refunded their registration fees.

#### **Exhibitors Who Have Reserved Booths/Table Tops at IFC 2020**

Those companies that have registered and paid for a booth or table top at IFC 2020 will be refunded for booth/table top registration fees.

An email will be sent explaining the refund process for registered delegates and exhibitors.

The forging industry and our families around the world are going through difficult and uncertain times. As forgers and suppliers to the industry, we will prevail because we are strong and resilient, just like the forgings we produce.

Best Regards,

James R. Warren  
President & CEO  
Forging Industry Association