

Banbury Hosts Calibration Laboratory Specialists

In October delegates from Norbar companies and distributors attended the first Head of Laboratory Calibration Conference in Banbury, England hosted by Norbar UK.

A key part of the event was the opportunity to review BS 7882:2008, the revised British standard on the calibration and classification of torque measuring devices. The original edition published in 1997 evolved from the need for calibration laboratories to determine the results of torque measurements in a uniform manner. The latest version incorporates new technical requirements based on current best practice and provides a practical solution for the calibration of torque measuring devices without making the calibration too time consuming to perform and consequently commercially unviable.

The conference was informative, varied, and interactive. Outside of the 'classroom' a particular highlight was the visit to the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) in London. Dr Andy Robinson hosted the team who are seen in the picture eagerly examining the United Kingdom National Torque Standard machine. NPL also presented on their new "Guide to the calibration and testing of torque transducers" and the recently conducted intercomparison of torque measurement in the UK. Oxford provided a convenient stopping off point on the return journey from the NPL with everyone enjoying a guided walking tour of this world famous seat of learning. In the evening they were joined by Mr. Neill Brodey managing director of Norbar for the conference dinner.

Calculating uncertainty, and assessing a transducers susceptibility to bending and sensitivity effects were some of the other topics the group got hands on experience in, as well as calibrating transducers to the new standard. The conference proved to be a useful forum for the sharing of knowledge and best practice. "A recurring theme throughout the conference was what was important to ensure fit for purpose calibrations and uncertainties when using Norbar calibration equipment", says Barry Pratt, Norbar's Head of Laboratory. When it came to conference delegate feedback there was no uncertainty as everyone agreed that it had been a worthwhile exercise and that the acquired learnings would be put to practical use globally.



From Left to Right: Dr. Andy Robinson (NPL), David Poerner (Torque Tool PTY), Barry Reynolds (Torque Tool PTY), Barry Pratt (Norbar), Chi Kah Lim (Norbar Singapore), Jim Wallace (Norbar Inc), John Greig (McCann Equipment), Mike Stevens (Norbar), Matt Packer (Norbar Australia), Johan Karlsson (Luna), Julian Kent (Norbar), Mike Cavanagh (McCann Equipment). Not present on the photo is Howard Keasey of Norbar who took the shot.

Barry sums up by saying: "Over the course of the conference we were able to explore and understand the theory and practice behind the latest standards and the techniques used in the calibration and classification of torque measuring devices, and also to show our uncertainty of applied torque is within 0.02% of that provided by the national torque standard machine. By the end of the week we had forged closer relationships and these will enable everyone at the Conference to reap the benefit in the months and years ahead."

Papers from the conference may be found at www.torquecalibration.com

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