**UKIVA Holds First Machine Vision Conference 27th April 2017**

The UKIVA (UK Industrial Vision Association) celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2017. During those 25 years the Association has seen vision become an enabling technology in a host of different industries. It is a far cry from the early days when the vision industry ‘borrowed’ and adapted technology such as cameras from other industries. Now vision is a vibrant, multi-billion dollar industry in its own right that has developed its own technologies and created its own sets of internationally-recognised operational standards.

The role of the UKIVA, throughout its existence, has been the promotion of the use of vision in industry and it has done so through informative seminars, newsletters, articles in the trade press, useful publications, networking opportunities and a web site ([www.ukiva.org](http://www.ukiva.org)) which naturally is the main source of information about members. Now, in 2017, the Association is staging its first ever Machine Vision Conference & Exhibition ([www.machinevisionconference.co.uk](http://www.machinevisionconference.co.uk)), which will take place at ArenaMK in Milton Keynes on 27 April 2017. With 50 technical vision seminars and 30 live demonstration stands planned, this free-to-attend new one-day event is dedicated to machine vision technology and its applications and is aimed at the widest possible audience.

**The need for a UK Vision event**

Machine vision is a far-reaching technology that has grown enormously in recent years. Imaging technology is everywhere, from smartphones to industrial process and quality control; from motoring aids to each new generation of computer games. Such a fast paced industry demands a high visibility to its myriad of users. Many extremely popular vision shows take place around the world, notably in Stuttgart, Germany, the USA and the Far East. While these attract large audiences, the UK has not had an independent event dedicated solely to the machine vision industry. Historically machine vision has taken its place as part of other more wide ranging imaging and optics events and, of course, also as part of shows in the many vertical markets that it serves, such as the PPMA Show. UKIVA members therefore felt that now was the right time to create a new event in the UK which continues the Association’s objective of educating people about vision. Of course this new one-day event is not restricted to visitors from the UK. It is hoped that contributions from many internationally renowned speakers will also attract delegates from outside of the UK. There has been a major focus on establishing a wide-ranging conference. This will be supported by an exhibition that can provide delegates with the opportunity to have a more detailed look at some of the technologies that will be covered in the conference.

**The conference**

The conference has been constructed to provide something for everyone, whether they are completely new to vision or experienced vision engineers. For people who are new to machine vision and who may not realise the benefits that the technology can bring to a wide range of applications, there will be a series of talks that will cover the basics of vision systems. Nevertheless there will also be plenty to interest the more experienced users or system integrators with presentations covering the latest developments, technologies and applications. There will be 8 presentation theatres, each with an independent theme. Six of these will cover: Vision Basics; 3D Vision; Software; Optics, Illumination & Lasers; Camera Technology and Embedded Vision. The other two will concentrate on Systems and Solutions - one for Manufacturing and the other for Print, Packaging, Serialisation and Track & Trace.

Each theatre will host a number of presentations during the course of the day so delegates are free to construct their own schedule of the talks that they wish to attend. Perhaps most importantly the event also provides the opportunities for all delegates to network both with each other and with some of the leading exponents of machine vision technology. Visitors will see and hear about real world examples of how machine vision delivers value and creates competitive advantage, learn about what’s coming next in terms of cutting edge research and gain valuable insight into the latest trends. The full conference program will be published on the event website ([www.machinevisionconference.co.uk](http://www.machinevisionconference.co.uk)), but for example the ‘Vision Basics’ session will include a series of ‘How to Specify’ presentations for cameras, lenses and illumination as well as the basics of image processing and measurement software tools. The Camera Technology theatre will include presentations on the latest developments in CMOS sensors; imaging using non-visible radiation such as NIR, SWIR, LWIR, thermal and hyperspectral wavelengths, as well as looking at the camera interface standards for machine vision. The two ‘System and Solutions’ themed theatres will highlight areas where machine vision has become indispensible such as label inspection, direct part marking, metrology and robotics while also considering some of the newer challenges such as serialisation and Industry 4.0 and the Industrial Internet of Things.

An impressive array of speakers has been assembled, bringing together a broad spectrum of imaging specialists from many of the leading manufacturers and suppliers of vision technology as well systems integrators. These include Acrovison, Allied Vision, Alrad Imaging, Basler, Bytronic Automation, CIS, Clearview Imaging, Euresys, IDS Imaging Development Systems GmbH, Imperx, Lambda Photometrics, Matrix Vision, Matrox, Multipix Imaging, NET, Photonfocus, Pleora, Point Grey, Scorpion Vision, Sick UK, STEMMER IMAGING and SVS Vistek. Profiles of individual speakers can be found on the event web site. The conference program will be further supplemented by a series of Keynote presentations. Keynote speakers will highlight many interesting applications of vision technology and will be drawn both from industry and academia to ensure input from as many perspectives as possible.

**The exhibition**

The conference will be accompanied by a small exhibition of around 30 leading companies in the field of machine vision, providing the opportunity for delegates to see some live equipment demonstrations and have any follow up discussions they might like related to the presentations. With the presentation theatres conveniently arranged around the periphery of the exhibition space, delegates can easily visit the exhibition during the conference coffee and lunch breaks or if they have a spare slot in their individual presentation schedule. For many delegates it will also provide the first opportunity to see some of the newest products that were launched at the VISION show held in Stuttgart at the end of 2016. All of the details of this exciting new event, which is completely free to attend, can be found at [www.machinevisionconference.co.uk](http://www.machinevisionconference.co.uk) which will have the full seminar program and allow visitors to register. Alternatively, visitors can register to attend by contacting Chris Valdes (+44 (0)20 8733 5517,chris.valdes@ppma.co.uk).

**Ian Alderton**

**UKIVA Chairman**

Wednesday, 11 January 17