



Tuesday, Sept. 10th

All Morning Sessions occur in the Grand Ballroom

8:00-9:00am

Breakfast

9:00 - 9:15am

Opening Remarks

9:15 - 9:45am

Data Driven Contracting

Kipp Sturdivant & Chris Hronek, Tweet Garot

Full Description coming soon!

9:45-10:15am

Building a Culture of Continuous Improvement and Innovation

This session will challenge the attendee to look at continuous improvement (CI) and innovation from a broad perspective. It is focused first on establishing comprehensive definitions of CI and innovation. While our first thoughts are being innovative around the use of technology or automation, we then build upon that with the people side of CI and innovation by exploring what a culture of innovators looks like. Next, we will share our journey and efforts at Alterman to establish a culture of CI and innovation, by sharing some of the initial building blocks, challenges we have experienced, but also how we built on opportunities to meet our goals. Finally, we will share steps that can be taken to sustain a culture where CI and innovation fuels the success of the business.

Key Learning Objectives:

Participants will leave with a more clear definition of continuous improvement and innovation, through an organizational lens. Participants will also be equipped with various models and lenses that could provide a scaffolding for deliberate and scalable cultural change.

Mica Ashmore, Alterman

Mica is a strategic and system-minded leader who strives to drive and enable continuous improvement and value-focused change. His approach is based on a foundation of organization development and change management grown from over 25 years of experience in military, retail, and construction industries. Mica's experience includes roles in Lean Six Sigma, organization development, project management, strategic planning, continuous improvement, systems administration, and military command.

10:15 - 10:45am

Coffee Break

10:45 - 11:15am

Stratus Product Road Map

Get an insider look and live demos of the future innovations coming from Stratus

Matt Tate, Stratus

11:15 - 12:00pm

Setting Up Large Projects for Success - Panel Discussion

Setting up your Revit Models for Mega projects. Best Practices for modeling, publishing to Stratus and creating Deliverables. They will cover topics such as:

- How you break up a model
- Staff a project
- Publish to Stratus
- Package, assemble, and round-tripping to Revit to produce deliverables.

Jason Steele at MMC
Adam Nichols at DSI
Darren Young at UMC
Ryan Frazier at US Engineering
Zach Hershey at Harris Company

12:00 - 1:00pm

Lunch

Breakout Sessions

Customer-Led Sessions
Main Ballroom

Customer + Sponsor Sessions
Olympic Ballroom

Hands-On Learning with Stratus Team
Room 1882

1:00 - 1:25pm

Publish From Here, Publish From There, Publish From Everywhere

David Ronson, TDIndustries

David has worked as a technologist supporting MEP sub-contractors for the past 10 years. From product management, consulting, to implementations, David has grown into one of the industry's leading technology strategists helping to meld technology with the complexities of real-world construction. Advocating for off-site construction, modular, and productization; David spends the majority of his time focusing on using data analytics to better inform and reduce the high level of risk in the industry. As a partner of TDIndustries, David works at the guidance of a company initiative to "build the model". This initiative has put a spotlight on elevating the VDC deliverable into a fully constructable and data rich model informing manufacturing, procurement, and construction.

In this class we will discuss the different ways of introducing data into Stratus. Stratus was built originally with the ability to publish from CAD and Revit, there are however other ways of getting data into Stratus. We will walk through these other methods and the potential workflow gap they fill.

Pypeserver Retrofit Case Study

Justin Spears, Southland Industries

With 16 years as a Union Card Member, I have specialized in Plumbing & Mechanical Piping Detailing. My responsibilities include managing the Fabrication Database and expertly troubleshooting equipment in the Piping Fabrication shop. This role demands precision and a deep understanding of mechanical systems, ensuring smooth operations and high-quality outcomes in piping projects.

Stuart Mcgee and Southland Industries With 18 years of experience in the construction industry, Stu has spent the last 6 years at Southland, where he currently serves as an Associate Manager of Design Technologies. He currently leads the implementation of STRATUS in addition to overseeing efforts to standardize other aspects of Southland's design and detailing processes. Known for being process-minded and collaborative, Stu is dedicated to driving innovation and efficiency in construction technology.

David Basiji, PypeServer

Discover how Southland achieved a groundbreaking industry

Stratus Big Data Analytics

Jonathan Umscheid, Chief Technology Officer

Press the easy button to build powerful dashboards and unlock Stratus big data analytics!

Key Learning Objectives:

- Configure Big Data reports for data generation
- Connect OData API as Power BI data source
- Embed Power BI dashboards in Stratus

Key Learning Objectives:

- About Lightning Publishes
- About EST/CAM Publish
- About EST/CAM Package Publish

first milestone by retrofitting existing Plasma Pipe Cutters across our nationwide shops to PypeServer. Join us for an in-depth presentation where we explain the entire process, sharing both our successes and challenges. You'll hear about the obstacles we faced and how we were able to overcome them.

Our aim is to give you practical knowledge and insights for your own equipment upgrades. We'll offer a straightforward roadmap of dos and don'ts to enhance your operations and achieve your own success.

Don't miss this chance to learn from our experience and take your shop's capabilities to the next level!

1:30 - 1:55pm

Sheet Metal Shop Assembly Tips/Tricks

Liz Fong, MacDonald-Miller

12 years in the Sheet Metal Trade, 8 years managing Autodesk Fabrication Database for Sheet Metal, Mechanical Piping & Plumbing AND integrating data-dependent construction technologies & workflows from EST to VDC to Fabrication to Field, including CAD/CAM/EST/RVT software and custom addins, Pypeserver, Trimble, PowerApps, STRATUS, etc.

Are you actually using STRATUS for Duct Assembly on the shop floor or are you still hung upon 2D assembly PDFs? Learn how to leverage STRATUS for more than just order management when it comes to Sheet Metal. Find out about some of the hidden advantages we found over and above the obvious reduction in VDC time/cost to prepare assembly drawings.

Key Learning Objectives:

- Assumptions/Requirements
- Pros/Cons for Sheet Metal Shop Assembly
- Workflow from VDC to Shop to Field - who does what, where, when, how?
- Tips/Tricks for success (or less pain)
- Lingering Challenges

Improving the Workflow on Watts Pipe Profiling Machines Through Dedicated Label Printing and Feedback in Stratus

**Thomas Perez Jr., Western Allied Mechanical
Michael Rauch , embico USA LP, Founder & Owner**

Western Allied required the creation of labels on the Watts pipe profiling machine using information coming directly from Stratus combined with information generated by the cutting process. We present our solution that allows the operator to print the desired labels and create an improved workflow. 3DPP Pipe Designer now gives the opportunity to generate label templates with all the information bound to the part coming from the Stratus cloud and generated by the cutting process. This information is printed on the machine parallel to the cutting. We will also give a short view on how this is configured in 3DPP and how the feedback into Stratus is handled.

Flex: Your Stratus Field Solution

David Ufland, Product Owner

Dive into the basics of Stratus Flex with a hands-on session focused on using the Field Sketching tool for piping. Perfect for beginners looking to enhance their field workflow efficiency.

Key Learning Objectives:

- Introduction to the Flex interface and basic functionalities
- Step-by-step guide to using the Field Sketching tool for piping
- Creating and editing piping sketches in real-time

2:00 - 2:25pm

Keeping the I in BIM

Jeff Elwell, E.M. Duggan

Building the Future: Pipe Fabrication Innovations and Challenges in America

Keith Budreau, J.M. Brennan

Stratus API 101

Sam Kovacic, Director of Engineering

This presentation will be about the data side of BIM. Using model based workflows through the life of a job allows for gathering rich data that can be used to further efficiency, identify bottlenecks, and find issues before they happen. I will go into how to gather data from Revit, Stratus, and Forge, etc and use it to improve the way we build.

Chris Holt , Novarc Technologies

Formerly a 12-year professional hockey player (NHL, Russia), Chris came to Novarc in early 2023 as a Senior Account Sales Executive for the Midwest and Northeast region of North America. He brings a wealth of sales knowledge from extensive time in the software and technology space and has worked diligently over the past 18 months to learn and develop relationships in the welding and fabrication industry.

Join us for a 25-minute panel discussion featuring insights from industry leaders, as we explore the dynamic field of pipe fabrication and its pivotal role in building America's infrastructure. This session will delve into how pipe fabrication is not just creating opportunities but also facing challenges such as labor shortages and the need for technological advancements.

Our speakers will share their experiences in adapting their businesses to these challenges, emphasizing the adoption of automation and advanced technologies like the SWR to stay competitive. The discussion will also highlight strategies for overcoming the welder shortage, integrating technology into existing workflows, and ensuring high standards of quality and safety.

Key Learning Objectives:

- Understand the critical role of pipe fabrication in enhancing America's infrastructure.
- Gain insights into the growth sectors within the pipe fabrication industry across different regions.
- Explore strategies to address skilled labor shortages.
- Discuss the integration of automation in pipe fabrication, focusing on its impact on productivity, quality, and safety.
- Learn from real-world applications and the benefits observed from adopting advanced technologies like the SWR.

Key Learning Objectives:

- Best Practices
- Real world example
- API demonstration

2:30 - 3:00pm

Coffee Break

Stratus for Electrical Contractors

Matt Tate

In this session, we'll cover the latest Stratus updates that will impact your workflows. We'll explore our ongoing efforts to support non-model based workflows for greater flexibility and introduce the Conduit Council, a new electrical peer group for industry collaboration. We'll also discuss expanded support for Evolve Revit model content and unveil Stratus Works—a powerful integration of WireWorks and Conduit Studio to optimize your electrical contracting processes. Plus, we'll outline our short and long-term goals, giving you insight into the future of Stratus and Works. Don't miss this chance to stay ahead with the latest innovations from Stratus.

3:00 - 3:25pm

Data-Driven Decision Making with Stratus

Dan Cotton, McKenney's, Inc.

Dan Cotton, a graduate of Georgia Tech's Industrial and Systems Engineering program, currently serves as Vice President of Quality at McKenney's, Inc. His responsibilities include leading Virtual Construction, Quality, Commissioning, and TAB. Dan has been the leader of Virtual Construction since 2014 and a Stratus user since 2017. With a McKenney's career spanning 24 years, Dan has been instrumental in driving innovation within McKenney's, notably as their former Process Improvement Manager and a trailblazer in corporate technology initiatives. Dan and his wife of 22 years, Melanie, live in Hampton, Georgia with their sons Noah, and Isaac.

In construction, making the right decisions can mean the difference between a successful project and a costly mistake. Using Stratus data to build analytics tools will help contractors make informed decisions at every step of the process. In this presentation, we will explore how Stratus can help you leverage data to drive better outcomes and achieve your project goals.

Key Learning Objectives:

- Define data-driven decision making: attendees will be able to explain why data-driven decision making is critical to project success.
- Roadmap to visualizing data: attendees will have specific steps to launch a data visualization initiative in their business with varying levels of complexity.
- Explore Stratus data tools: attendees will see specific examples of data that can be used for better visualizations.
- Use Cases: we will Explore some Use Cases to Use Stratus data to drive project decisions.

Autodesk's connected data strategy

Steve Butler & Martin Schmid, Autodesk

David Pikey, Hill Group

In this presentation, Autodesk will provide an overview of its MEP strategy, with a focus on MEP Fabrication for Trade Contractors. This will include an overview of FDM, what it is, who it is for, and how it could benefit your business.

Autodesk will be joined by David Pikey from Hill Group to provide a real-world reflection on the key business benefits this strategy can drive.

Stratus Academy

Trent Leinenbach, Conk Buckley, & Nathan Bargas

Train your teams using the new Stratus Academy.

Key Learning Objectives:

- Introduce the Stratus Academy Structure: By the end of the session, participants will understand the layout and functionality of the online academy, including how to access and navigate the self-paced video courses.
- Demonstrate How to Use Self-Paced Videos for Effective Team Training: Participants will learn best practices for utilizing self-paced videos to train their teams, including how to track progress, assign specific courses to team members, and integrate video learning into their overall training strategy.

3:30 - 3:55

Paperless Weld Tracking & Inspection w/ Stratus

Darren Young, UMC

Darren has spent 30 years supporting the operations and strategy for Manufacturing and Construction Technologies and sharing his knowledge with the industry. With a unique ability to see problems and solutions others don't, he strives for pragmatic results using creative solutions others often miss. Always user focused, he strives for implementing solutions and revamping workflows without disrupting productivity in the process.

Learn how UMC configured and utilized Stratus to perform shop and field weld tracking and inspection with an 3rd party weld inspector eliminating paper spool sheets and hand written inspection notes.

Key Learning Objectives:

Using Stratus for Sheet Metal Fabrication and Manufacturing

Branden Avila, Superior Duct Fabrication Inc. Kha-Mei Bartolome, Superior Duct Fabrication Inc.

Learn how Superior Duct Fabrication uses Stratus. We'll explore package categories and the impact publishing has had measured in lbs of steel . We'll cover how we set up Stratus, comparing old and new processes, and take a look at our shop floor stations.

Task workflows: Driving Standard Operating Procedures on the shop Floor

Adam Rich, Senior Sales Engineer

Dive into the set up of creating a step by step flow in your shop to get the team from Issued for Fab to Fab complete following each step along the way.

Key Learning Objectives:

- Create Specific Tasks performed in the shop.
- Define Filters for specific tasks.
- Sequence those tasks based on Filters and Work Package Categories.

- Defining your Shop and Field weld tracking & inspection needs
- Configuring Stratus for Weld Tracking & Inspection
- Configuring Inspection Reports and Documentation
- The Shop/Weld vs Field/Weld Inspection process

4:00 - 4:25pm

Labels and Weld Maps

Jesse Gorman, Postler & Jeackle Corp, Operations Manager for satellite office in Albany NY.

Various ways to use labels, adding new function of printing once task is complete. Example of how weld mapping could be done using Stratus.

Key Learning Objectives:

- Label usefulness
- Weld mapping in Stratus

MestekNet

**Maxwell Alexander, B&R Automation
Mike Bailey, Mestek Machinery**

Mike Started his career in the wholesale HVAC wholesale industry in 1995. Opened up territories in Ga, SC and Alabama calling on Mechanical Contractors, Sheet Metal Contractors and Duct Fabricators supplying Duct construction supplies and HVAC Machinery. Became the National Sales Manager for The Lockformer Company in 2005. That role was expanded into Vice President of Sales for Mestek Machinery in 2008 including the Iowa Precision, Lockformer, Engel and Roto Die Brands. Today Mike is the Senior Vice President of Mestek Machinery with over 25 years experience in the duct fabrication world. Mike is also heavily involved in the Smacna community and spear headed the very first Premiere Partner partnership in 2014. He truly loves the industry and the people within it.

By leveraging machine tool control technology to measure input and output performance for HVAC Coil Lines, Fiber Laser, Spiral Machines, Plasma Cutters and Water Jets.

Key Learning Objectives:

How to measure true production and performance in the Duct Shops.

Content After Dark

**Frank Scott, Software & Implementation Engineer
Steve Rives, MEP Software Engineer**

Join us for an insightful session where Frank will demonstrate a highly requested tool designed to automate scheduled silent publishes in Revit. This tool allows users to set their computers to publish projects overnight, enhancing efficiency and workflow.

Key Learning Objectives:

- Automate Publishing: Learn how to set up scheduled silent publishes in Revit to run overnight, saving time and increasing productivity.
- Hands-on Coding: Gain practical experience writing the necessary code within Revit to automate the publishing process.

4:30 - 4:45pm

Closing Remarks

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Rooftop Cocktail Party at the MAC

Wednesday, Sept. 11th

7:00 - 9:00am

**J. M. Brennan Shop Tour
Stratus Innovate attendees that are not attending the MCAA Fabrication conference**