Delegates attending the 10th Contact Mechanics Conference in the United States will be offered an optional day-tour of the Transportation Technology Centre at nearby Pueblo, Colorado, in August-September this year.

**Aus connection to contact conference**

AUSTRALIA'S PROFESSOR AJAY Kapoor and Peter Mutton are among members of the committee preparing to host this year's 10th Contact Mechanics Conference. The conference will be held in Colorado Springs in Colorado, United States, on 30 August-3 September. Professor Kapoor, dean of the School of Science, Engineering and Technology at Swinburne University, and Mr Mutton, principal research fellow and associate director of the Institute of Railway Technology at Monash University, both in Melbourne, are part of the 16-member international committee behind the event. The theme for the 2015 conference is A Science-based Approach to Improved Wheel/Rail Interaction. Papers have been sought on a range of key topics, including:

- analytical and experimental models to predict wheel and rail damage;
- management of the wheel/track interface, including wear and material flow limits re-profiling and friction management practices;
- contact problems associated with specific railway operations;
- vibration and noise;
- friction and adhesion;
- the influence of contact mechanics on vehicle dynamics;
- rail and wheel materials;
- fundamental studies in contact mechanics and material behaviour; and
- case studies demonstrating contact mechanics fundamentals.


This year's organising committee will host a post-conference tour of the Transportation Technology Centre, 30km north-east of the conference venue. The secure, remote site comprises an area of just over 134 square kilometres and houses specialised laboratories and tracks for the isolated testing of freight and passenger rolling stock, vehicle and track components and safety devices. Optional tours of the immediate Colorado Springs area will include visits to two historic rail attractions: the Royal Gorge Suspension Bridge and Railroad and the Pikes Peak Cog Railway. The Royal Gorge railroad was opened in 1879 and follows the Arkansas River, crossing one of the world's highest suspension bridges. The Pikes Peak railway has also been operating for more than 100 years and offers views across four states.

Registrations for the conference are now open; visit www.cm2015.com for details.