



Basic Grease Training Course

Programme

Marriott Courtyard
Hoofddorp Amsterdam
27th – 28th October 2025

Welcome / Introduction



Leandro Muntada

Brugarolas

lmuntada@brugarolas.com

Leandro is R&D Manager at BRUGAROLAS since 1998. He has almost 40 years of experience in the grease industry, he started working at BRUGAROLAS in 1985 after graduating as Technical Engineering at Barcelona's University. He worked at BRUGAROLAS as researcher in grease development between 1985 and 1998, thereafter he became the R&D Manager of the company. He participated in several R&D projects under different EU & Spanish founding programmes. He joined ELGI Board in Porto AGM in 1993 and he has been serving the Institute as Vice-chairman since then.

Grease Thickeners & "Hands-on" Training

Introduction to the different thickeners used in grease production. Metallic vs Non-metallic. Simple soaps, mixed soaps, complex soaps, organic thickeners. Main advantages & disadvantages and differences between them.



Mikael Kruse

Axel Christiernsson

mikael.kruse@axelch.com

Mikael Kruse is a product manager for industrial greases at Axel Christiernsson, a company manufacturing lubricating greases using a private label business model. He has more than 29 years of experience from the grease industry and started working at AXEL in 1995 after studying chemical engineering at Chalmers University of Technology. As a chemical analyst he was involved in failure analysis, QC control and extended product testing before moving on to become a grease development engineer between 1997 – 2013. Mikael has worked in his current position since 2013 and is nowadays occupied with maintaining and developing the range of industrial greases, technical support, and lubrication education.

Mikael is currently a board member of the ELGI (European Lubricating Grease Institute).

Mikael is 53 years old and lives in the rural outskirts of Gothenburg in Sweden. He is married and has a 16-year-old daughter. Mikael enjoys traveling, visiting nice restaurants and meet new and old friends. Music is very important and even though not playing the electric bass guitar in a band anymore he consumes music all the time.

Base Oils

Review of the different mineral & synthetic oils available in the market that are used to produce greases: Paraffinic / Naphthenic / Aromatic / PAO's / Esters / PAG's / Silicones / PFPE's. Review of API classification for oils: Group 1, Group 2, Group 3, Group 4 & Group 5. Main advantages & disadvantages and differences between them. Review of use of Re-refined oils in grease formulation. Overview of estimated current availability of viscosities for each type of oil.



Mehdi Fathi-Najafi
Nynas AB
mefa@nynas.com

Mehdi Fathi-Najafi earned a M.Sc. in Chemical Engineering and then a Licentiate degree in Chemical Engineering Design from Chalmers University of Technology of Gothenburg in Sweden.

Mehdi has about 30 years of experience in senior positions within the global oil and grease industry and is the recipient of the Clarence E. Earle Memorial Award. He has also received several Best Paper Awards in the field of lubricating greases.

Mehdi has two patents, and the third one is pending. Moreover, he is responsible for numerous articles published in a dozen publications covering a variety of specialist areas, including Filtration, Base oils, Lubricating Greases, Applied Rheology and Tribology.

Mehdi joined Nynas in Oct 2008 and worked until Feb 2024, when he started his own consultancy company (Mefa Lube AB). His last position at Nynas AB was Chief specialist within the Lube & Grease department. Since Feb. 2024, Mehdi has been supporting Nynas global business, as independent senior advisor.

Additives & Solid Lubricants

Introduction to the different types of additives used in the grease formulation: Antioxidants, Antirust, Copper passivators, EP, Anti-wear, Friction Modifiers, Dropping point enhancers, polymers, etc. Also, different types of solid lubricants (MoS₂, Graphite, PTFE, etc). When to use one or other.



Francesc Alomar
The Lubrizol
Francesc.Alomar@lubrizol.com

Francesc (Cesc) Alomar joined Lubrizol in 2000 as Account Manager for MW customers around Europe and Middle East. In 2006 he was given responsibilities in selling and promotion of all Lubrizol Additives portfolio to his accounts, including all industrial additives plus engine oils, driveline, etc. In 2012 he was given responsibilities as Product Manager of Grease additives in Zone 2 (Europe, Africa, CIS and Middle East). Cesc holds a BSc in Chemistry (specializing in Materials Science) for the Barcelona University.

Prior to Lubrizol, Cesc worked in the water treatment area in the technical department of a company now part of General Electric Water and right after that he expended close to seven years as Metalworking Product Manager and European Corrosion Protectives and Cleaners Product Manager at QUAKER CHEMICAL. In 2018 he was given the position of Product Manager for Metalworking additives as well. In 2023 he changed to be 100% dedicated to Grease Additives Product Manager.

Grease Testing

Explanation of the main tests used in the grease industry, from cone penetration, dropping point, water washout, to bearing life. Explanation of the different standards for them and their differences. Calibration of test apparatus. Round Robin Tests.



Wibke Husstedt
Shell Global Lubricants
wibke.husstedt@shell.com

Dr. Wibke Husstedt is a Senior Project Lead in Grease Technology based at the Shell Technology Center in Hamburg, Germany. She started her career with Shell in 2011 after achieving her Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry, focusing on organofluorine chemistry, from the University of Münster, Germany. Throughout her 14-year career with Shell's Grease R&D team, she has exhibited extensive technical proficiency by addressing diverse aspects of grease manufacturing and product development. Her work spans critical sectors including aviation, industrial applications, and mining,

Production

Introduction to the different ways of producing a grease (open kettles, contactors...) also to the different equipment around grease production: homogenizers, filters, deaerators, etc. Advantages and disadvantages of them.



John Kay
Stratco
John.Kay@stratcoglobal.com

John graduated *summa cum laude* with a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering in 1979. He was the Principal Design Engineer for a Mechanical Contractor for 17 years before joining STRATCO in 1996. He has been Vice President – Engineering for STRATCO, Inc. for 28+ years. He was an NLGI Board Member for 10 years & is a Licensed Professional Engineer. He has a CLGS certification & has received the NLGI Meritorious Service Award, Fellows Award and Clarence Earle Memorial and several Best Paper awards.

Grease Applications

Presentation of the diverse applications where a grease can be used. Overview of what parameters must be focused to choose the right grease.



Pierre Belot
TotalEnergies

pierre.belot@totalenergies.com

Pierre graduated in 1990 from the Polytechnics School in Mons, Belgium, as a chemical engineer completed with a License in Business Administration at the Henley College of Management (UK).

He started my career in 1991 in the patent department of the Belgian glass producer Glaverbel (Asahi Glass) collaborating in patent infringement lawsuits. In 1995 he joined Fina Research as Lubricating Grease development engineer and took over the TotalFinaElf Development team in 2001. In 2004 Pierre joined the newly created Grease Department at TOTAL Headquarters as Product engineer for Automotive industry and Key Account Manager for the bearing manufacturers.

In 2008 he was appointed Products Technical Manager at Imperator, Total grease plant in France in charge of the laboratory and product development.

In 2017 he was back in the TotalEnergies Grease Team as Key Account Manager for the bearing manufacturers and awarded the title of Lubricating Grease Specialist for TotalEnergies.

In 2025 he will have served 30 years in the lubricating grease industry.

Pierre participated at many ELGI's (16) since the Berlin one and to the early days of the TMWG in the ELGI's office from 1996 on.

Grease Trends

Overview of the tendencies in grease industry: Sustainability, restrictions of substances, availability of raw materials, Merges & Acquisitions, Electrical vehicles, etc.



Constantin Madius
Axel Christiernsson

constantin.madius@axelch.com

Constantin Madius, a BSc Chemical Engineering graduate of the University of Borås, Sweden, has worked at Axel Christiernsson since 1998. 2013 he moved to the US taking up the position as Sr. Commercial Product Manager for AXEL USA.

Constantin has been responsible for customer training courses and lubrication seminars resulting in the exclusive "Grease Genius" program offered to AXEL's customers and he is also a co-author to the book Grease Fundamentals. Constantin currently holds the position as the ELGI Technical Coordinator as well as being a board member of the NLGI