



## Pre-Meeting of the 8th Global Tape Forum (GTF) and Global Test Methods Committee (GTMC)

**Date:** Thursday 8 January 2026 (online)

**Chair:** Michel Merkkx (PSTC)

**Present:** Michel Merkkx (PSTC); Kiran Malhotra (PSTC); Cindy Liu (TAAT); Alice Chang (TAAT); Amy Chien (TAAT); Michael Yang (CATIA); Amy Li (CATIA); Kensei Takahashi (JATMA); Akiyoshi Masuda (JATMA); Astrid Lejeune (Afera); Evert Smit (Afera); Karsten Seitz (Afera); Bathsheba Fulton (Afera).

### 1. Welcome and opening

- Mr. Takahashi opened the call and confirmed that Mr. Merkkx would host the meeting.
- At the start of the call, it was agreed that a group photo would be taken for communications purposes.
- Mr. Merkkx welcomed participants, wished everyone a healthy and successful 2026, and reiterated the value of the ongoing collaboration across the five associations, particularly in the context of broader geopolitical uncertainty.

### 2. Brief update per association (Afera, TAAT, PSTC, CATIA, JATMA)

#### 2.1 PSTC update

##### GTMC preparation and PSTC test methods activity (K. Malhotra)

- Mr. Malhotra outlined his approach for preparing the GTMC portion of the Tokyo meeting:
  - He would prepare an outline agenda and distribute it to members by April 2026.

- The GTMC outline would cover: (1) review of the Shanghai minutes; (2) GTMC objectives; (3) the current test methods (TMs) harmonised; and (4) challenges members are experiencing in adopting/incorporating harmonised TMs into their own standards.
- PSTC TMs work in progress:
  - PSTC is preparing an electronic version of its new TMs publication (17<sup>th</sup> edition), expected within the coming month.
  - PSTC is in late-stage development of a Probe Tack TM, aiming to base it on three instrument options (standard probe tack, a texture analyser approach, and a ChemInstruments probe tack approach).
  - PSTC is also preparing a template for statistical analysis and variability assessment for new TMs, emphasising that TMs with high variability are not suitable for robust standardisation across global laboratory networks; this template is expected by April/May 2026 and would be shared with the group.

### **PSTC membership and programmes (M. Merckx)**

- Mr. Merckx explained PSTC's two membership categories: manufacturing members and supplier associate members. He noted PSTC currently has approximately 22 manufacturing members and approximately 28 supplier associate members, with membership described as broadly steady despite ongoing consolidation/mergers.
- Governance update: PSTC has introduced two "members at large" supplier positions on the board (no voting rights, but greater input into direction and policy).
- Committee focus: PSTC retains a strong marketing focus ("growing the pie") and has increased emphasis on regulatory topics due to their growing global impact.
- Programme initiatives: PSTC highlighted three newer initiatives with stronger visibility in Tape Week:
  - Women in Tape (career development and visibility programme)
  - Ascent (younger/early leadership programme)
  - A stronger thematic focus on sustainability and circularity from a global perspective.
- Tape Week: PSTC referenced the event's evolution, including the addition of "marketing tracks" to broaden appeal beyond purely technical audiences, and noted Tape Week timing (early May; referenced as Kentucky for the next edition discussed).

### **Immediate action agreed**

- Mr. Merckx would send the group a PDF copy of PSTC's 17th test methods edition following the meeting, noting PSTC also sells portions of the publication as a revenue generator but would share the full version with the committee members (*only for reference and review and not for publication*).
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## 2.2 Afera update (incl. TMs and membership)

### Afera test methods update (K. Seitz)

- Mr. Seitz reported that Afera's *Test Methods Manual 2025* was released in August 2025 and shared with the group.
- He highlighted three key test-method developments since Shanghai:
  - **Afera 4029 (Dynamic Shear)**: offered for adoption as a GTF test method; however, feedback from CATIA and JATMA indicated their established dynamic shear standards differ significantly, and Mr. Seitz stated he currently does not see a clear path to harmonisation.
  - **Afera 4030 (Time-to-Rupture)**: described as a special static shear approach, particularly relevant for constructive double-sided tape applications; Mr. Seitz emphasised the value is not only the method itself but also its embedded guidance on interpretation/use of results; offered for adoption.
  - **Afera 5001 (Peel Adhesion) revision**: aligned with the revision of ISO 29862 and includes a 90° peel test variant for double-sided tapes; a round robin for this variant is ongoing. The intent is adoption of revised parts into GTF 6004.
- Mr. Seitz also shared context from Afera's Next-Level Test Methods Work Group:
  - Work Group structure includes regular online meetings every 6–8 weeks with additional sub-group meetings as needed, and guidance from Afera's Technical Committee (meeting twice yearly face-to-face).
  - Current/future topics with relevance to GTMC include: a method on surface treatment quality of films (draft under member review; publication targeted for Q2 2026 if feedback is positive), a combined shear/peel load method (wall hook test; funding decision expected Q1 2026), and monitoring E.U. developments on paper/cardboard recycling and CEN TS workstreams linked to PPWR which may significantly affect packaging tapes.
- Mr. Seitz confirmed he would share his slides with the group after the meeting.

### Afera association and programme update (E. Smit)

- Mr. Smit summarised Afera developments over the past two years, including a stronger Board representation of the full value chain (tape manufacturers, suppliers and converters) and a more explicit strengthening of the commodity tape manufacturers' input.
- He noted Afera's event model increasingly mirrors the "full week" concept, referencing the integration of technical and business communities into one week, and highlighted the forthcoming week format (12<sup>th</sup> Tape College + 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference) for logistical and community-building reasons.
- Mr. Smit also referenced Afera's increased focus on regulatory and sustainability topics, and the roll-out of the TACK tool (with IVK) as a validated approach to product carbon footprint calculation, with periodic third-party re-validation.

## Afera membership numbers and visibility (A. Lejeune)

- Ms. Lejeune noted Afera's increased visibility over the past period, including greater uptake of Afera content by trade media, supported by a strong LinkedIn presence and media "barter" arrangements, contributing to inbound membership interest (while some long-standing members also exit as their business foci change).
  - She shared Afera's current membership composition:
    - 48 tape manufacturers
    - 46 suppliers
    - 16 converters (international converters)
    - 4 affiliated members (organisations/education-oriented)
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## 2.3 CATIA update (Michael Yang; Amy Li)

- Mr. Yang reported CATIA's continued activity across conferences/exhibitions, publications and annual standard revisions, including a Tape Forum held in July.
  - He referenced development of a new five-year industry plan (including tapes), expected to be released soon.
  - Membership was described as stable at approximately 420–424 members, with tape manufacturers representing roughly one-fifth of membership (the remainder primarily adhesives companies).
  - Mr. Yang introduced **Amy Li**, who confirmed she is CATIA's **incoming Secretary General**. Ms. Li introduced herself to the group and shared that CATIA plans to participate actively in Tokyo, with an expectation to bring **20+ participants**.
  - Mr. Yang noted that **Vivian Fu** will serve as **Vice Secretary General**, and that he will transition from Secretary General to **Vice President**.
  - CATIA confirmed that Ms. Li and Ms. Fu will attend the Tokyo Meetings; Mr. Yang indicated he would not personally attend.
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## 2.4 TAAT update (Cindy Liu; Alice Chang; Amy Chien)

- Ms. Liu noted this was her first GTF/GTMC pre-meeting and that she is joining primarily for the TMs work; she confirmed she will act as **GTMC contact** for TAAT going forward.
- Ms. Chang reported TAAT membership at **31 tape manufacturers**, noting a decrease of three members in the prior year and describing a challenging year for the industry, referencing U.S. tariffs as a major issue.
- Ms. Chang introduced **Amy Chien**, who introduced herself to the group and confirmed she is TAAT's **new Secretary General**. Ms. Chien indicated she expects to attend the Tokyo meetings.

- TAAT confirmed that representatives will participate in Tokyo and that the association will encourage Member participation and speaker contributions where possible.
  - Mr. Merkx thanked Ms. Chang for her stewardship and leadership over many years on behalf of TAAT within GTF.
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## 2.5 JATMA update (incl. GTMC advancements and Tokyo preparations)

- Mr. Takahashi introduced JATMA's organisation:
    - 12 regular member Japanese PSA tape manufacturers and 78 supporting member companies.
    - JATMA described a longer-term decline in regular membership since 2017, with further membership changes anticipated (including a company planned to change membership status in 2026).
  - JATMA explained drivers behind companies reducing/ending regular membership: the adhesive tape business becoming non-core, low domestic-sales ratio and low perceived cost-effectiveness; JATMA described the need to reform into a more attractive industrial organisation, including reviewing membership fees.
  - JATMA market statistics were referenced (including declining sales volume and downward pressure on value/average price).
  - GTMC advancements shared by JATMA included:
    - Definition work on “environmentally friendly tape” terminology within JIS (referencing JIS Z0109 context).
    - Development of a method/standard for measuring toluene and xylene residues on adhesive tapes.
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## 3. GTF and GTMC 2026 in Tokyo (17–19 November 2026)

- Mr. Takahashi confirmed dates and venue context for GTF/GTMC Tokyo, hosted at **Hamamatsucho Convention Hall**.
- Mr. Takahashi presented the draft high-level programme and meeting structure:
  - **Tuesday 17 November (closed to GTF member organisations):** registration; GTF Steering Committee meeting; GTMC meeting; welcome party.
  - **Wednesday 18 November (open to public):** international technical conference (English with simultaneous Japanese interpretation), including regional reports by PSTC, Afera, CATIA, TAAT and JATMA; followed by technical lectures and an evening party.
  - **Thursday 19 November:** combined programme during the **46th Japan Adhesive Tape Forum**, with sessions delivered in English or Japanese supported by simultaneous interpretation; closing remarks.

- The presented programme theme was framed as “Advanced Technology Towards a Sustainable Future”.
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#### **4. Programme/meetings (Steering and GTMC content)**

- Mr. Takahashi presented a draft GTF Steering Agenda, including:
    - Review/accept Shanghai minutes (2024)
    - Association updates (market trends and EHS/regulatory updates by region)
    - Discussion on global initiatives to increase demand
    - Organisational structure and measures to attract/retain members, including promoting GTF member value (e.g., sharing educational/technical seminar content across associations)
    - Budget/treasurer’s report and discussion on additional funding
    - Discussion on the possibility of launching an “International Adhesive Tape Day”
    - Discussion on beyond-2028 venue and meeting term
    - Nomination/installation of Chair and Vice Chair for the next two-year term
    - Conclusion.
  - GTMC preparation was explicitly tied to Mr. Malhotra’s planned outline agenda distribution structured around minutes, objectives, current harmonised test methods and adoption challenges.
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#### **5. Logistics**

##### **Venue and languages**

- Venue: Hamamatsucho Convention Hall (5F and 6F).
- Working languages: English and Japanese, with simultaneous interpretation for the International Technical Conference and the combined programme day.

##### **Registration and inclusions**

- JATMA proposed a registration model where the fee includes admission to GTF 2026 and the Japan Adhesive Tape Forum, as well as scheduled meals and coffee breaks.
- Registration fees proposed:
  - JPY 70,000 regular price
  - Complimentary quota: speaker + three staff per association (Afera, PSTC, CATIA, TAAT)
  - A separate JATMA participant fee line was also shown (JPY 75,000) in the materials.

- The registration package includes lunches, coffee breaks and evening functions as set out in the draft programme.
- JATMA confirmed there would be no charges for any part of the GTF & GTMC meetings themselves.

### **Participation targets**

- Mr. Takahashi indicated an expected attendance of approximately 250 participants overall, and an ambition to welcome 100+ international participants (including from China, Taiwan, the USA and Europe).
- In order to receive financial support from Tokyo, Mr. Takahashi must provide additional information regarding the number of visitors, including companions (partners and children not necessarily attending the event itself), coming from overseas.

### **Catering adjustment**

- Mr. Takahashi raised a practical point on catering: The lunch had been planned as a buffet, but JATMA proposed switching to lunch boxes (for cost reasons).

### **Visa and invitation letters**

- Mr. Takahashi confirmed it could issue invitation letters for China to support visa applications.

### **Proceedings**

- It was confirmed that proceedings would be prepared and shared. CATIA noted that Chinese participants prefer a hard copy proceedings book for each participant.

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## **6. Papers / presentations**

### **Call for speakers and submission requirements**

- JATMA confirmed the conference aims for approximately 30–45 papers, with at least three papers expected from each association (Afera, PSTC, CATIA and TAAT).
- Paper submission requirements highlighted:
  - Abstracts and full papers in English
  - Abstract limit (300 words) and biography limit (200 words)
  - Photo requirement (one-inch colour photo)
  - Submission to JATMA (contact details provided in the call)
- Deadlines:
  - 31 May 2026 – abstract submission

- 30 August 2026 – full paper submission
    - 15 October 2026 – text presentation submission (for interpretation preparation)
  - PSTC stated it would put the call out within PSTC (including via its Tape Week speaker pipeline) and work to provide the requested three presentations by the requested time frame. Afera would do the same.
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## 7. Sponsorship and exhibition

### Sponsorship

- Mr. Takahashi presented sponsorship tiers and benefits (selected highlights):
  - Diamond (JPY 1,000,000+) – prominent logo placement, signage/programme cover, two-page A4 advertisement in proceedings, and up to four attendees free.
  - Gold (JPY 500,000+) – logo placement, back-cover logo placement, full-page A4 advertisement in proceedings, and up to three attendees free.
  - Silver (JPY 250,000+) and Bronze (JPY 100,000+) – scaled logo/name placement and attendance benefits.
- Sponsorship application deadline shown: 31 May 2026.
- JATMA asked each association to also seek sponsorship support where possible.

### Company exhibition

- JATMA confirmed a company exhibition opportunity, with set-up on 17 November and exhibition dates on 18–19 November, located in the convention hall foyer.
  - The exhibition was described as a table-top format, with approximately 2 m<sup>2</sup> per exhibitor space, including one table and two chairs.
  - Exhibitors may also use poster display panels and display product samples on tables.
  - Two attendants per exhibiting company are included, and attendants may participate in the GTF programme and social events.
  - The exhibition fee is JPY 200,000 per company.
  - Additional costs may apply if special exhibition booths, panels or display fixtures are required.
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## 8. Next steps / actions and closing

### Agreed actions and follow-up items

1. **PSTC (K. Malhotra):** Circulate the GTMC agenda outline by April 2026.
2. **PSTC (M. Merks):** Distribute the PSTC 17<sup>th</sup> TMs edition to the group following the meeting. *Done.*



3. **Afera (K. Seitz):** Share the Afera test methods slides shared during the call with the full group. *Done.*
4. **All associations:** Circulate the Tokyo call for speakers, sponsorship and exhibition opportunities within their memberships, and work towards providing at least three presentations per association by the stated deadlines, as well as as many attendees as possible (collectively reaching the 100-person mark).
5. **JATMA:** Proceed with practical planning updates and provide support on visa documentation, including issuing invitation letters for China as needed.

## **Closing**

- Mr. Merx thanked participants and confirmed the Tokyo agenda and programme looked comprehensive, with no issues raised at the pre-meeting stage.