

GTF/GTMC pre-meeting aligns five associations on Tokyo 2026, test methods and JATMA's call for papers

On Thursday 8 January 2026, representatives from the world's regional adhesive tapes organisations, PSTC (USA), Afera (Europe), CATIA (China), TAAT (Taiwan) and JATMA (Japan), held a one-hour online pre-meeting of the 8th Global Tape Forum (GTF) and Global Test Methods Committee (GTMC)



event. Chaired by PSTC Secretary Michel Merckx, the call focused on confirming the framework for Tokyo 2026, sustaining momentum on harmonised test methods (TMs), sharing association updates and, most urgently, mobilising a strong pipeline of technical papers for JATMA's international programme. The discussion was practical and forward-looking, with an emphasis on ensuring Tokyo 2026 delivers meaningful technical value and strong international participation.

Tokyo 2026 is taking shape

JATMA confirmed that the GTF/GTMC meetings will take place on 17–19 November 2026 at Hamamatsucho Convention Hall (5F and 6F), Tokyo. The programme is being built to function as a genuinely international event, with English and Japanese as working languages and simultaneous interpretation planned for the International Technical Conference and the combined programme day. The proposed theme, “Advanced Technology Towards a Sustainable Future”, sets the direction for both speaker selection and paper topics.

The draft format links closed committee work with a public-facing technical programme:

- **17 November:** GTF Steering Committee and GTMC sessions, plus welcome activities
- **18 November:** International Technical Conference, including regional updates from all five associations, followed by technical lectures and networking
- **19 November:** Combined programme held during the 46th Japan Adhesive Tape Forum, delivered bilingually with interpretation support.

JATMA also shared an indicative scale for the event: around 250 participants, with a goal of 100+ international attendees. Practical planning points were covered in support of this goal, including how registration is structured, how proceedings will be provided, and the ability to issue invitation letters to support visa applications where needed.

“Tokyo 2026 is designed to work as one connected programme—committee sessions, an international technical conference and the Japan Adhesive Tape Forum—so participants can get both depth and breadth in three days,” said Kensei Takahashi, secretary general of JATMA.



Continued momentum on test methods

The GTMC discussion reinforced that TMs co-ordination remains a core strength of the five-association collaboration, particularly where harmonisation can reduce duplication and increase comparability of results across regions.

PSTC signalled near-term developments that will support this work, including a digital release of its latest TMs publication and continued progress on a Probe Tack TM intended to be workable across multiple instrument approaches. A key theme was robustness. The group returned to the idea that high variability makes global standardisation difficult, and that TM development needs to be backed by structured statistical understanding if it is to be credible across different laboratories and equipment.

From Afera, the update focused on where harmonisation is actively moving versus where differences remain too large. Afera highlighted:

- **Dynamic shear (Afera 4029):** Offered for consideration, but currently too divergent from CATIA and JATMA standards for straightforward alignment
- **Time-to-rupture (Afera 4030):** Positioned as a useful specialised approach in construction applications, with added interpretive guidance
- **Peel adhesion (Afera 5001):** Revisions aligned with ISO 29862, including a 90° peel variant for double-sided tapes, supported by ongoing round robin work and intended integration into GTF 6004.

Afera also flagged “next-level” pipeline topics relevant to GTMC, such as work on film surface treatment quality and a combined shear/peel concept, alongside monitoring of European developments that may influence packaging-tape-related standards and expectations.

Karsten Seitz, Afera standardisation consultant and chairman of Afera’s Next-Level TMs Working Group, commented, “The goal is practical alignment: Push forward where methods can genuinely converge, and be transparent where regional standards still make harmonisation unrealistic in the short term.”

Afera updates in context

Afera's update positioned the Association's broader direction as increasingly value-chain-led and sustainability-aware. Evert Smit, president of Afera, described ongoing efforts to strengthen representation across tape manufacturers, suppliers and converters, and the logic of Afera's "week-format" approach to events ([European Tape Week 2026](#))—bringing technical and business communities together in one integrated programme model.

Astrid Lejeune, secretary general of Afera, highlighted increased visibility and external reach, with Afera content seeing stronger uptake through trade media and LinkedIn activity. She also shared a current Membership snapshot: 48 tape manufacturers, 48 suppliers, 16 converters and 9 affiliated Members.

"When Afera's work is more visible externally, it doesn't just support awareness—it strengthens the membership value case and helps bring new engagement into the community," Ms. Lejeune said.

Highlights from other association reports

Alongside the Tokyo planning and TMs updates, the other associations' reports provided a useful snapshot of industry context and organisational momentum across regions.



PSTC shared an overview of its current membership and programme direction, noting two membership categories (manufacturing members and supplier associate members) and broadly steady membership despite ongoing consolidation. It also highlighted governance changes designed to strengthen supplier input, alongside a continued emphasis on marketing ("growing the pie") and a rising focus on regulatory topics. PSTC also pointed to the evolution of Tape Week, including the addition of marketing tracks, newer initiatives such as Women in Tape and Ascent, and a stronger thematic emphasis on sustainability and circularity.

CATIA shared that it is continuing to drive activity across conferences and exhibitions, publications and annual standards revisions, while also developing a new five-year industry plan that includes tapes. CATIA also highlighted several personnel changes: Amy Li was introduced as incoming secretary general, Vivian Fu will serve as vice secretary general, and Michael Yang will transition from secretary general to vice president. CATIA expects to participate actively in Tokyo with 20+ participants and confirmed that Ms. Li and Ms. Fu plan to attend.

TAAT reported a challenging year for the sector and noted a slight decline in tape-manufacturer membership to 31 companies. The update also marked a transition in representation, with Amy Chien introduced as TAAT's incoming secretary general and Cindy Liu confirmed as TAAT's GTMC contact going forward. Mr. Merkx also thanked Alice Chang for her long-standing stewardship of TAAT's involvement in GTF, underscoring continuity as the association refreshes its leadership team.

JATMA outlined its membership structure (regular member Japanese PSA tape manufacturers and supporting member companies) and noted ongoing internal discussions on reforms, while also pointing to technical work underway in Japan, including terminology around "environmentally friendly tape" within JIS and development of a method or standard to measure toluene and xylene residues on adhesive tapes.

Together, these updates reinforced both the diversity of regional priorities and the value of the shared GTF/GTMC platform in keeping technical work aligned internationally.

JATMA's call for papers: the key outcome for the coming months

Most importantly, JATMA underscored that Tokyo 2026 will be shaped now—through paper submissions and speaker nominations.

JATMA is targeting around 30–45 papers overall, with an expectation of at least three papers from each association. To support interpretation planning and proceedings preparation, the submission process is structured with fixed milestones:

- **Abstracts (max 300 words):** Due 31 May 2026
- **Full papers:** Due 30 August 2026
- **Text presentations (for interpretation preparation):** Due 15 October 2026.

A biography (max 200 words) and a one-inch colour photo are required with submissions.

For Afera Members, the implication is straightforward: Strong technical submissions require early internal alignment, particularly where work depends on round robins, multi-site testing, validation datasets or cross-functional input from R&D and applications teams. The May abstract deadline is the critical first gate.

Mr. Merkx said, "The next milestone is content: strong abstracts and papers will determine the strength of the Tokyo programme."

Sponsorship and exhibition: options to support participation and visibility

Alongside the technical programme, JATMA outlined participation routes for companies seeking visibility in Tokyo. Sponsorship tiers were presented (Diamond/Gold/Silver/Bronze), with 31 May 2026 as the sponsorship application deadline. A tabletop exhibition format was also outlined: a compact, approximately 2 m² space per exhibitor, including one table and two chairs, with exhibition planned across 18–19 November and set-up on 17 November.

Overall: steady progress, clear deadlines and a strong opportunity for European contribution

The meeting left a clear impression of structured progress. Tokyo 2026 planning is moving from outline to execution, TMs work continues to advance with a focus on what can realistically be harmonised, and the next phase—starting immediately—centres on paper submissions that will define the technical depth of the International Technical Conference.

For Afera Members, the call for papers is the immediate opportunity to shape the Tokyo agenda and ensure strong European representation in the global technical dialogue.

For more information, visit www.afera.com/agenda/global-tape-forum.