

EDITOR'S NOTE

• **2017 — Growth with Confidence**

— Darrell J Reeve

The general media concentration on air pollution in the big cities is certainly growing in frequency and effectiveness. The Governments are pushing improvements by any means they can — one way is to show pictures of children wearing face masks being sent home from school because the air is too dangerous to breathe. We are all starting to know that PM2.5 (particulate matter 2.5 micron or less) is something we must decrease.

COATING APPLICATIONS & PRODUCTS

• **Hard Coatings**

Duralar: A New Generation of Ultra-Hard Coatings Incorporating Metal & Diamond

— Duralar Technologies, USA

Duralar® is a family of advanced, ultra-hard metal coatings that is receiving increased industry attention because of its novel qualities. Developed by Duralar Technologies of Tucson, AZ, these uniquely structured, proprietary coatings have been shown to provide very high levels of hardness, toughness and strength as well as erosion and corrosion resistance and increased lubricity. Because of their special molecular structure, the coatings are able to maintain low internal stress and remain stable at high temperatures. And in addition, Duralar coatings are environmentally friendly.

• **Electrostatic Coating**

Advances in Electrostatic Coating of Non-Conductive Substrates: Wet Painting & Powder Coatings (Part 3)

— W.S. Gutowski, S.Li, L.Russell, C.Filippou, Mark Spicer, CSIRO Manufacturing Flagship, Australia

There is a need to develop a simpler technology, not requiring surface preactivation of polymeric substrate by flame treatment, whilst simultaneously providing high surface conductivity and good coating adhesion to the surface of coated and originally non-conductive products to facilitate adoption of this highly efficient electrostatic powder coating or, where relevant, electrostatically-assisted wet painting for the reduction or eradication of hazardous solid wastes, waste of water and VOC emissions.

• **Technology & Innovation**

New Generation of Robots from Dürr: More Versatile Painting through Additional Movement Options

— Dürr Systems

The new Ecopaint Robot generation from Dürr scores high with many innovative functions for the automated painting process. Thanks to its greater kinematic freedom, the EcoRP E043i model with its seven-axis kinematic system enlarges the work zone and can often be used instead of a solution with linear displacement rail. This can significantly reduce investment and maintenance costs in the paint booth. Another newly developed product, the EcoRCMP2 robot control, is a key module of the Smart Factory.

Special Report

SFCHINA2016: Guangzhou Show Report

SFCHINA2016 (the 29th China International Exhibition for Surface Finishing & Coating Products), which was closed on Dec 2 at the China Import and Export Fair Complex (Canton Fair Complex) Guangzhou, P. R. China, continues to prove itself as the leading platform for the Finishing industry.

ELECTROPLATING & PRODUCT FINISHING

• **Plating on Plastics**

Chrome Free Etch Technology for Plating on Plastics

— COVENTYA Group

The COVENTYA group have developed a competitive chrome free etch technology, called SILKEN Bond for plating on plastics applications for exceeding regulatory demands for elimination of hexavalent chromium. Today, SILKEN Bond process has performed well in several Beta Site Tests and we are in the process to start at two big POP platers the engineering line without any chromic acid in the pre-treatment.

• **Environmental, Safety & Protection**

Increasing Plant Availability & Shortening Cycle Times

— Mr. Jerry Loo, Leuchtturm Automation Co., Ltd.

Electroplating baths with high current densities are normally high energy consumers. Ensuring a consistently high quality of the coating, energy saving, increasing plant availability, shortening cycle times and thus increasing productivity and reducing costs are therefore the essential requirements which are now being placed on a modern galvanic or anodizing plant.

• **Environmental Challenges**

ECO-AUDIT - Material Balance

— Mr. Darrell J. Reeve, UNEP / UNIDO Consultant in Metal Finishing

Over the past few years, we have often referred to Eco-Audits as being a key issue for environmental and performance improvements. An Eco-Audit is really a Waste Minimization Assessment or Cleaner Production Audit. The aim is to reduce waste in all forms and the current emphasis is to do this by recovery and re-use of the waste streams. Every surface finishing shop should conduct an Eco-Audit on an annual basis because the constant release of new and better technologies can, potentially, offer you dramatic improvements.

Regular Columns

Product Showcase

- Bacteriostatic Powder Coatings for a Healthier Environment
- Condorcoat Al 16 approved by Qualicoat Zurich

Industry News

- Kempa: Coating kitchen doors in half the time by using MDF powder coating system from WAGNER
- PPG acquires automotive refinish coatings company Futian Xinshi
- Axalta Supports China Auto Dealers After-Sale Service Skill Competition to enhance refinish coating standard in China

Trade Shows & Forums

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