

Finishing Facts

Bill Saas Honored With NAMF's Top Award

William J. (Bill) Saas of Taskem, Inc., Brooklyn Heights, OH, has received the National Association of Metal Finishers' Silvio C. Taormina Award. The NAMF's most prestigious individual honor goes to a person who has performed outstanding service to the finishing industry, nationally and internationally.

Saas was praised as a dedicated volunteer, working endless hours on behalf of the industry at large, as well as for NAMF, the Metal Finishing Suppliers' Association (MFSa) and the AESF.

Serving as chairman of the Government Advisory Committee (GAC), Saas has worked closely with the surface finishing industry's government relations staff, and has played an instrumental role in directing the government relations efforts to include the Strategic Goals Program (SGP). He has met with EPA and Congressional staff members, testified at hearings on the industry's behalf, and was a key player in the updating of the Surface Finishing Industry Council's "Guidance Manual for Environmental Compliance."

Pratt & Whitney Becomes SGP Corporate Sponsor

Connecticut-based Pratt & Whitney has become a corporate sponsor of the National Metal Finishing Strategic Goals Program (SGP). The program is a cooperative effort among the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 22 states, more than 880 local government agencies (primarily publicly-owned water treatment works, and more than 400 metal finishers across the country, including 50 in New England.

As a corporate sponsor, Pratt & Whitney will host four meetings a year for its metal finishing suppliers, providing information and expertise on how the suppliers can make progress toward the objectives of the SGP. The company is also exploring how to further encourage its suppliers to improve their environmental performance.

The program's first corporate sponsor

was Raytheon Company in 2001.

Nine Indiana Finishers Join State's 5-Star Program

Nine Indiana metal finishers have taken the first step in promoting environmental responsibility by participating in the newest Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) 5-Star program.

The 5-Star program encourages metal finishers to address issues, such as reducing amounts of water and energy used in production, while increasing the utilization of metals, reducing wastes and hazardous emissions, and limiting human exposure to toxic materials. The companies, recognized in special ceremonies in March, are:

- Wayne Metal Protection Co., Fort Wayne (5-star facility)
- Metal Plate Polishing, Fort Wayne (4-star facility)
- Seleco, Inc., Indianapolis (3-star facility)
- Commercial Plating Co., Inc., Indianapolis (3-star facility)
- Electrochemical Coatings, Inc., Lebanon (3-star facility)
- Imagineering Enterprises, Inc., South Bend (3-star facility)
- Triplex Plating, Inc., Michigan City

Test Your Plating I.Q. #373

By Dr. James H. Lindsay, AESF Fellow

Match the element names with the metals

- | | | |
|-------------|-----|--------------|
| 1. Cuprum | ___ | a. Lead |
| 2. Ferrum | ___ | b. Potassium |
| 3. Argentum | ___ | c. Copper |
| 4. Aurum | ___ | d. Sodium |
| 5. Plumbum | ___ | e. Gold |
| 6. Natrium | ___ | f. Silver |
| 7. Kalium | ___ | g. Iron |

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- (3-star facility)
- Best Access Systems, Indianapolis (3-star facility)
- Franke Plating Works, Inc., Fort Wayne (2-star facility)

Michigan Metal Finishers Recognized for Achievements

Seven Michigan metal finishing facilities have been recognized for improving their environmental performance. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department recognized the companies for improvements made in the National Metal Finishing Strategic Goals Program (SGP).

The Michigan program has three performance levels. Bronze awards are given for completing one-third of the goals, silver for completing two-thirds of the goals, and gold signifies 100-percent achievement.

Companies placed on the Michigan SGP performance ladder are:

- Electro Chemical Finishing, Wyoming (silver)
- Tawas Plating, East Tawas (silver)
- Electroplating Industries, Clinton Township (bronze)

- Marsh Plating, Ypsilanti (bronze)
- Wolverine Plating, Roseville (bronze)
- Lansing Plating, Lansing (bronze)
- Mid State Plating, Flint (bronze)

Use of Stainless Steel In Catalytic Converters Is on the Increase

The use of stainless-steel honeycombs in catalytic converters is on the rise in Germany and could impact the world market, according to a survey performed by Eldib Engineering & Research, Inc., Berkeley Heights, NJ.

The company conducted a series of interviews through which it surveyed the use of metallic vs. ceramic honeycomb structures in 200 models by various car manufacturers in Germany and France. German manufacturers using stainless steel in some models include Volkswagen, Audi, BMW and Daimler-Chrysler (Mercedes Benz). Porsche uses stainless steel in its two models. France car makers use stainless steel on a much more limited basis.

Eldib found that, although stainless steel itself is slightly more expensive than ceramic, the overall metallic system is smaller than the ceramic structure, requiring a smaller amount of expensive precious metals (platinum, rhodium and palladium), which substrate in a thin layer and act as the catalyst that purifies gas before it escapes the tailpipe.

Based on the findings, Eldib predicts an increased use of stainless-steel honeycombs in catalytic converters in the automotive industry.

NCMS Expands Services

The National Center for Manufacturing Sciences (NCMS) has launched a manufacturing trust website (www.trust.ncms.org) dedicated to providing manufacturers with educational security resources for protecting critical infrastructures. The NCMS has also expanded its community member services site (www.ncms.org) to offer enhanced capabilities for conducting research on a broad range of industry topics.

NCMS is the largest cross-industry collaborative research and development consortium in North America, and is the only consortial effort in the U.S. devoted exclusively to manufacturing technologies, processes and practices.

Company News

□ The Equipment Division of Palm International, Inc., LaVergne, TN, has bought the Chrome Plating Emission Elimination Device (EED) from Responsible Alternatives, Dayton, OH. The EED, for-

merly known as the Merlin Cover, is a patented process that encloses the process tank during chromium plating. It allows free passage of gasses while effectively blocking escape of water vapor and chemical mist. EPA recognizes the EED as an accepted alternative "control device" for hard chromium plating tank emissions.

□ Parkson Corporation, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, has purchased Waterlink Separations, Inc., Lake Bluff, IL. The purchase included the acquisition of a proprietary line of liquid/solid separation products.

□ Dynatec Systems, Inc., Burlington, NJ, and NORIT Americas, Inc., Atlanta, GA, have agreed to jointly develop the U.S. market for membrane bio reactors (MBR) within the industrial applications segment.

MBR is a compact waste treatment system that combines biological treatment with membrane separation.

□ EDAX, Prairie View, IL, is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. The company, founded as Nuclear Diodes, Inc., specializes in X-ray microanalysis and electron backscatter diffraction.

□ OMG Fidelity, Cleveland, OH, the Electronic Chemicals Group of OM Group, Inc., has appointed Acid Products Co., Inc., as its distributor of electronic chemicals in the Chicago area. The company manufactures and develops specialty chemicals that are used to produce electroless nickels, electroplated products (such as tin, sulfamate nickel and nickel chloride), proprietary chemicals that are used to metallize printed circuit boards, special electroless nickel processes that produce thin-film coatings for memory disks, and solder pastes for electronic assembly operations.

□ Two Michigan men have invented a safer design for a grinding wheel. The "Window Wheel" is patented and a prototype is available. The invention has specially designed openings that provide its operator with a clearer view of the object that is being processed. The designers say it will improve the accuracy of the job, and enhance the safety of the user. The invention is being handled by Invention Submission Corporation, Pittsburgh, PA.

□ Goodrich Technology Corporation, Pittsburgh, CA, has received a notice of allowance from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for a patent application covering its alternative chromium coating process. The company says the process not only looks like chrome, but is more durable and anticorrosive than existing chrome plating. It is said to

create no hazardous products.

□ Southern Aluminum Finishing, Atlanta, GA, has started a "next day out extrusions service" for customers needing quick turnaround on aluminum extrusions. The company says recent improvements in the manufacturing center enable processing the same evening that orders are received.

□ Petroferm, Inc., has announced that its Contract Services Division in Franklin, KY, is now certified for ISO 9000:2000 quality management. The division offers services for industrial and electronics cleaning installations, such as cleaning equipment, installation, start-up, training, refurbishment, and retrofitting.

□ GE Glegg Water Technologies, Inc., Guelph, Ontario, Canada, has changed its name to GE Water Technologies, Inc., a division of GE Power systems. The company provides pure water solutions for industrial and engineering companies.

□ NAPCO, Terryville, CT, has been purchased from Thermo Electron Corporation by an outside investment group. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed, and the buyers were not identified. NAPCO designs and manufactures manual and automated electroplating, coating, cleaning, and waste treatment equipment.

□ ADTEC Electroplating, Lawrence, MA, has increased production by upgrading its automatic hoist capabilities. The company automated its lines in 2001, and added additional capabilities to existing lines this year.

□ Palm International, Inc., LaVergne, TN, is expanding its equipment division to offer automated finishing systems to general metal finishing and PCB electroplating. The equipment division is located two miles from Palm's corporate headquarters.

□ Duralectra, Inc., Natick, MA, has been accredited for aerospace and defense industry consensus standards. The accreditation was earned through the National Aerospace and Defense Contractors Accreditation Program.

Answers to I.Q. Quiz #373

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|-------------|------------------|
| 1. Cuprum | c. Copper (Cu) |
| 2. Ferrum | g. Iron (Fe) |
| 3. Argentum | f. Silver (Ag) |
| 4. Aurum | e. Gold (Au) |
| 5. Plumbum | a. Lead (Pb) |
| 6. Natrium | d. Sodium (Na) |
| 7. Kalium | b. Potassium (K) |