## **Finishing Facts**

## Illinois Officials Launch SGP Partnership in Rockford

Representatives from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Illinois Waste Management and Research Center, and the Rock River Water Reclamation District (RRWRD), met recently with Rockford Area Chamber of Commerce leaders to discuss the importance of the National Metal Finishing Strategic Goals Program (SGP) to Rockford's future manufacturing base. The alliance that is being formed for a new Rockford SGP is expected to result in significant environmental and monetary benefits for local businesses.

"We look forward to exploring any opportunities that provide benefits to the environment through innovative programs such as the SGP," said Gina Flanagan, president of AESF's Rockford Branch.

SGP goals help facilities conserve water, energy and metals, and to reduce hazardous emissions. The program has resulted in nationwide reductions in organic chemical releases by four million lb, water usage by more than one billion gal sludge sent to landfills by 2.7 million lb and metals released to water by 147,000 lb.

### Brazil's EBRATS 2003 Issues Call for Papers

Papers are invited for EBRATS 2003, the XI Brazilian Surface Finishing Meeting, scheduled for May 12–15, 2003, at the ITM Expo in São Paulo, Brazil. An international industrial exposition will be held in conjunction with the event.

Papers may be presented in English or Portuguese, in oral or poster sessions. Simultaneous translation will be available for papers presented in English in oral sessions.

Papers are being sought specifically in these areas:

- · Chemical and electrolytic pretreatment
- Zinc and zinc alloy coatings
- Decorative copper, nickel and chromium coatings
- · Alloy and composite coatings
- Precious metal coatings
- Autocatalytic coatings
- Aluminum and other light metals treatments



- Conversion coatings: phosphating, chromating and others
- Special coating processes: PVD, CVD, electroplating in molten salts and other processes
- Thermochemical treatments
- Special coatings for high wear resistance and high corrosion resistance
- Printed circuits and other electronic

- applications
- Electroforming
- Flame spraying
- · Coatings on non-metallic substrates
- Surface treatment equipment
- Painting—processes and equipment
- Process control—analyses and tests
- Standardization
- Water, effluents and residues treatment

• Work safety in the surface treatment field; transportation and handling of dangerous materials

Papers on other surface-related subjects are also welcome.

The deadline for submitting abstracts (10–20 lines), accompanied by a short biography of the author(s), is October 15, 2002. Abstracts should be sent to: ABTS (Associação Brasileira de Tratamentos de Superficie), Av. Paulista 1313, 9a, conj 913 01311-923, São Paulo, SP—Brazil (or FAX: +55-11 251-2558; or e-mail: ebrats@abts.org.br).

# United Nations Report Warns of

#### Water Shortage by 2025

A report issued in March by the United Nations says that more than 2.7 billion people will face severe water shortages by the year 2025, and another 2.5 billion will live in areas where it will be difficult to find sufficient fresh water to meet their needs.

Areas most at risk are in semi-arid regions of sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. The report says, however, that at least 120 million people living in Europe (one in seven of the population) still do not have access to clean water and sanitation.

Less than three percent of the Earth's water is fresh, and most of it is in the form of polar ice, or is too deep underground to reach. The amount of fresh water that is accessible in lakes, rivers and reservoirs is less than a quarter of one percent of the total, the report says.

The United Nations fears that future water issues contain the seeds of violent conflict.

A severe water shortage would impact a number of industries, including metal finishing.

## SAE Technical Papers Are Available on CD-ROM

The Society of Automotive Engineers says its 2001 technical papers are now available on CD-ROM. The collection includes 2,700 papers published from January through December, 2001. For a limited time, a separate disk of 1,080 papers published at the SAE 2002 World Congress can also be purchased.

For pricing and ordering information, call 724/772-7144; e-mail: elecpubs@sae.org; or visit www.sae.org.

### New Foundation to Benefit Aluminum Extrusion Industry

A new charitable/scientific foundation has

been created to serve the interests of the aluminum extrusion industry. The Extrusion Technology for Aluminum Profiles Foundation (ET Foundation) has been established by the Aluminum Extruders Council (AEC) to develop, promote, provide, and fund education and research related to aluminum extrusion process and technology. The foundation will operate independently of AEC.

Some of the programs previously undertaken by AEC will now be conducted by the Foundation, among them the Aluminum Extrusion Design Competition and the International Aluminum Extrusion Technology (ET) Seminars held every four years. AEC and the Aluminum Association, former sponsors of the ET Seminars, will remain involved with the event.

#### **Company News**

□ ECI Technology, East Rutherford, NJ, has launched a new internet website (www.ecitechnology.com). The site provides information on ECI products, and makes every piece of the company's literature downloadable in pdf format. ECI technical papers are also available for a variety of topics, including copper electrodepositon, chemical monitoring, PCB production, surface finishing and more.

ECI is a supplier to semiconductor and PC board companies.

□ ACM Company, Inc., Forest Hill, MD—a sister company of ResinTech, Inc.—has purchased the electro-discharge machining (EDM) business from General Water Corp., Media, PA. ACM will merge the business into its ion exchange resin processing facility in forest Hill. EDM is a precision metal cutting technology that uses ion exchange resin to deionize the water that the metal parts are bathed in during the cutting process.

□ Atotech USA, Inc., Rock Hill, SC, has sold its develop/etch/strip electronics equipment business in State College, PA. A team of former managers purchased the business and will operate under the name of Chemcut Corporation. As a part of the transaction, key employees of the business have been transferred to Chemcut.

Atotech USA's electronics organization, as well as Atotech's Global Surface Treatment Technology Group, will continue to operate out of the company's technology center in State College.

Atotech USA is a wholly-owned subsidiary of ATOFINA, Paris, France.

□ The Boeing Company has announced plans to sell its state-of-the-art metal plating facility located at its Space Center in

Kent, WA. The 116,500 ft<sup>2</sup> metal finishing facility previously received the Governor's Award for Achievement in Pollution Prevention in 2000, because of its capacity to recycle 85 percent of the water used in the metal refinishing and plating process.

The decision to sell the plant reflects Boeing's corporate effort to improve its competitive position by consolidating its production system and reducing under utilized assets.

The metal plating facility is one of five highly specialized buildings for sale at the Boeing Space Center. The site has 3,000,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of existing buildings and is adjacent to Pacific Gateway Park, a 240-acre master planned business part under development by Boeing Realty.



Lobo's rinse water recovery system at Gull Industries.

□ Lobo Liquids, LLC, Houston, TX, has completed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Technology Verification Program (ETV) on the company's rinse water recovery system for metal finishing processes. The test verified that the system removes metals in excess of current metal finishing standards, and also beyond the proposed MP&M standards.

ETV testing on the Lobo System installed at Gull Industries, Houston, resulted in a 90 percent reduction in water consumption while providing increased water quantity and velocity through rinse tanks. Water discharge also was reduced by 98 percent while the metal removal rate was calculated at 99.9 percent. Water recycled through the automated systems also lowered rates for rejected parts. In addition, the system reduced labor costs, sludge generation and chemical consumption.

□ Bales Mold Service at Harlingen, TX, is celebrating one year of growth and success, despite the economic hardships the industry is experiencing. The company opened the facility a year ago as a full-service polishing and plating shop. Its sister company in Downers Grove, IL, has been in business for more than 24 years.

Generation Fab-Tech, Inc. has been merged with Air-

flow Systems, Inc., Dallas, TX. Fab-Tech's manufacturing operations and management offices are located in Airflow Systems' new 70,000 ft2 headquarters in Dallas.

Airflow Systems, Inc., is a manufacturer of industrial air filtration systems for manufacturing, processing, commercial, and vehicle exhaust applications.

□ Houghton International, Valley Forge, PA, has consolidated and centralized its six telephone order engry systems in the U.S. The move will allow customers to order all product lines, and make sample fluid requests from the same location, and provide immediate access to Houghton's corporate technical service department.

The company supplies speciality chemicals, oils and lubricants for the metalworking, automotive and steel industries.

□ Recubrimientos Metalicos de Mexico, S.A. de C.V., has obtained ISO 9002:1994, and ANSI/ASQ 9002:1994 certification. The finishing facility is the largest electroplating jobshop in Mexico City, employing 100 people.

A second tier supplier to Ford and G.M., the company offers a variety of finishes and services, including: zinc, nickel, cadmium, copper, brass, bright chrome, phosphating,

#### In Memoriam

**Edmund E. Horner**, 74, a long-time member of the Waterbury Branch, died on July 16, 2001. A veteran of World War II, he was a graduate of Brooklyn Polytechnical Institute, and held a degree in metallurgical engineering from Pratt Institute in New Jersey.

Beginning a career in finishing at Oakite Products in New Jersey, Horner moved to Connecticut to work for MacDermid, Inc. In 1976, he joined the technical staff at Hubbard Hall, where he worked for 23 years until he retired in 2000, as the company's technical director.

In addition to being active in AESF, Horner was a lifetime member of the American Society of Metals.

**George "Mitch" Mitchell**, president and owner of Kudzu Technologies, Ltd., Markham, Ontario, Canada, died in December. A member of the Toronto Branch for many years, he was a strong supporter of the Eastern Canada Regional Springfest.

electroless nickel, black oxide, passivation, chromate conversion, buffing and polishing. The jobshop also provides finishing services for the fastener, hardware, and furniture industries.

□ Barnebey Sutcliffe, Columbus, OH, has expanded its engineering capabilities to include a business unit focused on the design and supply of control systems for diverse air and water purification applications. The business unit will target integrated well-water treatment systems, air filtration systems for protectiion against chemical agents, odor and emission control systems, soil vapor extraction systems, solvent recovery systems and distillation systems. *P&SF* 

#### Answers to I.Q. Quiz #374

- l. (e) Single-phase full-wave rectification
- 2. (d) 3-phase full-wave rectification
- 3. (b) Superimposed alternating current
- 4. (f) Pulse-reverse current
- 5. (c) Ideal direct current
- 6. (a) Pulsed and interrupted current