

## Surface Finishing Report Available on Automotive

An extensive survey and market report (Surface Finishing Market Research Board [SFMRB] Report No. 7) on the automotive finishing industry has been completed by the Surface Finishing Industry Council (SFIC). The report provides detailed market information on U.S. metal finishing companies that serve the automotive industry. Facility locations, past business trends, business outlook, current sales levels, substrates, processes and equipment used, elimination and substitutions for hazardous processes, quality control, and process technology use trends are all included.

The automotive industry is the largest industrial market served by the U.S. metal finishing industry, with nearly 50 percent of finishers involved. These finishers serve the OEM and aftermarket for automotive parts, including fasteners, bumpers, wheels, under-the-hood parts, plastic parts for interior and exterior applications.

SFMRB, coordinated by SFIC, is made up of members of the Metal Finishing Suppliers' Association (MFSA), the National Association of Metal Finishers (NAMF) and AESF.

The 48-page report contains finisher and supplier information on:

- Capabilities and certifications
- Major future challenges
- Geographic concentrations
- Most popular processes
- Most common new processes
- Hazardous processes being eliminated
- Most common substrates used

Customized reports using this data can be produced to fit specific areas of interest. The price of Report No. 7 is \$95 for members and \$190 for non-association members. To obtain a report, or learn more about how to receive a customized report, contact Dave Lucas (772-229-8232; dlucaaswrs@aol.com).

## E-Coat Mark Identifies Electrocoated Products

"E-COAT Protected" are the words representing the new identification mark for electrocoated products. The mark was created by the Electrocoat Association,

### Test Your Plating I.Q. #383

*By Dr. James H. Lindsay, AESF Fellow*

#### SI Units

- 1.What does "SI" stand for?
- 2.How long has it been around?
- 3.The SI system is based on seven units. What are they?
- 4.The SI prefixes are reduced by a factor of 1000 according to the following names: milli (thousandth,  $10^{-3}$ ), micro (millionth,  $10^{-6}$ ), \_\_\_\_\_(billionth,  $10^{-9}$ ) \_\_\_\_\_( $10^{-12}$ ) and \_\_\_\_\_( $10^{-15}$ ).
- 5.Going in the other direction, the SI prefixes are multiplied by a factor of 1000 according to the following names: kilo (thousand,  $10^3$ ), mega (million,  $10^6$ ), \_\_\_\_\_(billion,  $10^9$ ) \_\_\_\_\_( $10^{12}$ ) and \_\_\_\_\_( $10^{15}$ ).

Answers are on page 54

Cincinnati, OH, to increase consumer awareness about the reasons many products (such as cars) last longer than ever before. The mark will identify products that have been electrocoated.

The program is designed to aid industry communication, educate people in manufacturing operations, create brand awareness, identify products protected by the e-coat finish, educate consumers and help manufacturers sell more products.

There is no cost for companies to participate in the program. A kit explaining how companies can and should use the E-coat mark is available for those signing up to use it. For information, contact the Electrocoat Association (513-753-5501; coravitz@electrocoat.org).

## Call for Papers Issued For EuroInterfinish 2003

Organizers for EuroInterfinish 2003: Nanotechnology & Coatings for Novel Applications have invited authors to submit abstracts relating to relevant topics. Deadline for submission of abstracts is July 31. Potential authors can use the organization's Web site to submit abstracts ([www.eurointerfinish2003.com](http://www.eurointerfinish2003.com)).

Papers will be evaluated and integrated into the technical program as oral or poster.

Starting about September 1, a preliminary program will appear on the Web site, which will be periodically updated. Papers are being invited in the areas of:

- Coatings against wear and corrosion
- Decorative applications and microelectroforming
- Biocoatings and biosensors
- Film for environmental applications

For more information on the conference, visit the Web site.

## Study Finds Some Businesses Vague on Lean Manufacturing

The Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), through a recently completed study of the needs of manufacturing in the northeast, has found that while most small to mid-sized manufacturers identify ways they could benefit from applying lean manufacturing, only one in four is pursuing it. SME conducted the study as part of its ongoing mission to provide effective products and solutions to the manufacturing industry.

The study reports on the variations in familiarity with, and the need for, lean manufacturing among small, mid-sized and large organizations, and among differ-

ent manufacturing disciplines. About half of the respondents from small and mid-sized organizations said they were either unaware of the advantages presented by lean, not interested, or do not believe they can use the principles to help their organizations. When asked to prioritize where they had problems in their operations, they identified waste in areas that lean manufacturing specifically targets, including: manufacturing processes, equipment effectiveness, set-up/cycle time, general business planning and workforce development, production scheduling and inventory management.

The study also found distinct differences between what professionals at various levels and various disciplines know about lean manufacturing and the problems it would help them solve.

## Company News

□ The Enequist Chemical Company, Inc., Brooklyn, NY, has achieved ISO 9001:2000 certification. Founded in 1930, the company offers a comprehensive line of quality proprietary products, systems, industrial chemicals and equipment. The firm also maintains a full time professional sales and technical support staff to meet its customers' needs.



*Uyemura-USA (UIC) hosted a regional technical seminar at its Connecticut facility on January 21 for New York and New England area customers. The company hosted attendees from such firms as Tyco, Sanmina, Photocircuits, Endicott Interconnect Technologies, Alternate Finishing, Tech Circuits, and Brookhaven National Labs. Visitors from Uyemura's sister companies in Japan and Canada were also in attendance. Topics focused on current and emerging technologies.*

□ Uyemura-USA (UIC), Ontario, CA and Southington, CT, has announced an agreement with RBP Chemical Technology, Milwaukee, WI, whereby RBP will sell Uyemura and MEC chemistries to RBP's customers in the U.S. Uyemura's sales and service group will support RBP's efforts and customers. The move was made to enhance Uyemura's growth in final finishes (electroless nickel/immersion gold, electroless golds, immersion silver process,

satin and industrial electroless nickels). Uyemura will also have access to RBP's line of products.



*Precision Plating Company's prototyping lab will experiment with a variety of plating finishes.*

□ Precision Plating Company, Chicago, IL, has built an experiment and prototyping lab (EPL) in its production facility. The new lab will allow Precision's customers to experiment with various plating finishes to find the best appropriate materials and methods for manufacturing applications. Precision will make the experimental products in-house for customers to performance-test the prototypes in real-world applications.

Precision says that customer and product confidentiality will be maintained throughout the process.

□ Univertical International (Suzhou) Co., Ltd., a wholly foreign-owned enterprise of the Univertical Corporation, is building a new manufacturing facility in the Suzhou New District, the People's Republic of China. Phase one, which is scheduled to be operational in September 2003, will consist of 66,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of office and manufacturing space. The plant will produce anodes and chemicals.

Univertical is a supplier of anodes and chemicals for the electronics, semiconductor and surface finishing markets.

□ Southern Aluminum Finishing Company (SAF), Atlanta, GA, is opening a full-service metal fabrication division and expanding its product line, following the purchase of a fabrication company in Winston, GA.

SAF Metal Fabrication, which will make its headquarters in the newly purchased 78,000 ft<sup>2</sup> facility, will significantly expand SAF's architectural product line. The new division will be managed by Penn M. McClatchey, SAF vice president.

□ Surface Technology, Inc., Trenton, NJ, a supplier of electroless nickel products, has granted a license to Japan Kanigen Co., Ltd. Under the license, Japan Kanigen Co. will be permitted to sell Surface Technology composite electroless nickel with PTFE (Teflon®) solutions to customers outside the U.S., and these customers will be allowed to export plated parts into the U.S. *P&SF*

## In Memoriam



Mike Moone, a 35-year member of the AESF Los Angeles/Orange County Branches, died on February 19. He was instrumental in forming the AESF Golden West Regional Technical Conference.

Mike was a past president of the Los Angeles Branch, and was serving of the board of directors at the time of his death. He also served as an instructor for the branch's electroplating classes.

A frequent speaker at monthly branch meetings, Mike often introduced his topics with a beautiful baritone singing voice.

Mike held a BS in chemistry and MS in chemical engineering from the University of California at Los Angeles. For more than 10 years, he was affiliated with Dri-Lube Corporation, and served as an outside consultant to many companies in environmental issues.

## Answers to I.Q. Quiz #383

1. Systeme International

2. Le Systeme International d'Unites officially came into being in October 1960 and has been officially recognized and adopted by nearly all countries.

3. Length	metre	m
Mass	kilogram	kg
Time	second	s
Electric current	ampere	A
Temperature	kelvin	K
Amount of substance	mole	mol
Luminous intensity	candela	cd

4. Nano, pico, femto [and then ... for the record ... atto ( $10^{-18}$ ), zepto ( $10^{-21}$ ), yocto ( $10^{-24}$ ). To date, no application of groucho, harpo, chico or zeppo has been established.]

5. Giga, tera, peta [and then, exa ( $10^{18}$ ), zetta ( $10^{21}$ ), yotta ( $10^{24}$ )].