ASTM Implements New Standardized Color Code For Galvanizing of Steel

ASTM International, West Conshohocken, PA, has a new standardized color code system that covers marking zinc ingots used in hot-dip galvanizing of all steel products. ASTM B 914, Practice for Color Codes on Zinc and Zinc Alloy for Use in Hot-dip Galvanizing of Steel was implemented January 1, 2004, with coordination between zinc producers and galvanizers.

The system provides a unique color code for each zinc grade and zinc alloy to avoid confusion in the producing plant or in the user's mill. The system uses one or two colored stripes to the basic zinc grades, continuous galvanizing grades specified by ASTM, master alloys of Zn-Al and Zn-Sb, and speciality coating proprietary alloys. The standard system is intended to supersede previous proprietary color codes that differ from company to company.

SVC Annual Conference To Be Held at Dallas

The Society of Vacuum Coaters will hold its 47th annual Technical Conference and Smart Materials Symposium April 24–29, 2004, at the Adam's Mark Dallas Hotel, Dallas, TX. The theme of the conference is "New Developments in Vacuum Coating Technologies and Smart Materials.

Opening speaker for the event on Sunday evening, April 25, will be Dr. John Fenn, Sr., the 2002 Nobel Prize Winner for Chemistry.

For more information, visit the organization's Web site: www.svc.org.

Company News

❏ ACM Company, Forest Hill, MD, has appointed IDSC, Inc., Lighthouse Point, FL, to market and sell its line of resin regeneration and wastewater treatment services to metal finishing customers in the Southeast.

IDSC, Inc., is dedicated to selling chemicals and equipment to plating and metal finishing process companies. The company owner and president is Willard Askew, a member of the AESF South Florida Branch who is active on the Membership and Branch Services Committees.

ACM Company is a fully-permitted ion exchange resin regeneration and resource recovery plant located near Baltimore. The facility receives resins used in metal finishing and other wastewater treatment operations. The company is a subsidiary of ResinTech, Inc.

❏ The Aries Division of ResinTech, Inc., West Berlin, NJ, has acquired American Filterworks (AFW) of Los Angeles, CA. The company's products will be integrated into the Aries product line, and the entire division will be renamed Aries Filterworks.

Capabilities of AFW include a complete line of replacement cartridges, private label programs, custom injection molding, custom cartridge design, and turn-key assembly options. AFW operations will be combined with an existing ResinTech facility in Los Angeles.

ResinTech is a manufacturer/supplier of ion exchange resins and activated carbon to the water and wastewater marketplace.

❏ Reliable Plating Works, Inc. (RPW), Milwaukee, WI, is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

When making the announcement, company president Jaime Maliszewski pointed out some of the history of the company. He said RPW is the only original, continuous supplier to Broan Manufacturing—now known as Broan NuTone—since 1935. The job shop has also plated for Fort Howard Paper Company—now named Georgia Pacific—since 1929. "Many of our customers have changed their names over the years, but they have not changed platers," said Maliszewski. "We love the long term customers we have serviced over the years and want to create customer loyalty with all of our customers."

❏ Princeton Applied Research, Oak Ridge, TN, a member of Advanced Measurement Technology (AMT), a division of AMETEK, Inc., recently announced that it has achieved ISO 9001:2000 certification. Princeton Applied Research designs and manufactures electrochemical instruments, electrochemical software and electrochemical accessories for research, battery research and testing, corrosion, sensors, plating, surface imaging, materials characterization, voltammetry/polarography and semiconductor markets.

❏ Perfection Plating, Inc., Elk Grove Village, IL, was recently certified as being compliant with ISO 9001:2000/TS16949 quality management standard. The TS16949 designation is an international standard that will replace QS9000 for the automotive finishing industry. Founded in 1968, Perfection Plating is a full service job shop that specializes in precious metal

Test Your Plating I.Q. #392

By Dr. James H. Lindsay, AESF Fellow

Metal Finishing History

1. Who invented electroplating and when?

2. Who first plated gold and when? What bath?

3. Who first patented an electroplating process and when?

4. Who introduced modern bright nickel processes and when?

5. Who developed the first commercial chromium plating process, and when?

Answers on page 26

finishes for the electronics, aerospace and medical markets. The company operates a 60,000 ft^2 facility that features three departments offering rack and barrel finishing, plus two types of continuous plating—continuous-overall, and continuous-selective plating. Processes offered include copper, nickel, tin, gold, palladium, silver, and Pd-Ni alloy.

❑ Best Metal Finishing, Osgood, IN, has launched a Web site as a contact source for customers and a sales enhancement tool. The site—www.bestmetalfinishing.com—provides detailed descriptions of the company's barrel and rack zinc, and barrel and basket zinc-phosphate processes. It also covers the company's lab support facility, the company history, and provides links for requesting quotes, information and company contacts. Best Metal Finishing provides finishing services for stamping and metal forming, equipment fabrication and fastener manufacturing.

❑ Chemetall Oakite, Berkeley Heights, NJ, is celebrating its 95th anniversary. Founded in 1909 as the Oakley Chemical Company, it started out offering a safe alternative to caustic soda with a product called Oakite. It was used for heavy duty cleaning applications, and was especially critical during World War I as a cleaner for artillery shells. By 1926, the product had become so popular that the company changed its name to Oakite Products.

Early in 2000, the name was again changed to Chemetall Oakite to reflect the parent company, Chemetall GmbH, Frankfurt, Germany.

Today, the company offers 400 specialized products and systems for more than 30 industries, including aerospace, appliance, architectural, automotive, coil coating, cold forming and other surface treatment related markets.

❑ Technic Equipment Division, Pawtucket, RI, has purchased selected assets from the secured party auction of Plasfab Engineered Systems, including the intellectual property, blueprints and manufacturing equipment.

Based in Warwick, RI, Plasfab had been supplying intelligent chemical processing systems to customers in the electronics, aerospace, automotive and metal finishing industries. Technic Equipment Division manufactures equipment, primarily for electroplating applications. It is a part of Technic, Inc., which has been in business for more than 50 years as a supplier of electroplating chemicals and equipment to customers worldwide. Technic previously completed similar acquisitions of Baker Bros., T.N.T., and Carolinch and Kentucky Automation equipment.

❑ Electro-Platers of York, Inc., Wrightsville, PA, recently received its certification for ISO 9001:2000 international quality management standard. The company is a full service, laboratory controlled electroplating and metal finishing company offering a variety of metal finishes and related services. The shop has been in business for more than 50 years.

❑ Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics, Granville, NY, has achieved certification for ISO 14000, the international environmental standard. The plant manufactures a line of polymer-based foam sealing, bonding and gasket products.

In Memoriam

Gerald Epner, vice president of Epner Technology,, Brooklyn, NY, died recently following a short illness. He was 89.

A plating engineer and entrepreneur for virtually all of his adult life, Epner earned a degree in chemical engineering from Brooklyn Poly Tech. Following college, he went to work for his father's electroplating company where he established one of the earliest and most complete job shop process control laboratories. This contribution helped the company grow to one of the largest and most successful jewelry and novelty platers in New York.

During World War II, Epner served as a civilian quality specialist consulting for the Air Material Command based in Cleveland, OH, which had responsibility over defense contractors supplying a wide range of military aircraft throughout the Midwest.

Following the war, he rejoined the family business and became president of Cohan-Epner, as the company was then known. He succeeded Emanuel Cohan who, with Louis Epner, founded the company in 1910.

In 1961, he moved the operation from Manhattan to a new 60,000 ft^2 facility in Brooklyn where the firm grew to employee more than 150 people.

In 1979, he guided the company through a major reorganization away from consumer products and into its future core technology, Laser Gold®, a process that Epner developed as an efficient electroplated infrared reflective coating. In 1984, his process became the NBS Infrared Standard.

The company achieved further success when Epner combined the Laser Gold process with electroforming. The two breakthroughs have permitted the company to evolve from a jewelry job shop into a supplier of proprietary products for the defense, aerospace, medical and semiconductor industries. He was active in the company into his 88th year.

Gerald's brother, David Epner, currently serves as head of the company.

Answers to I.Q. Quiz #392

1. In September 1800, German physicist Johann Wilhelm Ritter used Allessandro Volta's recently discovered Voltaic Pile to deposit zinc on iron. But also see the next question.

2. Luigi V. Brugnatelli, an Italian chemist, invented electroplating in 1805. He performed electrodeposition of gold, using the Voltaic Pile, discovered by Allessandro Volta. His work was largely unknown for some time because of a falling out with the French Academy of Sciences. Some sources say he "invented electroplating."

3. It can get confusing, but several patents were issued in 1840. John Wright, of Birmingham, England, invented cyanide silver and gold baths, but cousins Henry George Elkington bought the process from Wright and got to the patent office first, in 1840.

4. Dr. Max Schloetter is generally credited with introducing modern bright nickel, which he patented in 1934 (U.S. patent 1,972,693).

5. Colin Fink and Charles Eldridge are principally credited with the development of the first commercial chromium process in 1923 and 1924.