

Mike Kelly, Christian Richter Honored as *Metal Finishing's* 2005 People of the Year

Two metal finishing industry leaders have been honored as *Metal Finishing's* 2005 People of the Year (POY). Mike Kelly, vice president of ASKO Processing, Seattle, WA, and Christian Richter, a principal in Navista and founder of The Policy Group, Washington, DC, were recognized for the honors at the 2006 SFIC Industry Convention at Boca Raton in early March.

A feature article, written by Editor Greg Valero, appeared in the February issue of *Metal Finishing*, outlining reasons why both Kelly and Richter were picked by the POY selection committee for the honor.

Kelly was recognized as one of the founding fathers of the National Association for Surface Finishing (NASF), the organization that will be launched with the consolidation of AESF, NAMF and MFSA. The article points out that Kelly played a key role toward incorporating all major industry events under the Surface Finishing Industry Council (SFIC). He was also cited for his activities in SFIC's government affairs, and service as president of the NAMF. Kelly received praise from other industry leaders, including Blair Vandivier, president of Benchmark Products, Indianapolis, IN, and Tony Revier, president of Uyemura International.

The article pointed out that Richter "is well connected, politically, inside the Beltway, yet does not hold a public office or work with elected officials." He is credited with playing a major role in "helping to defeat or modify several major, expensive and unjustified national enforcement actions." The article cited Richter for being instrumental in keeping many metal finishing job shops in business with his successful lobbying efforts.

Bill Saas, president of Taskem, Inc., Brooklyn Heights, OH, (and president of MFSA) said this about Richter: "Christian has developed a remarkably high degree of recognition for the surface finishing industry that is far out of proportion to the dollars we invest each year in supporting the GAC."

Test Your Plating I.Q. #417

By Dr. James H. Lindsay

Organic finishing

1. Besides being a colorant, what other uses do pigments provide in organic coatings?
2. What is a vehicle?
3. What are the smallest precursors of polymers? What is the range of their molecular weight?
4. What is the molecular weight range of short-chain polymers? What physical state do they usually occupy?
5. Why are latex or waterborne systems environmentally-friendly?

Answers on page 48

Richter also received praise from other industry leaders, including fellow recipient Mike Kelly, Joelle Zak, CEF-4, vice president of Scientific Control Laboratories, Chicago, IL., and Eric Roiter, vice president of M.E. Baker Co., Cambridge, MA.

Copper Surfaces Fight Spread Of Deadly Organisms

A new study holds promise for stemming MRSA contamination by using copper alloys for surfaces in health care facilities. Doctors C. William Keevil and J.O. Noyce of the University of Southampton, U.K., reported the study at a recent meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in New Orleans, LA.

Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* is a virulent organism, essentially resistant to all β -lactam antibiotics (e.g., penicillins, ampicillins, cephalosporins). MRSA, one of the so-called "superbugs," can cause skin, bone and life-threatening blood infections, as well as pneumonia. It occurs commonly among persons in hospitals and health care facilities, where it is typically transmitted by medical staff, patients and by contact with heavily contaminated equipment and environmental surfaces around infected patients.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nosocomial infections are the fourth leading cause of death in the United States, after heart disease, cancer and strokes. MRSA ranks as the nation's second most antimicrobial-resistant infection, with its highest incidence in Intensive Care Units, followed by non-ICU inpatient areas.

The study compared the survival rates of the often-deadly bacteria on stainless steel, the most commonly used metal in health care facilities, and on selected copper alloys. At room temperature, MRSA was able to persist and remain viable in dried deposits on stainless steel (C304) for periods up to 72 hours. For copper alloys—C77000 (55% copper), C24000 (80% copper) and C19700 (99% copper)—significant reductions in viability were achieved after 4.5 hours, three hours and 1.5 hours, respectively. The yellow brass rendered the bacteria completely inviable after 270 minutes, while the high-copper alloy took only 90 minutes.

Dr. Keevil said the study strongly indicates that use of the copper metals in such applications as door knobs, push plates, fittings, fixtures and work surfaces would considerably mitigate MRSA in hospitals and reduce the risk of cross-contamination between staff and patients in critical care

areas. He also explained that, despite the significant performance of copper alloys in this study, the survivability of MRSA on all metals at lower temperatures (39°F / 4°C) is much greater, indicating that heightened hygiene is particularly imperative in those environments.

Keevil added that the antimicrobial effects of copper have been well documented. He cited recent studies on *E. coli* O157 and *Listeria monocytogenes* on copper alloy surfaces that show similar dramatic results, reducing viability of those pathogens from several weeks on stainless steel to only a matter of hours on copper alloys.

The MRSA study is co-funded by the International Copper Association and Copper Development Association Inc., New York, and managed by CDA.

Dr. Harold Michels, CDA vice president of technical services, said the study clearly shows that "the use of stainless steel in hospital environments for work surfaces and door furniture is potentially exacerbating an already critical situation with regards to MRSA transmission and infection." Michels stressed the desirability for the health care industry to evaluate and to begin using copper alloy hardware and surfaces, especially in high human-contact areas.

A copy of the study report, "The Antimicrobial Effect of Copper and Copper-based Alloys on Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*," may be obtained by contacting CDA.

Answers to I.Q. Quiz #417

1. (Partial list) corrosion protection, filler, electrical conductivity, reinforcement, appearance (other than color, *e.g.*, metallic flakes), UV stability.
2. A vehicle, also referred to as a binder, is the agent that promotes the adhesion of pigment particles to the substrate and to one another.
3. Monomers, with molecular weights of from 10 to 100.
4. The molecular weight of short-chain polymers generally ranges from 100 to 1,000. They are usually viscous liquids.
5. They contain virtually no solvent that could be considered a volatile organic compound (VOC)

Enviro Tech International Acquires Baron-Blakeslee

Enviro Tech International, Inc., Melrose Park, IL, a provider of proprietary n-Propyl Bromide cleaning solvents, has acquired Baron-Blakeslee from Thermal Equipment Corporation, Torrance, CA. Baron-Blakeslee has been making degreasing equipment for more than 50 years.

The Baron-Blakeslee line of vapor degreasers will be manufactured at the Enviro Tech International facility in Illinois.

Surface Technology Launches Environmentally Friendly EN Coatings

Surface Technology, Inc. (STI), has launched a full line of proprietary electroless nickel (EN) coatings that are free of lead, cadmium or any other heavy metal.

More than 20 years ago, the company offered a medium phosphorous electroless nickel alloy free of lead, cadmium and heavy metal. STI has now applied the same technology to offer versions of all its coatings free of heavy metals. The company says the coatings are formulated to conform to regulations, such as End-of-Life Vehicle (ELV), Restriction of Hazardous Substance (RoHS) and Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE).

Advice & Counsel

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7. Substitution

This may be a real good time to look again at trivalent based process chemistries.

To Our Readers

A number of readers pointed out an error in my article on RoHS and ELV bans. The following is an example:

Dear Advice & Counsel,

I was reading your article on the RoHS ... There was a mistake on the RoHS Point C. Any of the banned materials can be intentionally added as long as the amounts in the deposit are below the limits. In fact, ELV took out the intentionally added phrase to match the RoHS. There are a number of legislations out, or coming out, though (*i.e.* JIG 101), that not only set the limit in the deposit, but also ban any intentionally added materials whatsoever. Hope this helps.

Take care,
Rich Bellemare, OMG-Fidelity

My thanks to all of you who caught this error, which was based on outdated information. For the time being, the "intentionally added" provisions are no longer present, but as Mr. Bellemare points out, may be re-instated through other regulations in the future. *P&SF*