Dörken MKS opens new technology centre for electroplating

Dörken MKS-Systeme GmbH & Co. KG opened its new technology centre for the new field of electroplating in Herdecke on 28 September 2011. The centrepiece of this new facility is a 25-metre-long, fully-automated coating facility with the entire process – from pre-treatment to acid and alkaline galvanising baths to passivation and sealing with and without lubricant additives – capable of being simulated for both bulk and rack parts in close-to-production form. The development by German plant engineers is to be the standard for all finishing plant that will be in use by licensees of the new Delta-Prozinc electroplating system in the future. With the takeover of LP-Oberflächentechnik GmbH, Schalksmühle, at the end of September 2010, the area of expertise in this field has been further extended to cover the field of „green“ electroplating at Dörken MKS-Systeme. The ecologically oriented electroplating systems of the LPO series are set to be developed further, with a focus on high-quality, functional corrosion protection. The new technology centre will perform a key function in this context. The first test series with new products are already due to be start by mid-2012. The Electroplating team is also set to be expanded in the future. The new technology centre also offers all the service performance that customers are accustomed to worldwide from Dörken MKS-Systeme. Sampling can be carried out here, alongside the entire range of performance coating and application tests. These include, for example, salt spray testing, various mechanical tests and wet chemical analysis. Further tests on the coated part, such as coefficient of friction testing, can be implemented in close co-operation with the technology centre in Herdecke.

Rösler expands manufacturing facilities in the USA and Untermerzbach

Rösler Oberflächentechnik GmbH, based in Bad Staffelstein and Untermerzbach, is preparing for further growth due to a good order situation. At the beginning of October 2011, Rösler Metal Finishing USA celebrated the completion of its manufacturing facilities expansion project and the consolidation of all North-American Rösler locations into the new building at the headquarters in Battle Creek, Michigan. The opening ceremony was attended by more than 300 guests. The 11,000 m² building expansion creates space for the company’s increased North-American manufacturing volume, including operations such as laser cutting, steel fabrication, CNC operation and equipment assembly. The new building will also house administrative offices. Overall, this expansion at the Rösler Battle Creek facility represents an investment of $7 million. As Stephan Rösler, the owner and general manager of the Rösler group, emphasized: „Rösler USA is an extremely important part of our global operations. The expansion of our Battle Creek facility is proof of the significance of the North-American market for our company.“ The family-owned business, which currently has more than 1,300 employees, started its US operations in 1999. At the Untermerzbach site, the ground breaking ceremony for two new building extensions and additional parking space for 240 cars took place. €3 million is to be invested here to overcome capacity bottlenecks and to further expand the in-house manufacturing depth. When the new 3,500 m² facility is completed in summer 2012, it will house the complete laser cutting operation with additional laser units and various material stocks. The company has expanded its workforce accordingly at the Bad Staffelstein and Untermerzbach sites (60 new employees within the past 5 months). Rösler says that it will continue to expand and modernise these two sites in the foreseeable future.
Dürr Ecoclean and BMW sign framework agreement

The cleaning technology specialist Ecoclean Dürr GmbH has finalised a long-term framework supply agreement with the BMW Group. The agreement provides that Dürr Ecoclean will supply BMW with more than 40 robotic cleaning cells with short delivery times by the year 2014. The cleaning systems are part of several major investment programmes by BMW in Asia and Europe. The first EcoCFlex type robotic cleaning cells that the car maker ordered within the scope of the agreement will be delivered to BMW in Landshut in the third quarter of 2012. Dürr Ecoclean will install cleaning technology for the crankcase of BMW’s new modular engine system with inline engines with three, four and six cylinders at the BMW foundry in Landshut. Other robot cells for treatment of cylinder heads, crankcases and crankshafts are planned for the plants at Hams hall, Munich and Steyr. The framework agreement also includes supplying the new BMW engine plant in Shenyang, China. In existing plants, the flexible cleaning cells will partly replace older transfer systems for cleaning engine parts. The EcoCFlex robot cell was first installed at the Munich plant in 2005, and has since been continuously further developed jointly with BMW.

Qualicoat approval for low bake powder coating

Qualicoat has granted approval for the low-temperature curing powder coating Ag-Kote from Oxyplast Belgium NV, a subsidiary of the Canadian Protech-Oxyplast Group. The low degassing powder coating already cures above a temperature of 150 °C. The Qualicoat label (P-1030 PE40) also includes approval of the powder coating for aluminium architectural applications. The powder coating has been on the market since 2009 and has already won several innovation awards.

AkzoNobel completes acquisition of Korean SSCP’s coatings activities

AkzoNobel completed its acquisition of the coatings business of the Korean company SSCP on 2 December 2011. SSCP has a strong position in the Korean mobile phone market and also supplies coatings to the wider consumer electronics industry. The transaction also includes the acquisition of the German-based company Schramm, of which SSCP was a 70 percent shareholder. Schramm manufactures coatings for plastics, metals and electrical insulation, as well as coil coatings for aluminium. The joint agreement enables AkzoNobel to strengthen its global leadership position in specialty plastic coatings.

A positive 2011 for Cefla Finishing Group

For Cefla Finishing Group, the year 2011 was characterised by double-digit growth in sales for all the companies in the Group, in spite of the difficult global macro-economic conditions. This result was achieved due to an increase in the market share for wood finishing machines in countries such as China, Germany, France, Poland, Asia, Russia and South America. The increase was supported at the same time by sales of large projects for the glass, fibre cement and plastic markets. According to the company, the experience and financial solidity of Cefla Finishing Group, acquired over the 80 years of the company’s history, 50 of which have been in the wood finishing market, is without doubt the best guarantee that the Group can offer its customers. A re-organization process within the company has been launched to transfer more value-added to customer investments. This project will be concluded in 2012 with the revision of processes in Lean Logic, with the support of Porsche Consulting Italia srl.