

CLOSING REMARKS FOR LOW- AND NO-VOC COATING TECHNOLOGIES: SECOND BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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First of all, I would like to thank the speakers and session chairs for contributing their time to prepare for, and/or to present their research at, what I feel has been a very productive conference. Second, I would like to thank the audience, for staying on to the very end of a long, 2½ days of exceptional presentations and for asking many excellent questions. Most of all, I would like to thank our co-sponsors at Research Triangle Institute (RTI) for their hard work and constant attention to details. RTI's Ella Darden, Coleen Northeim, and Jesse Baskir, have helped put together an excellent program and brought us all together. Finally, I wish to thank Reichhold Chemicals for sponsoring refreshments for several of our breaks.

This has been the 2nd Biennial International Conference on Low- and No-VOC Coating Technologies. The Conference had over 185 participants with 45 speakers. Overall, we have had a very diverse and exciting program featuring information on everything from powder coatings to the use of life cycle assessment for ecolabelling. The conference has provided us with the opportunity to interact with a broad range of coating researchers, suppliers, and users, with environmental advocates, and with government and trade association officials.

The overall goals of the technology development process include reduced environmental impacts, lowered process costs, and enhanced U.S. competitiveness in worldwide markets. The process of getting new, lower-emitting coating technologies developed and delivered to the user involves many players, each of whom faces unique challenges.

- (1) Coating developers in industry and universities must integrate new materials and concepts from the very fundamental to the somewhat applied. Their challenge is to develop lower-emitting technologies that not only perform as well as current technologies, but perform better and at lower cost.
- (2) For coatings evaluators, such as private organizations and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's research laboratories, the challenge is to complete thorough and objective evaluations of new technologies in terms of emissions reduction potential, performance, and cost of implementation.
- (3) For technical assistance agents, such as those from state and local governments, the challenge is to keep on top of the latest technical developments, digest the information, and convey the relevant details to the user.

All of these players have been in the audience during this conference. I hope that you have had a chance to exchange information and network.

Finally, I'd like to point out that this has been an international conference and I'd like to recognize the efforts that our international colleagues have made to get here. I hope that you have enjoyed the conference and have found it to be useful and informative.