

FPD HOT NEWS

SPRING 2008 FPD CONFERENCE... Please join us in Kiawah Island, South Carolina for the Fluoropolymers Division Spring 2008 Conference! The conference will be held **April 13-15, 2008** at the fabulous Kiawah Island Resort.



The fluoropolymers industry continues to face challenges at home and abroad, such as the ongoing PFOA issue and the recent USGBC LEED for Healthcare MR Credit. Come to our conference to get the latest information on these issues and a report on the steps that are being taken to address them. The program includes an update from the Issues Management Committee, International Trade Update, Economic Update, Wire & Cable/Green Building Initiative Update, and much more. The Coaters Section and Processors Section agendas are now posted on the web site. **Don't miss the keynote speaker, Greg Schwem**, who Chicago Magazine called "America's Favorite Funnyman!!!" Full of clean, fast-paced humor that pokes fun at the business world, Greg calls his show "Comedy with a Byte." For program details and to register, please visit www.fluoropolymers.org.

The room rate for SPI is \$239, which includes the vacation villas only. To make your reservation, call 800/654-2924 and mention the SPI Fluoropolymers Division meeting to get the rate. The SPI rate is available only until March 19, 2008.

FALL 2008 FPD CONFERENCE will be held in Sept. 21-23, 2008 at the Westin Kierland Resort in Scottsdale, AZ. There is something for everyone at The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, including the Kierland Golf Club and the ambiance, shopping, and dining in Scottsdale. The Conference will be chaired by Preston Hollier, Solvay Solexis, and Eric Walsh, DeWAL. A preliminary program will be forthcoming in early 2008.



FPD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS... Ken Koziel, Saint-Gobain, and Dave Ely, Chromatics INC., have been appointed to the FPD Executive Committee. Congratulations, Ken and Dave.

FPD ASSESSMENT for 2008 will again be \$750, no change from 2007.

FLUORONEWS... The Winter 2008 issue of **FluoroNews** was completely restructured and issued in full color for the first time. The lead article in this issue illustrated the use of "Fluoroproducts in Daily Living." Check it out! Beginning with this issue, FPD will be posted on our web site, issued as printed copies, and also issued electronically.

OTHER FPD ACTIVITIES

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE... Bob Smith reported that he is working with Rick Sturgis, SPI, on several membership initiatives. SPI is hiring two sales people to recruit new members. FPD is developing a list of the top 20 companies, mostly processors, and key contacts for the sales staff. Terence Neville and Mike Patterson continue with the development of an e-mail survey.

MONTHLY FPD HIGHLIGHTS... Please include E. Robert (Bob) Hill on your press release list at eben_hill@msn.com, so we can note your Company and staff accomplishments and honors.

FLUOROGUIDE... We did a full update of FluoroGuide and the related tables in March 2007 and also in August 2007. We are updating the tables monthly, or as needed. Only minor changes have been reported recently. Please check your company input on our website and give Bob Hill, Hill Business Writing LLC, any needed further revisions at eben_hill@msn.com. We anticipate another full update in early 2008, or as needed.

FPD WEB SITE HITS continue to increase steadily. We continue to add a steady stream of new content to our web site, and are now posting post-conference summaries, including the conference program, a list of attendees, and more.

SOCIETAL VALUE OF FLUOROPOLYMERS... Bruce Nesbitt is leading a committee which has developed an email questionnaire to gather data on fluoropolymer applications and their benefit to society. Processor and coater data collection is well under way

FPD SECTION ACTIVITIES

FPD Section activities continue to be strongly emphasized at all conferences. Each Section breakout has content of specific interest to its industry segment. Both the Coaters and Processors Section are working hard to reach new and old member prospects and make them aware of what Section membership can do for them.

Coating Section had good attendance and a strong program at the Fall 2007 Conference. The group wants to increase its efforts in reaching out to coater member prospects. The Section will continue the trend of bringing vendors of value to the coaters breakouts and will include additional supplier presentations at future meetings. In the Spring Conference,

there will be a talk on “emission reduction” plus material supplier presentations and a regulatory update.

Processors Section... The Section name has been changed from PTFE Processors to the Processors Section, reflecting the wider scope of its membership and breakout subject matter. The Spring Conference breakout features “Six Thinking Hats” by **Patrick Neale**, KC America. The Section continues to work to increase processor participation.

Wire and Cable... See the recent detailed status report in the Winter 2008 issue of FluoroNews in the Section Corner on page 4.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

DEWAL EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION... **Omer Plourde** has been with DeWAL for more than 18 years and has been in the PTFE industry for almost 42 years. During his time at DEWAL, Omer has become something of an icon – someone people come to with tough questions and difficult problems. Omer has worked with and known some of the great pioneers in the PTFE industry and has been instrumental in developing many of the processes and products that are made today by DeWAL and its competitors.

Omer entered the PTFE industry in 1966 at Dixon Industries as a lathe operator in the fabrication department, then skiving lathe operator and lead person in skiving. He worked with people like Saul Ricklin, Robert Rulon-Miller, Jack Holland, Bert Katznak and Ted Rulon – Miller. It was a great start to an impressive career.

Omer was hired to be DeWAL Plant Manager in June 1990 by founding fathers Hugo DiClemente and Ed Walsh. In 1998, Omer was promoted to Director of Development & Technology, an important position in which he has been instrumental in developing, designing and implementing many of the processes and processing that make a difference at DeWAL today. He continues to hold this position.

Omer is an integral part of the DeWAL family. In addition to being Director of Development and Technology, he is Product Manager for Film Products and Technical Advisor to customer service and field sales. He works with production, quality control and the sales department in setting up and monitoring SOP's, process development and new equipment design

In his free time Omer loves to play golf, read, and spend time with his wife, children, and five grandchildren. He lives with his wife in Portsmouth, RI.

INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

W. L. GORE & ASSOCIATES, Inc., maker of GORE-TEX® fabric and thousands of other innovative products, today announced it has earned a position on FORTUNE magazine's annual list of the “100 Best Companies to Work For” for the 11th consecutive year. Gore is ranked number 15. The list and related stories appeared in the February 4 issue of FORTUNE. Since its founding in 1958, Gore has avoided traditional hierarchy, opting instead for a team-based environment that fosters personal initiative, encourages

innovation, and promotes direct person-to-person communication among all “associates,” as employees are known.

ARKEMA plans to increase the prices of its entire Forane® HFC* Refrigerants range by €500/ton effective April 1, 2008. This announcement is the result of significant increases in raw material, utility and transportation costs that cannot be compensated by ongoing productivity improvements and cost reductions. This increase is necessary for Arkema to be able to continue to respond to the growing Forane® HFC demand in Europe, and to ensure sustainable support to the European air-conditioning and refrigeration industry through proven and innovative refrigerants solutions.

DAIKIN PLANT INCIDENT UPDATE... Activity at Daikin remains focused on making repairs to the Decatur Plant since January 28. The restart of all areas, outside of the melt facility, has been completed. PTFE production, which restarted on February 3, is fully operational. In early February, the concentration of our effort changed to the reconstruction plan for the melt areas, and is now being executed.

Our original start-up target for a portion of the ETFE production line was the end of February, however, first phase mechanical completion for these lines took place in mid February. A second portion of the ETFE lines will be phased in through the month of March. The FEP and final lines will be brought to completion in early April. Once mechanical completion is finished, full polymerization resumes allowing for full production. Full sales will resume when adequate inventories have been manufactured. ETFE and FEP customers have been informed of our expected supply, and will continue to be updated as more information becomes available. For further information, please call 800/365-9570 or visit www.daikin-america.com.

DUPONT opens PTFE production plant in China. A new DuPont fluoropolymer production plant has begun operations in Changshu, China. The plant, which produces polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) fine-powder and dispersion for global customers, with focus on Asia Pacific, marks a significant milestone in the company's strategic plan to establish a broader fluoroproducts manufacturing base in China. “The opening of the Changshu plant supports our belief that it is a very good time to invest in PTFE production in China,” said Cynthia Green, vice president and general manager.

The Changshu plant is the fourth DuPont facility that has installed commercial production units using DuPont™ Echelon™ technology which produces low-PFOA content aqueous fluoropolymer dispersions. Other DuPont facilities using the Echelon™ technology are located in Parkersburg, West Virginia; Dordrecht, The Netherlands, and; Shimizu, Japan. Through the use of Echelon™ technology, DuPont has qualified customers representing over 90 percent of its sales volume of aqueous fluoropolymer dispersions to use products that reduce PFOA content by at least 97 percent.

SPI ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF FPD

SPI releases new injection molding study guide and exam... SPI's Certification in Plastics (previously National Certification in Plastics) program has published a new technical study guide, "Certification in Plastics Injection Molding – Level 2, Advanced Operators and Entry Technicians." The guide is based upon SPI's updated Body of Knowledge for injection molding and contains expanded modules in processing, material and product handling and storage, measurement analysis and response, and safety. This new product is geared toward a more knowledgeable and experienced production worker and is aligned with the updated Certification in Injection Molding – Level 2 exam. The web-based exam may be administered in-house or taken at any [Prometric Center](#) in the United States.

The new study guide and exam will be available through SPI's online [Plastics Industry Store](#) in early March 2008. Member pricing is set at \$100 for the study guide, \$200 for the exam, or \$250 for the study guide and exam when purchased together. Non-member pricing is \$150 for the study guide and \$300 for the exam, with no combination discount.

R&D TAX CREDIT CAPITOL HILL FLY-IN DAY... In an effort to push a multi-year extension of a strengthened R&D tax credit, the National Association of Manufacturer's (NAM) [R&D Credit Coalition](#), of which SPI is a member, has scheduled a Capitol Hill fly-in day for April 9, 2008. Before kicking off this all-day advocacy campaign, participants will enjoy a breakfast briefing, where handouts and other materials will be distributed. All company tax department professionals are urged to attend.

R&D TAX CREDIT ASSISTANCE... SPI has recently signed an agreement with the [Black Line Group](#) to assist SPI member companies in assessing whether or not they qualify for the R&D Tax Credit. Specializing in working with small and mid-size businesses, Black Line Group's tax code specialists can quickly assess whether your company's activities qualify for the R&D Tax Credit. Black Line Group uses extensive industry experience and a formalized methodology to identify and substantiate qualified R&D costs throughout your company. For more information, email or call [Chuck LaGrange](#) at 864/239-2939.

US-CHINA PLASTICS TRADE SUMMIT PLANNED... SPI, in coordination with the China Plastics Processing Industry Association (CPPIA), is organizing a one-day plastics trade summit immediately preceding ChinaPlas 2008 on April 16, 2008. The summit plans to foster better ties between the US and Chinese plastics industries, as well as discuss bilateral trade opportunities. The trade summit will feature sessions on:

- Overview of the US and Chinese Market Development Trends
- Resources for a Successful Partnership
- Challenges Facing the Development of the Plastics Industries in the US and China.
- Approaches to US-China Collaboration and Success Stories.

For additional details, including information on participant fees, how to register and the complete agenda, [visit SPI online](#).