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Attention: Editor

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PRESS RELEASE

Cortec® and MPCA - Green Chemistry and Design Demonstration Project

This fall, Cortec® learned of a pilot grant program from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). This program provides matching funds to help Minnesota businesses develop new or redesigned products, which reduce life-cycle environmental and energy use impacts. To qualify, projects had to show significant environmental and/or energy improvements along with incorporation of the principals of green chemistry and design.

A Cortec® proposal was selected, and the award agreement between MPCA and Cortec® was recently signed, making Cortec® the first company awarded under this program.

The objective of this project is to develop a commercially viable, water-borne, corrosion resistant metal primer, with a Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) level of less than 25 grams/liter. Metal primers are a specialized sub-segment of the paint/coating market. This market includes coatings for structural steel and automotive/equipment under-hood components and is estimated at about \$300 million/year. Metal primers must adhere well to the metal surface and provide a good substrate for the surface coat. Further, metal primers are often formulated to inhibit corrosion of the metal. The best performing current primer products use solvent-based Alkyd resins. These products have high VOC levels (250-400 grams/liter) in addition to the waste and clean-up problems associated with using solvent based products. Current water-borne products (latex based) provide low VOC levels, but inferior coating performance. If successful, this project will provide performance (and renewable content) similar to a traditional Alkyd coating, with the convenience and environmental benefits of a latex paint. The project is targeted for completion by September 2012.

The idea for this project came from Coatings Chemist Rick Shannon in collaboration with Lab Director Rita Kharshan and input from the sales department. Robert Kean (Biodegradable Technologies and Patents Manager) prepared and submitted the proposal and will serve as the Cortec® contact for the project. Rick will be the technical lead for this project.

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