

In addition to the above applications, Neocryl B-300 can be used for indirect food contact related applications. Neocryl B-300 is a response to the growing trend towards use of energy curable resins in inks for food packaging which requires low migration inks that exhibit excellent adhesion to a wide range of substrates.

This product has been evaluated for its suitability as a binder for various food contact related applications and concluded that, if applied at defined coating thickness and produced according to GMP regulations, the product is suitable for the intended purpose and does not cause any foreseeable risk to human health according to the requirements laid down in the relevant European food contact legislations.

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MARKETS

New opportunities for UV-curable powder coatings

A new market survey from Radtech forecasts an at least 3%/y growth in sales of UV-cured powder coatings in 2012-2014, buttressed mainly by the increasing preference by users for a more sustainable and environment-friendly product. One industry source says the expanding demand for radiation cured coating technology underlines the significant environmental, process and economic advantages of UV-curing. New developments are underway, particularly for new product applications for low-temperature coatings and UV-cured powder. These finishing materials are being applied on heat-sensitive substrates like plastics and composites and medium-density fibreboards. Continued expansion of the market for UV-curable

powder coatings is anticipated as awareness increase among consumers and users of the benefits of this material chemistry and finishing technology.

Coatings World, May 2011, 16 (5), 43-46 (Website: <http://www.coatingsworld.com/>)

Market study. Paints and coatings turnover in Europe forecast to rise until 2018

The market research company Ceresana Research recently published a new study regarding the European market for paints and coatings. The company predicts that European turnover with paints and coatings will rise to €27.7 bn by 2018. The automotive coatings industry is of particular importance: automotive coatings account for less than 8% of the total paints and coatings market by volume but 15% by value. The study predicts above-average growth for serial automotive coatings, repair coatings and marine paints. Industrial coatings are expected to achieve high growth rates particularly in Russia, Poland and Turkey. However, some Western European countries such as the Netherlands will achieve growth rates above the European average of 1.6%/y. Powder coatings, acrylic coatings as well as products based on epoxy resins are gaining in importance.

Farbe und Lack, May 2011, 117 (5), 6 (Website: <http://www.farbeundlack.de/>) (in German)

Paint firms look to emerging economies for growth opportunities

The slow-growing domestic market has driven large- and mid-sized Western European coatings producer to invest heavily in the rapidly growing developing markets of Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. The 2010 annual results of European paint products show the disparities between the developed and emerging segments of the world's coatings sector. For example, AkzoNobel's decorative paints business saw a 33% and

25% increases in Asian and Latin American sales, respectively, in 2010. In contrast, European sales grew by just 2%. European companies with an international presence like BASF Coatings and Norway's Jotun tended to perform well in terms of sales and profits in 2010. Jotun's record-level investments in capacity, staff, new markets and R&D in 2010 mostly went to the Middle East and Asia, which make up the lion's share of the company's sales outside Europe.

Coatings World, Apr 2011, 16 (4), 22-23 (Website: <http://www.coatingsworld.com/>)

Achieving full potential: powder coatings

Powder coatings continue to be competitive although they remained static or decreased slightly in industrialized nations during the early years of this century. Recent annual market statistics indicate that growth figures for powder coatings are higher than other coatings systems. Global market leader AkzoNobel for instance, generated a growth of around 40% in powder coating sales in 2010 versus 2009, as opposed to just 21% for industrial coatings. Powder coatings continue to outdo rivals owing to changes in the way they are produced and improvements in cutting both curing temperature and curing times. Also, the recent development of UV-curable powder coatings is likely to continue to drive growth in the powder coatings sector. Several interesting new additives for powder coatings have been introduced, including Dow Corning's silicone flake and BASF's cationic initiator. The European coatings industry is deemed to be rebounding although at this stage the growth appears to be insignificant due to escalating energy costs and their impact on the manufacturing sectors that provide the outlets for industrial coatings.

PPCJ, Polymers, Paint, Colour Journal, May 2011, 201 (4560), 16 (Website: <http://www.polymerspaintycoloursjournal.com/>)