

INDUSTRY NEWS

BCF Weighs in on UK Election Results

Following the result of the UK's General Election, the British Coatings Federation (BCF) has expressed relief over the apparent political stability from Boris Johnson's 80-seat majority. However, the association for paint, printing inks and wallcoverings still has doubts over the future of chemical regulations in the UK, and concerns of a no deal Brexit potentially raising its head again.

The Prime Minister's Brexit deal does contain some reassurances with its free trade agreement, but allows for regulatory divergence. The coatings industry has major concerns over UK REACH, and this message was clear from the BCF member survey in September, where 90% of members fear having a duplicate set of chemical regulations in the UK.

Concerns around uncertainty due to Brexit in the last few months have been reflected in the latest industry statistics, with for example decorative paint sales down 2.8% percent over the last three months. However, now the future direction of the country is clearer, the BCF hopes for a bounce back in the economy, assuming a no deal Brexit is avoided.

Tom Bowtell, Chief Executive of the British Coatings Federation, said, "The Prime Minister's new deal foresees a free trade agreement with the EU and removes some of the commitments to regulatory alignment for chemicals that were in the previous Theresa May deal. For our sector, the new deal from Boris Johnson is far from "oven ready," given the complexity of the integrated chemicals supply chain and centralized registration system which we will be losing. However, the industry will find a way to adapt and cope with whatever new trading environment we are faced with. How much that supports UK manufacturing is another matter, but we will continue to have a constructive dialogue with civil servants and new politicians, to ensure the best outcome for our sector."

Original Source: Paint & Coatings Industry, 29 Dec 2019. (Website: <http://www.pcimag.com>), Copyright BNP Media 2019.

Color Marketing Group Announces 2021+ European Key Color – Raison d'être

Color Marketing Group, the leading international association of color design professionals, introduced the organizations' forecasted key colors at the 2019 International Summit in Tucson, AZ. The Color Marketing Group's 2021+ European key color "Raison d'être" is a mid-range tan

with a slight violet undertone that suggests both the natural and artificial worlds.

Embracing the future has to happen with purpose, balance, and resolve. It is not merely enough to question it but to seek immediate resolutions. As the decade continues to unfold, it is the Raison d'être that is most important. As the European 2021+ Key Color, Raison d'être embodies the directional thought processes, and the color trend, needed for a future of growth and innovation. Raison d'être is at once earthy and slightly synthetic in appearance. It is a mid-range tan with a slight violet undertone that suggests both the natural and artificial worlds.

Balancing the natural and synthetic are key to having a future in which all can survive. The connection between nature and the built environment introduces the concept of "Planet Living Room," that the entire planet is home and needs endless respect. Raison d'être offers a color of balance to see lifestyles and the world on its many levels. At one moment there is a great appreciation of history, during another the driving desire to move forward. There are endless moments of discovery, looking back and forward.

In addition, researching and creating new foods and sources, as well as revisiting ancient foods, creates contrasting realms for cuisine; and escaping into entertainment, either virtually or with augmented reality, underscores the need for balance, and Raison d'être. Raison d'être will be found across all industries, with emphasis given to special effects, finishes, and textures. The variation in effects add to the balancing nature of the color and create a "just right" application whether transportation, fashion, home décor, or anything else. The subtle depth of Raison d'être addresses the need for profundity in a superficial and fast-moving world.

For home interiors, Raison d'être will bridge the greys, so prevalent now, by appearing in both matte and gloss finishes in architectural coatings. Textiles and furnishings will bring balance and richness to spaces in myriad textures and finishes and when enhanced with metallic finishes, Raison d'être will be the hue for appliances large and small.

As a color for balance, Raison d'être will bridge the synthetic with its naturally inspired hue with more sparkle in metallic finishes. Hovering between classic metal colors like silver and gold, it offers warmth and depth for professional and leisure transport, personal automotive and sports recreation vehicles.

Original Source: Coatings World, 25 Dec 2019, (Website: <http://www.coatingsworld.com>), Copyright Rodman Media 2019.

Powder Coating Institute 2020 Scholarship Program to Open January 13

The Powder Coating Institute (PCI) will begin accepting applications for its 2020 PCI

Scholarship Program on January 13, 2020. Designed to award students studying in areas that advance powder coating technologies, the program includes the PCI General Scholarship, and four corporate member-sponsored scholarships: the PCI/Axalta Scholarship, the PCI/Gema Scholarship, the PCI/Nordson Ken Kreeger Scholarship, and the PCI/PPG Scholarship. This program is only available to citizens or permanent residents of the United States, Canada or Mexico.

Representatives from Axalta Coating Systems, Gema USA, Nordson Corporation, and PPG Industries will be a part of the selection process for each of their respective scholarships. Scholarships will be awarded in April and presented at PCI's Annual Meeting in June at the Lodge at Whitefish Lake in Whitefish, Montana.

Original Source: Powder Coated Tough, 10 Dec 2019, (Website: <https://www.powdercoatedtough.com>), Copyright Powder Coated Tough 2019.

AkzoNobel to strengthen position in Sub-Saharan African paints market with acquisition of Mauvilac

AkzoNobel has entered into an agreement to acquire 100% of the shares of Mauvilac Industries Limited, a leading paints and coatings company in Mauritius. The transaction includes a local production facility, four concept stores and access to a strong distribution network. The business generated revenue of around EUR 20 M in 2018 and is a leading decorative and speciality paints and coatings manufacturer headquartered in Les Pailles, Mauritius. Their portfolio consists of 85% decorative paints and 15% coatings, offering a wide range of professional and consumer products. The planned transaction is expected to be completed in 1H 2020, subject to customary conditions.

Original source: AkzoNobel, 12 Dec 2019 (Website: <http://www.akzonobel.com/>), Copyright AkzoNobel NV 2019.

Axalta invests in bonding capabilities for metallic-effect powder coatings

Axalta has strengthened its position in the global powder market by investing in bonding capabilities for metallic effect powder coatings. The investment will enhance Axalta's new bonding production line in Landshut, Germany, and the upgrade of bonding equipment and capabilities in Houston, TX, US and Shanghai, China to enable customers to purchase best-in-class metallic effect powder coatings more easily from Axalta's locations worldwide. Metallic effect powder coatings are widely used in the architectural, automotive, home appliance, and furniture markets; and grow at about 10% annually. Bonded metallic products offer many benefits such as higher