

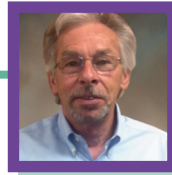
# NEWS & briefs



DR. LU LU



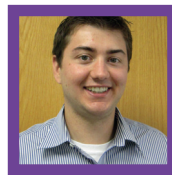
FRED ALLEN



JEFF RAND



STEVE BEDNARZ



CHRIS EONTA

## APPOINTMENTS

Don Walsh, director of operations for **Uyemura, USA**, has announced three strategic additions to the company's professional staff: **Chris Eonta** has been named director of business development for Northern California, Idaho and Utah. Eonta is a chemical engineer who has worked both in international sales and with plasma systems. The latter is of heightened relevance in light of Uyemura's just-announced partnership with Europlasma to bring low-pressure nano-coating plasma technology to North America.

**Steve Bednarz** has joined Uyemura as technical representative for Arizona. Bednarz has years of experience servicing and troubleshooting systems that use chemistries from Enthone, MacDermid, and Shipley Ronal. He also served as a MacDermid senior application specialist, with responsibility for on-site U.S. customer technical support.

**Jeff Rand** has joined Uyemura as West Coast technical sales representative, with responsibility for Southern California, Arizona and Nevada. He began his career at Photocircuits Corp., and brings to the position years of experience with OMG and Dow Chemical's PCB Division. Rand also worked for a manufacturer of photoimaging products for the PCB and chemical milling industries. He is a longtime member of IPC.

**Technic** has hired **Dr. Lu Lu** to lead the development of innovative products, including precious metal powders and flakes. Dr. Lu earned her Ph.D. in Chemistry from Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y. While at Clarkson, she worked on a number of projects related to synthesis, characterization and modification of metal particles under the tutelage of Clarkson's Center for Advanced Materials Processing. Dr. Lu's most notable

project, while at Clarkson, was the development of silver and gold powders for electronic and biomedical applications.

"Technic's Engineered Powders Division is poised for significant and sustained growth in the foreseeable future," said Ionel Halaciuga, Ph.D., research and development director, Technic Engineered Powders Division. "Dr. Lu's technical expertise will ensure that we fully realize that potential by offering customers the highest quality products and most innovative engineered powders and flakes."

Dr. Lu has published a number of articles in peer-reviewed journals, and she has been listed as a co-inventor on several patent applications. Dr. Lu also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Analytical Chemistry from Zhejiang University of Technology, Hangzhou, China.

**Fred Allen** has joined **Axalta Coating Systems** as global technology director for its powder coatings business. In this newly created role, Dr. Allen will focus on developing and implementing global strategies for powder technology to meet customer needs worldwide. Dr. Allen comes to Axalta from NEI Corporation, where he led the Corrosion Technologies Group.

"Building on our broad range of powder coating technologies and products for protection and decoration purposes, Dr. Allen will drive further innovation that will enable us to meet the demands of our customers," said Panos Kordomenos, senior vice president & chief technology officer, Axalta Coating Systems.

Dr. Allen holds 17 patents and has published more than 20 technical publications about materials and coatings. He has received industry recognition for his work on advanced catalytic materials, functional coatings and electrochemical systems. He received

his Ph.D. in materials science and surface chemistry from Harvard University. He will be based in Houston.

## MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

**Platinum Equity** recently acquired **MetoKote Corporation**, a provider of industrial metal coating services, from CCMP Capital Partners LLC. Terms of the transaction, finalized on Oct. 1, were not disclosed.

Jeff Oravitz, MetoKote president and CEO, will continue to lead the company under new ownership. Moreover, the company will continue to operate under the MetoKote brand. "We are excited about the transition to new ownership and look forward to working with the Platinum Equity team to continue growing our business by providing customers with best-in-class coatings services," Oravitz said. "MetoKote will benefit from Platinum's expertise working with portfolio companies to create value and generate opportunities for growth. The MetoKote team can also benefit from Platinum's international reach and experience working with global companies."

Platinum Equity has extensive experience in industrial services and working with automotive OEMs and heavy equipment manufacturers. The firm's current portfolio includes Tier-1 automotive suppliers Acument and Chassis; Neovia Logistics, a global provider of complex supply chain and logistics solutions serving automotive and other industries; and Active Aero, a provider of expedited transportation and logistics solutions serving manufacturing, industrial and automotive customers.

**Platform Acquisition Holdings Ltd** announced plans to acquire privately held specialty chemicals maker **MacDermid, Inc.** for about \$1.8 billion, according to news reports from *The Wall Street Journal* and Reuters.

On Oct. 9, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that Platform Acquisition Holdings Ltd., founded by Jarden Corporation chairman Martin Franklin, was in advanced talks to buy MacDermid. (Platform is a shell company created by Franklin and billionaire Nicolas Berggruen for making acquisitions.) If completed, the acquisition will constitute a reverse takeover, Platform Acquisition said in a statement.

In essence, Platform Acquisition Holdings will be renamed Platform Specialty Products Corp. following its purchase of MacDermid. After the deal closes, which is expected by the end of the year, U.K.-based Platform Specialty Products will move its headquarters to the U.S. and its listing to the New York Stock Exchange.

According to a statement released by Platform Acquisition Holdings, MacDermid's chairman and CEO, Daniel Leever, will be named the CEO of the new company. Meanwhile, Frank Monteiro, MacDermid's chief financial officer, will become the CFO of Platform Specialty Products.

MacDermid will continue to be operated as a stand-alone business by its existing management team under the Platform Specialty Products Corp. umbrella, documents show. At closing, Platform Specialty Products Corp. intends to change the composition of its board in anticipation of its move from the London Stock Exchange to the New York Stock Exchange. The reconstituted board of directors, according to documents, will consist of a "deep bench of talent" with expertise and experience in building best-in-class public companies and positioning them for success.

"As we look to build a portfolio of market-leading specialty chemicals

businesses, MacDermid is a natural choice to serve as the initial investment and foundation for Platform Specialty Products," Franklin said. "MacDermid's heritage and market presence make it a leader within the sector, and this transaction will provide the company with the tools and resources necessary to reach the next level of success."

Franklin went on to say that Platform Specialty Products will maintain and respect the integrity of the seasoned and skilled management team

as well as the MacDermid brand, products and operations, "which have achieved consistent and impressive growth. We look forward to this being a successful, long-term partnership and are confident that this transaction will be the first of many milestones we will achieve together."

MacDermid's Leever concurred. "I'm delighted that MacDermid has found a permanent home from which we can achieve our long-term vision of being a leading global specialty chemicals company. Our business is character-

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