

First Firing

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PEI continues to work along with Sears to help inform and educate their sales personnel on the features and benefits of the porcelain enamel finish for major appliances.

2006 Sears DealerFest

For 2006 the Sears DealerFest was slightly down in the number of store owner/operators in attendance, but those who were at the two day event in Las Vegas were as enthusiastic and involved as ever in the search for information on all of the new products and services. The training sessions were full of presentations on the new models and how to explain and sell them to the consumer.

PEI was again well represented by Jeff Wright (Ferro Corporation), Bill Ganzer (Mapes and Sprowl Steel), Keith Burkett (Pemco Corporation) and Cullen Hackler (PEI) as we worked in the Whirlpool booth to answer questions and explain the value of porcelain enameled products. We had particular interest in the PEI literature listing the features and benefits of porcelain enamel for major appliances; next PEI will work with Sears on ways we can get this information into the hands of all appliance sales people in the dealer stores. PEI participation was again valuable for both the DealerFest attendees (who learned more about P/E) and the Institute representatives (who gained a better insight into the retail sales world).

Herding Filtration LLC New Member

We welcome another new PEI member company, Herding Filtration LLC and their parent, Herding Filtertechnik GmbH, and look forward to their active participation in PEI events and activities in the years ahead. The US office of Herding Filtration LLC is located at 5479 Perry Drive, Suite D, Waterford, Michigan 48348. The company representative is Mr. Christophe Vanoplinus, General Manager.

In 1977 Walter Herding established the Herding GmbH enterprise in Amberg, Germany. In the beginning, it was cloth and needle felt filters which were produced for mining and rock processing. However, in 1978 the idea to create an alternative, using sintered plastics, was developed and thus, in 1981 & 1982, the Herding sinter plate filter was born. This invention, the sinter plate filter element with patents all over the world, revolutionized the status of the filter technology and formed the basis for the expansion and the success of Herding Filtertechnik. Today they are a worldwide operating enterprise with 145 employees at the headquarters in Amberg and various affiliates all over Germany, plus the companies in Belgium, China, the Czech Republic, France, The Netherlands, Switzerland, the United States, and further co-operation partners worldwide.

Please welcome Christophe and Herding Filtration LLC as our newest member.

Nanotechnology Regulation and Safety

How long will it be before we start to see Nanotech materials in our porcelain enamel markets and products? Nanotechnology is a growing segment of the world of materials and manufacturing. While it will certainly have a growing influence on our lives in the next few years, the government is beginning to explore both regulation and safety.

The Woodrow Wilson International Center has released a report by Terry Davies, former Asst. Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, which calls for a new regulatory approach to nanotechnology. David Rejeski, Director of the Wilson Center's Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies, said, that "If nanotechnology is to succeed, there needs to be a dialogue around the proactive approach Davies suggests. Government, business and citizen groups need to exchange views and discuss options to assure the American public that as nanotechnology matures, any adverse health and environmental effects will be identified and prevented or controlled." Davies' report concludes that nanotechnology is difficult to address using existing regulations such as OSHA, FDA, and major environmental laws such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Therefore, a new law may be required to manage potential risks of nanotechnology. The law would require manufacturers to submit a sustainability plan which would show that the nanotech product will not present an "unacceptable" risk. Davies acknowledges that "the political obstacles to passing new legislation are very large." The report also describes several mechanisms to encourage beneficial applications of nanotechnology, including research, tax breaks, acquisition programs, and regulatory incentives. It then outlines institutional

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2005—06 PEI Calendar

Event	Date	Location
NARDA Convention	Feb. 14 & 15	Las Vegas
KBIS Show	Apr. 21—23	Chicago
2006 Tech Forum	May 15—18	Nashville
Board of Directors	May 16	Nashville
Intl. Con. on Ceramics	June 25—29	Toronto
Mexican Tech Forum	August (TBA)	San Luis Potosi

Nanotech — continued

needs in four areas: international harmonization, foresight capability, research on adverse health and environmental effects, and public participation. The report is available for downloading at (www.wilsoncenter.org/events/docs/EffectsNanotechFINAL.pdf).

In addition, the safety issues are to be assessed. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is forming an interdisciplinary field team of researchers to partner with employers and others in conducting field studies to observe and assess occupational health and safety practices in facilities where nanotechnology processes and applications are used. The field team will assess and obtain insight on materials, processes, current and potential worker exposure, work practices, control procedures, and medical monitoring in operations where nanomaterials are developed or utilized. The findings will be used to update "Approaches to Safe Nanotechnology" periodically, an interim guidance document which can be viewed online at (www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/nanotech).

Going forward this entire field of nanomaterials and manufacturing is going to have a real impact on many products, businesses and industries. It is sure that nanomaterials and processing will find their way into traditional porcelain enamel products, processes and technology—as an enabling technology to make better end products. The traditional porcelain enamel industry is going to be challenged by the new developments. Additionally, we will be challenged to find new and creative ways to adopt and incorporate nanotechnology into porcelain enamel materials, products and processes advantageously. The world of nanotech will surely create an opportunity for porcelain enamel suppliers to develop improved materials, process chemicals and technologies. In turn, nanotech will help manufacturers of durable goods develop and produce dramatically improved products for the consumer.

It is going to be a real challenge to the P/E industry, but we need to meet this proactively so we are involved in finding early solutions rather than struggling for ways to catch-up.

Questions or comments?

E-mail penamel@aol.com

Phone 770-281-8980

Fax 770-281-8981

First Firing Staff

Editor: Cullen Hackler

Proofreading: Barbie Hackler

2006 Tech Forum

The planning committee is hard at work to put the finishing touches on the 2006 technical program for the 68th edition of PEI's Technical Forum. In addition we will conduct the 21st Back-to-Basics workshop and the 16th Suppliers' Mart all at the downtown Doubletree Hotel in Nashville, TN from May 15—18, 2006. The early information brochure has been mailed twice, in early December and January; the advance program with titles, authors and abstracts will follow in March. While still being finalized, the technical program for 2006 looks to be one of the best we have had in a number of years – we are sure each of you will find several papers and presentation of real value for you and your business.

In addition, The Suppliers' Mart will again provide the opportunity to talk with a number of suppliers of materials, equipment and technology for the porcelain enameling industry. This event also offers the chance to meet and network with many experts in the overall world of porcelain enameling—you can often get new ideas to help solve design or production problems from many of your P/E Industry colleagues. The Suppliers' Mart is conducted for two and a half hours each evening in a relaxed and informal setting which includes light snacks and refreshments, courtesy of our various suppliers.

For the 21st year, PEI will offer the Back-to-Basics Workshop on Tuesday May 16, 2006. This is a seminar on the fundamentals of porcelain enameling from A to Z presented by a faculty of 6—7 experts from all facets of the porcelain enameling industry. Not only do they give presentations, but they are also available to answer your specific questions; additionally, there is an opportunity to bring actual problem parts from your plant for discussion, evaluation and suggestions. The 2006 PEI Technical Forum will be a great three days in Nashville, filled with information on the latest developments in the world of porcelain enameling. As you see the following members of the planning committee, please thank them for their efforts to make the Forum so successful.

Chairman - Holger Evele (Ferro), Vice Chairman - Peter Vodak (ESP), Jim Carleton (Consultant), Peter Dority (Coral), Phil Flasher (ITW-Gema), Doug Giese (GE), David Herrera (Rheem), Mike Horton (KMI), Steve Kilczewski (Pemco), Mike Koenigstein (Roesch), Kara Kopplin (QTEC), Ken Kreeger (Nordson), David Latimer (Whirlpool), Erik Miller (Maytag), Warren Norton (Dofasco), Liam O'Byrne (O'Byrne Consulting), Tim Scott (Henkel), Lester Smith (Porcelain Consultants), Larry Steele (Mapes & Sprowl), Dave Thomas (Am. Trim), Jack Waggener (URS), Mike Wilczynski (A O Smith), Ted Wolowicz (Electrolux), Jeff Wright (Ferro) and Miles Votava (Ferro)