Itac order enquiries recently hit £1,000,000 mark

A great start for 2019

What's coming down the pipeline? In Itac's case it currently looks like plenty. A conservative estimate puts potential orders at at least a million pounds. Here's an idea of what's to come.

Talking of pipelines, one Itac customer knows all too well just how difficult it is to pump cold chemicals thick and fast along industrial steel pipes. The problem is coagulation. The way to reduce the viscosity is to elevate the temperature to over 500ºC. In order to superheat the chemicals to those temperatures, the pipes themselves need protection to avoid the metal rusting and corroding. Itac is actively developing a coating to meet these extreme demands. Once tests are complete this business should start flowing in. Another bluechip customer involved with security printing would like to improve and shorten its supply chain by sourcing a specialist coating from closer to home. Itac's confidential compounding facilities should provide the perfect solution.

For the construction industry, Itac is currently developing a coating for cladding with improved flame retardancy, to be marketed by its Delvemade division. It's just as well Itac's team are keen and lean with all the flexibility and capacity within their new factory to manage the demand for increased output.

BREXIT - let's not come unstuck

During BREXIT, Itac will be doing everything in its power to avoid any disruption in supply. The vast majority of Itac products are made to order. Due to shelf life issues and sensible economics the business orders many specific raw materials as and when required. Itac expectations are that this process may take longer than normal as the BREXIT date of 29th March 2019 approaches and beyond.

During this period, Itac wishes to encourage all its customers to plan carefully the timing of any forthcoming orders - in particular any “time critical” orders that are needed and consider giving additional notice of these requirements to help it effectively source materials required.

Matt Bishop to spearhead Sharman's Seamsil and Delcote Sales Team

Switchable adhesives, which can be turned on and off with various mechanisms such as heat have been around for some time. In July 2017 in ITS News, issue 19, we reported on a medical application adhesive produced by Itac for Lumina Adhesives, which can be switched off by UV light.

Now a team at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in Germany, has developed a removable and reversible adhesive that makes it possible to easily and clearly take high-tech products such as mobile phones apart into their separate raw materials. Recycling electrical scrap back into its raw materials saves resources. The European Union is currently promoting a recycling economy that preserves products, materials and resources for as long as possible. The UK is expected to follow the same guidelines even after Brexit. The service life of many electrical appliances is decreasing. A smartphone is now likely to be phased out after one to two years. However, recycling it professionally and without residues remains a major challenge.

In commercial joining applications, adhesive bonding is increasingly replacing welding, riveting or screwing. Adhesives are not only simpler and more cost effective to apply, they also reduce the total weight and fulfill additional functions such as insulation or dampening. In the past the disadvantage was that once they had cured, the connections could only be loosened again with a great deal of time or energy. If a bonded product was dismantled for repair or recycling, it would often result in the damage or destruction of individual components.

The new thermo-labile adhesive developed at KIT can solve this problem. Stable at room temperature, it can be degraded precisely, quickly and at comparatively low temperatures. Once the process is finished, this is immediately apparent because the corresponding spot is coloured. For this “debonding on demand” (DoD), the formulators have built predetermined breaking points into the network of long-chain polymer molecules that make up a typical adhesive.

At these points, even at moderate temperatures below 100 degrees Celsius, the chemical compounds open again and the adhesive dissolves. Its composition and the exact temperature required for the release can be adapted as required.

The smart adhesive was originally developed for dental technology to help gently remove bonded crowns or clasps. It could be utilised in a wide range of applications. In addition to electronics, many production applications are conceivable, for example to temporarily fix materials on a workbench or on construction sites, or to remove industrial dowels. The adhesive will now be further developed for commercial use.

UPCOMING EVENTS

• Gastropack 2019 - Bratislava 24 - 27 January 2019 - Slovenia
• In-Adhesives (Symposium on Innovations in Adhesives and their Applications) - Munich 25 - 26 February 2019 - Germany
• Middle East Coatings Show 2019 26 - 28 Feb. 2019 - Dubai
• ECS 2019 - Nuremberg 19 - 21 March 2019 - Germany
• Expo-Surface 2019 - Kielce 26 - 28 March 2019 - Poland
• RCI 2019 - Coventry 27 - 29 March 2019 - UK
• Adhesive Coating & Film System Fair 27 - 29 March 2019 - Incheon, Korea
• Techtextil - Frankfurt 14 - 17 May 2019