

From the Editor

Tony van der Spuy



More than three years have slipped by since SAMFA took the decision to produce a Technical Handbook and Buyers Guide for the use of anyone who has an interest in the metal finishing industry in South Africa. The first edition in 2008 more than fulfilled its promise and became a sought after publication for which the association continues to receive regular requests. It has been my privilege to update the original publication with this 2011 version. Like its predecessor, we look forward to it having a shelf life of many years.

This book is a combination of original content, that in many cases has been updated, as well as some fresh material.


Managing this, at times daunting, project has brought me into contact with scores of individuals who either make their living in this industry, or are dependent on it for the manufacture of their own products. Taking it on again after a three year interval makes one realise just how the landscape changes over that short period of time, and how technology continues to develop. Certainly green technologies continue to develop apace, and attract the most attention.

It would not have been possible to undertake this task without massive support from all sides both financial and otherwise. As before we have had input from the overseas associations with whom we enjoy reciprocal relationships, the Surface Engineering Association UK and the British Institute of Metal Finishing. Local associations that have assisted are the Aluminium Federation of South Africa [AFSA] and the Hot Dip Galvanizers Association of Southern Africa. [HDGASA] We also rely on technical advice from industry veterans that includes suppliers of consumables, plant and equipment into the industry as well as commercial jobbing shops and others. There are too many to mention individually in this short editor's introduction.

However, without financial support from advertisers, this publication would not be in your hands today. For this we thank each individual, irrespective of the size of their contribution for helping to make this happen. I sincerely hope that you are pleased with the outcome of what has now been six months of preparation.

In particular we must accord recognition to those companies that paid for their own corporate sections, with some contributing editorial as well. These companies deserve special mention, and they are: Applied Coating Technologies, Astro Holdings, Atotech UK, ChemSystems Metal Chemicals, E. S. Mowat & Sons, Krome Metal Chemicals, Metalchem, Metalquip and the VJL Group of Companies.

We must also put in a word for SAMFA and its members. Without the national backbone of our members in all provinces, there would be no publications like this, nor indeed the training programmes or the metal finishing expos that we manage. If you are not a member, please consider becoming one. It is the unity of our members that gives us strength.

Thank you once again, everyone. I look forward to your comments. Do let me know of anything that we can do to further improve. We're just a phone call or an email away, or drop a comment on our web site as www.samfa.org.za. 

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