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1. Changes at Board Level



After 36 successful years of voluntary service to the GSB International, Hans-Jürgen Alfort resigned from his position as Chairman of the GSB Board and was appointed Honorary Chairman. The Board unanimously elected Mr. Willem Beljaars as the new Chairman of the GSB International, Düsseldorf.

As Managing Director of the Weert Groep NL, Willem Beljaars heads up this company with Steel and Aluminium Galvanising operations in the Netherlands and Belgium in the third generation. He has been a Member of the GSB International since the mid-nineties and a Member of the Board as Chairman of the Technical Commission Steel since 2009.

2. Retirement of Mr. Alfort

Mr. Alfort retired as Chairman of the Board on the occasion of the General Assembly. A special tribute was being paid by Honorary Chairman of the Board Harald Knufinke.



and Dr. Axel Blecher, Honorary Chairman of the Technical Commission.



Mr. Knufinke presented Mr. Alfort with the special certificate to confirm his appointment as Honorary Chairman of the GSB International.

3. General Assembly 2013 in Vienna

Over 120 delegates from all over Europe attended the 19th General Assembly in Vienna, starting with sightseeing visits to Vienna and Bratislava which were of much interest.

Evening Events

As part of the evening program Friedrich Brökelmann, President of the General Aluminium Industry Association and KR Ing. Hubert Culik MAS, President of the Austrian Research Institute (ÖFI) and Austrian Lacquer Association addressed the delegates.



Lecture Program

Before lunch delegates enjoyed a well received lecture program on a number of topical subjects.

- **Is there no recovery in sight for European Aluminium and Construction markets?**



Dr. Andreas Postler, GDA e. V., Düsseldorf, Germany.

- **Sustainable Building – A Challenge for Coaters and Material Suppliers**



Dipl.-Ing. Johannes Kreißig, PE International AG, Leinfelden-Echterdingen, Germany.

- **Nano-Regulation – Champagne or Sparkling Water?**



Dr. Dietmar Eichstädt, Managing Director and Head of the German Association for Lacquers and Printing Ink e. V., Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

- **European Crisis and Measures to cope**



Mag. Franz Nauschnigg, Head of the Department for European Affairs and International Finance Organisations, Austrian National Bank, Vienna, Austria.

Copies of individual lectures are available from the GSB Head Office upon request.

Members' General Assembly

Board Report

Chairman of the Board, Hans-Jürgen Alfort reported to the internal Members' Assembly on two eventful years of business under the headline of:

-GSB International- Think Tank For Excellence in Surface Technology

Following the Head Office relocation from Schwäbisch Gmünd to Düsseldorf, processes were re-defined and the Quality Regulations were reviewed and restructured. Numerous events and participation in exhibitions all over Europe served to promote and further spread the message of high quality standards. Over the coming years, the GSB intends to build country specific resources to further strengthen its position within Europe.

Since its conception in 1976 the GSB has been and shall continue to be a pioneer in the quality assurance of coated Aluminium through innovation, discovery and realisation of future developments. In September 2017 the curtain will finally fall on chromating processes and the transition will no doubt pose a considerable challenge for coaters over the coming years. As a result of research and development projects started over 15 years ago on quality standards and the licensing of Chromium free surface pretreatment processes, GSB Members already have alternative systems at their disposal which have been proven to produce qualitatively comparable as well as commercially viable results. The GSB additionally supports its members during the transition period with a comprehensive range of specific training courses and documentation.

For over 30 years, the GSB International has proved itself as a reliable partner to architects, metal construction companies, material suppliers and coaters. Worldwide the GSB remains the first Quality Association for coated Steel and Aluminium piecework used in the building industry with its ongoing objective to protect the quality assured coating of architectural Aluminium and Steel and to further develop quality standards in line with the latest advances in technology.

Reports of the Technical Commissions

The Chairmen of the Technical Commissions Mr. Bernd Kassing, TC Aluminium,



and Mr. Willem Beljaars, TC Steel,



reported on the activities, research and development projects in their relevant sectors.

The following focus topics were discussed at the TC meetings:

- Assessment of coater tests
- Evaluation of temperature graphs
- Assessment of system tests
- Licensing of alternative pretreatment systems

- Test processes and records
- Review of the pre-anodising check list for routine testing
- Revision of GSB-Info / Data Sheets
- Maintaining the list of the most popular colour groups („Trend Colours“)

Alongside the further development of the Steel sector, the transition to Chromium free surface pretreatment systems by September 2017 has been a focal point. Compared to the advances made in the Aluminium sector, valuable experience is somewhat lacking in the galvanised Steel sector where more research and development work is required.

Working with both Technical Commissions, the QR GSB AL 631 and QR GSB ST 663 were revised and harmonised to facilitate the alignment of processes, where feasible. Only material specific requirements have remained exclusive to the relevant sectors.



Board and Management Committees (left to right):
Uwe Kratz, Werner Hillebrand, Petros Goulas, Bernd Kassing, Dr. Axel Blecher, Harald Knufinke, Willem Beljaars, Hans-Jürgen Alfort, Thomas Knoll, Ignacio Lloret and Werner Mader.

Sponsors

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those members, who contributed as sponsors to the success of the General Assembly of the GSB International. Our sponsors are listed below in alphabetical order:

- AkzoNobel Powder Coatings GmbH, Arnberg, Germany
- Alufinish GmbH & Co. KG, Andernach, Germany
- Chemetall GmbH, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
- GDA Gesamtverband der Aluminiumindustrie e. V., Düsseldorf, Germany
- Henkel AG & Co. KGaA, Düsseldorf, Germany

- IGP Pulvertechnik Deutschland GmbH, Landshut, Germany
- Inver GmbH, Essenbach-Altheim, Germany
- NABU-Oberflächentechnik GmbH, Stulln-Nabburg, Germany
- ofi Technologie & Innovation GmbH, Vienna, Austria
- Rudolf Hillebrand GmbH & Co. KG, Wickede, Germany
- Schüco International KG, Bielefeld, Germany
- Tiger Coatings GmbH & Co. KG, Wels, Austria
- Weinisch GmbH & Co. KG, Oberviechtal, Germany

A few more photos of the meeting in Vienna:





4. Co-operation partners in Switzerland

A co-operation agreement was entered into with Mr Menet, Me-Network, Zürich (www.me-network.ch) to represent the GSB in Switzerland alongside his duties as Managing Director of the Swiss Aluminium Association (www.alu.ch) and his work for other Swiss Associations.



5. From the work of the Technical Commission

- **New QR AL 631 and ST 663**

The General Assembly approved all changes to the Quality Regulations. The final version will be circulated in due course and will be effective within a period of 4 weeks.

- **Q-Lab Test Sheets**

According to information released by the FEM test sheets produced by the company Q-Lab are made from band pretreated Aluminium which limits their suitability for coating material tests.

- **Pretreatment of test sheets for material testing**

From 2014 alternative pretreatments will be used for licensing purposes of coated Aluminium. Extension tests will continue to be carried out on chromated sheets.

- **Labelling Controls**

Checks to ensure that the labels of the chemicals and coating materials ordered corresponds to the labeling of consignments must be covered as part of the internal control process.

6. Valspar takeover of Inver

The Valspar Corporation (NYSE:VAL) are a leading manufacturer and supplier of colours and lacquers and announced their agreement to take over Inver Holding S.r.l. (Inver Group) as one of the top suppliers of industrial coatings in Europe. The transaction is said to be completed by Q4/2013 and is subject to approval by the relevant authorities as well as standard terms and conditions. Financial arrangements were not publicised.

7. Changes in Ownership

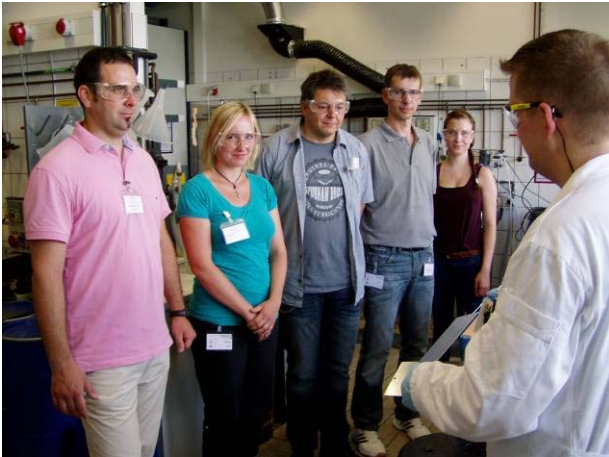
All members are duty bound to advise the GSB Head Office of any changes in ownership.

8. GSB Training Courses 2013

The first training course took place at the beginning of June at Chemetall in Frankfurt focusing on surface pretreatment.

The course attracted 21 delegates and covered both practical and theory sessions, with the practical focus on following subjects:

- Using titration to control the pre-treatment process
- Using photometry to categorise conversion layers
- Gravimetric evaluation of stain removal and conversion layer weight
- Using the scanning electron microscope in surface analysis



Individual chromium free pretreatment systems were covered as part of the theory session, which was supported by detailed discussions concerning the implications of adapting existing plants and processes with practical examples.



We would like to thank Chemetall for supporting this training course.

A further training course is scheduled from

November 04th – 06th, 2013

The course content, detailed time table and venue will be circulated in due course.

9. Aluminium-21/Coatings in St. Petersburg

The 2nd International conference and exhibition „Aluminium-21/Coatings“ took place in St. Petersburg, Russia, from June 25th – 27th, 2013. Mr. Weigl, company Piesslinger, and Mr. Mader actively represented the GSB at this event. Mr. Weigl delivered a presentation on „Cleaning of Powder Coated Aluminium Surfaces – Examination by a GSB-Premium Coater“, which was very well received.

The GSB also attended the event with a view to consolidating existing contacts in the Russian market and introduce as well as promote the Quality Label to a wider audience.

10. Aluminium 2014, Düsseldorf October 07th - 09th, 2014

The Aluminium 2014 will once again see a stand jointly operated by the VOA and the GSB under the banner of „Competence Centre Surface Treatment (CCST)“ targeting the following key objectives:

- Continuation and development of the CCST
- Alleviate space restrictions at the joint stand through separating the information area from the stand
- Encourage participation of members, particularly amongst smaller companies with a new stand design exclusive to GSB and VOA members
- Improve the organisation, integration design and communication of the presentation and special event areas

11. Membership Development

We are delighted to welcome the following companies as newly licensed members:

CIN Industria, Portugal
Atotech, USA
Verpan Kourtoglou, Greece

12. Banner and photographic advertising on the GSB-Website

Members have the opportunity of promoting their services on the GSB homepage, depending on available capacity. Company logos are required in jpeg format. Advertising costs are 150.00 € for a period of 3 months.

13. GSB-Dates and Events

September 16th, 2013

Meeting of the Technical Commission Steel in Düsseldorf, Germany

September 30th / October 01st, 2013

Meeting of the Technical Commission Aluminium in Düsseldorf, Germany

October 02nd, 2013

Board Meeting in Düsseldorf, Germany

November 04th – 06th, 2013

Training Course.

Course content, time table and venue will be circulated in due course.

If you are interested please contact the head office.

14. Events

September 17th, 2013

Aluminium Extrusion Press Profile Technology (GDA seminar) in Düsseldorf, Germany

September 24th – 27th, 2013

ESTAL Congress in Krakow, Poland

October 10th – 11th, 2013

Aluminium and its alloys – an introduction for technical and sales personnel (GDA seminar) in Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Germany

November 13th – 14th, 2013

Surface pretreatment of Aluminium (GDA seminar) in Düsseldorf, Germany

November 25th – 26th, 2013

European Aluminium Congress (congress under the patronage of the GDA) in Düsseldorf, Germany

October 07th - 09th, 2014

Aluminium 2014, Düsseldorf, Germany,
10th Exhibition and Congress

15. Material- and Members Listings

The new GSB International homepage has been online since June. The above listings, which thus far had been attached to the news circulation, can now be downloaded from the homepage. Listings are reviewed and updated at the end of each month to show any changes.