

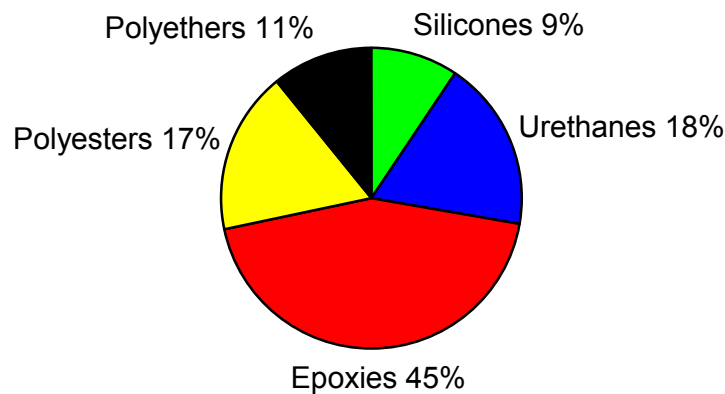
NEW FROM IAL CONSULTANTS

AN OVERVIEW OF THE GLOBAL RADIATION CURING MARKET

IAL Consultants is pleased to announce the availability of the second edition of its publication, *An Overview of the Global Radiation Curing Market*.

The world market for radiation-curable raw materials in 2002 amounted to 195,300 tonnes, with acrylated oligomers and diluents being the largest sector at 40% of the market, or 78,500 tonnes. After epoxy types, urethane acrylates are the second largest segment of the acrylated oligomers market, as seen from the chart:

Global Market for Acrylated Oligomers and Diluents by Volume, 2002 (%)



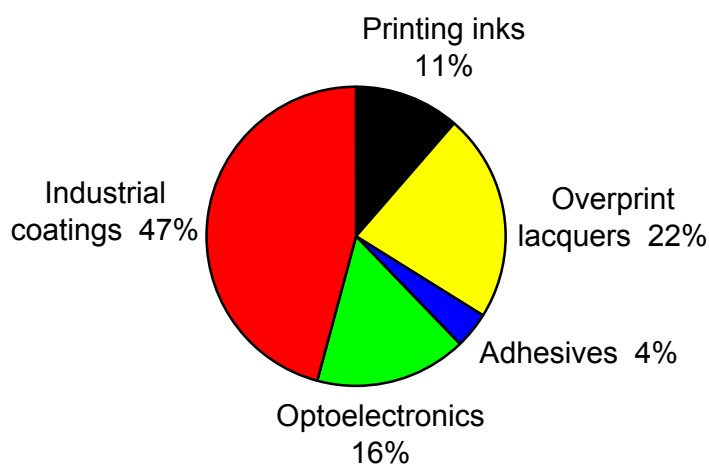
Source: IAL Consultants

The global market for radiation-curable raw materials of all types will grow by an average of 4.8% pa to reach 246,400 tonnes by 2007.

When the five main market sectors (industrial coatings, printing inks, overprint lacquers, optoelectronics and adhesives) are considered on a global basis, the following relative strengths emerge:

- The markets for radiation-curable printing inks and overprint lacquers is largest in the Americas, but consumption of radiation-cured products by the opto-electronics sector is largest in the Asia-Pacific region
- Industrial coatings is the biggest single market in each of the three regions, but is more dominant in Europe and the Middle East
- Europe dominates the radiation-curable adhesives market

Global Market for Radiation Curing Products by Type, 2002 (%)



Source: IAL Consultants

The world market for radiation-curable products will grow from 243,600 tonnes in 2002 to 323,100 tonnes in 2007.

Important factors in the future development of the radcure markets include:

- Opportunities for Western European formulators in the inks and wood coatings sectors in the Eastern European markets
- The rise of the printing and packaging converting sectors in the larger Eastern European countries, such as Poland and Hungary
- Increased uptake of UV inks in Russia, especially for flexible packaging
- Potential for UV digital printing, especially in the USA and Northern Asia
- Opportunities in labelling for product resistance and transparency
- Increasing popularity of wooden flooring in Japan, Taiwan and Korea
- Continued use of UV-cured protective coatings and adhesives for CDs and DVDs and associated demand from the next generation of Blu-Ray discs
- China becoming the dominant market in the Asia-Pacific region for UV coatings by 2007
- Considerable interest in the development of UV hot-melt adhesives
- Recovery of the South American markets

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Dr Bill Hardy, Director of Chemical Market Research at IAL Consultants and author of the report, said of the global radcure sector: "There will be slow but steady growth in the Europe and Middle Eastern region, while the North American market will continue to fluctuate. In the Asia-Pacific region, China will challenge Japan in the North Asian markets."

The contents of the *An Overview of the Global Radiation Curing Market* are:

1. Introduction
2. Executive Summary
3. Global Market for Radiation Curing Raw Materials
4. Global Market for Radiation Curing Products
5. Electron Beam (EB) Systems
6. Market for Radiation (UV/EB) Curing Equipment
7. Market Factors
8. Suppliers of Radiation Curing Materials (Raw Materials and Formulated Products)
9. Suppliers of Radiation Curing Equipment
10. Sources of Information

An Overview of the Global Radiation Curing Market 2002-2007, which contains in its 249 pages some 128 tables, is available from IAL Consultants, price \$2,500.

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