

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CHINESE RADIATION CURING MARKET - 2004

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Continued rapid growth in the Chinese radcure market, fuelled by increased demand in consumer packaging, electronic and electrical manufacturing, the building and construction industry, has seen the production level reach around 90,000 tonnes in 2004, for both raw materials and formulated products. The sector has also been given an added impetus by the Chinese government classifying UV/EB technology as environmentally friendly, so making it eligible for use in the manufacture of products for Olympic 2008 projects.

However the severe price competition initiated by China-based raw material manufacturers, plus increased starting material costs, e.g. prices for acrylic acid and other materials have increased three times in the last year, have led to a dramatic reduction of profit margins. This in turn has resulted in a major consolidation in the industry, in 2004.

These are some of the findings of IAL's first dedicated report on the Chinese radcure market.

The report highlights the main economic and legal factors influencing the Chinese market at the present time and includes some of the main areas of opportunity for radcure technology over the next five years. A special feature of this report are the company profiles on 50 leading Chinese manufacturers, covering all main areas of the industry.

Chinese manufacturers are strong in the lower quality/commodity end of the market but are still dependent on foreign technology in the high value-added sectors, e.g. opto-electronics. Nevertheless Chinese manufacturers are beginning to make significant progress in developing their own technologies, as can be seen from the increasing number of patents filed by Chinese manufacturers, and end-use sectors (glass, stone and textiles).

The overview also contains an extensive directory listing the contact details of raw material suppliers and formulators of radcure products active in the Chinese market.

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The information for this report has been compiled from an extensive programme of telephone discussions with high-level respondents, undertaken by IAL's China research team, across all sectors of the industry throughout China.

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