

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE EUROPEAN RADIATION CURING MARKET

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IAL Consultants has updated its successful technical and marketing overview of the European radcure industry, first published in 1990. The market is analysed in terms of raw materials, formulated products, areas of application and equipment, with market estimates for 2000 and forecasts for 2005 by country. The report covers 14 EU countries plus Norway and Switzerland.

Raw materials are discussed for both free-radical and cationic systems in terms of monomers, oligomers, vinyl ethers, epoxies and photoinitiators, the latter including benzophenones, thioxanthenes (CPTX, ITX), amine synergists, alpha-hydroxyketones, BDK and phosphine oxides.

The European radcure market is broadly subdivided by volume as follows:

- Industrial coatings – 50%
- Overprint lacquers – 25%
- Printing inks – 15%
- Others (including adhesives) – 10%

Estimates for both acrylic and non-acrylic systems are included; coverage of the end-use sectors is discussed in terms of:

- **Graphic arts** (printing inks, plates & overprint lacquers)
- **Industrial coatings** (wood, plastic, metal & others)
- **Opto-electronics** (photoresists, optical fibres & LCD)
- **Adhesives** (structural, laminated, & PSA)

## Market Trends and Influences

- ❑ DVD production has rapidly become the major market for UV structural adhesives and will continue to grow at over 30% pa;
- ❑ The use of UV adhesives in smart card production is one of the potential growth markets in this sector;
- ❑ Industrial coatings are being advanced by combining UV systems with other technologies;
- ❑ UV flexographic ink is the main area of growth in Europe for the graphic arts. UV screen ink stands to suffer as a result of the growth in digital printing.

The equipment section encompasses the market size and leading suppliers and is grouped according to three main sectors:

- UV equipment
- Electron beam (EB) systems
- Stereolithography

## Future Developments for the Industry

As well as discussing the established markets for radcure formulations, the report also considers areas of application which offer growth potential in addition to technology improvements that are anticipated by the formulators.

This report provides a detailed picture of the radiation curing market for those in it and those considering entry to it. The information has been compiled from an extensive programme of visits and telephone discussions with high-level respondents drawn from all sectors of the industry.

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