

PRESS RELEASE

AN OVERVIEW OF THE EUROPEAN RADIATION CURING MARKET

IAL Consultants has brought together the latest information available on the European radiation curing market. The report draws on the extensive database which IAL has developed in the course of over 20 years of research into this industry. It has been compiled from a comprehensive programme of interviews with key industry executives drawn from the principal radiation curing sectors together with their suppliers.

This market report (125pp) is now available at a price of \$2,500 (two thousand five hundred US dollars) from IAL Consultants, 109 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, London, W5 5TL, Tel: +44 20 8832 7780 or Fax: +44 20 8566 4931.

Coverage of the report extends to:

- Main chemical raw material types
- Formulated products
- Equipment

A directory of suppliers for these categories is given in each case.

Demand for the main curable chemicals (monomers, oligomers & photoinitiators) used in radiation curing systems of all kinds – UV, EB and cationic – has been estimated at a combined total of 49,400 tonnes. Those for the cationic curing sector constitute less than 1% of the market, confirming its continued niche status.

The market for radiation-curable formulations has been estimated at 97,060 tonnes with the following breakdown by sector:

European Market for UV Curing Systems by Application

Application	Market Share (%)
Industrial coatings	59
Graphic arts	27
Electronics & electrical	8
Adhesives	5
Release systems	1
Total	100

Source: IAL Consultants

A breakdown by 16 countries (14 EU plus Norway and Switzerland) is given for the main applications set out in the foregoing table.

Increased legislation against the use of solvent-based coatings has been one of the drivers for the industrial coatings sector in recent years, but technologies will provide extra stimulus for market growth in the future.

Modern technologies such as mobile phones, CDs and DVDs and a growing demand for glossy, luxurious-looking goods ensure continued good growth as the use of UV-curable finishes on plastic soars.

In the graphic arts sector, the strongest growth is to be expected in UV flexo inks which have almost revolutionised the flexo printing industry in recent years.

Demand for all UV inks is estimated at 10,335 tonnes for 2000 and is expected to rise to 16,580 tonnes by 2005. Market sizes for the top four UV ink-consuming countries in 2000 and 2005 are estimated as follows:

European Market for UV Inks, 2000 – 2005 (Tonnes)

Country	Volume (2000)	Volume (2005)
UK	3,060	4,755
France	2,000	3,245
Germany	1,440	2,425
Italy	1,200	1,960
Total (above)	7,700	12,385
Total (W Europe)	10,335	16,580

Source: IAL Consultants

In adhesives, the bulk of the market is in the non-structural adhesives sector. The greatest growth will be found in tapes rather than labels as 50% of adhesive tape manufacture still uses solvent-based adhesives.

Opportunities which have been identified in the industry include the use of tuneable resins and rapid prototyping technologies, with burgeoning application areas for the radcure sector likely to include:

- ❑ Sprayable UV curing coatings
- ❑ Spot cured automotive refinishes
- ❑ Ink jet printing
- ❑ DVD adhesives.

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