

AN OVERVIEW OF THE RADIATION CURING MARKETS IN NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA 2000-2005

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IAL Consultants has published the latest edition in its series on the global radiation curing industry entitled **An Overview of the Radiation Curing Markets in North & South America**.

Markets are analysed in terms of raw materials, formulated products and end-use applications, with market estimates for 2000 and forecasts for 2005.

Raw materials are discussed for both free-radical and cationic systems, in terms of photoinitiators (including benzophenones, alpha-cleaving, acetophenones, thioxanthenes and cationics), monomers, oligomers, vinyl ethers and epoxides.

Estimates for both acrylic and non-acrylic systems are included, together with market sizes for unsaturated polyester/styrene systems used for wood coatings.

Countries covered:

- Argentina
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- Mexico
- Paraguay
- Uruguay
- USA
- Others (Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela)

End-use sectors are discussed in terms of:

- **Graphic Arts** (printing inks, plates & overprint lacquers)
- **Industrial Coatings** (wood, plastic, metal & others)
- **Opto-electronics** (optical fibres & telecommunication cables, photoresists for both semiconductor and printed circuit board manufacturer)
- **Adhesives** (structural, laminated & PSA)

Other applications mentioned include silicone release papers and stereolithography.

Market Trends and Influences

North America

- Narrow web flexographic plates and inks continues to expand into carton printing
- Rapid growth in DVD production has made this the major market for UV structural adhesives
- Heavy investment in the development of UV powder coatings continues and formulators are targeting wood coatings and office furniture sectors
- Electron beam technology starting to grow in popularity, especially with the polymerisation of plastics
- UV laminated floor coatings and UV screen inks continue as particular areas of growth

South America

- Brazil dominates the South American market, accounting for 95% of raw material consumption and 80% of formulated products market
- Local formulators have lost market share as multinationals dominate markets
- Main external influences:
Europe: wood coatings, printing inks
US: optical fibre & telecommunications cable, flexographic inks and plates.
- Growing emphasis on environmental issues by the Brazilian government
- Opto-electronic sector offers big potential in the high-tec market in South America. An increased Japanese presence forecasted.

The report highlights some of the main areas of opportunity for radcure technology over the next five years and builds on IAL Consultants' 15 years experience in the sector. It complements our report on the European Radiation Curing Market which was published in February 2001.

The information contained in this report has been gathered during 2001, through a series of discussions and interviews with key players in the North and South American markets.

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