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EPOXY RESINS NEWSLETTER

JULY 2018

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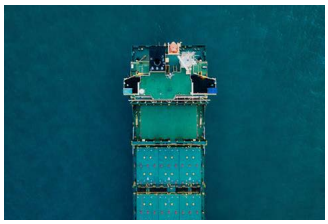
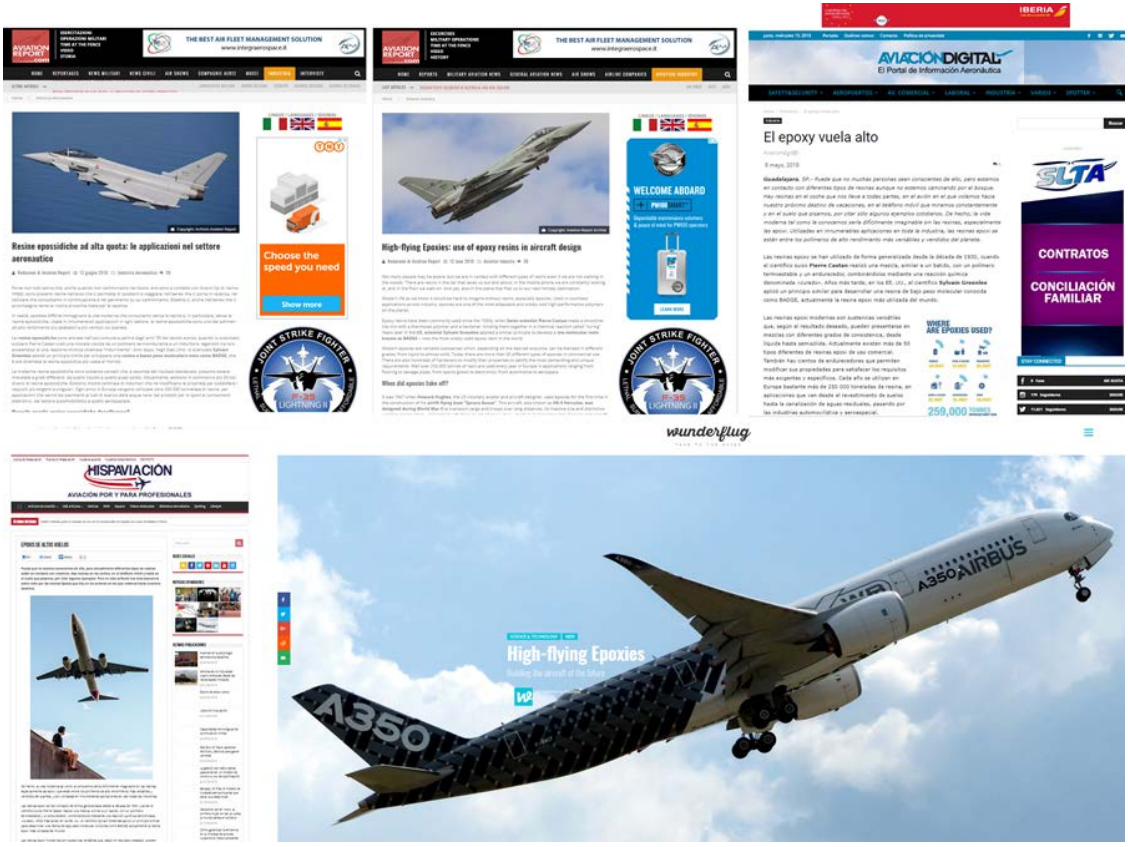
WHAT'S NEW

Smooth sailing with epoxies

Sailing is still one of the most widely used forms of transportation and it remains the preferred choice for moving large and heavy goods. Since ships are continuously exposed to harsh marine conditions, they need well-formulated and resilient coatings to keep them from fouling, corroding or eroding. Epoxy-based coatings support international commerce by helping in the construction and maintenance of long-lasting vessels, which guarantees a smooth sailing all the way from production to end of life. Read our Spotlight article.





High-flying Epoxies

It was 1947 when Howard Hughes, the US visionary aviator and aircraft designer, used epoxies for the first time in the construction of his airlift flying boat "Spruce Goose". Four decades later, commercial aircrafts were already following his steps using epoxy-based composites to reduce airframe weight. This translated into better fuel economy, lower operating costs and lower CO2 emissions.

Structural composite applications are not epoxy's only big success. They have also played a major role in combining and finishing structural parts to make them last. Epoxy resins are essential in anti-corrosion coatings and adhesive applications which, at the same time, are great at replacing or complementing heavier bonding methods like mechanical fasteners.

Read the full article on several magazines across Europe: Aviation Report (EN), Wunderflug (DE), Hispaviación (ES), Aviación digital (ES) and Aviation report (IT).

POLICY UPDATES

Total BPA intake via food 'very limited', Netherlands finds

The Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) has published a report on "Dietary sources of exposure to bisphenol A in

the Netherlands", which concluded that the total intake of BPA via food is very limited in the Netherlands.

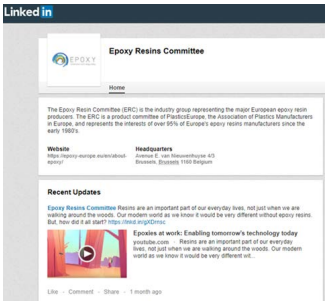
The RIVM says food is the main source of BPA exposure for the average consumer. But even under the most unfavourable circumstances, they say, the exposure would still be a factor of 30 times less than the tolerable daily intake. The results also suggest that no single food source contributes largely to the exposure.

Plastics industry seeks relaxation of BPA rules in light of US study

Plastics manufacturers on both sides of the Atlantic argue that an extensive US study into the effects of bisphenol A on animals should prompt regulators to ease restrictions on the use of the chemical.

Steven Hengtes, who heads the polycarbonate/BPA global group at the American Chemistry Council, cited initial findings of the US CLARITY-BPA programme. The investigation involving federal agencies and academic researchers saw the publication in February of a draft 'core study' concluding that "BPA produced minimal effects that were distinguishable from background" in trials. Scientists tested the effects of BPA exposure on rats, from pregnancy through the lifespan of offspring, as well as lifetime effects on rats that were only exposed in the womb. "I think we can, at this point, say BPA is safe," said Hengtes. In light of the current data, the existing controls are "inappropriate", he argued.

BE IN THE LOOP



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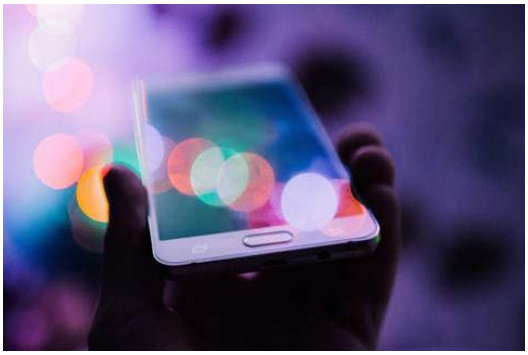
DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know that the use of epoxy resins in IT & electronics has increased sharply over thepast few years? Because they are great electric insulators, epoxies are a vital component in internal circuits, transistors and printed circuit boards, LEDs, solar panels and many other devices~~. Without them, essential~~ everyday items such as smartphones or modern medical equipment like MRI scans would not exist. Read more about the use of epoxy resins in electronic applications.

EPOXIES AT WORK

Photo by: PVTopia

Epoxies walking on sunshine

Solar panels are often found on our roofs and not on the ground where they could be damaged. Dr Azmy Gowaid and his team are trying to change with their walkable solar tiles. But how could they make sure that PV tiles can withstand millions of steps as well as the effects of weather, and yet still let light come through?Say no more. Epoxy to the rescue!Read the full story.

Photos by: Marcus Ricci

Lunar lander micro-house is free from mould

In an overpopulated world, tiny houses are becoming the norm. But not all look like a spaceship. That's new! Kurt Hughes took his 30 years' experience in boat designing and produced a 250-square-foot white hexagonal hut modelled after a lunar lander, which he will use for weekend trips and creative respites. Hughes applied his expertise in structural stability to honour that era of wonder and space exploration with his tiny home. He covered floors and walls with epoxy paint to render the space dry and mould-free. Just like in the moon! Read the full story.

Photos by: Drive Spark

Green biker's dream come true

Philippines has 7,000 islands full of bamboo, and by 2020 the government will have mandated the planting of over ten million hectares of this flexible yet resistant plant. With all this raw material, Christopher Paris Lacso, CEO and Design Director of MEEP Inc., had the idea of building a motorcycle: the Banatti Green Falcon. This bamboo bike, much lighter than made of fibreglass, has a double-layered bamboo structure laminated with marine epoxy which fully covers the batteries and electric motor, making it resistant and long-lasting without compromising its respect for the environment. Read the full story.

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