2005 Specialty Plastic Films Technology Innovation of the Year Award Recipient: Cortec Corporation

The recipient of the Frost & Sullivan 2005 Technology Innovation of the Year Award in the field of specialty plastic films is Cortec Corporation. The award recognizes Cortec's development of an innovative, environmentally friendly, corrosion inhibiting, biodegradable packaging film that is designed to protect sensitive instruments, controls and electronic systems from corrosion and electrostatic discharge (ESD).

Cortec, a pioneer in environmentally friendly packaging, metalworking, cleaning, and metal protection technologies, has been engaged in the development of high-performance biodegradable films for protecting metals and other industrial goods. It recently introduced through its advanced films division (the Cortec Advanced Films Division or CAFD) the Eco Film family of compostable films containing its proprietary Vapor-phase Corrosion Inhibitor (VpCI), Based on aliphatic-aromatic copolyesters for monolayer and multilayer blown film products, one member of the new product line is an all-copolyester, multilayer stretch film for protecting steel coils during shipment. It includes a strength layer, a VpCI-containing core layer, and a surface layer containing a biodegradable cling additive. The family includes grades that are entirely bio-based and others that are blends of corn starch and synthetic resins.

At 12 million pounds annually, the military is a huge user of VCI films. In May 2005, Cortec was awarded an STTR (Small Business Technology Transfer) research grant by the US Army. In cooperation with the University of California, Irvine, Cortec is developing a new method of controlling corrosion. The grant is to investigate the use of a bacterial biofilm capable of providing corrosion protection to the metal surface of aircraft and other military equipment. Cortec researchers are investigating adhesive films as carriers for the biofilm bacteria. The University of California, Irvine is screening bacteria for activity and corrosion inhibition on aluminum. The most effective bacteria will be incorporated into adhesives and aerosols, as a means of imparting corrosion protecting biofilms to aluminum. This STTR project enables Cortec to acquire new technology to be used in the development of corrosion control products.

Cortec recently reported its sixth consecutive record setting month with sales of Cortec's VpCI exceeding the company's 20% growth goal by a considerable margin, an achievement in the highly competitive corrosion control market. Cortec has maintained its original strategy of outperforming and outservicing the competition by investing in research and development, personnel, and global expansion. Over the past two years, Cortec invested in excess of $3 million to increase production capacity and has opened direct regional offices to support the exponential growth from its network of distributors.

As a privately held company, Cortec has been able to remain focused on its long-term development and on innovation, and as a result has been able to introduce product solutions such as this novel, environmentally friendly, corrosion protecting, and packaging film. Because of such reasons the company has been recognized with Frost & Sullivan's Award for Technology Innovation.