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**Attention: Editor**

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**PRESS RELEASE**



## **Cortec® Corporation Celebrates 40 Years of Fighting Corrosion!**

***“There are three things inevitable in life: death, taxes and corrosion. So, we are in the right business!”***

Such is a common saying of Boris Miksic, Founder and CEO of Cortec® Corporation, a company that has become the global leader in innovative VpCI® and MCI® Technology and is now branching out into biotechnology. This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of what began as a fledgling company in October 1977. Cortec® has since grown to make a global impact on the corrosion industry, operating nine plants in strategic locations around the world, with a distribution network in over 100 countries.



### **Small Start, Impressive Results**



When Cortec® produced its first shipment of 1200 vapor corrosion inhibitor emitters in a garage in 1977, it would have been difficult to envision subsequent growth into the multimillion-dollar global enterprise Cortec®

has become today. But by persistently addressing the world's multibillion dollar corrosion problems in a safer, more environmentally friendly, and easier to use way, Cortec® has revolutionized traditional methods of fighting corrosion and preserving metals across the globe. Reflecting on Cortec's remarkable journey, Miksic noted, "When I started in an unheated garage in Hugo, Minnesota at 30 degrees below zero Cortec® was by far the smallest producer of VCI products; now 40 years [later] we are [the] world's largest."

Indeed, this once tiny Minnesota company, started by a Croatian immigrant who came to America with only \$37 dollars (but eventually ran for president of Croatia), has seen amazing growth through steady effort, vision, and valuable service to industries affected by corrosion. Today, Cortec® comprises a network of multiple plants, laboratories, warehouses, licensees, and hundreds of distributors. Cortec® also excels in turnkey preservation services for well-known corporations around the globe.



Cortec's First Emitter Machine

### Technical Innovation and Growth

Cortec® began revolutionizing the corrosion inhibiting industry with the development of Vapor phase Corrosion Inhibitors (VpCIs) that allow clean, dry, more environmentally friendly methods of corrosion protection for multi-metals. At a time most companies still relied on inorganic chemistries, Cortec® established its first groundbreaking technological platform of organic corrosion inhibiting chemistries. From there, Cortec® grew to its second technological platform of biodegradable and biobased building blocks and now holds a portfolio of over 20 USDA certified biobased products.

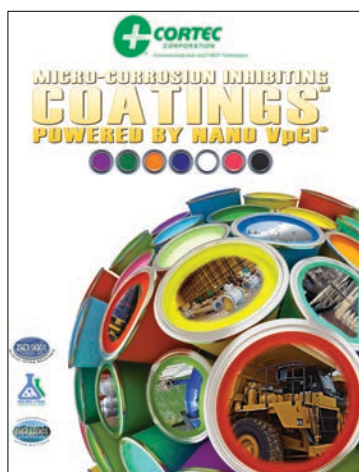


Cortec® reached its third technological platform and entered the most elite group of specialty chemical companies with the acquisition of Bionetix® International of Montreal, Canada, in 2011 and the subsequent inception of Cortec® Biotechnology Campus (CBC) in Sarasota, Florida. By integrating state-of-the-art biotechnology, Cortec® now offers natural biological



products that are used in countless applications globally. These products enhance the bioremediation of waste systems, the natural power of cleaners, and the health of livestock.

Cortec's innovative solutions include flagship products such as easy-to-use VpCI® emitter cups, Migrating Corrosion Inhibitors for reinforced concrete, and recyclable VpCI® film and paper for packaging. Cortec's environmentally friendly commitment is further underscored by Cortec's high performance water-based VpCI® coatings, recyclable EcoAir® spray cans, and more recent CBC and Bionetix® International natural bioremediation products. Cortec's growing portfolio of specialty plants allows the company to fulfill Miksic's vision of greater quality and efficiency by direct oversight through vertical integration.



## A Wealth of Corrosion Solutions



Cortec's accomplishments over four decades are many in terms of products, intellectual property, accreditations, and awards. In the early years of the company, Cortec® focused on only a handful of basic corrosion inhibiting products in various formats. By aiming for a steady growth rate each year, Cortec® has come to offer more than 400 different products, many of which are inspired by and tailored to specific real-life end-user needs. In the process, Cortec® has amassed a wealth of corrosion control knowledge and intellectual property in the form of patents, trademarks, trade secrets, and copyrights.

Cortec® R&D leadership in innovation and patenting of VpCI® and

MCI<sup>®</sup> Technology has enabled the company to acquire the industry's largest portfolio of 63 patents issued over the course of 40 years. This includes patents from the USA, Japan, Germany, UK, UAE, Canada, Switzerland, and South Africa. Cortec<sup>®</sup> applies for new product patents annually and holds over 100 registered trademarks in various countries around the world. Regular publication of technical papers is another factor that makes Cortec<sup>®</sup> a leading global voice in the field of corrosion control.

### Accreditations and Awards

As part of its commitment to quality products, reliable services, and environmentally friendly processes, Cortec<sup>®</sup> holds a number of ISO certifications. Cortec<sup>®</sup> Laboratories is the only ISO/IEC 17025 accredited lab in the industry,



which allows Cortec<sup>®</sup> to provide dependable testing services for its customers by ensuring quality in recording and reporting data and calibrating equipment. Cortec<sup>®</sup> also holds ISO 14001 Environmental Management System certification and ISO 9001 Quality Management System certification that demonstrate its strong environmental concern and vision for quality.



Cortec<sup>®</sup> and its leadership have earned many distinguished awards throughout the years. As evidence of Cortec's important role in the corrosion inhibiting community, CEO Miksic received the NACE Fellow Award from NACE International ("The Worldwide Corrosion Authority") in 2000. In 2004, Miksic was awarded the NACE Frank Newman Speller Award for Contributions to the Practice of Corrosion Engineering. The same year, Cortec<sup>®</sup>

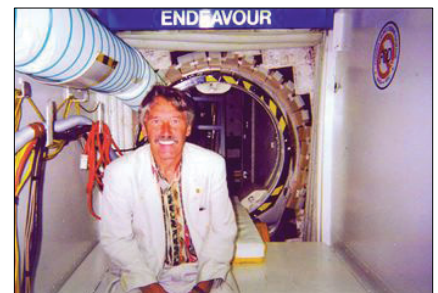
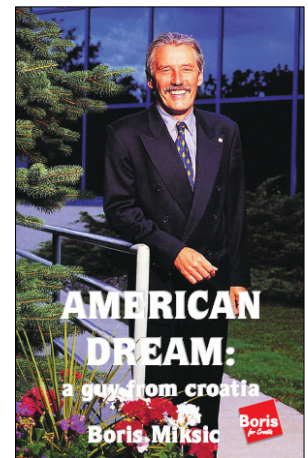
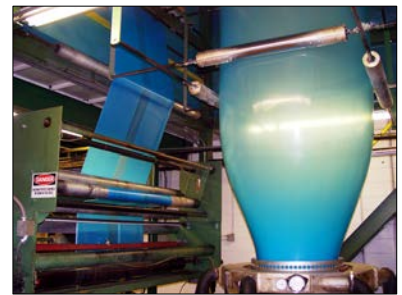
received the NACE International Distinguished Organization Award for excellence in corrosion protection technologies. Among other awards, Cortec<sup>®</sup> was early recognized as one of the 500 fastest-growing small, dynamic companies in the USA according to Inc. 500 (especially impressive for a chemical company that must face extra regulations). Cortec<sup>®</sup> has also been awarded a 3M Innovation Award for volatile corrosion inhibiting paper.

## Cortec® through the Years

In reflecting on four decades of growth and fighting corrosion, Miksic stated, “I am especially proud that in 40 years as an owner of Cortec® we haven't missed a single payroll check or have taken a single dollar of outside investment through good and bad times.... The company's growth through the years has been organic and the companies that we acquired along the way have been a part of our strategy of vertical integration.”

Some important milestones in Cortec® history are as follows:

- 1977: Cortec® Corporation started in Boris Miksic's garage (first sale of 1200 VpCI® emitters)
- 1981: Patenting of Corrosion Inhibiting Articles
- 1986: VpCI®-386 Water-Based Coating Technology invented
- 1990: Bestselling VpCI®-126 Blue Film created
- 1992: New Cortec® World Headquarters open near Saint Paul, Minnesota
- 1994: Cortec's first ISO 9001 certification
- 1995: Bull Frog® retail branch launched
- 1996: Miksic publishes first edition of autobiography, “American Dream: A Guy from Croatia”
- 1997: Cortec® Advanced Film plant acquisition
- 1998: Founding of CorteCros® in Croatia
- 1998: Cortec® Spray Technologies plant acquisition
- 1998: Cortec's first ISO 14001 Certification
- 1990s: Started partnering with NASA on reusable rocket and space shuttle program
- 2001: Cortec® World Headquarters expansion
- 2001: Cortec® Coated Products plant acquisition
- 2004: Miksic runs for president of Croatia
- 2005-06: Miksic invests in EcoCortec®, first Croatian bioplastics plant



- 2009: Miksic runs for president of Croatia
- 2010: Cortec® Laboratories' first ISO/IEC 17025 certification
- 2010: MCI®-2005 used in world's tallest building, Burj Khalifa
- 2011: Bionetix® International acquisition
- 2013: Official launch of Global Services
- 2015: Cortec® Biotechnology plant starts
- 2016: Launch of EcoSonic® ESD Paper powered by Nano VpCI®



After 40 years, Cortec's commitment to providing world class, environmentally responsible VpCI® and MCI® corrosion solutions remains. In coming years, Cortec® will continue to deliver cost-effective, user-friendly integrated solutions for corrosion problems in the packaging, metalworking, construction, electronics, oil and gas, and many other industries.



Cortec® will be celebrating the accomplishments of the last 40 years at its 2017 World Sales Meeting, September 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where Cortec® will convene with distributors and representatives from across the globe to reflect on the past and gain new energy and vision for the future!



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Cortec® Corporation is the global leader in innovative, environmentally responsible VpCI® and MCI® corrosion control technologies for Packaging, Metalworking, Construction, Electronics, Water Treatment, Oil & Gas, and other industries. Our relentless dedication to sustainability, quality, service, and support is unmatched in the industry. Headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota, Cortec® manufactures over 400 products distributed worldwide. ISO 9001, ISO 14001:2004, & ISO 17025 Certified. Cortec Website: <http://www.cortecvci.com> Phone: 1-800-426-7832 FAX: (651) 429-1122