IMFORMATION
FEB 2025
Surface finishing the world since 1925

Celebrating

YEARS OF THE

imf
Institute of Materials Finishing

Welcome to the IMF

We have put this booklet together as an introduction to the IMF, we hope you find it interesting .

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

The Institute of Materials Finishing was founded in 1925, its title then being the Electroplaters and Depositors Technical Society. The area of interest broadened into all aspects of surface finishing on metal when it assumed the title of the Institute of Metal Finishing in 1951. In 2013 the name was changed to the Institute of Materials Finishing to embrace all technologies of surface finishing on a much wider variety of materials. Its main purpose is to disseminate technical information by means of technical publications, meetings and conferences.

Our Address is:-

New Exeter House
Unit 2, The Courtyard
Roman Way
Coleshill
Birmingham
B46 1HQ
Telephone: 0121 622 7387
Email— info@materialsfinishing.org

IMF DIARY

DISTANCE LEARNING START DATES

Apply by 23rd May 2025 for start date 6th June 2025.

Apply by 22nd August 2025 for start date 5th September 2025

Please note that all course fees must be paid in full before any course materials can be released.

Please contact Karen Yates by email training@materialsfinishing.org

You can find details of courses and qualifications on our website- https://materials-finishing.org/

UPCOMING EVENTS

imf Institute of Materials Finishing


BE ACTIVE WITHIN THE IMF, JOIN A COMMITTEE AS WE TURN
100
We have many committees and are looking for new committee members get in touch for more details.
Email office@materialsfinishing.org

Committee Vacancies

CONTRIBUTE TO THE ONGOING PROVISION OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

IMF Tech Representative

This role is open to past students who have completed their Tech or Advanced Tech Certificate. You will have a unique opportunity to read lesson updates and new material as it becomes available and will be asked to advise on the content and readability from a student's point of view.

Author Coordinator

You will ideally have some experience of document control, to work alongside an existing team of authors and industry experts as part of the Education and Training Committee.

- Identify and prioritise lessons for review and allocate to authors for update.
- Ensure that all education material is peer reviewed by others within IMF before publishing.
- Maintain the ET&C document control, and release lesson updates to the office staff to include in course materials.

Expert Contributors

This role is open to people with significant and proven expertise in their specific area of surface finishing. This is an opportunity to contribute something back to the education of our younger members. Dependent on your area of expertise you will be called upon to co-author lessons, or peer review lessons written by others, as appropriate.

If you want to do more contact Helen on:-
helen@materialsfinishing.org

THE EXAMINATIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS BOARD

The EQB manages and organises the Institute's examinations by approving the examination papers, arranging marking and approving the pass lists. It liaises with the Education and Training Committee to ensure that the papers are compatible with the training courses thereby upholding the standards and credibility of the Institute's qualifications.

We meet three times a year, a short while after each of the examination sessions, and moderation of the provisional pass lists can play an important part in our deliberations. Our members have expertise in traditional electrochemical plating and organic coatings, but we are always looking for others who can bring something more to our discussions.

The EQB also manages the applications for membership of the Institute in accordance with the guidelines from the Management Board, and will when requested manage applications for Engineering Council qualifications.

THE ORGANICS GROUP

The Organics Group is a division of the Institute of Materials Finishing which concentrates on materials which are coated on to a surface rather than electroplated which is a chemical reaction with the surface. What does "Organics" mean; in the context of materials finishing, it is any finish which is based on organic chemistry the best example of this is paint. Members of the Organics Group are predominantly from the paint and allied industries. The group is chaired by Brenda Peters from Analysis Scientific Ltd an independent laboratory and scientific consultancy specialising in paint and corrosion problems. She is supported by a committee which includes Ken Griffiths from Rainbow Business Consultants and Graham Armstrong from Indestructible Paints.

THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

The Education and Training Committee (or the E&TC as it is known for short) is tasked with the challenge of keeping all the IMF's education and training content up to date and suitable for people wishing to learn about the surface finishing industry. We have a single foundation course and eight technician level courses that are delivered by distance learning or direct tuition.

The foundation course provides an introduction into the various areas of surface finishing, while allowing the student to take a technology block of their choice – electroplating, organic coatings, or aerospace.

The technician level offers a more in depth look into various areas of surface finishing. As these courses are at a higher level to the foundation, students are expected to have some previous experience or education relating to the industry or to have successfully completed the foundation course.

The technician level courses we offer are: Electroplating Practice, Principles of Electroplating, Electroforming, PLV (Paint, Lacquer and Varnish), Powder Coating, Automotive, Environmental & Health and Safety, and Materials Science. Details of course content, course length, and assessment methods can be found on the IMF website.

Keeping all this education material up to date and fit for purpose is an ongoing task and requires a constant commitment from the committee members and contributions from generous volunteers who help with updates and reviews. The committee is comprised of people from various areas of the surface finishing industry with experience in both inorganic and organic coatings.

We are always looking for new committee members to help bring fresh ideas about course delivery, content, and education opportunities. If you fancy a challenge and would like to get involved, don't hesitate to contact the committee via Helen Wood (helen@materialsfinishing.org).

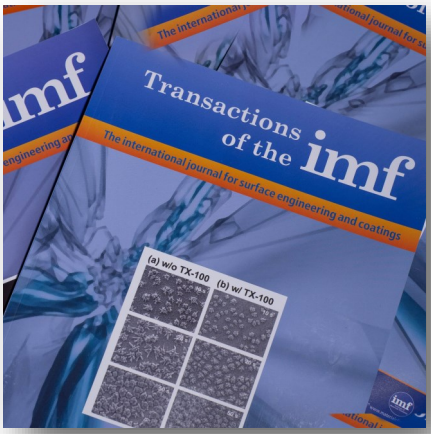
THE MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING COMMITTEE

M & M stands for Membership and Marketing and it's purpose is to look into how the IMF can market itself and to find ways to improve the membership and put forward new ideas to encourage new membership.

Our meetings take place approximately every 3 – 4 weeks and are usually quite lively.

If anyone would be interested in joining the committee and feel they can bring some new bright ideas to the IMF then please contact Helen Wood (helen@materialsfinishing.org) who will pass on your interest.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE



One of the major aims of the Institute is the dissemination of technical information for materials finishing, surface treatment and surface engineering. This is achieved through the publication of the Institute's own official journal, *Transactions*. Published six times a year, *Transactions* holds a pre-eminent position as a source of technical information world-wide. It is divided into two sections, the Bulletin section reports on items of industrial interest to the Institute membership whilst the main section of the journal publishes peer reviewed papers from around the world which reflect the latest research and technological trends in materials finishing.

The Publications Committee's role is to maintain the high standards achieved in *Transactions* and to ensure the effective dissemination of knowledge. The publication's Editorial Board is responsible to the Honorary Editor-in-Chief for the quality of all papers submitted for publication and helps in attracting quality contributions from world-wide sources.

The committee also helps to establish links with similar organisations from around the world. In recent years the European Academy of Surface Technology (EAST) has begun to use *Transactions* as its preferred route to report news to its membership on a regular basis.

Geoff Wilcox

Publications Committee Chairman

THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE

The role of the Institute of Materials Finishing Science Committee is to promote both technical and scientific innovation in surface engineering, as well as raise the profile of our industry to Government. We are also a major bridge between the commercial practitioners of surface engineering and the fundamental researchers that underpin our industry.

Surface engineering is one of the most important industrial activities in UK and it directly underpins 50% of the UK total manufacturing activities. In the UK, the sector is estimated to be worth in excess of £14bn, but it adds value to products worth over £185bn. Surface engineering also helps reduce the climate change and carbon impacts of our infrastructure by preventing or reducing the adverse impacts of corrosion, which directly costs the UK about 3.5% of GDP and indirectly about 7%.

The Committee also represents the Institute's interests at Governmental level, where we are an affiliate member of the Parliamentary Science Committee; we help advise Government on the impact of surface engineering on the UK's manufacturing sector, as well as recommending areas of possible interest for discussion and knowledge transfer.

Through the Science Committee's membership of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, the Institute makes representations to UK Government on issues relating to surface engineering and how legislation can impact its activities. In 2021 the committee facilitated a discussion by the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee on how SMEs can undertake and benefit from more research to develop their businesses and how they can benefit and capitalise on research carried out in Universities and other academic institutions.

The Science Committee also supports the Institute's membership by encouraging research and development in the surface engineering industry. We help the Institute's membership seek funding, support and prospective partners for R&D projects. In recent times we have:

- advised our members in developing new surface coating methods;
- matched members to obtain research grants for the development of advanced coatings and membranes;
- assisted our membership pursue and commercialise new processes;
- become a member of an advisory board for an EU funded project;
- assisted our members in developing new surface treatments for their products, so they can explore new market opportunities.

In 2021 we were a member of a six partner consortium that undertook a very successful project, funded by InnovateUK, to study the feasibility and technical challenges in the recovery of gallium from LEDs. The outputs from this project have helped identify some significant factors associated with gallium and its uses, as well as helped identify how this very important metal can be recovered on a commercial basis.

ALL
Aerofin Laboratories Limited

Cyclic Corrosion Testing

Cyclic Corrosion Testing is an accelerated corrosion test, used in the evaluation of coatings and surface treatments. Salt spray testing evaluates a coating or surface treatments ability to resist corrosion. While cyclic corrosion testing does the same thing, it also evaluates its ability to withstand changes in various environmental influences such as temperature and humidity.
Cyclic corrosion testing is particularly useful for detecting discontinuities, such as pores and other defects, in certain metallic, organic, anodic oxide and conversion coatings. Giving an indication to a coating or finish's ability to resist corrosion during its life in service.

Please contact us on 01278785131 or info@aerofinlabs.com to discuss any test requirements you may have.

PLATING LINE ADVICE

Will Green FIMF

“Peace of Mind through Confidence”

Impartial technical advice for enterprises considering investment in new surface treatment equipment or upgrading and resolving engineering problems with existing facilities.

Support throughout the whole project process from concept to completion.

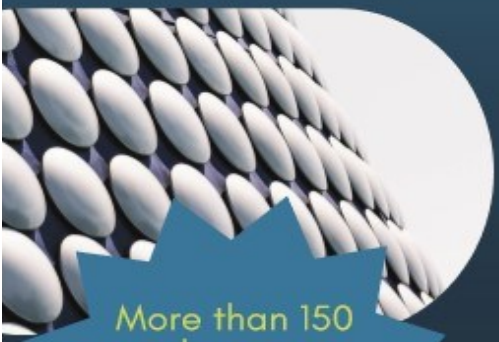
e-mail: will@plating-line-advice.com

www.plating-line-advice.com

+44(0)7481 322263

Aluminium Federation (ALFED)

The Voice of the UK Aluminium Industry



More than 150 members across the entire UK aluminium supply chain

The Aluminium Federation (ALFED) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to representing and supporting the UK aluminium industry by promoting growth, sustainability, and fair competition while advocating for its interests with policymakers

Contact us for more information!

alfed@alfed.org.uk

0333 240 9735

www.alfed.org.uk

Member Benefits Include:

- Access to UK Trade Date Reports
- Tailored Training Opportunities
- UK Metals Expo Discount
- Enhanced Legislative Support
- Networking & Government Engagement
- Sector Group Participation

imf Institute of Materials Finishing

Sustainable products drive growth at high-performance surface coatings firm

Indestructible Paint – a Midlands-based company which makes high-performance surface coatings is celebrating strong growth thanks to innovation and global expansion, with turnover increasing 19% over the last year.

The growth has been driven by the popularity of the company's groundbreaking range of chrome-free products; a widening global customer base; increased aerospace production rates – as many leading aircraft and aeroengines use the company's specialist coatings; and diversification into a range of additional advanced industries.

Daniel Allum from the Indestructible Paint team with one of their chrome-free products.

Indestructible Paint is at the forefront of efforts to make the surface coatings industry safer, better and greener. More than ten years of intense research and development to meet the challenge of finding an alternative to chrome is paying off. The company has been launching multiple chrome-free products to meet a variety of challenges including sacrificial base and seal coats as well as diffusion coatings that can withstand temperatures of up to 1,000°C. A new chrome-free primer is due to follow later this year with more products in development.

Indestructible Paint is proud that these chrome-free solutions provide equivalent – if not superior performance – compared to their chrome predecessors, proving that being sustainable does not have to mean compromise.

However, many industries need time to make the switch from chrome to chrome-free. Heavily-regulated industries like aerospace, defence and power generation – which are major sectors for Indestructible Paint – require solutions to be extensively tested for safety and approved before they are rolled out and enter service. This process can take years.

For this reason, Indestructible Paint has recently had its existing chrome products re-authorised by REACH in the UK, with EU re-authorisation anticipated soon. This will allow these products to be manufactured and supplied for up to 12 more years to create time for the lengthy transition, including further R&D and testing of new chrome-free coatings that may be required by some customers. The company is hoping, however, that many customers will be able to make the switch long before this and will be actively working with them to give them all the support required.

Certainly, the demand for chrome-free products is growing every month, all over the world, with particular interest from Europe, China, Japan, and Hong Kong. For Indestructible Paint, the track record for combining sustainability and performance is expected to drive growth in 2025 and beyond.

For more information about Indestructible Paint visit: indestructible.co.uk

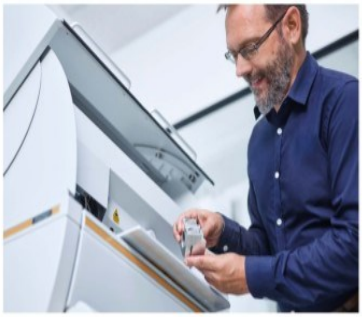
Measuring Made Easy - And now FREE...

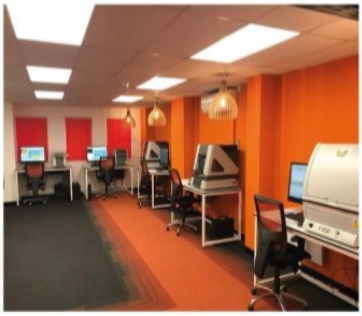
Do your product coatings meet specification?
Have you been supplied the right materials?

Using the latest instruments and techniques, Fischer will test your samples for free and quickly report the results*. We are a German original equipment manufacturer and we support customers control their processes, reduce scrap and cut costs.

We can help you:

- Prove your process – check your process is in control
- Validate your measurements and process capability
- Take corrective action to prevent non-conformity
- Check 'goods in' from suppliers and verify that they comply with the Certificate of Conformity
- Prepare for an audit
- Plan new process/product development
- Save money and time!





To arrange your free sample testing please contact us:
Fischer Instrumentation (GB) Ltd
www.helmut-fischer.com
+44 (0) 1386 577370
mail@fischergb.co.uk

*Subject to availability

Anochrome Ltd £2 million site investment

Electroplating and coatings expert Anochrome Ltd has significantly enhanced its environmental credentials and increased capacity by investing more than £2 million in its Walsall site.

The industry-leader - which processes tens of millions of components every week predominantly for tier 1 automotive suppliers - has spent £1.3 million on state-of-the-art new plant and more than £600,000 to modernise a large bay.

Steve Norman, Group UK Divisional Director at Anochrome Group, said the new plant will boost production capacity by at least 50%, while the new-look bay will reduce energy costs and provide much-improved working conditions for employees.

Meanwhile, the front façade of the building has also been revamped for the first time in half a century along with the reception area, bringing the total investment figure to around £2.3 million.

Steve said: “This investment will bring significant benefits to both our customers and our people. It’s an important moment for the business, which demonstrates our commitment to continued growth while being environmentally responsible.”

The new plant, which is due to be commissioned in March, utilises Best Available Techniques (BAT) and will help Anochrome service all its OEMs’ technical specifications, while minimising energy consumption.

Bay improvements include removing asbestos, new doors and lights and the addition of underfloor heating.

For more information, visit www.anochrome.com

METALS FROM SPACE (i)

IMF Southern Branch Event, 12 November 2024

The Southern Branch has extended webinar subjects to include strategic and historic aspects and issues along with new technologies.

As materials finishers we should also understand and appreciate the origin of the coating and substrate materials. To this end, the Southern Branch recently held an online webinar (12 November 2024) on **Metals from Space**, presented by Dr John Arnold, Leeds Astronomical Society. The presentation attracted much interest and positive feedback. Look up at the Stars and Planets……..

Here is a summary.

Metals from Space

Dr John Arnold
Leeds Astronomical Society

We normally think of metals as being obtained by mining into the Earth's crust. Ores are generally dug up, and the metal usually extracted by a reduction process, of one sort or another. A potential new source is the metal-rich nodules lying on the ocean bed, trawling for which would cause untold ecological damage. Historically, the iron artefacts of some civilizations, most notably the ancient Egyptians, were made from iron meteorites, which reminds us that metals exist beyond the Earth. In the future asteroids may be mined for them. The obvious red colour of the planet Mars is due to an oxide of iron, spread across its surface. But how did metals get to these various locations? Why are many meteorites rich in iron? How were metals formed in the first place?

Although a trace amount of lithium may have been produced in the extreme conditions following the 'Big Bang' at the birth of our universe, essentially all metal atoms (and the rest of the periodic table after hydrogen and helium) have been made subsequently. Elements up to iron arise in the interiors of stars as they fuse lighter nuclei together, so a star's core region ends up being entirely iron. It has generally been assumed that elements heavier than iron then form in the extreme non-equilibrium conditions of the exploding star – the supernova. It is now being increasingly suggested that colliding neutron stars have also been a major source of heavier elements such as gold and platinum. Whatever their origin, heavy

atoms are eventually condensed into astronomical objects, as planets and new stars form. A planetary body that is large enough will generally have sufficient internal heat to be molten such that heavier elements sink to its core. If that body is then disrupted by a collision, a common occurrence in young solar systems, iron-rich fragments result. Some of these end up as meteorites that fall to Earth. For a planet that manages to accrete without being shattered by collisions, metals may be distributed through its crust and inner structure, depending on chemistry, density and thermal flow. Earth has ended up with a substantial (and of course inaccessible) core of mostly iron and nickel, and amongst its minor constituents are 65% of Earth's chromium and 99% of its gold. The accessible ore deposits are more or less accidents of geothermal forces and geochemistry. On Mars the mantle and surface have wound up being richer in iron than their counterparts on the far more massive Earth. You can tell that Mars is different, just by looking.

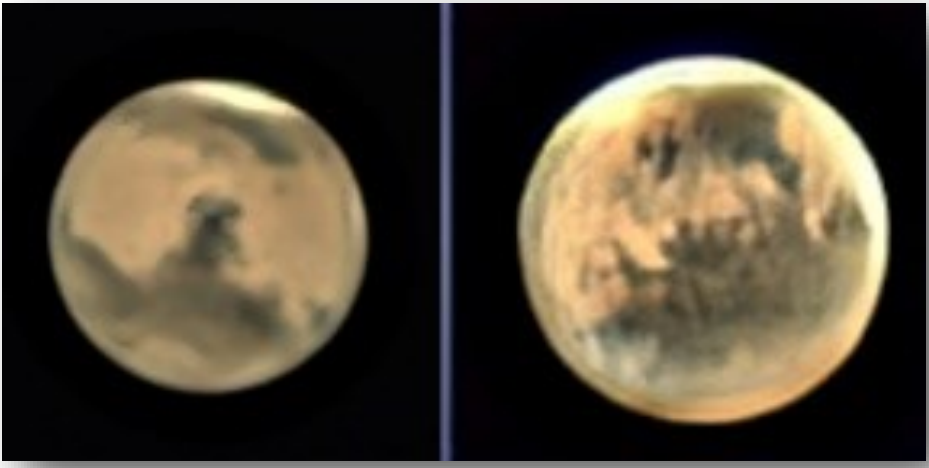


Image: *The planet Mars as captured by a **back-garden telescope**. The red colour is due to oxides of iron. The iron-rich dust accumulates more on the lower ground of the northern hemisphere than on the highlands of the southern hemisphere.*

THE INSTITUTE OF MATERIALS FINISHING

INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED QUALIFICATIONS

We are a leading provider of technical training and skills development for employers and individuals. IMF courses lead to recognised qualifications and cover a wide range of materials finishing and surface engineering applications. IMF tutored courses, distance learning and corporate training underpin business performance and enable profitability.

Foundation Module Basic Surface Finishing

Develops fundamental understanding from 29 Units of which a student studies 15, including 7 mandatory units. One of three core technology blocks are chosen, either **Electroplating** (8, 9, 10 & 18); **Organic Coating** (19, 20, 21, & 23); or **Aerospace Finishing** (19, 21, 24 & 25), each comprising 5 units plus 3 optional units relevant to the student or their employer – all units are listed below.

Two pieces of marked coursework are required and on passing an examination a student is awarded the **Foundation Certificate.**

Unit 1 *	Surface Finishing
Unit 2 *	Corrosion
Unit 3 *	The Environment & Surface Finishing
Unit 4 *	Health and Safety
Unit 5 *	Cleaning and Pre-treatment
Unit 6 *	Sacrificial Coatings
Unit 7 *	Services
Unit 8	Surface Improvement
Unit 9	Principles & use of Electroplating (Double unit)
Unit 10	Plant and Equipment
Unit 11	Copper, Silver and Gold Plating
Unit 12	Nickel Plating
Unit 13	Chromium Plating
Unit 14	Zinc & Cadmium Plating & Passivation
Unit 15	Electroless Plating
Unit 16	Alloy Plating & Composites
Unit 17	Printed Circuit Board Processes
Unit 18	Electroplating - Care & Maintenance of Solutions & Product Quality
Unit 19	Conventional Paint Processes (Double unit)
Unit 20	Electrophoretic Paint Processes
Unit 21	Paint Application Methods
Unit 22	Coating Powders & Application
Unit 23	Testing Paint & Powder & Coatings
Unit 24	Chemical Conversion Coatings and Sol Gel Coatings
Unit 25	Anodising of Aluminium & Alloys
Unit 26	Vacuum Coating Processes
Unit 27	Duplex Coatings of Galvanising plus Paint
Unit 28	Electroforming
Unit 29	Nanotechnology

* Mandatory units

On achievement of the **Foundation Certificate** candidates may wish to progress to the **Technician level modules**, please see over the page for details.

Technician Modules

Develops in-depth knowledge for key finishing technologies and their application and best practice methods.

Principles of Electroplating	Broad introduction to electroplating technology
Electroplating Practice	Industrial application of major metals and supporting pre-treatments for electroplating and electroless deposition
Paints, Lacquers & Varnishes**	Application methods, equipment, curing, drying and testing of solvent and water based industrial finishing processes
Powder Coating	Application methods, testing, environmental, health & safety topics
Environment, Health & Safety	Legislation information on environmental, health & safety topics
Materials Science	Manufacture, properties and examination of materials which require various forms of coating or treatment to meet service life needs
Automotive Surface Finishing**	Applications specific to the automotive industry
Electroforming	How electroforming can be used to manufacture components and tooling

On successful completion of four marked assignments and passing an examination, a student is awarded a **Technician Module** certificate.

Passing two Technician modules leads to the award of **Technician Certificate**.

Passing four Technician modules leads to the award of **Advanced Technician Certificate**.

** These modules together cannot rate towards the award of a Technician Certificate

NEW FOR 2025

Educational Practical Training

In 2025 the IMF are going to be offering Sustaining Members the opportunity to put forward their employees to attend a 1-2 day workshop in the field of electroplating. Over the two days we will cover a general overview of how electroplating works followed by a practical workshop which will see students undertake plating test pieces followed by the solution analysis and micro sectioning the samples that they have plated.

For more information email: training@materialsfinishing.org

Tel: 0121 622 7387

PRACTICAL TRAINING FROM THE IMF

2 DAY ELECTROPLATING WORKSHOP

12 AND 13 MARCH
14 AND 15 MAY
TO BE HELD AT
POETON INDUSTRIES
GLOUCESTER

Day 1 Theory

Introduction to surface coating
The need for process control
Pretreatment
Various plating processes
Effluent

Day 2 Practical

Experience plating test pieces
Analysis of plating solutions
Micro sectioning of test pieces

IMF member Price £450 per person
The Non-Member Price is £550 per person

Please note: other course topics may be available in the future, please enquire.

Contact
Email:
helen@materialsfinishing.org
Telephone:
0121 622 7387

imf Institute of Materials Finishing

Practical Training Course Information 2025

Venue
POETON INDUSTRIES GLOUCESTER

Dates
12th and 13th March 2025
14th and 15th May 2025

Duration
Day 1: 10 am – 4 pm
Day 2: 10 am – 4 pm

Syllabus

The tutors will try to tailor the content to suit the processes proposed by the delegates. The aim of the course is to provide introductory training in the technology used for electroplating and associated processes.

Day 1: Classroom lecture format

Introduction to surface coating
Process control
Pretreatment
Selected surface treatment processes (depending on delegates and tutors) from
- Electroplating
- Electroless plating
- Anodising

Waste water treatment

Day 2: Laboratory

Plating test pieces, the Hull Cell
Analysis of plating solutions
Microsection of test pieces

A certificate of attendance will be provided.

Suitable for:

Process engineers, managers, platers, laboratory staff. No formal chemistry qualification required.

Course Fee:

£450 – members
£550 – non-members

This includes lunch on both days

HMG PAINTS

HMG Paints Nominated for Two Awards at National Family Business Awards 2025

HMG Paints, a leading manufacturer in the coatings industry, has been shortlisted for two prestigious awards at the National Family Business Awards 2025. HMG are finalists for the North and Northern Ireland Family Business of the Year award.

Furthermore, HMG Paints has been nominated for the People's Choice award (North and Northern Ireland). The award is one of the most coveted of the event as it is voted for by the public, those who are at the forefront of receiving and reviewing a company's service.

The nominations follow HMG's previous success at the Family Business of the Year awards in 2023, in which the company was honoured with the Manufacturing Family Business of the Year title. As the company celebrates its 95th anniversary, these nominations further solidify HMG's position as a proud Manchester based family business and leader within the coatings industry.

Speaking on the event, Paul Andrews, Founder and CEO of Family Business United said "Family firms are the engine room of the national economy, and these awards celebrate all their achievements. This is always a fantastic evening where the family business community comes together to celebrate the very best of British family firms. All our winners are fantastic examples of great British family firms, and it is a real honour o host these awards and celebrate with them."

HMG will also be considered for the national categories, as well as special awards, including Innovation, Sustainability, and Community Involvement. All entries will also compete for the title of Supreme Family Business of the Year.

Speaking on HMG's nominations at the 2025 National Family Business Awards, Marketing Manager Paddy Dyson stated "Being nominated for the North and Northern Ireland People's Choice award is a great honour and recognition of the efforts of everyone at HMG. We're looking forward to the event and celebrating the work Family Businesses do across the UK, and hopefully it's a successful night for us too and we hope our extended community can help us to the People's Choice award by casting their vote."

The event winners will be announced at the Gala Awards Evening on Wednesday, 18th June 2025 at The Royal geographical Society in South Kensington, London. HMG look forward to celebrating with so many inspirational family businesses.

52 Years & still at it (Part 2)

As I said in the last part, I had joined M & T Cruickshanks as a Tech Service Rep and was the proud owner of my first company car, a White Hillman Avenger.

Although as a technical service rep you are supposed to know a bit about all plating aspects but John Whitehouse soon realised that my knowledge was Copper, Nickel and Chromium and yes it was hexavalent chromium.

I spent the first few weeks of my introduction with fellow representatives learning the ropes and was soon let out on my own.

My very first solo adventure was being sent (on a Saturday) to a company in the Leicester area who made shoes. They had installed there first venture into electroplating, a sulphamate nickel for electro forming the patterns on the soles of the shoes.

The local representative had sold them all the equipment and they had wired it up as they thought was correct. They had been told to plate out the solution to remove any metallics onto a corrugated steel plating out sheet. Unfortunately the sheet became the anode and the nickel anodes became the cathode with the net result that the iron in the steel dissolved into the solution and there was quite a lot of it.

The lovely bright green solution was now a dirty brown and full of iron so it was a case of a new solution (costly) or remove the iron from the solution.

It was decided to do the latter which involved raising the pH to precipitate the iron followed by filtration of the iron. This took most of the Saturday to filter it out but by the Monday the customer was up and running.

JOHN BURGESS MEMORIES Pt2 (ii)

What was very different then to now was that there was no political correctness and on many occasions we reps ran the gauntlet of the ladies who worked in the jigging department.

One company that I regularly visited had a large nickel/chrome plating line situated at the rear of the factory. The challenge that had to be undertook was to get to the plant via walking past the ladies in the jigging department and this, more often than not, involved either being bombarded with comments of your love life or you were visually "undressed" something that definitely would not happen nowadays.

The thing was that you had the ability to give as good as you got, nobody complained and the banter made going to work enjoyable…….we worked hard and played hard.

Life on the road was varied but never dull and all the reps used to meet up on a Friday to chat about the challenges of the week which was good because you often learned a lot.

In those days (early 70's) meeting operators who had been working their trade for many years, you learnt a lot of the "tricks of the trade" which you would never find in any books but were an absolute godsend in later life. For example did you know that when a nickel plating solution was contaminated with copper by dropping the pH to around 3.0 and plating out at 1 asf (0.1asd) you plated out approximately 10X Copper to 1X Nickel.

Next time….Moving South and a complete breakdown

imf
Institute of Materials Finishing

GOLF DAY

£70 PER PERSON

WEDNESDAY
21 MAY

HARBORNE GOLF CLUB

BREAKFAST ROLL, COFFEE & LUNCH INCLUDED

CONTACT

helen@materialsfinishing.org
0121 622 7387
FOR MORE INFORMATION