



July 29, 2005 Issue

## Message from Co-Chairs

We are very excited about the upcoming SME Summit Conference taking place in Milwaukee, Aug. 2-4. The Engineering Materials Applications Community Tech Groups worked very hard last summer and through the fall to build high-quality technical sessions that would be of great value and interest to you. The upcoming sessions being held at the Summit are: Injection Molding & Plastics Processing, Compliant Metal Finishing, Materials Used for Modern Mold Making and Metal-to-Plastic Product Conversion. We hope to see you in Milwaukee!

Barbara Arnold-Feret, President and CEO, PARTS  
Steven L. Kiefer, Marketing Manager - North  
America,  
Rohm and Haas Powder Coatings

## Community News

### State Tax Relief for Toolmakers

To help the small toolmaker stay afloat in these tough economic times, the state of Michigan created the Tool and Die Recovery Zones program in 2004, granting small shops the ability to operate nearly free of state or local taxes for up to 15 years. The first eight zones encompass 33 companies, and the Michigan Economic Development Corp. is now accepting applications for a second round of recovery zones. To qualify, the designated property must be leased or owned by a qualified tool and die business and used primarily for tool and die operations. The company must have fewer than 50 full-time employees and be willing to enter into a qualified collaborative agreement with other qualified tool and die businesses, which creates synergies such as standardized processes and management methods.

- [Learn more...](#)

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**THE SUMMIT**  
August 3-4, 2005  
Oconomowoc, (Milwaukee) WI



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ANALYTICAL PRODUCTS EXPOSITION

September 13-15, 2005  
Rock Financial Showplace  
Novi, Michigan



**Coating 2005**



## Tech Groups in Action

### New Tech Group Members

- EMA Community Steering Committee:  
Aldo Balatti, Evolve Design Solutions Inc.  
Wayne Hertlein, Plastech Engineered Products
- Composites Manufacturing:  
Brock Strunk, Adam Aircraft
- Plastics Tooling & Mold Design:  
Chuck Azzopardi, D-M-E Co.
- Finishing Processes:  
Debbie Lewis, AM Consortium  
Andrew Panozzo, Tor Minerals International

### Plastics Industry Solution Center

The Plastics Industry Solution Center has generated positive and wide interest among members of the EMA community, as well as other professionals from the plastics industry. A broader scope of informative and valuable tips for the plastics industry are the result of the collaborative efforts of four tech groups: Injection Molding, Design for Plastics, Plastics Tooling & Mold Design and Finishing & Assembly of Plastic Components.



Balatti

"The wealth of hands-on and proven knowledge that is being shared with these tips and which resides in a single location is priceless to me," said Aldo Balatti, design engineering director/plastic applications specialist, Evolve Design Solutions Inc., Ottawa, Canada, who led this

program development for SME. "It will highly benefit any person involved within the plastics industry, and over time will grow to become an outstanding library of plastics knowledge."

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