

June 27, 2017



## **Axalta Coating Systems Discusses New Trends In Consolidated Paint Processes at DFO European Automotive Conference in Germany**

BASEL, Switzerland--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Axalta Coating Systems (NYSE: AXTA), a leading global supplier of liquid and powder coatings, presented the opening address at the 24<sup>th</sup> annual DFO European Automotive Coating conference, held recently in Braunschweig, Germany, for automotive and paint industry experts. Sven Radek, Application Technology Manager, for Axalta's Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) region, described the company's selection of Harmonized Coating Technologies™, a line of coating application processes integrating primers, basecoats and clear coats that can cut processing costs, save on material, and reduce environmental footprint for light vehicle car original equipment manufacturers (OEMs).

Titled *Less is More*, Radek's presentation drew attention to the benefits of Axalta's 3-Wet™, 2-Wet™ Monocoat and Eco-Concept™ Harmonized Coating Technologies™ for light vehicle OEM paint lines that can remove oven bake steps or combine layers. The conventional process, used for waterborne paints, requires the application of four paint layers, as well as the use of three curing ovens and one intermediate dryer.

"By contrast, Axalta's Harmonized Coating Technologies can telescope the entire light vehicle OEM paint process, making it possible to achieve outstanding results with just two ovens, and without either primer applications or sanding, depending on the system being used. This helps to save car manufacturers time, energy, labor, space and material," Radek said, adding, "By 2018, 20 per cent of all cars are likely to be painted with consolidated processes."

Axalta's 3-Wet Process is a recent development whose features Radek explained at DFO. After the standard electrocoat application and oven curing, the 3-Wet process applies an exterior 1K or 2K pre-coat. This gives the final paint surface greater stone chip resistance, high UV protection and produces an outstanding finish. The solid color precoat can be matched to different basecoat color groups to create a uniform color for further application steps. Under the 3-Wet process, there is no need for a primer as the precoat takes over the primer's job.

As Radek explained, "The post-primer oven curing and sanding are not required either. Instead, the interior and exterior basecoats can be applied to the pre-coat after a short flash-off time."

One of Axalta's Harmonized Coating Technologies, known as Eco-Concept and used around the world since 2003, similarly eliminates the need for a primer oven and sanding on OEM paint lines. It provides good stone chip resistance and UV protection with a specially formulated 2K basecoat technology.

"We foresee an increasing global trend by light vehicle OEMs towards consolidated paint processes. In fact, by 2020 we believe the use of ambient flash waterborne 3-Wet processes will have continued to grow," Radek predicted.

For more information on Axalta, please visit [www.axalta.com](http://www.axalta.com).

### **About Axalta Coating Systems**

Axalta is a leading global company focused solely on coatings and providing customers with innovative, colorful, beautiful and sustainable solutions. From light OEM vehicles, commercial vehicles and refinish applications to electric motors, buildings and pipelines, our coatings are designed to prevent corrosion, increase productivity and enable the materials we coat to last longer. With more than 150 years of experience in the coatings industry, the over 13,000 people of Axalta continue to find ways to serve our more than 100,000 customers in 130 countries better every day with the finest coatings, application systems and technology. For more information visit [axalta.com](http://axalta.com) and follow us @Axalta on [Twitter](#) and on [LinkedIn](#).

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