

Dear Colleagues:

As the breadth of photopolymerization technology continues to mushroom globally, the need to be more highly competitive in this key technology platform is essential. For this reason, we are delighted to announce the formation and initiation of the Industry/University Cooperative Research Center (IUCRC) for *Fundamentals and Applications of Photopolymerizations* co-directed by Alec Scranton at the University of Iowa and Christopher Bowman the University of Colorado. For what may be the first time in this industry, a concerted effort by key academic and industrial scientists will be focussed on answering the basic questions in this arena. Each one of us is proud to announce that our respective companies have chosen to take a lead in photopolymerization science and technology by providing financial support to this unique Center. In addition, each of us has enthusiastically committed to supporting the Center with our time and efforts by serving as founding members on the Executive Committee of the Industrial Advisory Board.

As you know, photopolymerized materials are utilized extensively in an array of current and emerging applications including adhesives, abrasion resistant coatings, release liners, imaging materials, dental/medical materials, abrasives, and rapid prototyping. The continuing growth of these materials stems from several significant and desirable advantages offered by photopolymerizations when compared to conventional, thermally activated systems; however, much of the expansion is occurring with only a superficial understanding of the key chemical processes and with limited academic involvement. If our industry is to be successful, it will require more effectively anticipating, creating and implementing, new photopolymerization systems and processes for existing and future applications. The formation of this IUCRC leverages and enhances the strengths of the various institutions (both academic and industrial) via collaborative interactions while providing the proper balance between the need for relevant fundamental understanding and development of innovative applications. This Center satisfies the need for active dialog between academic and industrial scientists by establishing an interactive information exchange leading to programs of mutual benefit.

The inaugural meeting of the new IUCRC for *Fundamentals and Applications of Photopolymerizations* was held just before Thanksgiving in 1999. At this meeting we adopted by-laws, elected an Executive Committee of the Industrial Advisory Board, and, most importantly, we selected the first set of research projects to be funded by the Center. Based upon oral presentations from the academic principal investigators, we reviewed a total of fifteen outstanding proposals that encompassed nearly every aspect of photopolymerization. The Industrial Advisory Board prioritized the proposals (with one vote from each member company) and the eight top research projects were selected for funding. The meeting also included a student poster session in which the graduate students presented nearly twenty on-going photopolymerization related research projects from the laboratories of the Center faculty. We all found the meeting to be productive, informative, and engaging. Perhaps you will join us for the next Center meeting that will be held in Iowa City in mid-May.

We believe that the IUCRC on *Fundamentals and Applications of Photopolymerizations* offers many important benefits for member companies. Membership provides early and complete access to all of the following: i) personnel (faculty, students, and industrial colleagues); ii) advanced, state-of-the-art research facilities; iii) scientific research advances (as much as a year before publication); iv) intellectual property and patents; and v) the Center's high quality educational program on photopolymerization science and technology. Most notably, Center membership allows the company to have input into academic research directions. In addition, the early and complete access to all of the Center's scientific research advances in the photopolymerization area provides an important competitive advantage for the member companies. Finally, the structure of the Center provides an enormous degree of leveraging (typically at least ten to one) for any single companies contributions. This

leveraging increases as more companies join the Center.

We strongly encourage you and your company to join us in our support and participation in the new IUCRC on *Fundamentals and Applications of Photopolymerizations*. This Center provides important benefits that will enable the member companies to compete successfully in the rapidly evolving photopolymerization landscape. We invite you to join us and avoid being left behind. Feel free to contact any one of us at the email addresses listed below or to contact either one of the Center co-Director's directly: Alec Scranton: abscrant@engineering.uiowa.edu, (319)335-1414; or Christopher Bowman: Christopher.Bowman@colorado.edu, (303)492-3247).

Sincerely,

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