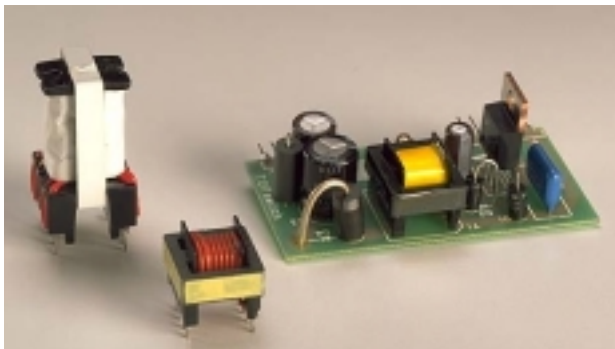


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DuPont Plunkett Awards Recognize Innovation With Fluoropolymers

BERMUDA, May 4 – Companies from around the world have won honors in the DuPont Plunkett Awards 2002 competition for innovation with DuPont™ Teflon® and Tefzel® fluoropolymer resins. New insulated wire to downsize computer transformers, an environmentally friendly capacitor element for mobile phones and an anti-static membrane for work clothes that cut explosion risk were among the top winners recognized at an awards ceremony held May 4 at the Sonesta Beach Resort in Bermuda.

"The winners of this year's Plunkett Awards again demonstrate the valuable contributions of Teflon® in innovations that make a difference in people's lives by reducing costs or improving performance," said Tim McCann, global business director for DuPont Fluoropolymers. The competition recognized winners from the Americas, Asia-Pacific and European regions.



Americas winner: Rubadue Co. for triple-insulated magnet wire using DuPont™ Tefzel®. It allowed compact transformer in foreground to replace bulky transformer at far left in a computer power supply.

[For repro-quality color jpeg files of photos, send an e-mail request to jkestler@att.net]



Europe winner: W.L. Gore & Associates for a protective clothing membrane that dissipates static charges and is breathable and weatherproof, too.

The top prize for the Americas region went to Rubadue Wire Co., Greeley, Colo., for triple-insulated wire that allows lower-cost production of smaller, more efficient transformers

for computer power supplies and other devices. Replacing traditional enamel-coated magnet wire, Rubadue's TCA3 wire relies on the outstanding dielectric properties of Tefzel[®] to deliver superior insulation while reducing transformer bulk.

First place for a European entry was awarded to W.L. Gore & Associates GmbH of Putzbrunn, Germany. Its anti-static version of Gore-Tex[®] laminate was developed for protective clothing used in environments involving flammable gases or fumes. Gore-Tex[®] Workwear anti-static membrane effectively dissipates dangerous static charges with a conductive grid 10,000 times denser than conventional conductive grids, according to Gore engineers. The anti-static material maintains the breathable, waterproof and wind-proof characteristics of standard Gore-Tex[®] membranes, which are also made with Teflon[®] PTFE (polytetrafluoroethylene).

Nippon Valqua Industries, Ltd., of Tokyo took first place in the Asia-Pacific region for an electrode membrane that allows a new, environmentally cleaner approach to backup power sources for mobile phones and personal computers. Made with Teflon[®] PTFE, the membrane is used to fabricate double-layer electric capacitors that store and discharge energy using physical phenomena. Unlike batteries, the capacitors require neither chemical reactions nor heavy metals.



Asia-Pacific winner: Nippon Valqua Industries for an electrode membrane used to make capacitors that can replace batteries as backup power sources for electronic devices.

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Second place for an Americas entry went to Crane Resistoflex, Marion, N.C., for its flangeless lined piping system for the chemical process industries. The company's PTFE Conquest™ system reduces fugitive emissions by eliminating leak risks inherent in flanged joints. A key innovation is Crane's technology for welding the pipe's lining of Teflon® PTFE with the aid of Teflon® PFA during pipe installation.

Titeflex Corporation, Springfield, Mass., took third place in the Americas bracket with composite barrier tubing for the transfer of motor fuel, natural gas, refrigerants, corrosive media or various gases. The tubing has a thin layer of aluminum sandwiched between two layers of Teflon® PTFE. This construction combines the flexibility and chemical inertness of PTFE with the barrier to effusion and permeation typical of metal tubing.

In the Europe region, Holscot Industrial Linings Ltd., of Grantham, Lincs., England, took second-place laurels with a laser fusion coating system for applying nonstick, low-friction surfaces of Teflon® on large metal objects. As an alternative to oven-fused coatings, this new technology provides a way to coat rollers, drying cylinders or aerospace surfaces that are too large for ovens or that cannot withstand oven fusion temperatures.

Third-place honors in Europe went to Keronite Ltd. of Abington, Cambridge, England for coating metals with ceramic followed by impregnation of the ceramic surface with Teflon® PTFE. The composite coating is non-stick and highly resistant to wear, scratching and chemical attack, according to Keronite.

In the Asia-Pacific regional competition, Nichias Corporation of Tokyo, Japan, received a second-place award for tubing extruded from Teflon® PFA with a conductive stripe integrated into its structure to dissipate static charges. In transferring flammable liquids or gases used in semiconductor manufacture or other processes, such tubing offers major advantages over tubing wrapped with stainless steel wire. Such advantages include better handling characteristics, less risk of installation problems and lower cost.

The winners of the DuPont Plunkett Awards 2002 in each of the three global regions received \$5,000 for first place, \$3,000 for second place and \$1,500 for third place.

This year's competition is the eighth of the DuPont Plunkett Awards program. They were established in 1988 in honor of the 50th anniversary of the discovery of Teflon[®] PTFE fluoropolymer resin by Dr. Roy J. Plunkett, a DuPont scientist.

During 2002, DuPont is celebrating its 200th year of scientific achievement and innovation – providing products and services that improve the lives of people everywhere. Based in Wilmington, Del., DuPont delivers science-based solutions for markets that make a difference in people's lives in food and nutrition; health care; apparel; home and construction; electronics; and transportation.

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