

News Release

First user- and environmentally friendly stripping station thanks to DBE® dibasic esters

December 18, 2003 – INVISTA, formerly DuPont Textiles & Interiors (DTI) - Specialty Intermediates announces the use of DBE® dibasic esters in Bio-Fluxaf-Aqua®, an environmentally friendly paint stripper distributed by Rutolan France, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Dutch company, Vliegenthart F.V., manufacturing under license. Bio-Fluxaf-Aqua® is part of Eco Decap Station® a paint stripping station immersion tank system recently used for the first time by the French company Philippe Malsoute.

The French company Philippe Malsoute has recently inaugurated its brand new immersion stripping station, the first in the world to associate the Eco Decap Station® tank with a liquid stripper that both is user-and environmentally friendly: Bio-Fluxaf-Aqua®, based on DBE® dibasic esters from INVISTA

Even if workplace accidents rarely make the headlines, the facts speak for themselves. Several deaths occur worldwide every year due to intoxication from methylene chloride contained in paint and varnish strippers. At low exposure thresholds, signs of intoxication appear (feeling of drunkenness and euphoria, dizziness) along with nausea, but massive inhalation of fumes rapidly leads to confusion and fainting, and this can be fatal if emergency help arrives too late. Serious health effects and even fatal cases were reported when methylene chloride was used and proper industrial hygiene was neglected.

Faced with these serious public health problems, the UK company Eco Solutions has developed an entire range of water and DBE® based stripping products, marketed in the UK under the Home Strip® brand. They are sold in France under the name Bio-Fluxaf-Aqua® by Rutolan France, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Dutch company Vliegenthart B.V., manufacturing under license. DBE® dibasic esters by INVISTA is an essential component of the formula. It offers high solvency power, without being classified as VOC or a solvent according to the EU Directive 1999/13/EC. The friendliness of DBE® to the user and the environment is due to the fact that it has a high flashpoint, a low vapor pressure, is readily biodegradable and offers a low risk potential. The use of DBE® means that Bio-Fluxaf-Aqua® strippers are non-irritating, have a neutral pH, are classified as non-hazardous and no warning labels are needed.

The stripping effectiveness of Bio-Fluxaf-Aqua® is optimized by a special flow tank, an original system designed by Bernard Tourrès, independent sales agent for Rutolan. It was patented by his company Prodirox under the name Eco Decap Station®, the first example of which was installed in Ussel in the Auvergne region.

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Philippe Malsoute, the sixth generation of painters-turned-entrepreneurs in Ussel confirms that stripping using Eco Decap Station[®] and Bio-Fluxaf-Aqua[®] based on DBE[®] offers much greater protection for the material being treated. This means that wooden furniture, entrusted to him by antique dealers, remains perfectly smooth, even with soft fibers and after high pressure cleaning. Metals are no longer subject to premature oxidization, no longer require neutralization after stripping, and can be painted as early as 24-hours later, whereas in theory the waiting time with chlorinated strippers is two to three weeks, otherwise the paint "matifies" or peels. For multiple layers, immersion time is longer than for chlorinated solvents, but this does not pose an operational problem and the final result more than justifies this slight change in procedure.

"We even successfully stripped entire windows with double glazing", Philippe Malsoute explained, "because Bio-Fluxaf-Aqua[®] does not damage glass and joints." "In addition to classic building materials such as shutters, blinds, fences, gates, etc. including wood furniture, we are looking at more diverse applications. Restaurants for example have already entrusted us with their teak terrace and even the metal grids for their oven hoods, which we brought up like new!" In view of the performance and neutral nature of the product, Philippe Malsoute is now planning to work on objects, which cannot be stripped using traditional methods. Finally, due to the much lower toxicological risk of DBE[®], operators do not need to wear masks or breathing apparatus and simply require waterproof overalls, goggles and boots for protection.

Bernard Tourrès, managing director of Prodirox France and the inventor behind Eco Decap Station[®], believes the originality lies in the functional stripping tank, "Flush Decap Moving". It ensures double flow of the product enabling both filtering of stripping residues and "massage" of the objects to be stripped. The tank's dimensions can be tailored to customers' needs, and Bernard Tourrès would now like to market the system worldwide. "Over thirty deaths due to intoxication by methylene chloride have been reported over the last twenty years. Plus, there have been numerous cases resulting in serious adverse impact on people's health from exposure to methylene chloride", he underlines. He concludes, "Thanks to DBE[®], this new stripping technology is a significant step forward in terms of health, safety and the environment."

In France, Bio-Fluxaf-Aqua[®] stripping products are also distributed by the Akzo Nobel network, which contributed to the success of Philippe Malsoute's project in various ways and by providing financial support. The range of products includes paint and varnish removers, ink cleaners, roughcast surface strippers, floor and wall covering removers and products to remove graffiti, even from plastic surfaces.

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For more information, please contact:

- **Distribution of the Bio-Fluxaf-Aqua® range of products in France:**
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Fax +33 (0)5.61.56.42.80 - e-mail : rutolan@rutolan.com,
website: www.decapant.com
- **Design and sale of Eco Decap Station®:**
PRODIROX-France Sarl, B.P. N° 1, F - 31600 LHERM (France) Tel. +33 (0)5.61.56.16.66,
Fax +33 (0)5.61.56.31.83, e-mail: prodirox@prodirox.com,
Website : www.prodirox.com
- **Production of the Bio-Fluxaf-Aqua® range :**
VLIEGENTHART B.V., Zuiderhavenweg 42, NL-4004 JJ Tiel (Holland)
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Inauguration of the first Eco Decap Station[®] at the French company Philippe Malsoute. The tank works with Bio-Fluxaf-Aqua[®], based on DBE[®] dibasic esters from INVISTA (formerly DuPont Textiles & Interiors) . From left: Mr. and Mrs. Philippe Malsoute, Robert Le Ruelle (Vliegenthart B.V., The Netherland), Mr. and Mrs. André Antoine (Sous-Préfet de la Corrèze, France), Jean-Luc Fontes (Rutolan-France S.A.R.L.), Dr. Gerald G. Altnau (Invista Germany).

Bio-Fluxaf-Aqua[®] is a trademark from Vliegenthart.

Eco Decap Station[®] is a trademark from Prodirox.

Home Strip[®] is a trademark from Eco Solutions.

DBE[®] is a trademark from INVISTA Technologies S.a.r.l.

Koch Industries Inc. aquired INVISTA, formerly DuPont Textiles & Interiors on April 30, 2004.