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NEWS RELEASE

CONSORTIUM WINS GOVERNMENT GRANT FOR PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF AEROSPACE COATINGS USING FUNCTIONAL NANOPARTICLES

A consortium consisting of Energenics Europe Ltd, Indestructible Paint Ltd and Monitor Coatings Ltd has been awarded a grant from the government-backed Technology Strategy Board to develop a nanoparticle-based coating solution for high performance applications.

Aerospace coatings are expected to perform in demanding environments and are subjected to very high levels of UV exposure which degrades their structure. This makes the coatings more susceptible to erosion through high speed impacts with dust particles and vapour droplets and can eventually lead to operational failure. Coatings on wind turbine blades (particularly offshore) are prone to similar degradation mechanisms.

The project aims to develop a nanoparticle-based solution that simultaneously improves both the UV protection properties and the mechanical resilience of high performance coatings. This will extend re-painting intervals, significantly reducing maintenance costs and contribute to the sustainability of these high growth markets in the longer term.

This project is one of over 40 funded through the Technology Strategy Board's 'Technology Inspired Innovation' competition for collaborative research & development funding, which represents £20 million of Government investment to stimulate growth-creating technology innovation.

For further information, please contact:

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Monitor Coatings Ltd

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Energenics Europe Ltd

Energenics Europe became the owner of the Envirox™ business in Sept 2009. It was originally part of the nanotechnology company Oxonica plc which was spun out from Oxford University research into advanced materials. Energenics is focussed upon the continuing commercialisation of Envirox™ and researching novel nanomaterials for a number of other applications. We are an active member of the scientific community on Oxford University's Begbroke Science Park.

Indestructible Paint Ltd

Indestructible Paint produce high performance coatings to protect surfaces - our product range of leading edge solutions is extensive and in daily use across a very wide range of industries.

Indestructible Paint manufactures high performance surface coatings engineered to meet the ever increasing performance requirements demanded in modern industry. We are committed to coatings product innovation and quality, and can manufacture small quantities of specialised products for distribution worldwide.

Monitor Coatings Ltd

Monitor Coatings Limited is a privately owned company with over 30 years experience of providing high quality coatings to demanding industries such as Aerospace, Oil & Gas exploration, Steel and many others where high performance is required in problematic hostile environments. Monitor Coatings Limited now applies its unique technology to help customers throughout the World increasing the life of components by up to 10 fold.

A coating's performance is very much dependent upon the quality of its application and this is why Monitor has some the strictest quality procedures in the industry and a quality record second to none. State-of-the-art coatings technology allied to the skills and disciplines that have been carefully developed within Monitor Coatings Ltd, provides industry with a unique problem solving expertise.

Technology Strategy Board

The **Technology Strategy Board** is the UK's innovation agency. Its goal is to accelerate economic growth by stimulating and supporting business-led innovation. Sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Technology Strategy Board brings together business, research and the public sector, supporting and accelerating the development of innovative products and services to meet market needs, tackle major societal challenges and help build the future economy. For more information please visit www.innovateuk.org.