

Rockhard

The Indestructible Paint Newsletter

Winter 2015/2016

Vulcan Flies into History - With The Help of Indestructible Paint Technology

Our work with a long list of aircraft restoration specialists has taken off spectacularly with the dramatic final flight of the remarkable Vulcan bomber.

The recent airborne tour of much of the country marked the last time the iconic delta-shape will be seen in the sky and is testimony to the dedication and commitment of the 'Vulcan to the Sky Trust'.

"We have been delighted to help with this prestigious project by supplying a number of key specialist coatings," says Brian Norton, Indestructible Paint's MD. "Our focus has been on the aircraft's engine where - in common with much of our work in this field - we have supplied either original coatings or re-created alternatives to the original specification. It's a clear reflection of the skills and chemical knowledge of our laboratory staff."

Products supplied for the project include jet pipe coatings, applied by Marshall's Aerospace, and a Rockhard material for the first stage compressor blades of the 17,000lbs thrust engines.

First taking to the skies in the days of the steam train engineering, the Avro Vulcan acted as both a nuclear deterrent and as an important part of the RAF's 'conventional' fleet until 1993. It famously saw action during the 1982 Falkland's war, achieving the longest ever bombing raid at over 6,800 miles.

"It's last flight was happily far more sedate and one which marks the passing of an era yet, at the same time, demonstrating modern day engineering capability and commitment. We are more than happy to have played our part," concludes Brian Norton.

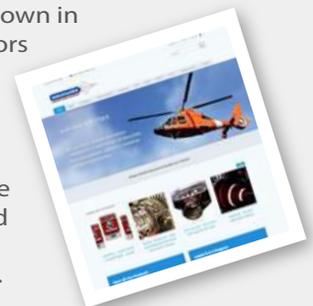


New Website Goes Live!

We are delighted to announce the launch of the all new Indestructible Paint website - www.indestructible.co.uk - with the emphasis on combining a wide range of information with a commitment to simplicity of use.

"The content and navigation have come under particular scrutiny during the site development and are now built around both the range of products that we offer and our support capability, particularly research and development," says John Bourke, Technical Sales Manager. "The former is broken down in stages - by category and sub-category - to allow our visitors to 'drill down' to find the exact solution to their needs, while the latter sets out our technical, problem solving, product development and supply commitments."

Basic information is available to all site visitors while those that login will also be able to access additional details and material including datasheet downloads, technical information and a series of easy to use quotation options.



One Success That's Hard to Swallow

Consuming two scotch bonnet chillies in 16 seconds is not something you do every day - but when it's for a cause such as Children in Need well why not?

Indestructible Paint's Anthony D'vaz was a brave soul who set the 'chilli challenge' record - just part of our commitment to the annual appeal with everyone involved deserving the director's warmest congratulations.

"We have nothing but respect for everyone that took part in this and other fundraising events," says Brian Norton, who was happy to add to the amount raised to bring the Indestructible Paint donation to the charity up to £650.

Indestructible Paint Ltd
16-25 Pentos Drive, Sparkhill, Birmingham B11 3TA
Tel: +44 (0)121 702 2485
Fax: +44 (0)121 778 4338
Email: sales@indestructible.co.uk
Web: www.indestructible.co.uk



Indestructible Paint Technology Races Forward

Indestructible Paint has broken new ground with an application that combines state of the art production with a highly challenging environment. The company has adapted one of its established coating systems to provide protection for a 3D printed component that has been purpose-designed for use in motorsport.

"The work has been in connection with the 'Formula Student' competition which is entered by university engineering departments worldwide," says Richard Banks, Laboratory Manager. "We were delighted to work with the 'UB Racing' team run by Engineering & Materials students at Birmingham University who can be congratulated on their car achieving third position in the UK section of the international event."



Indestructible Paint's involvement centered on the coating of a 3D printed inlet manifold. The 'Black Rockhard' coating was applied to add both an internal and external surface coating which was achieved by the use of a dip process.

"The part comprised a 'carbamide' polymer which, because it was produced by a 3D printing process, presented application challenges," continues Richard Banks. "The Rockhard product had to negate the risk of porosity and loose particles that can arise from the manufacturing method, while also meeting specific levels of temperature resistance - a direct result of its function within the engine."

The two part epoxy achieved excellent bonding and also contributed to the car's aesthetics - an important additional factor in the competition.

Taking to the Skies

Indestructible Paint is delighted to contribute to the remarkable 'School Build a Plane Challenge' organised by Boeing and the Royal Aeronautical Society.

"The scheme aims to involve secondary school students from around the country to develop their understanding of the subject from both a technical and project management perspective," says Brian Norton, Indestructible Paint's MD. "Our contribution has been in matching the paint and coating requirements specified by Ercall Wood Technical College in Shropshire with particular focus on aircraft cowlings." Indestructible Paint provided protective primer, acrylic colour coat and epoxy primer alongside technical input and advice from the company's laboratory staff.

"The aerospace sector has always been a key market for us so we were quick to accept the opportunity to be involved at such an early stage in a project of this type - it has been a genuine education for all concerned," concludes Brian Norton.



On the Road Again...Soon

Indestructible Paint's technology has once again shone through during a specialist restoration project.

The re-building of a motorcycle by enthusiast, Adam Jones - working from a wide selection of stripped down spare parts - has included cleaning, preparation, servicing and re-painting key areas including the re-built engine.

"A key objective was to ensure ongoing protection in terms of both function, particularly from the elements and road surfaces, and appearance - the latter clearly a key consideration with projects such as this," says Brian Norton, Indestructible Paint's MD. "We are delighted to report our solution has met both objectives and we are confident it will continue to do so long into the future."

These are views that are echoed by Adam Jones who used Indestructible Paint's capability on the recommendation of a key service supplier to the company he works for.

"We couldn't believe the quality of the paint which looks stunning and extremely robust," he says, "while the customer service I received when stuck with a few questions, was outstandingly good." The Indestructible Paint 42000 range of coatings was used for the project which provides corrosion prevention, chemical resistance and heat durability.

Back on the road again shortly, the motorcycle project will be a tribute both to the commitment of the re-building team and also to the quality of the materials used.



Indestructible Paint on Show

Indestructible Paint continues to make an exhibition of itself with a presence at a number of industry's leading exhibitions.

Centrepiece of the company's involvement in 2015 has been the Advanced Engineering Show at Birmingham's NEC in November. The company presented its track record and product range to visitors and reports excellent interest developed on stand which has now opened up new sales and development opportunities.

"Our work in leading-edge sectors such as aerospace was very much to the fore at the exhibition but stand visitors also showed great interest in our work in other fields such as defence, automotive and general engineering," says Brian Norton, Indestructible Paint's MD. "Our stand staff were kept busy throughout the two-day event so we are very grateful not just for their knowledge and understanding but also for the stamina that they all showed."

Show Plans Continue in 2016

The company is also delighted to be able to present its capabilities to a worldwide audience at a range of carefully selected exhibitions on the international stage in 2016. Involvement will see the company take a stand at Surfair in May, which takes place in Biarritz in France and focuses particularly on surface finishing in the aeronautic and aerospace sector.

"Additionally, Indestructible Paint will be involved with the Dubai MRO Show and the Singapore Air Show, both in February. These are extremely significant exhibitions that take place in key geographical areas for the industries in which we are involved so we are looking forward to continuing the success we achieved recently in Birmingham," adds Brian Norton.

Training Has Coatings Covered

A full understanding of coating materials and application methods are at the heart of training support offered by Indestructible Paint.

"We have always believed in the benefits of working closely with our customers - whatever their size or industry - to ensure our technology delivers the best possible results," comments Brian Norton, Indestructible Paint's MD. "Clearly, developing an understanding of how our choice of coatings can meet precise application needs and, just as importantly, how they can best be applied, is fundamental to this objective."



As a result, the company has developed a range of training packages and options that can be tailored to individual groups to reflect operational needs. Typically, courses are held in groups of eight trainees over a two-day period and can be conducted either at a client's premises or at the Indestructible Paint facility in Birmingham.

"A combination of classroom and practical elements is always featured with attendees receiving appropriate certification on successful completion of each course," adds Brian Norton.



Typical course content can comprise:-

- Introduction to paint and coatings technology
- Technical characteristics of coating types
- Paint application theory
- Health & Safety considerations
- Quality control and evaluation

New Developments Continue to Flow

The commitment to produce development that has long underpinned Indestructible Paint's success is being seen once again with the greater emergence of water-based coatings.

"Water-based products not only offer clear-cut and well recognised environmental gains over solvent alternatives," says Richard Banks, Laboratory Manager at Indestructible Paint, "but can also surpass established performance levels by a significant margin."

Water-based anti-corrosive coatings mark the current result of a



logical progression of product evolution which has run from high solvent chrome-based material to high solvent chrome-free and then on to low solvent minimal chrome. Today, water-based chrome-free alternatives are opening up new opportunities particularly in fields such as aerospace component manufacturing.

"Significantly, the benefits of water-based coatings are of relevance to both the OEM and the MRO sectors of the industry," adds Brian Norton, Indestructible Paint's MD. "While our focus to date with this technology has been on non-engine aerospace components, we believe the greater take-up of water-based coating technology will open up new opportunities for manufacturers in all corners of industry."



Indestructible Paint Steps Forward

Indestructible Paint continues to take important steps forward to enhance its services to customers.

A further expansion of the company's stockholding capability is now coming online with 29,000 sq. ft. of additional warehouse space in a newly acquired facility alongside our factory - a 60% increase in capacity.

"As a supplier to leading edge sectors such as aerospace, defence and marine engineering as well as general manufacturing, it is vital that we operate a stockholding system that enables us to react quickly to customer orders, irrespective of required volume," comments Brian Norton, Indestructible Paint's MD. "The new unit builds on this commitment and optimises the link between sales and despatch - including a new collection area and counter - both to streamline and enhance the handling process."

At the same time, the company's commitment to its staff is demonstrated by a series of developments and changes to its personnel structure in several key departments. Karan Sembi has taken on the permanent role of Marketing Executive with a focus specifically on optimising the company's links with customers, and orchestrating new marketing initiatives. Alongside this, the Sales Department sees Kirsty Worthington take on the role of Sales Office Supervisor with Tara Naylor and Dean Reid becoming Sales Administrators.

The company's warehouse facility also sees developments with Emma Greenway moving to Despatch Supervisor and Paul Bunn and



Stephen Madourie now taking on the roles of Warehouse Stock and Despatch operatives respectively. The company is also keen to offer thanks to Andrew Woodward who has moved on from Indestructible Paint after 15 years' excellent service in a number of different areas.

Finally, the highly regarded Indestructible Paint Laboratory Team is strengthened with the appointment of Violaine Medenz who, as Project Technician, will focus in particular on inorganic hexavalent chrome replacement projects.

"These are all important steps forward for us as they place greater emphasis on key aspects of business while enhancing the efficiency of our own operation and, of course, building on our excellent relationships with customers," concludes Brian Norton.



Indestructible Paint in Ministerial Spotlight

Indestructible Paint Ltd has been delighted to play host to a visit by Business Minister, Anna Soubry MP - the company was selected as an excellent example of an organisation achieving ongoing success in a highly specialist sector of its marketplace. The minister was able to offer helpful advice on making the most of Government and trade support, while listening to a number of key issues raised by senior management.

"It was both an honour and a pleasure to welcome Anna Soubry to our factory, particularly as it marks our leading position both in our industry and in manufacturing in this area," says Brian Norton, Managing Director.

Alan Norton, Operations Director and John Toon, Financial Director, drew particular attention to the impact of regularly considerations - especially, the challenges defined by REACh. The important role played by apprenticeships and the need for governmental support at both local and national level also came under the spotlight during discussion.

"We were very happy to welcome Anna Soubry to our premises and hope she found the day as beneficial as ourselves," concludes Brian Norton.

