The new CCAI Georgia chapter officers are, from left to right, Ed Harmon, Lowell Lampe, Derek Dennis and Brit Metcalf.

The Chemical Coaters Association International has launched new chapters in Georgia and Alabama.

The Georgia chapter held their kick-off meeting at the Georgia Power Customer Resource Center in July. Chapter president Derek Dennis with Heraeus Noblelight led the meeting, and chapter treasurer Lowell Lampe with Coral Chemicals gave a presentation on pretreatment. There were 20 attendees for the charter meeting, which was followed by a social happy hour. Members enjoyed refreshments and discussed future meeting topics, plant tours and events. To round out the new Georgia chapter board of directors, Ed Harmon with Georgia Power agreed to be vice-president, and Brit Metcalf with IFS Coatings took the role of secretary.

David Boone with Alabama Power is taking the reigns as the first president of the Alabama chapter, while Hank Arnold with Alabama Washer and Ovens will serve as vice president and Ryan Bonds with CCIS is the
chapter secretary. The chapter plans to provide educational meetings with expert speakers and networking activities to share information on relevant issues in the industry. The chapter is currently in the process of scheduling programming.

For information about the chapters, visit the CCAI website at ccaiweb.com

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SVC TechCon Paper Abstracts Due Oct. 10

Abstracts for papers hoping to be presented at the 2017 Society Of Vacuum Coaters’ TechCon are due Oct. 10. Interested parties who wish to present their latest research and connect with fellow researchers, practitioners, and business partners are invited.

Conference organizers are now accepting original abstracts for symposia and technical sessions related to vacuum coating technology. The conference will also include a dedicated symposium on coatings for healthcare, biometric monitoring, and bio-interfaces.

Abstracts are being solicited for (but not limited to) the following topical programs:

- Symposium: Coatings for Healthcare, Biometric Monitoring, and Bio-Interfaces
- WebTech Roll-to-Roll Coatings for High-End Applications
- Coatings for Energy Conversion and Related Processes
- Protective, Tribological and Decorative Coatings
- Emerging Technologies
Dörken USA Celebrates 15th Anniversary

Dörken Corporation USA celebrated its 15th anniversary with key industry executives in attendance at the Manistee National Resort.

Dörken Corporation USA, an operating unit of Dörken MKS-Systeme, Herdecke, Germany and a global manufacture of corrosion protection coating systems, for a variety of parts including fasteners, springs, brackets, clips, stamped parts and large underbody components recently celebrated the 15th anniversary of the company’s presence in North America.

The company hosted coating and plating licensees, and OEM equipment manufacturers to a two-day conference and seminar at the Manistee National Resort in Manistee, Michigan, August 16-17. The group gathered to hear brief presentations from Dr. Martin Welp, CEO of Dörken MKS-Systeme, Frederick Schultz, president, Dörken Corporation USA, Mike VoHland, publisher of Automotive Design and Production, as well as presentations from equipment builders Martin Mueller, WMV, Kevin Dyche, SIDASA Engineering and Brad Hannah, Perceptive Industries.
“The event was a wonderful way for the industry to get together and discuss ways we can all work to develop the best possible solutions for coatings,” said Dr. Welp. “We heard from the builders and coaters and will continue to work toward providing those solutions with Dörken being an instrumental part in that development.”

Frederick Schultz, noted “Our 15th anniversary is another milestone and testament to our continued efforts in North America and an investment in our company’s overall global finishing strategies. The worldwide Dörken team continues to provide improvements in products and services to better serve our licensees, with everyone working for a common goal, success and pride in the high quality of the finished product delivered to the global supply chain.”

Dörken’s global coating solutions are approved for use by and meet the standards and specifications for corrosion protection, sealants, and lubricity performance of fasteners of vehicle manufacturers and Tier One suppliers worldwide yet are environmentally friendly. Its product development programs and manufacturing operations are certified in accordance with DIN EN ISO 9001:2000 and to ISO 14001.

Axalta Coating Systems hosted University of Michigan business, chemistry and engineering students at the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Pure Michigan 400 race weekend on August 27-28. The recently announced Axalta/U-M partnership aims to drive awareness and support for STEM and business education. Students had rare, special access to industry leaders from Axalta, Hendrick Motorsports, Michigan International Speedway (MIS) and NASCAR.

“Every day, the engineering excellence that is essential to racing transfers almost seamlessly into practical applications for the coatings industry,” said Steve Markevich, Axalta Executive Vice and President of
Transportation Coatings and Greater China. “Our partnership with the University of Michigan, one of the premier research institutions in the world, benefited students who joined us at the track and will continue to be a valuable resource for students and faculty in the future.”

U-M students experienced a wide array of business, engineering and race activities during the weekend. On Saturday, students took part in an interactive panel discussion focused on the fusion of business and engineering at the race track. The panel featured Markevich; Gene Stefanyshyn, Senior Vice President, Innovation and Racing Development at NASCAR; Roger Curtis, MIS President; and Eric Jacuzzi, Senior Aero/Vehicle Performance Engineer, at NASCAR. Chris McKee, Director of Business Development at the Motor Racing Network, moderated the panel. Topics varied from the advances in racing technology, to how sponsors maximize their visibility, and to how tracks like MIS make the fan experience ever more memorable. After the panels, students toured the track and saw parts of the rain-delayed NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race.

Saturday evening, Markevich and Jack Hu, U-M Vice President for Research, hosted dinner at the storied U-M Student Union in Ann Arbor. Guest speakers included Ray Evernham, three-time NASCAR champion crew chief and TV host, and Alex Bowman, substitute driver of the No. 88 Axalta/University of Michigan Chevrolet SS race car for Dale Earnhardt Jr. for the Pure Michigan 400.

“Engineering is problem solving,” said Evernham. “Work done in this area has taken our sport, an engineering-driven sport, to new levels.”

On Sunday, students returned to MIS to watch the Pure Michigan 400 and the No. 88 Axalta Chevrolet SS with its special University of Michigan paint scheme. Axalta unveiled the joint paint scheme last June at its research and manufacturing facility in Mount Clemens, Michigan.

“This was a great weekend for our students to see the amount of engineering and the levels of teamwork that go into race events. The discussions with Axalta, NASCAR and MIS could have gone on all night,” said Chris Gordon, Manager of U-M’s Walter E. Wilson Student Team Project Center, which provides students with dedicated space and facilities for student race teams to compete nationally and internationally.

For information, visit axaltacoatingsystems.com

Meridian General Acquires PCS PowderCoat Services

16. September 2016
Meridian General Capital has acquired California-based PowderCoat Services (PCS), a production powder coater offering its customers a diverse range of related services.

Founded in 1981, PCS serves a wide spectrum of industries including automotive, home improvement, consumer products, sports equipment, musical instruments, electronics, cleaning and sanitizing, and the military.

"With this acquisition, Meridian intends to build a dynamic industrial services enterprise," said Ravi Rao, founder and chairman of Meridian. "PCS provides a solid platform that has been successful in this highly specialized niche, one that is critical to its customers and environmentally a sound replacement to paint processes. Additionally, the expertise of key management staff will assure us of meeting our ambitious growth plans in this industry segment."

Based in Anaheim, PCS operates in five plants within an industrial park. The company provides personalized service, and uses its own fleet of trucks and drivers. For information, visit powdercoatservices.com.

Meridian General Capital is a Los Angeles-based private equity group that invests in lower middle market growth industries and is focused on acquiring businesses that have a history of operating profits. Visit meridiangeneral.com.