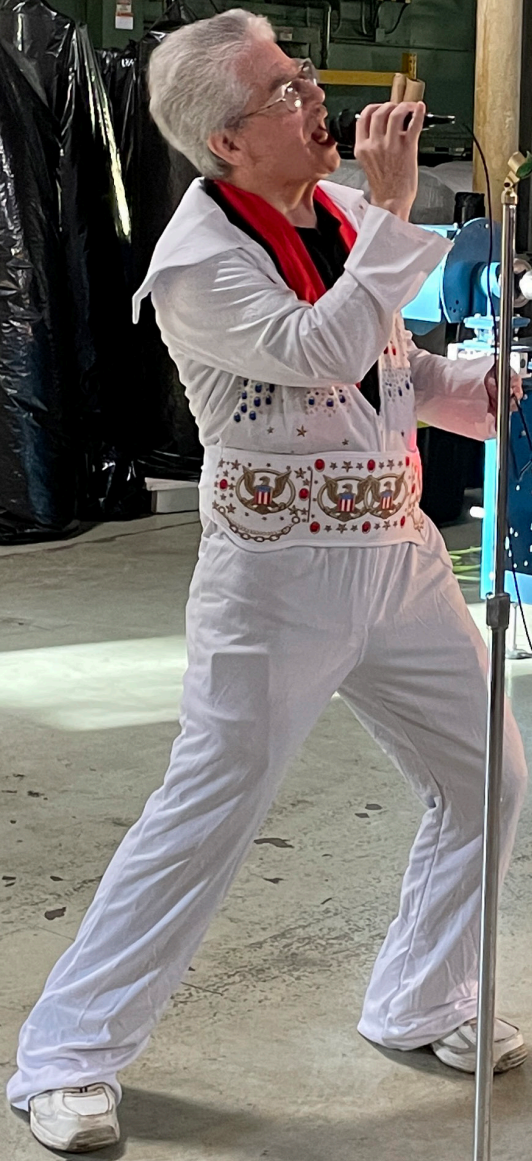


CORTEC Vision

September 2024

*See you later, **Dino!***
A Cortec® Legend Retires



COMPANY NEWS ... Page 2
OUT AND ABOUT ... Page 6
ARTICLES ... Page 7
UPCOMING EVENTS ... Page 8

Dino dresses up as Elvis for a farewell concert on the Cortec® production floor.

COMPANY NEWS

Fond Farewell to a Cortec® Legend

It is with mixed emotions that we say goodbye to Dean “Dino” Santos as he retires from the production floor at Cortec® World Headquarters in Minnesota. Next to our founder, Boris Miksic, Dino is Cortec’s longest working employee, hitting the 41-year mark on July 25th, 2024.

Dino started working at Cortec® in 1983 when the plant was located just south of downtown Saint Paul. That was only six years after Boris started the company in 1977. Dino traveled with the enterprise when it moved to the White Bear Lake area in 1992 and has been faithfully working there ever since. Favorite Dino trademarks include his phrase “What a day already,” his habit of drawing smiley faces on the unused ends of jumbo rolls of foam, his Friday “concerts” where he plays favorite music, his knack of remembering birthdates, and his signature job of infusing VpCI®-130 Series foam with VpCI® technology.

According to most recent estimates, Dino has processed approximately 62.6 million ft² (5.8 million m²) of VpCI®-130 Series foam during his time at Cortec®. When laid end to end at one foot wide, this equals 11,850 miles (19,071 km), which would reach a little less than halfway around



Dino assists trainee on foam equipment.



Dino Santos wearing the hat co-workers gave him to capture one of his favorite sayings.

the world or almost as far away from Cortec® headquarters as you can get on earth! With his decades of experience, Dino is so quick at processing rolls that it takes more than one person to do the same job.

Dino plans to go on a trip with his family the day after he retires and later hopes to visit Graceland and Dollywood to spend quality time with his wife and grandkids. Other than that, he plans to take life a day at a time, knowing that we’re not promised tomorrow. “Every time I wake up in the morning,” Dino said, “I [pray], ‘thank you, Lord, for another day on this earth.’” He also commented, “it’s not goodbye; it’s I’ll see you around,” as he hopes to continue visiting his colleagues every few months.

Dino is thankful for Cortec® and Boris hiring him so many years

ago and is grateful for all they have done for him. Boris also reflected on the special employer-employee relationship he has shared with Dino over more than four decades and expressed the following thoughts:

“When Dino came to my office last May to announce his plans to retire, tears welled in my eyes, emotions and fond memories overwhelmed me with nostalgia. Dino is a true Cortec® Champion for 41 years, I hired him when Cortec® was still in . . . St. Paul, it’s hard to describe all the good moments we shared with each other, ping pong, dart games, sing alongside Dino emulating Elvis Presley, family picnics, hard work developing and producing flagship product VpCI®-130 Series, it’s hard for me to describe the legacy of Dino Santos, a true legend in the history of our Company.”

See you later, Dino!

COMPANY NEWS

Cortec® Family Reunion in Split

It was great to have friends from Sweden and the US visit us in Croatia—whether for business or pleasure. Joe Louisell of Metals Preservation Group happened to be in Split, Croatia, with his family at the same time as TRIBOTEC, so we enjoyed some teambuilding together with multiple branches of the Cortec® family!



Left: Teambuilding with Swedish distributor TRIBOTEC (and Joe Louisell). Right: Joe Louisell (Metals Preservation Group) vacationing with his family in Split.

Customer Satisfaction

It's always a pleasure to hear from satisfied distributors and end users who are pleased with Cortec's quality and service. Recently, our friend Walter Bänziger from CORPAC AG took the time to verbalize that satisfaction in an email acknowledging the importance of Cortec's investment in good equipment. You can read his own words in the email below.

Subject: VpCI-126 ZL Bag 30%-PCR-Blue/50 x 70 mm/100 microns received...

Dear friends,

Today arrived a big shipment of 16 pallets of 126 film material for our stock and customer orders. Among the shipment we also received finally the smallest ZL bag in PCR blue with dimension 50 x 70 mm. As you know we need this size very very often for the watch industry.

I have to confess how happy we at Corpac are that we received this small size and no longer as a lumpy 50 my thin bag not looking high quality. With the German version we often had heat-seal issues throughout the years. Now this EcoCortec small version looks so beautiful and feels so good when touching them. Great seals and moreover finally we have also a print on the bags: a true Cortec/EcoCortec original !!!

We are truly grateful that you made this possible with buying an expensive and professional machine. In the end, and I am sure about that, it will pay off surely.

BORIS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPER SUPPORT !

We appreciate it by all means !

Take care you all.

Freundliche Grüsse/Kind regards
Meilleurs salutations

Walter Bänziger



CORPAC AG... *seit/since 1996*
Fabrikstrasse 26 / „Gewerbepark Papier“
9220 Bischofszell / Switzerland

COMPANY NEWS

EcoCortec® Closes a Loop on Plastic Recycling

This spring marked the first delivery of plastic waste from customer Jakob Schober GmbH (Waldorf, Germany) to EcoCortec® (Beli Manastir, Croatia), starting a new recycling partnership between the two companies. Jakob Schober is an eco-conscious customer who intentionally orders VpCI®-126 PCR (a Vapor phase Corrosion Inhibiting film containing 30% post-consumer recycled content from a recycled raw material supplier that follows strict quality standards) to achieve a better environmental footprint. They naturally end up with postindustrial scrap as they create 3D bags from VpCI®-126 PCR film and regular plastic film for their export packaging kits.

Scrap builds up quickly, and in March 2024, Jakob Schober entered into an agreement with EcoCortec® to ship clean plastic scrap to the Beli Manastir plant for reprocessing. After further inspection at EcoCortec®, the scrap was re-granulated using state-of-the-art reprocessing equipment and tested in the lab before being used in VpCI® Film production. The same truck that brought VpCI®-126 PCR to Schober was loaded with VpCI®-126 PCR scrap for transport to EcoCortec® 1,000 km (621 mi) away, resulting in additional fuel savings



Truck loaded with scrap for EcoCortec® to reprocess.

for a better carbon footprint as well as a circular economy.

In a world where talking about the “circular economy” is much easier than making it happen, EcoCortec® is proud to be helping make the “circular economy” a reality at the level of a direct customer-manufacturer relationship.

EcoCortec® Receives Lider Invest Award



In June, EcoCortec® was honored to participate in the Lider Financial Investment Forum in Zagreb, Croatia. EcoCortec® General Manager, Dijana Zrinski, served on a panel discussing investment strategies in the region and shared insights from EcoCortec’s own experiences and strategies. EcoCortec® also received a “Lider Invest Award” in the category of best medium-sized investments in Croatia.

Tying Another Knot in Sister-City Relationship

The week of June 9th-17th was a special time for the sister cities of Beli Manastir, Croatia, and Cambridge, Minnesota, as they strengthened the ties of a relationship started in 2016 thanks to the vision of Cortec® founder Boris Miksic. This was the first student exchange to take place under the sponsorship of Cortec® Advanced Films (Cambridge), EcoCortec® (Beli Manastir), and the city councils of the sister cities. Tim Bliss



(Cortec® Advanced Films Production Manager) joined Mike McDonald (Isanti High School history teacher and basketball coach) and Mike’s wife Dayla to chaperone six basketball players on the trip of a lifetime!

From beginning to end, the Cambridge student delegation was impressed by the hospitality and rich culture of the Croatians. In addition to visiting the mayor and touring EcoCortec®, the team went to local schools and heard more about daily life and values, “Through the Eyes of the Children,” as one presentation described it. By the time the mid-week basketball game came around, the Cambridge and Beli Manastir kids had already forged strong connections and reveled in a three-hour



Tim Bliss (right) and Beli Manastir’s Mayor Tomislav Rob (left) enjoying Adriatic Coast.

COMPANY NEWS



paintball game together in a giant vineyard. They also enjoyed beautiful scenery at prominent nature sites and joined in the fervor of watching the first match of the Croatian football (soccer) team season. Cortec® hopes to continue fostering these connections when Beli Manastir students make a reciprocating trip to Minnesota next year!

Historic Moment for Cortec® in Southeast Asia

The Indonesia Marine & Offshore Expo (IMOEX) marked the first trade show where Cortec® hosted its own corporate booth in Southeast Asia. IMOEX took place July 31st-August 2nd in Batam City, Indonesia, just an hour's ferry ride from Singapore where Cortec® Southeast Asia (CSEA) has its offices. The CSEA team was grateful to have distributor Ms. Kho Hui Cu, of PT. Tripiranti Maju



Jaya (TMJ), join them at the booth as an indispensable bridge builder between CSEA and local Javanese and Bahasa speakers who wanted to know how VpCI® technology works and can benefit them. With a hot and humid environment year-round and free trade zones that are home to many shipyards, FPSO construction sites, and manufacturing facilities, Batam is a perfect incubator for industrial corrosion, and it was not surprising to see a steady flow of visitors to the Cortec® booth all three days of the show. We look forward to seeing how ongoing collaboration develops in this region!

New Organizational Development Manager



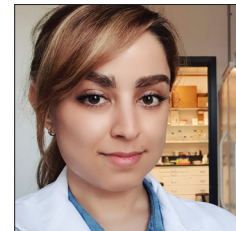
Greg Koepel joined the team on May 13th after five years of teaching upper level courses on Organizational

Behavior, Human Resources Management, and Leadership at the Sentry School of Business, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point (UWSP). Prior to that, Greg spent 30 years in a variety of HR roles, primarily as an executive leader. In addition to his career in HR, Greg spent 10 years in the military, first with the Michigan Army National Guard and then with the U.S. Army as an infantry officer. He left the service as a captain.

Greg has a bachelor's degree in business and a master's degree in management, human relations, and organizational behavior. He is two classes away from, and currently working on, completing his bachelor's degree in history. Greg has also received the prestigious Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) designation from the Society for Human Resources.

"I see myself as a sort of assistant coach," said Greg. "My role is to help the team and coaches – the executives, managers, supervisors, and team members – learn and understand how we can organize ourselves and play our positions to maximum effect." He continued by saying, "In all the classes I taught at the university level – the core teaching was always that as leaders and team members we must respect one another. Respect is the 'universal lubricant' for effective relationships. I'm very pleased that we value respect here at Cortec® – so much so that we turned our value of respect into an action statement – 'Respect and treat our colleagues, customers, and vendors as we would our own family members' – a team that does that is exactly the type of team I want to belong to!"

New Microbiologist at Bionetix® International



Shadi Rajab has been the new Microbiologist at Bionetix® International since last May. She has a B.S.

in Biotechnology and two master's degrees (Microbial Biotechnology and Molecular Biology). Shadi has worked in the probiotics industry for more than seven years, dealing with everything from R&D to full-scale production. By minutely studying and characterizing microorganisms, Shadi will enable Bionetix® to reimagine current biotechnologies and develop new strains to their best potential. Shadi is especially interested in the field of waste treatment and commented, "The idea of using microorganisms to cleanup human-made environmental contaminants motivates me to work every day."

OUT AND ABOUT

Going for the Rust at EUROCORR!



While many athletes were “going for the gold” this year in Paris, Cortec® was going after the rust at EUROCORR2024, September 1st-5th in the same city. Our team (in conjunction with Quimilock and the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, University of Zagreb) contributed four papers to the technical program on topics ranging from biobased coatings and compostable electronics packaging to the use of surface applied corrosion inhibitors to rehabilitate a world-class football stadium.

Back at the booth, our team stayed busy with many visitors from automotive, water treatment, and oil and gas companies—mainly based in Europe but also the Middle East. In addition to general interest in learning how VpCI® technology works, attendees wanted to find specific solutions for corrosion problems in boilers and drilling equipment, among other concerns. Keep going for the rust, team Cortec®!

AMPP Italy Chapter Conference & Expo

We were honored to share a booth with Carte Dozio at the 3rd AMPP Italy Chapter Conference & Expo, June 9th-

11th in Genoa. With approximately 500 attendees from Italy, Europe, and other parts of the world, it was a great place to sharpen our understanding of the corrosion control industry and make important connections for the future. Our own Ivana Radic Borsic (VP Sales, Europe) was invited to reshare her co-authored paper on “VpCI® for multimetal protection in heating systems” as part of the technical program. She was also asked to co-chair the Corrosion Inhibitors & Monitoring sessions, a role that involved reviewing papers and making suggestions to keep them within the technical bounds of the conference. Booth time was very productive as Ivana and the Carte Dozio team made significant connections in the oil and gas and welding industries, among others.



Face to Face in Southeast Asia

It has been great to see many of our friends in Southeast Asia face-to-face during multiple trips this spring and summer. On one visit, Eric Uutala (Technical Sales and Product Manager) had the honor of presenting on CorroLogic® for ASTs at the “Technology Update (5th Edition): Innovations for Your Facility Integrity Needs” seminar hosted by Wilson Walton in Indonesia. Another profitable training session occurred when Jay Zhang (Director of Business Development) and Eric visited a Petrofac facility in



Thailand to share preservation strategies for equipment and systems in an oil and gas construction yard.

The IPA (Indonesia Petroleum Association) convention in Jakarta served as a great venue to talk with one of our Indonesian distributors and mingle with reps of big-name companies like ExxonMobil, BP, Baker Hughes, and more. Meetings continued into the night as Eric and Jay spent time dining and doing business with another regional distributor. Near the end of the trip, Jay and Eric parted ways so that Jay could touch base with five Cortec® distributors in China, and Eric could head back to Malaysia. All told, Eric and Jay visited five countries and 15 Cortec® distributors/partners in the month of May alone, with many more great visits to follow during the remainder of the summer. With the World Sales Meeting just a couple of months away, we hope to reconnect with many of you soon in Minnesota!



OUT AND ABOUT

Bringing Stability to an Unpredictable Market at OTC



It was great to be back at NRG Park for OTC 2024, May 6th-9th in Houston, Texas! This major oil and gas conference was a powerful opportunity to discuss corrosion and EHS (environmental health and safety) concerns with engineers and managers from near or far and spend quality time with our local distribution network. Furthermore, OTC underscored Cortec's special position as a provider of corrosion solutions that can help players navigate EHS concerns in an unpredictable industry. One of the best parts of OTC was team building with our Cortec® friends and family from the Houston area. In addition to training sessions and business meetings with local distributors, we enjoyed getting to know our industry colleagues on a more personal level through fun social times—we had 25 of us together at one point!

Building CorroLogic® Awareness at NISTM

Aboveground storage tank (AST) builders, consultants, and owners had the privilege of meeting an all-star Cortec® team at the NISTM 26th Annual International AST Conference & Trade Show, April 3rd-5th in Orlando, Florida. Members of Cortec's delegation spent the three-day conference sharing corrosion solutions, connecting with industry professionals, and getting to know the world of storage

tanks even better themselves. Since the conference is closely tied to the oil and gas industry, Eric Uutala (Technical Sales & Product Manager – Asset Preservation and CorroLogic®) gave a presentation on, "Novel Gel Corrosion Inhibiting System for Protection of Cased Pipeline Crossing Internals." At the end of the talk, several attendees asked questions about our VCI gel casing filler, its application, and its life expectancy. Our team also got to build their own knowledge of the industry by attending a variety of presentations on tanks, specifications, corrosion mapping, and more.



ARTICLES

Cortec® has been asked to write numerous feature articles in the last year. These serve as great resources to learn from and share with others!

'Cracks and Carbonation Are Inevitable: What's Your Corrosion Mitigation Plan?'

Building Enclosure
July 2024

Although extremely durable, concrete is vulnerable to corrosion, which is exacerbated by cracking and carbonation. Read this article to learn more about the advantages of slowing the corrosion process and options for doing so: <https://www.buildingenclosureonline.com/articles/92714-cracks-and-carbonation-are-inevitable-whats-your-corrosion-mitigation-plan>

'The Appeal of Peelable Coatings'

Metal Architecture
July 2024

Most paint is meant to last for years, but peelable coatings are specifically designed without some of the normal adhesion qualities so they can be used for temporary protection and removed. Learn more about peelable coating chemistry, use, and performance: <https://www.metalarchitecture.com/articles/the-appeal-of-peelable-coatings/>

'Corrosion and Scale Mitigation for Mission Readiness'

Engineered Systems
July 2024

How do you stay mission ready in hospitals and data centers? Dealing with corrosion and scale in backup heating and cooling systems is an important step. Learn more about keeping the lights on in hospitals and keeping data centers cool: <https://www.esmagazine.com/articles/103720-corrosion-and-scale-mitigation-for-mission-readiness>

'Unlocking Process Improvements and Sustainability with Cellulase'

Chemical Today
August 2024

The industrial value of cellulase (available from Cortec's subsidiary, Bionetix®) has long been recognized, but this enzyme is becoming even more relevant as the interest in biotechnology and sustainability increases. This article dives into how the enzyme works and how it can be used in a variety of different industries—from textile treatment to biofuel production. Read more: <https://chemicaltoday.in/news/Articles/66d174ead7aaccb82f5745e2/Unlocking%20Process%20Improvements%20and%20Sustainability%20with%20Cellulase>

ARTICLES

'Fighting Scale and Corrosion on Balance of Geothermal Plant Equipment'

POWER
August 2024

Geothermal power may be renewable, but it's also highly corrosive. This article shares expert insights from Jim Holden and Scott Bryan, with corrosion preventative recommendations for specific "balance of plant" equipment (downstream from the steam entry point). Read: <https://www.powermag.com/fighting-scale-and-corrosion-on-balance-of-geothermal-plant-equipment/>

'Streamlining the Electronics Packaging Process'

Electronics Era
August 2024

How can you protect sensors, PCBs, modules, and subassemblies from damage during shipping as electronics proliferate? This article looks at some of Cortec's efforts to combine ESD + corrosion protection. It also discusses the different levels of ESD protection available. Read the full article here: <https://electronicsera.in/streamlining-the-electronics-packaging-process/>

'Exploring probiotics for better aquaculture - inside and out'

World Fishing & Aquaculture
September 2024

Probiotics (like those offered at our subsidiary Bionetix® International) are an exciting nature-based technology that represent untapped potential in the aquaculture industry. This article shares more about how they work. Read it at this link: <https://www.worldfishing.net/insight/exploring-probiotics-for-better-aquaculture-inside-and-out/1494945.article>

UPCOMING EVENTS

FachPack

September 24th-26th, 2024
Messezentrum, Nuremberg
Germany
www.fachpack.de



ACI Concrete Convention

November 3rd-6th, 2024
Philadelphia Marriott Downtown
Philadelphia, PA
Booth #203
www.concrete.org/



World of Concrete 2025

January 21st-23rd, 2025
Las Vegas Convention Center
Las Vegas, NV
Booth #S11711
www.worldofconcrete.com/



Heat Exchanger World Conference

October 16th-17th, 2024
NRG Park
Houston, TX
Booth #2107
www.heat-exchanger-world-america.com/



Cortec® World Sales Meeting

November 6th-8th, 2024
Saint Paul Hotel
Saint Paul, MN
<https://www.cortecvci.com/news-alert-save-the-date-for-the-cortec-2024-world-sales-meeting-in-november/>



AMPP 2025

April 6th-10th, 2025
Nashville Music City Center
Nashville, Tennessee
Booth #1300
www.ampp.org/



ICRI Fall Convention

October 22nd-25th, 2024
Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel
Denver, CO
www.icri.org



NISTM 2024

December 10th-12th, 2024
The Woodlands Waterway Marriott
The Woodlands, TX
www.nistm.org/



Keywords: Cortec's longest employee, Cortec, TRIBOTEC, CORPAC, EcoCortec, circular economy, Cambridge and Beli Manastir sister cities, cased pipeline crossings, storage tank corrosion, Cortec Southeast Asia



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