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RadTech International Food Contact Alliance Meeting

CHEVY CHASE, MD—The first formal meeting of the Food Contact Notification (FCN) Alliance was held in Fort Lauderdale, in conjunction with the 2004 RadTech Winter Meetings. The law firm Keller and Heckman joined 26 participants from 19 member companies, including raw material suppliers, formulators, equipment suppliers and end users, in technical and organizational sessions.

The objectives of the FCN Alliance are to:

- Gain Food and Drug Administration (FDA) clearance for one or more Food-Contact Notifications (FCN) for a limited number of ultraviolet (UV)/electron beam (EB) resin formulations prepared from workhorse components.
- Serve as a catalyst for expanding the use of UV/EB materials in food packaging.

Steve Lapin of Northwest Coatings was elected chair of the Technical Committee, which began development of a work plan and strategy for the FCN filing(s). The FCN(s) will focus on commercially viable formulations, using "work horse" UV/EB curing materials, with maximum immediate utility for formulators and end users.

Although the FCN Alliance is close to meeting the required funding with current participation, membership will remain open until May 31, 2004 and new members are being actively recruited. The FCN Alliance has reduced dues for end users to \$1,000 to encourage participation and ensure the targeting of Food Contact Notifications with strong commercial potential. Any company interested in becoming a new member should contact Gary Cohen at (240) 497-1242, or by e-mail at gary@radtech.org.

The next FCN Alliance meeting will be by teleconference from 10 a.m. EST until noon on March 9, followed by a full session on Sunday, May 2 at the RadTech 2004, e|5 conference.

UV and EB are high value, rapid throughput processes offering the virtual elimination of emissions and lower energy consumption compared with traditional methods—providing manufacturers with a safe, fast and efficient pollution prevention technology. As a result, the industry continues to grow at over twice the rate of traditional processes.

RadTech is a nonprofit trade association dedicated to the technical, educational and market advancement of ultraviolet and electron beam processes. RadTech has over 800 members that supply and use the technology.

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