

Chicago Center for Green Technology Hosts Field-Applied UV Demonstrations

Just weeks after RadTech North America's conference and trade show concluded with a record turnout of interested end-users, UV curing returned to Chicago with a hands-on demonstration of field-applied UV curing at the trend setting Chicago Center for Green Technology.

As the most comprehensive green design educational resource in the Midwest, the Chicago Center for Green Technology promotes and advances sustainable homes, workplaces and communities through our innovative offerings including Green Tech U seminars.

Hosted by American Ultraviolet and Cytec Industries, a classroom full of installers, manufacturers, and architects was treated to a free 2-hour seminar on field-applied UV along with a live demonstration.



CCGT Director Stephen Bell introduces students to the Field Applied UV Curing Seminar

"We recently completed a grocery store renovation project" said Eduardo Proenza, an attendee who heads a Chicago based architectural firm and a CCGT regular. "We had to refinish the concrete floors quickly in order to minimize the store's down time - so we went with a polishing technique. Had we known about UV curable concrete floor coatings we might well have recommended them to the customer instead" says Proenza who was impressed by the demonstration.

"That's a common reaction" says Rich Mandich, who represents American Ultraviolet and has years of experience in the concrete and wood flooring industries. "when people see what UV can do compared



American Ultraviolet's Rich Mandich applies a UV coating to wood samples in front of a classroom of Chicago professionals

with traditional coatings they are ready to switch. UV offers them a way to protect surfaces with equal or better performance – but it's the speed at which the job can be completed that really excites them". Speed is often a problem for conventional field applied coatings where loss of service can be a costly

deal-breaker. With UV, the coating is instantly cured – and ready for furniture or carpets to be replaced and ready for use.

Mandich was joined at CCGT by co-presenter Richard Mackiewicz of Cytec Industries. Cytec, a manufacturer of the resins that form the backbone of UV curable coatings discussed the advantages, and return-on-investment in UV for finishing floors, countertops, bathtubs and other materials.

“Cytec has a long history of supplying chemistry for UV curable coatings” explains Mackiewicz. “Our



Cytec’s Rick Mackiewicz shows off samples of tile, wood and marble coated with UV materials

materials are found in everything from your eyeglass lenses, or magazine covers to your car headlights. But only recently has UV expanded from factory-applied applications to the field. Field coatings have to be more flexible, and more robust, since you cannot control the process in a living room or warehouse the way you can on an assembly line. So we have devised a line of materials that make it easier to cure under a wider range of conditions. Though UV cure actually is more field-friendly in some ways” observes Mackiewicz since UV curing can be done over the wide temperature range common in commercial and residential settings”

“The same challenges have confronted the equipment guys like us” agrees Mandich. “For over fifty years, American Ultraviolet has been making UV curing equipment for every kind of project” says Mandich, but when you design equipment for the field it needs to be safer, more compact, lighter, simpler to operate and to run on less energy. That’s pushed our engineers to think about UV equipment in a new way”.

Mandich demonstrated the technology using a Porta-Cure® hand-held UV lamp that he plugged into one of the classrooms electrical outlets.

Cured products were passed around moments after they were cured and the skeptical audience proved the coating’s toughness by rubbing, scratching and gouging at the finish with fingernails, coins and pocket knives. “It was impressive in how easy it seemed” said Proenza, “turn on the switch, pass it over the coating – and it’s done”.



“Seeing is believing” was the byword at CCTV where an AUV Porta-Cure proves the point.

“The UV demonstration is a perfect fit for us” says Stephen Bell, director of the Chicago Center for Green Technology.

“Our mission is to educate people, including local professionals, about more eco-friendly technologies and processes. Our resource center has a large collection of green building materials including new woods, composites and concrete. So expanding into green processes to finish those same materials is a natural extension of what we’re doing”.

The Chicago Center for Green Technology is the first rehabilitated municipal building in the nation to receive the LEED® Platinum rating from the U.S. Green Building Council. Former Mayor Richard M. Daley dedicated the building in 2002 and it has gone on to become a national model for sustainable design and technology.

“The Center’s ‘Green Tech U’ seminars developed in response to the increasing demand for educational resources in green technology in Chicago. This was a perfect example of what we accomplish by partnering with leading suppliers” says Bell. “American Ultraviolet and Cytec not only provided a really informative classroom session, but the hands-on demonstration made the technology much more real and alive for our audience. Seeing is believing.” said Bell.



Impressed by speed and performance, attendees poke and prod at the samples just cured in front of them.

For more information about UV curing equipment for field applied (or factory applied) coatings, inks and adhesives, visit the American Ultraviolet website at <http://www.americanultraviolet.com/uv-curing-solutions.cfm>. For information about Cytec Industries UV curable products visit <https://www.cytec.com/uv/index.php> and for information about the Chicago Center for Green Technology visit <http://www.chicagogreentech.org/>