

NETCOAT – Network of competence in formation of surface properties

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Abstract

The target of this poster presentation is to introduce NETCOAT, network of competence in formation of surface properties, to representatives of universities and industry. NETCOAT aims to increase and promote research and research resources in the formation of surface properties of paper and board and to develop procedures in this research area between industry, research and funding groups.

The surfaces of high-quality products are almost always treated in several stages. The purpose of allocating more research resources to managing the formation of surface properties and to the search for new opportunities is to maintain the competitiveness of the forest cluster in the future. Formation of surface properties embraces the surface treatment of paper or board, its modification and printing to give the optimum properties for each end-use application. The network project also seeks new ways to achieve surface properties by using new raw materials and technologies.

NETCOAT is a coordination project. It is coordinated by KCL (Oy Keskuslaboratorio-Centrallaboratorium Ab) and financed by Tekes (National Technology Agency of Finland). The project duration is from March 1st, 2003 until Dec. 31st, 2006.

The network is already active in Finland, there are ten projects going on. Several universities/research institutes and companies are participating in these projects. One of the NETCOAT targets is to internationalise the network, this requires close co-operation between the European and Finnish universities. The importance of post-doc/graduate exchange, from the European universities to the Finnish universities and vice versa, is highlighted. The research work is done by the universities/institutes and the projects are funded by Tekes (80%) and by the industry (20%).

The poster will also include few project presentations, their targets and some of the results.

The NETCOAT activities include an annual seminar, where the project results are presented to the researchers, industrial partners and possible future partners. This seminar is open for everybody. 2005 Seminar is held in Finland, Oct. 25th. An annual researcher workshop is held in Finland in Feb. 7th, 2006.