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Unique air pollution solution now available in Australia

Now available in Australia, EcoPaint is a unique product that when applied to building facades, tunnels and road sound barriers will absorb and reduce pollutants from motor vehicles, protecting the underlying surface and improving air quality.

Stack Management Systems (SMS), a Sydney based company, has signed an exclusive licensing deal with Global Engineering of Italy to distribute this new product.

Chief Executive of SMS, Paul Howlett, said that this is a revolutionary application in the fight against air pollution that harms buildings, monuments and even street signage.

“EcoPaint is a photocatalytic coating that captures and neutralises acid rain and, because it is clear has a variety of applications around the urban environment.”

“Trials in recent years have demonstrated how effective these type of coatings can be in tackling nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons and other harmful ingredients released from motor vehicles.”

“Similar paints are being used in Japan for covering motorway sound barriers, and photocatalytic paving has been laid in residential areas to improve air quality, while the Italian’s are using the product on buildings and monuments to protect them from acid rain.”

“SMS sees the development of this unique product as an important breakthrough in the battle to combat destructive motor vehicle emissions around our cities which discolour buildings and foul signs, billboards and other urban structures,” Mr Howlett said.

Surfaces painted with EcoPaint become self-cleaning and consequently don’t require regular washing.

This self-cleaning ability means surfaces will resist soot and grime caused by motor vehicle emissions and may also help render a surface potentially graffiti resistant.

Trials using EcoPaint in a Milan road tunnel show that it is staying cleaner and brighter for longer, and as a result is lowering maintenance and lighting requirements and, more importantly, making the tunnel safer.

Two years ago a large section of roadway in Milan, Italy, was covered with a photocatalytic cement-like material, also made by Global Engineering. As a result, residents claimed it was easier to breathe and noxious gases at street level were reported to have been reduced by 60 per cent.

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EcoPaint at a Glance

- EcoPaint is a clear substance that can be applied to building facades, statues and monuments, tunnels and road barriers to reduce discolouring, protect the surface from acid rain and improve the air quality.
- How does EcoPaint work with NO_x–
 - titanium dioxide particles in the paint absorb energy from ultra-violet light (eg sunlight) and a form of oxygen is created
 - the oxygen attracts nitrogen oxides to the painted surface and reacts with them to form nitrates
 - they then react with calcium carbonate in the paint to form calcium nitrate, carbon dioxide and water, thereby capturing and locking up nitrogen oxide gases in a solid form.
- Other organic gases and pollutants from motor vehicle exhausts, such as carbon soot, unburnt fuel and carbon monoxide, are similarly captured and removed from the air by EcoPaint.
- EcoPaint is water based, water vapour permeable, biocide free, non-flammable and resistant to mould and fungal growth.
- As the coating presents a low contact angle to water and to droplets that contain pollutants, surfaces painted with EcoPaint become self-cleaning and consequently don't require regular washing.
- Pigment can be added to EcoPaint, which is effectively transparent, to create any colour finish. Or a clear coating can be applied to allow the underlying colour, words and texture to remain visible.
- A coating of 0.3mm has sufficient active ingredients to last five years in a heavily polluted area, and thicker coatings are said to last even longer.
- The paint stays stable and durable throughout the life of its active ingredients and protects the underlying surface from the corrosive and deteriorating effects of vehicle pollutants.
- EcoPaint was developed in Europe through a multi-partner research program involving private enterprise, research institutions and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre.
- Trials using EcoPaint in a Milan road tunnel show that it is staying cleaner and brighter for longer, and as a result is lowering maintenance and lighting requirements and, more importantly, making the tunnel safer.