Former EPA Chief Carol Browner Addresses NASF Washington Forum

Clinton Cabinet Member and President Obama Appointee Fondly Recalls Partnership With NASF

By Christian Richter and Jeff Hannapel, The Policy Group

NASF members met in Washington recently to discuss major finishing industry issues with senior Obama Administration officials, nearly 100 congressional leaders and other key manufacturing associations.

Among the slate of top speakers and analysts was former EPA chief and Obama energy policy “czar” Carol Browner, who worked closely with the finishing industry during her tenure in the Clinton Administration. She discussed progress in the finishing industry, energy policy and climate change, and the outlook for U.S. manufacturing in a global economy.

New NASF Tools for Capitol Hill

Attendees said this year’s event surpassed all others in recent years. Members were especially enthusiastic about delivering NASF’s message in partnership with the Nickel Institute on the

NASF SUR/FIN to Host International Panel, Pentagon Workshop and Launch Global Surface Technology Roundtable

The NASF will again host an international session at the SUR/FIN Manufacturing and Technology Conference on Monday, June 11, to highlight global business, technology and regulatory trends for finishing. Speakers from four continents have been invited to compare notes and offer an outlook on where finishing is headed in various parts of the world.

The panel will follow NASF’s outside economist, Dr. Ken Mayland, who will give an update on the manufacturing recovery and what recent U.S. economic trends portend for the future, and Dr. Patrick Benaben from France, who will give the SUR/FIN Blum Lecture.

NASF will also take the opportunity at SUR/FIN to launch the Global Surface Technology Roundtable. The roundtable is envisioned as a venue primarily for information exchange, coordination on issues of mutual interest and combined advocacy to keep ill-advised regulatory decisions in some parts of the world from spreading to other jurisdictions. The European Union’s REACH chemicals framework is the most recent example of regulatory overreach—the U.S., South America and Asia are facing new pressures due to the new restrictions under REACH. SUR/FIN will hold a special technical session on what this topic means for finishers in North America.

We look forward to seeing you at SUR/FIN 2012. To register or exhibit, please contact Cheryl Clark at cclark@nasf.org.

Rolls Royce Executive Dr. Mary Lee Gambone to Deliver SUR/FIN Keynote

The NASF Technology Advisory Committee will be presenting an outstanding lineup of speakers for the 2012 SUR/FIN Manufacturing & Technology Conference, inclucding Dr. Mary Lee Gambone, who is scheduled as the morning keynote for Wednesday, June 13.

Dr. Gambone currently leads the Rolls-Royce Materials Engineering organization in Indianapolis, Ind. She has worked in aerospace materials for more than 25 years. Since joining Rolls-Royce in 1998, Dr. Gambone has had several roles, including Chief of Research and Technology Strategy and Manager of Critical Part Lifting.

Her early career as a materials engineer was with the Allison Gas Turbine Division of General Motors, and she enjoyed several years with the U.S. Air force as team leader for metal matrix composites research in the Air Force Research Laboratory, Materials Directorate. Dr. Gambone has a B.S. in metallurgical engineering from Purdue University, an M.S in materials engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia in materials science.

We look forward to seeing you at SUR/FIN 2012. To register or exhibit on the nearly sold-out exhibit floor, please contact Cheryl Clark at cclark@nasf.org.
vital role of finishing in the manufacturing value chain. To view new NASF material on the role of nickel coatings for the automotive and aerospace sectors, please go to NASF’s website at nasf.org.

Collaborating on the Industry’s Message

NASF is also collaborating more closely this year with other U.S. manufacturing organizations to send the message to Congress that the U.S. can be the best place in the world to manufacture if the nation takes the right steps.

“The only way we can have a sustainable future for U.S. manufacturing—and finishing—is to coordinate with fellow manufacturers and get our message across. It's essentially ‘shame on us’ if we don’t take these important opportunities to make our voice heard,” said NASF Vice President Rick Delawder in Washington. NASF was just in Washington in May with the forging, stamping, tooling and machining industries meeting with House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp on tax reform and incentives for manufacturers.

New updates and photos from this year’s Forum can be found at nasf.org. Presentations and additional coverage of the event have also been posted for attendees. Please contact Christian Richter with any questions at crichter@thepolicygroup.com.

NASF Training Courses are Back at SUR/FIN 2012

NASF’s training arm, the AESF Foundation, will host two courses at SUR/FIN this year: Electroplating & Surface Finishing (CEF course) and Environmental Stewardship (Wastewater Treatment & Pollution Prevention.)

Earn your Certified Electroplater Finisher credential, or fulfill your two optional curriculum requirements in pursuit of Master Surface Finisher (MSF) certification. These are both four-day courses given in two parts. Choose to take just Part 1, just Part 2, or the full course. Optional exams for both courses will be offered on Friday, June 15.

For more detailed course information, please see the new 2012 Foundation training catalog at nasf.org/forms/nasf-aesf2012.pdf or contact Luke Zorich at lzorich@nasf.org.

NASF Events & Courses

June 11 – 13: NASF SUR/FIN 2012
South Point Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV
Rick Dale, star of the TV series American Restoration, will speak June 12. Event will also host supplier exhibits, the NASF Manufacturing & Technology Conference, a keynote address by Rolls Royce’s Dr. Mary Lee Gambone, the Pentagon Surface Finishing Workshop and a Global Finishing Technology Roundtable.

Visit short.pfonline.com/SURFIN to register.

Dec. 4 – 7: SUR/FIN Asia-Pacific
Singapore
NASF is partnering with the Singapore Surface Engineering Association (SSEA) for this event. With attendees from the entire Southeast Asia region, SUR/FIN Asia-Pacific is the only Southeast Asia event totally dedicated to surface finishing, surface engineering, surface coating, electroplating and precision engineering.

Visit short.pfonline.com/SURFIN to register.

In-Person Courses

Electroplating & Surface Finishing
Part 1
June 11 – 12
Las Vegas, NV
Part 2
June 13 – 14

Environmental Stewardship
Wastewater Treatment
June 11 – 12
Las Vegas, NV
Pollution Prevention
June 13 – 14

Chrome Plating for Engineering Apps.
Oct. 15 – 16
Cleveland, OH
Corrosion & Salt Spray
Nov. 5 – 6
Phoenix, AZ

Web-Based Courses

Industrial & Precious Metals Plating
Eight 2-hour Sessions
Aug. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28

Electroplating & Surface Finishing – Part 2
Eight 2-hour Sessions
Sept. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26

Zinc, Zinc-Alloy Plating
Eight 2-hour Sessions
Dec. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19

Contact Luke Zorich at lzorich@nasf.org to register.
Environmental Groups Criticize Electroplating Air Rule, Readying Lawsuit Against EPA

The same day that top EPA air official Janet McCabe addressed the NASF Washington Forum on the agency’s chromium rule, a coalition of national environmental groups criticized EPA’s pending requirements, saying they fail to address key hexavalent chromium exposure pathways—such as cancer risk from ingestion—that could warrant stricter air rules for finishing than EPA is proposing.

In a preview of a likely lawsuit that activists could file over EPA’s risk review, environmental groups argued against NASF in recent comments to EPA that the agency’s chromium risk study is “incomplete, unlawful, and arbitrary and capricious” because the review fails to address or consider important elements on emissions, exposure and health risk from Cr6.

For the latest update on how EPA’s final chromium decision this August could set a significant precedent for the broader industry in the coming months, see the NASF Report in the May issue of Products Finishing or go to nasf.org.

NASF Collaborates with Nickel Institute, American Chemistry Council on EPA Nickel Risks

NASF is coordinating closely with the nickel and chemicals industries to launch a new nickel science and advocacy effort in North America. The U.S. EPA is moving forward on reassessing risks from nickel, especially nickel soluble compounds most commonly used in plating and related finishing processes. A new Nickel Stakeholders Group has been formed to include all user associations of nickel as well as other organizations—like public water utilities—who may be forced to spend millions in unneeded costs to over-regulate drinking water and wastewater at the municipal level.

The group, which includes a wide range of global companies and trade associations, is expanding, and met in April to discuss EPA actions after the NASF Washington Forum. NASF President Tony Revier and NASF Board Member and Technology Advisory Committee Chairman Dr. Keith Legg joined American Chemistry Council and Nickel Institute representatives to brief senior congressional staff on the need for tighter review of EPA’s decisions pertaining to nickel.

The NASF has produced a flyer on the vital role of nickel coatings in the automotive and aerospace industries. For a copy, or for to provide feedback or technical recommendations on the flyer, please contact Christian Richter at crichter@thepolicygroup.com.

Technical Paper

The Leading Edge Guide to Top Quality Anodizing Using the Complete Spectrum Approach with a Universal Type I–II–III (123) Mixed Electrolyte

by Fred Charles Schaedel, Anodic Technical Services, Westminster, Calif.

This paper discusses a new advanced anodizing technology for processing Types I, II and III anodize (A123) in a universal mixed electrolyte. The chromium-free formulation will activate pore structure development, producing excellent Type IC and Type III hard anodize coatings at lower voltages.

Environmental considerations and other challenges have led to the development of a non-chromated polycarboxylic acid electrolyte for Brush Type IC and II anodizing which could also be used in larger Type II and III hard anodizing process tanks on the line. This “greener” electrolyte has already been used successfully as a Type IC alternate at a time when nothing else was available (1991-92). In 1996, the author and his colleagues also developed a modified oxalic acid anodize using tartaric acid, which was also used for hard anodizing. They have proceeded to integrate tartaric acid as the primary electrolyte in addition to the amino polycarboxylic formulation, along with further modifications for Type IC, Type II-23 and Type III hard anodize. Also, polycarboxylic acid combinations have been investigated for greater efficiency during the complete ramp cycle, which is most critical for Type I anodize, particularly on leading edge configurations.

The work discussed here is the culmination of several years of R&D presented at previous SUR/FIN conferences. The ultimate goal was to practice the best technology possible on all production part and leading edge configurations, using all organic based electrolytes. This meant getting rid of both chromic and sulfuric acid. However, a formulation was needed which could be added to all existing production sulfuric anodizing tanks as a superior accelerator and modifier for Type II and Type III hard anodize, which would pass all applicable aerospace, military, medical, automotive and other commercial specifications.

The leading-edge technology for the top-quality anodized coatings presented in this paper is integrated into a complete spectrum approach as a total package. The entire package is considered as one, for optimum results. To better explain the technology, this paper discusses the following areas:

• Chemistry: process tank electrolyte
• Electronic power package requirements
• Slow anodic pulse control discharge
• Process procedure ramp and run requirements
• Data logger graphs
• Air agitation requirements

The full paper on this work can be accessed at short.PFonline.com/NASF12Jun1.
NASF Bright Design Challenge Selects Scholarship Winners

NASF just wrapped up the 2012 Bright Design Challenge scholarship competition with some very talented design students from the Detroit-based College for Creative Studies. The event is part of the Surface Technology Initiative, which the association launched last year to spotlight the vital role of surface finishing in both the value chain and society.

The students competed in early May, and their designs incorporated some very creative surface coatings concepts for CAN-AM/BRP’s three-wheel Spyder, which is considered a “paradigm-shifting vehicle that makes a true statement.” Congratulations to our 2012 winners:

First Place – Leonard Takata
Second Place – Yuyol Lee
Third Place – Minwoo Song
Honorable Mention – Andrew Bianchi

The designs can be seen on the new NASF Bright Design website at nasfbrightdesign.com.

Thank you to our judges: Robert Walker, Chrysler; Mark Jarvis, Visteon; Brandon Faurote, Chrysler; Matt Tandrup, CAN-AM/BRP; Ted Natorski, Enthone/Cookson Performance Products; Tony Revier, Uyemura; and Greg Miller, Ford Motor Co. and College for Creative Studies instructor.

We also would like to thank our sponsors for their support:

Gold Sponsors: Enthone, MacDermid
Silver Sponsors: Coventya, Uyemura
Sponsors: Ohio Association of Metal Finishers, and Metal Finishing Associations of Southern California, Northern California and San Diego

For more information or to sponsor these or other national and chapter outreach activities, contact Phil Assante at NASF headquarters at passante@nasf.org or 703-887-7235.

NASF Collaborates with National Association of Manufacturers

As NASF national board member Jim Jones says, “as our customers go, so goes the finishing industry.” To reinforce his point, Jim recently hosted National Association of Manufacturers President Jay Timmons for a tour and event at DIFCO, his Atlanta-based company. Jim and other national industry leaders have been committed to step up efforts to reach out to finishing customer sectors to ensure the value of surface coatings is recognized.

One way to do that is “sharing more about what we do and what our mutual concerns are for the future of U.S. manufacturing and the future of finishing,” Jim notes.

NASF has worked informally with NAM on a number of issues over the years. This past month, NASF joined NAM to expand the industry’s voice on national issues that affect manufacturing as a whole. The NASF Board of Directors in April hosted NAM Associations Council head Paul Hartgen to discuss ways to maximize the relationship and work more closely together.

NASF also recently joined the North American Metals Council (NAMC) to help shape U.S. and global policies facing metals and chemicals.

Labor Update: Federal Court Stops Mandate to Display Pro-Union Poster … for Now

The DC Circuit Court of Appeals recently issued an injunction blocking the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) from requiring most employers to display a controversial poster that informs workers of their right to form and join a union. The injunction indefinitely postpones the posting requirement, which was to have taken effect on April 30. It means employers don’t have to display the poster for now.