

LICENSING AGREEMENT SIGNED FOR MARTON/BROWN ABRASIVE DISC INVENTION

A licensing agreement has been executed between the Research Foundation of State University of New York (SUNY) and the Sprout-Waldron Division of Koppers Company, Inc. The agreement authorizes Sprout-Waldron to act as exclusive manufacturer of abrasive refiner plates invented by Dr. Renata Marton, emeritus professor and senior research associate, and Alton Brown, technical specialist at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF).

The agreement will operate for a minimum of five years and will apply to commercial activities throughout North America and in selected world markets.

The radically new type of refining plate was granted a patent in February, 1983. According to Dr. Bengt Leopold, chairman of ESF's Paper Science and Engineering Department, the new device presents an important breakthrough for the paper industry because it is capable of producing high-quality paper from wood chips and wood waste at relatively low energy consumption.

The invention combines the advantages of the conventional stone grinder (high opacity, high brightness, low energy) with those of thermomechanical pulping (high strength, use of chips and wood waste). The plate is essentially flat and is plasma-coated with tungsten carbide.

The refiner plate was conceived and developed as part of a broad program of pulp and paper research conducted by ESF's Empire State Paper Research Institute (ESPRI) with funding

provided by the Empire State Paper Research Associates (ESPRA). ESPRA is an organization of over 70 companies from the United States and 14 foreign countries which produce pulp and paper or manufacture equipment and supplies for the paper industry. ESPRA is one of the oldest university/industry research cooperatives. It has provided continuous funding of pulp and paper research on the ESF campus for over 40 years.

"The execution of this agreement provides a useful case study in university/industry relationships," stated Ross S. Whaley, ESF President. "The innovation was fostered by a supportive environment created through long-term industrial funding. The components of the research program have been developed collaboratively by university scientists and their industrial counterparts. The agreement transfers this technology to our industrial colleagues who are in the best position to reduce it to practice and bring it into the marketplace. And, when the invention is put into widespread use, we will be making a significant return to the pulp and paper industry."

Sprout-Waldron is the largest manufacturer of refiner plates worldwide. Its processing machinery and systems are supplied to pulp, paper and board, chemical, flour, food, formula feed and other basic industries. Capabilities include the complete design and construction of pulp refining mills, feed and flour mills, materials handling and storage facilities and industrial processing plants.



Present at the license signing ceremony were: (seated) Leonard E. A. Godfrey, manager, Technology Transfer Office, SUNY Research Foundation; Heinrich F. Muenster, manager, Pulp, Paper & Board, Sprout-Waldron Division of Koppers; and Renata Marton, senior research associate emeritus, ESF. Standing are: Robert A. Olson, ESPRA president, and director of research P. H. Glatfelter Co.; Ross S. Whaley, ESF president; and Alton Brown, technical specialist, ESF.