

PRESS RELEASE

12 May 2010



A revolutionary new surface treatment (DST-Cr) will soon be available for Australian manufacturing Industry in Altona Victoria .

A consortium of HARD Technologies Pty Ltd -UST Technologies - Deakin Univeristy (Waurm Ponds) - Capral and VCAMM have received a VSA Investment Fund Grant* from the Victorian Government to install a line of equipment to offer this exciting process as well as further new processes to Victorian and Australian Industry.

DST-Cr technology represents a significant improvement over existing technology by improving the surface wear and corrosive resistance of ferrous metals.

Importantly the ability to process at low temperatures ensures that the core hardness is retained and distortion is eliminated.

Performance testing of the DST technology performed on samples for a number of applications in industry has demonstrated that the DST-Cr process offers significant extended life and thus a compelling alternative to existing surface treatments products and coatings.

DST has been shown to be; superior to

existing low temperature surface treatment processes (ion/gas nitriding & nitrocarburizing), and more cost effective than either high temperature coatings such as chemical vapour deposition (CVD) processes or low temperature coatings such as PVD and chrome plating.

The introduction of the DST Technologies Pty Ltd line locate at Altona, (a joint venture arising out of the consortium) will provide local industry with the opportunity for significant improvements in performance. The process will have a wide range of applications; from tools and dies, to parts such as gears and crankshafts and replace such processes as hard chrome plating, nitriding, PVD and CVD Titanium and Chromium Nitride.

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For further information

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Background to Press Release

HARD Technologies Pty Ltd – Hard DST (Duplex Surface Treatments)

HARD Technologies Pty Ltd (HARD), established in 2004, is a metallurgical based research and development organisation which has developed a surface engineering process for the ferrous alloy surface treatment market that is superior to existing processes

HARD's novel technology, Duplex Surface Treatment (DST) is a combination of two surface engineering techniques conducted in a Fluidised Bed Reactor (FBR) for

heating and diffusing various elements into steel surfaces.

DST is a thermo-chemical gas reaction which is not achievable in conventional atmosphere or vacuum furnaces. DST technology also has **environmental** benefits in that being a lower temperature process it is less energy intensive, whilst the longer lifespan of products will reduce metal demand due to less frequent scrapping and replacement of metal parts.

The FBR was designed and constructed in Victoria Australia.

UST Technologies Pty Ltd

UST Technologies specialised in the coating of metals using thermal spray technology. Established for 25 years it is recognised as a leading service provider in the field of coating using thermal spray technology.

DST Technology Pty Ltd

DST Technologies Pty Ltd has been established to offer the new technology to Australian Industry and will be located at the premises of 26-32 Aberdeen Road Altona Victoria.

* The DST-Cr surface treatment project is supported by The Victorian State Government via a \$1,271,000 grant under the \$41 million Victoria's Science Agenda (VSA) Investment Fund.

