

flooring

february 2010
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND
"Your Industry - Your Magazine"

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Australian innovation shines through

Australians have an excellent reputation as innovators and, while 2009 was a quiet year as companies and individuals pulled back to ride out the global recession, there were still some excellent new products making their way onto the market.

At Flooring Magazine we had fewer entries in our Most Innovative Flooring Product of the Year feature than in previous years but the ones we did receive were extremely good.

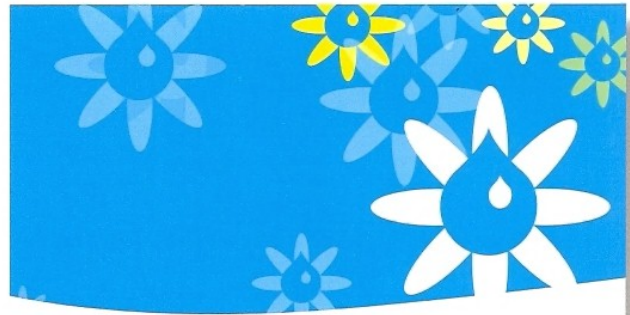
Our panel of expert judges were impressed with the breadth and variety of innovations presented and, as always, found it hard to make a final decision. However, they finally narrowed their choices down to four – a winner, a runner-up and two highly commended.

The Winner

The winner of the 2009 Most Innovative Flooring Product of the Year was Peerless Jal for its series of products using hybrid nanotechnology.

Hybrid technology is a technology where acrylics and urethanes are intimately mixed and mutually polymerized in an aqueous solution. Polyurethanes and acrylics are used together in a waterborne solution to gain the benefits and advantages of both technologies without the disadvantages.

For the first time, Peerless Jal can now present a full range of waterborne hybrid technology coatings for a wide variety of substrates. They feature advanced technologies that eliminate solvents that pose a risk to you and cause damage to your environment.



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Hybrid: a technology where acrylics and urethanes are intimately mixed and mutually polymerised in an aqueous dispersion.

For the first time, a full range of waterborne hybrid technology coatings for a wide variety of substrates. Featuring advanced technologies that eliminate solvents that pose a risk to you and cause damage to your environment.

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One example is the Hy-Bridge – a new hybrid primer for floors. This unique water based polyurethane product is designed as an intermediate floor sealer and as a base sealer for rejuvenating worn and porous floors.

Hy-Bridge can be used on timber, terrazzo, unglazed quarry tiles, pre-sealed slate, indoor pre-coated concrete.

It is an excellent problem solver in situations where it is not advisable to deep strip or sand floors. When used as an intermediate sealer in these situations Hy-Bridge is completely compatible with pre-existing water based or solvent floor seals and provides a high build, flexible layer in readiness for subsequent applications of any of the Hy-Floor series finishes.

Likewise when used to rejuvenate worn and porous floors the superior bridging and filling of Hy-Bridge provides a perfect base for following applications of finish. The sealing process enhances the beauty of the floor, prevents penetration of soils and measurably extends the life of finish coatings. Hy-Bridge is easy to apply with a roller, is quick drying, non-yellowing and is user and environmentally friendly.

Nano particle technology floor finishes has much smaller particles and therefore bonds than conventional floor finishes. Through using nano technology in floor finishes the bonds created between the



Embelton Flooring

substrate and finish is made deeper in the floor and the bonds created are much stronger.

A nano hybrid technology floor polish has the hardness of a urethane but can be stripped as a conventional floor polish would be. In the example of wood floors this technology retains the durability of polyurethane but can flex and wont crack like standard floor finishes.

This technology can be and has been used over the whole range of substrates in flooring, including, decking, concrete, wood floors and vinyl. This technology provides unique advantages that standard floor finishes cannot in each instance.

For a contractor this means a number of advantages depending on the substrate, for example less labour spent on recoating, less cases of edge bonding or unique bonding over damaged or problem floors.

Hybrid technology is the next step in floor finish technology and Peerless Jal is very excited to share this with the industry.

Runner-up

Runner-up for 2009 was Skudo Floor from Skudo Coatings, Skudo Floor a way to temporarily protect flooring during construction or at any other time when the potential for damage is evident.

The product can be painted onto almost any flooring substrate including tiles, stone, timber or linoleum. Once applied, it homogenises itself with the substrate to create an outer skin capable of protecting the surface



from contaminants arising from the consequences of construction or remedial trades.

Once the project is completed, it is just peeled off for a perfectly clean and damage free surface.

Highly Commended

The judges also wanted to mention two other products, which they felt were outstanding in their field – Embelton Flooring's Australian Longboards and Golden Field Corporation's new Wood Grain 1800 Series of 12mm laminate floors.

Australian Longboards combine the look of classic Australian timbers with the hardwearing and durable qualities of laminate. Manufactured in 1.8m lengths, Australian Longboards create the appearance of a real genuine wide floorboard in authentic Australian timber colours.

Golden Field's new Wood Grain 1800 Series has a very realistic hardwood floor appearance. The clarity of the original print combined with high resolution surface coating gives it the look of a wooden floor. Available in a full length 1800mm plank look and using the latest in hi-tech print technology, this product will challenge the flooring professional to spot the difference. ■



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- Wrapped MDF bamboo scotia – 3 colours

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For more information, please contact

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email floorbitz@inet.net.au