

Present & Future Markets for Nanoparticulates

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Nanoparticles are not something new, but the recent interest in them has highlighted the possibility of changing many aspects of current products. Once the scale of nanoparticulates and its effect on properties is appreciated, many new products will emerge.

For the moment, products using nanoparticulates are found in specialist coatings for the glass industry, for textiles and for paints; as nanocomposites in polymers; as a way to deliver drugs; in electronic products; and in a number of consumer products. In addition a large number of spin-out companies have emerged in “nano” over the last 5 years, and it is envisaged that the number will increase dramatically.

The potential for new products and processes is high and there are a lot of initiatives already in this exciting field, throughout the world. The presentation will focus on some of these and speculate about what else should be done. There is even a technology roadmap in nanomaterials which takes a thorough look at the markets that are likely to develop in the next few years.

A lot has been written about the societal and ethical issues associated with nanoparticulates and this will also be discussed.