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The Adhesion Society Award for Excellence in Adhesion Science

Sponsored by 3M

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The Adhesion Society Award for Excellence in Adhesion Science Sponsored by 3M

Professor John F. Watts
The Surface Analysis Laboratory,
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Professor John F. Watts from the University of Surrey, United Kingdom has been named the recipient of the 2008 *Adhesion Society Award for Excellence in Adhesion Science*, sponsored by the 3M Company. His citation reads as follows:

“for the innovative application of surface analysis methods to study the interfacial chemistry of adhesion”

John has long worked in the Science of Adhesion field starting with his PhD which he completed at the University of Surrey under the supervision of Prof. James E. Castle, now Emeritus Professor at the University of Surrey, and where he has remained. It is no mean achievement to become a senior academic in the establishment that educated him. In some ways it is more difficult than in less well known territory.

What is absolutely exceptional about John is that he remains at the forefront of excellence and innovation in so many domains. Of course, receiving the above Award is proof enough of the quality of his work in the Science of Adhesion but, unbeknownst to some, he is also an excellent businessman with a portfolio of research funded in equal parts by industries and government agencies, an educator who has inspired many students and, of course, is very well known in the field of surface analysis as shown, amongst other things, by his position as Editor in Chief of *Surface and Interface Analysis*.

John's research has consisted mostly in combining surface analysis, be it X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS), time of flight secondary ion mass spectrometry (ToF-SIMS), Auger electron spectroscopy (AES) or scanning probe microscopy (SPM) and adhesion studies, with a particular interest in correlating the properties of materials with

interfacial chemistry. He has contributed to the understanding of chemistry at the surface of adhesives and also at the interface between similar or dissimilar materials. In this matter he has not only pushed forward the adhesion field but has helped to improve the analysis techniques themselves and, as well, has developed innovative sample preparation methods.

Another exceptional point is that his research covers not only applied systems, with all the difficulty that it implies, to get information about real adhesives but also theoretical questions concerning adhesion. Of particular note are his contributions to the field of cathodic delamination, the use of organosilanes and acid-base interactions in adhesion. In terms of materials he has not only had an input concerning adhesives but also in the neighbouring fields of composites and surface treatment of polymers, as well as in the field of corrosion, a topic closely related to adhesion matters. When quoting his contribution to the development of sample preparation, one can mention oxide stripping, ultra low angle microtomy and the many improvements to *in-situ* fracture stages which recently culminated in a fully instrumented *in-situ* stage that allows fracture mechanics to be carried out in vacuum immediately before surface analysis by XPS, ToF-SIMS or Auger spectroscopy.

I know that all who know him will join me in congratulating John on the receipt of this prestigious award.

Marie-Laure Abel
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