NEWS SECTION

Personal

Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers have awarded the I.C.I. India Award 1997 for excellence in Process / Product Development to Dr. A.K.Sharma, Head, Thermal Process Section, ISRO Satellite Centre, BANGALORE for his pioneering work in the development of thermal control coatings on magnesium alloy with a special reference to magnesium-lithium alloys for space application using electrochemical Techniques.

Sri G.Subramanian (a senior scientist of CECRI, Karaikudi) has been awarded the prestigious President of India's HOME GUARD & CIVIL DEFENCE MEDAL for his dedicated and meritorious voluntary service in the Kome Guards for over 30 years.

Patent News

Indian Pat. No. 177570 (1993)

Large scale manufacturers of drycells like Eveready / Nippo use special grade MnO_2. But, low cost dry cells manufactured in small scale and cottage industries use ordinary grade MnO_2. This is tightly pasted on a graphite cathode using a pasting solution consisting of flour, arrowroot, ammonium chloride, zinc chloride, mercuric chloride with cooked with water to a semisolid. The major disadvantage of such low cost dry cell is the lower working voltage compared to the standard pieces. In the present investigation, the drop in working voltage od low cost dry cells has been minimised without using special grade MnO_2 by simply introducing an additive to the pasting material. Additional cost estimated for this step is a maximum of Rs 10.00 per 1000 pieces of dry cells. A large number of cells have been produced for field trial. A report has been received from the users on their efficient performance.

Name and address of the investors:
Dr. Ambik Mukherjee, Sr. Research Fellow and Dr. Indra Narayan Basumallik, Professor, Dept. of Chemistry, Visva Bharathi University, SANTINIKETAN - 731 235

Forthcoming Events

National Workshop on Surface Engineering [NWSE - 98] is postponed to **April 28-29 1998**. Those interested may contact:

Dr. S.K.Narang,
Co-ordinator, NSWE-98,
National Metallurgical Laboratory,
JAMSHEDPUR - 831 007
Tel: (0657) 431131, 424283 and 426091 - 96 (Ext. 627)
Fax: (0657) 426527
Grams: METALS. TATANAGAR
E-mail: sknarang@cs nml.ren.nic.in

The CICRI, Karaikudi is arranging a **National Seminar on Batteries and Fuel Cells** during **14 - 15 May 1998** as a part of the golden jubilee year celebrations. An exhibition is also arranged at the time. Thos wishing to participate may contact:

Dr. P.G.Balakrishnan,
Convener,
National Seminar on Batteries and Fuel Cells,
Central Electrochemical Reaearch Institute,
KARAIKUDI - 630 006

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