Cargo tank coatings - a micro issue with a macro problem

At the January meeting of the UAE branch of IMarEST, Nikeel Idnani, honorary secretary explained that chemical tankers have their cargo tanks coated unless they are made of stainless steel.

Among the meeting’s sponsors was Advanced Polymer Coatings (APC), together with the company’s Middle East representative, FED COM.

APC produces the patented MarineLine coating for chemical tankers.

Coatings permit easier cleaning, prevent tank corrosion and reduce risk for cross-cargo contamination. The durability of properly applied and maintained coatings could be over 10 years, the company claimed.

Yavuz Alavi, FED COM’s director of business development described the chemical market growth factors and MarineLine coating’s performance capabilities versus bimodal epoxy, phenolic epoxy, zinc and stainless steel.

He introduced MarineLine Enhanced cargo tank coating with nano technology, which has been engineered to provide high chemical and high impact resistance, as requested by shipowners, to withstand mechanical damages that may occur during cleaning, repairs, etc.

**Tougher version**

APC’s MarineLine Enhanced is a tougher version of its previous coating system while maintaining superior chemical resistance. Several other benefits were also claimed, for example, 50% more impact resistance creating a tougher, more durable coating, elongation of up to 15% to virtually match the carbon steel cargo tank and 60% reduced surface energy for easier and faster tank cleaning.

Also, highlighted during the presentation were illustrations showing the parabolic increases in methanol production in the Middle East and US, and plus the fact that MarineLine coated tanks can carry methanol continuously without restrictions up to 50 deg C.

Alavi was joined by Capt Onur Yildirim (APC’s global technical manager), Capt Koray Karagoz (MarineLine Turkey managing director), Joe Harrington (MarineLine sales at APC) for a panel discussion.