## New Generation of Sol-Gel Coatings 'Thermolon<sup>TM</sup>'

# Hemant Dandekar Porcelain Industries Inc.

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### Imagine...

A coating that <u>fires at 600 °F</u>
Is <u>thermally stable</u> up to <u>850 °F</u>
Is <u>water based</u> and <u>green</u>



&

Is non-stick to 475 °F

Sol-Gel Coatings is the Answer!!



# Process for Sol-gel Coatings

- Process for manufacturing glass like coatings through colloidal suspensions ("sols"), converted to viscous "gels" and then to solid materials
- Typically involves a Silicon alkoxide such as <u>Tetraethoxy silane</u> (TEOS) as a precursor. The polymerization reaction involves three key steps:

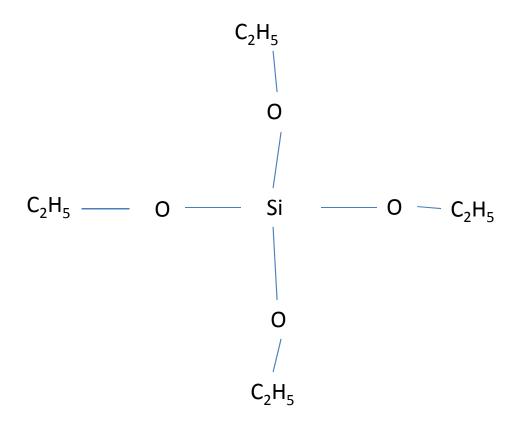
Si-O-R +  $H_2O$   $\Longrightarrow$  Si-OH + R-OH (hydrolysis)

Si-OH + HO-Si Si-O-Si + H<sub>2</sub>O (water condensation)

Si-OH + Si-OR Si-O-Si + R-OH (alc. Condensation)



# Tetra Ethoxy Silane



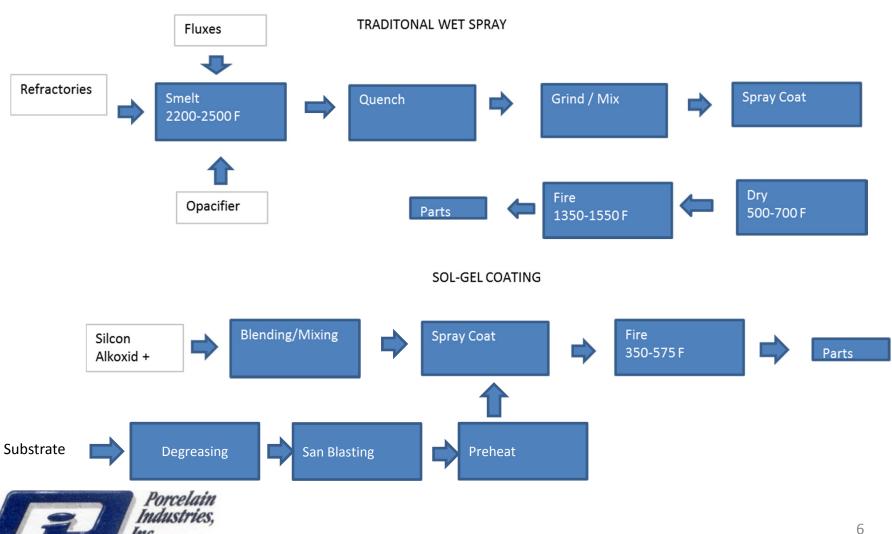


# Thermolon<sup>TM</sup> Family of Coatings

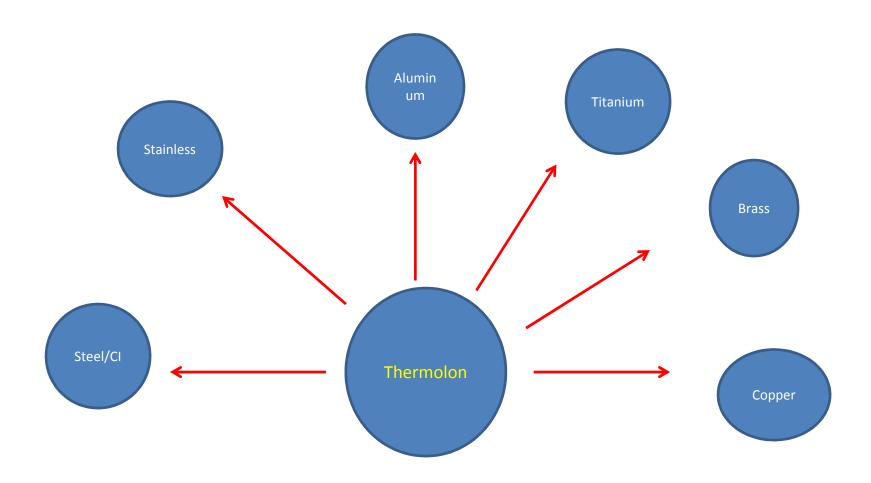
- Research in Sol-gels over the past 20 years in Germany, UK, Australia, Belgium, Korea
- Thermolon<sup>TM</sup> was born as a South Korean company to commercialize thermal sol-gel coatings in 2005
- Today Thermolon<sup>TM</sup> coated products are sold in over 80 different countries
- Wide variety of formulations for different end use applications
  - Nonstick
  - Flexible
  - Higher temperature, high abrasion resistance



# Comparison of Enameling and Sol-Gel Coating Processes



## **Substrates**





### Properties of Thermolon<sup>TM</sup> Coatings

- Superior non-stick properties
  - Perfect release for fried egg, burnt milk and burnt sugar
- Scratch and abrasion resistance
  - 9H Pencil hardness
  - Up to 59,000 cycles on abrasion pad v/s 5000 for PTFE
- Very high acid resistance
  - No weight loss for sulfuric acid test
- High heat resistance
  - Capable of withstanding 450 °C v/s 260 °C for PTFE
- Stain resistance and good clean-ability
  - Shown excellent stain resistance on burners at higher temperatures



### Properties of Thermolon<sup>TM</sup> Coatings

- High Emissivity
  - 0.92 vs a black body at 200 °C
  - Keeps underlying substrate cool for gas spreaders
  - Allows for faster cooking at lower temperature
- High Thermal conductivity 2.4 W/m/K
- Food-contact compliance
  - Certified by FDA & German lab to be food compliant
- Zero-PTFE and no PFOA
  - Water-based mineral coating



## PI Capabilities

- 4+ years of development experience
- R&D lab with batch furnace for application development
- Thermolon coating line for cookware and small cross section parts
- Proprietary know-how in interfacing enamel/sol-gel coatings
- Experience working in cookware, OEM parts, industrial heat exchange
- Exclusive arrangement with Thermolon for US representation





# **Applications**



#### Cookware

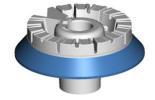
Cookware – currently being sold for Al/SS cookware as part of the GreenPan brand in 50 countries

 PI has developed new technology to use it in conjunction with enamel for Cast Iron and Steel Substrates



#### Burners

- Clear or color coating for flame spreaders
  - Thermally stable to 840 °F / 450 °C
  - Easy to clean / non-stick
  - Prevents stains from food
  - High emissivity ensures cooktop does not get hot
  - Currently under test with OEM





# Applications of Thermolon™

#### Other applications in test

- Non-stick oven interiors for ranges
- Heating elements for pools, water heaters, dish washers (prevent scale build up)





#### Future Work

- Testing continues in a number of applications
- In the long term Thermolon<sup>TM</sup> has the potential to become an effective disruptive technology replacing enamel and powder paint as a performance coating in a large number of industries such as
  - Power Industry
  - Appliances
  - Process Equipment

