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- * Piezo-Beam Sensor Monitors Critical Position Indicator Systems
- * NASA Video Enhancement Innovation Wins Tech Transfer Award
- * Flexible Coating Extends Life of Tires and Tennis Balls

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COMPANIES TO WATCH

An industrial coatings company founded in 1999 has developed a nanocomposite coating that has been incorporated into the new Double Core tennis ball made by Wilson. The technology also has huge potential as a tire sealant.

InMat LLC of Hillsborough, NJ, developed Air D-Fense, a thin, flexible coating that combines butyl rubber polymers with vermiculite, a natural clay that can slide off, or exfoliate, into single-molecule thin sheets. The new tennis balls using the coating retain air longer, and are touted by Wilson as being able to bounce twice as long as ordinary balls.

InMat sees even more potential in the tire market, where the coating could enable tires to hold air longer with reduced weight, which would lead to better gas mileage. In fact, the technology was first developed as part of a research project in 1996 between Michelin and Hoechst Celanese.

The company currently is working with several tire manufacturers to use the coating in new tire lines, which could be available to the public by 2004. Visit <http://link.abpi.net/1.php?20020521A7> for more information on InMat.

- Linda L. Bell, Editor/Associate Publisher

Send your comments to me at linda@abpi.net .