Ever-growing markets in the Asia Pacific region call out for more products, faster service. An automaker must cut production time for popular truck models to meet consumer demand. Body shops and insurance companies look for guidance in managing collision repairs and getting car owners back behind the wheel faster. DuPont Coatings & Color Technologies responds. Opening a new technical service center in Shanghai. Developing a new process that lays down two tones of truck paint in one pass through the paint booth. And creating a new consulting enterprise that brings DuPont expertise to collision repair. All while earning the Clean Air Excellence Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

HyperCure™ Clearcoat is the Clear Winner

Automotive body shops need a fast curing time for new finishes — but they know that the customer demands a "like new" appearance. And body shops get both with DuPont™ HyperCure™ clearcoat finishes, the fastest-drying, baking and air-dry clears on the market. The production and marketing effort for HyperCure™ clearcoat finishes was so outstanding that it garnered the annual Pinnacle Award given by DuPont for marketing excellence. Fittingly enough, the award was presented to the team that developed HyperCure™ by four-time NASCAR® Winston Cup Champion Jeff Gordon (fourth from right), who really understands speed and cars!

Spotlight on Science: Eva Frigge Keeps Auto Finishes Showroom New

From the moment a car or truck leaves the factory, its finish faces constant assault — from the sun, flying gravel, road salt, air pollution and more. The only protection for the vehicle's high gloss paint is 35 to 55 micrometers of clear topcoat. At the DuPont Herberts Automotive Systems lab in Wuppertal, Germany, analytical chemist Eva Frigge continually searches for ways to make that topcoat tougher. Her work led to the development of DuPont™ ProTect Clear®, offering a new level of mar and etch resistance. By teaming with colleagues in the resin department, Eva specified a new binder for the clearcoat that raised hardness while retaining polymer elasticity.

Two-tone Paint Process Wins Ford World Excellence Award

Ford Motor Company has enjoyed rising demand for its two-tone F-250 and F-350 heavy-duty pickup trucks. But two passes through a paint booth and oven dramatically increased production time at the company's Kentucky truck plant. Then DuPont Herberts Automotive Systems, the OEM unit of DuPont Performance Coatings, developed a "one-pass" paint process. Using a special second primer, the color accent coat is applied over the wet prime layer while maintaining traditional chip and corrosion protection and durability characteristics. In April of 2003, Ford honored the painting breakthrough with its World Excellence Award — Recognition of Achievement. This innovation also won the prestigious Henry Ford Technology Award.