

**KYPOL LTD**  
(ELECTROPLATING DIVISION)  
IS UNDERGOING MAJOR  
CHANGES TO ITS PREMISES  
AND ORGANISATION TO  
MAKE IT A MORE EFFICIENT,  
COMPETITIVE ENTITY



# Full plate

**Kypol Ltd Electroplating** has been in the business of coating metals for more than 40 years, set-up by industrial chemist Ron Kapoor, after he decided to use the experience gained as head of laboratories at Jenolite Ltd to set up his own enterprise. Between its founding in 1970 and takeover by Ron's son Rishi in 1994, the business had become financially successful enough to acquire local competitors and upgrade its premises several times though remaining within its home county of Bedfordshire. In the 17 years since Rishi Kapoor became managing director of the company, it has expanded considerably not only in its facilities – including the recent purchase of land surrounding its factory – but also its market diversity.

Rishi talks to ESCM about the extent of Kypol's electroplating activities today: "We work with a lot of different industries such as engineering, automotive, sheet metal, fixings and fastenings, and more recently the military, where we are able to provide chemical blacking on stainless steel to provide a non-reflective finish. We have recently invested in a hairdressing business called Style Guru, a ladies and gents salon in St Neots and Buckden, Cambridgeshire.

"Nonetheless, electroplating remains our core business. We rely heavily on marketing our organisation as a progressive company within our sector."

The most important business stream for the company is volume zinc finishing, for which it has two automated lines offering volume zinc electroplated products on vat and barrel work. Here, the factory is capable of

handling customer product up to two by one metres as well as smaller associated barrelling parts such as fixings or small machine parts. New equipment, soon to be introduced, will also offer hard anodising for parts up to 2.5 metres. Other finishes available include tin, copper, nickel, chemical blacking on steel and stainless, sulphuric anodising, alochrom 1200, alochrom 1000, NCP chrome free and phosphating. These are just a few of the processes on offer.

In the last few years, however, the company has undergone a major change in its structure to better compete in the market. Perhaps the biggest of these is the introduction of long processing hours organised into split shifts for staff, enabling Kypol to offer clients a comprehensive just-in-time (JIT) service. Subsequently if a job requires urgent execution then the Sandy, Bedfordshire, based factory is capable of a 24-hour turnaround. "We have had to change the old fashioned work philosophy of an 8am to 4pm day to become more flexible," Rishi comments. "It is crucial to work around customer's needs and we are very lucky to have a great team of staff that are understanding and progressive."

In supporting this new approach, Kypol's premises are currently undergoing a major refurbishment that will see the installation of new equipment as well as streamlined finishing procedures. Also implemented are essential Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) compliant finishes throughout its portfolio of work, maintaining the company's relevance at the forefront of the plating market and raising its value against

international competition.

One important company asset is its close partnership with McDermott plc. The chemical supply company is not only Kypol's primary supplier but also a collaborator in research and development. "We are always looking into new technology, chemical processes and production methods, and McDermott have been by our side in this giving technical backup," explains Rishi. "Much of our research and development stems from customer requirements; we see what our customers are presently receiving and then try to improve it so they receive the best electroplating finishes possible."

This type of dedication to work and the customer has resulted in contracts from small and large companies alike, from plating components for Aston Martin to its recent work on the London Underground.

In 2008 LK International Sourcing was formed to source engineered products ranging from its own manufacturing facility in Bedfordshire to products from all around the world. Also included is design consultancy. Rishi states: "We have recently completed an order over a one year contract with Arken Pop – which produced banners, projection screens and other media on advertising material. LK International Sourcing focused on machining and fabricated processes to support

refurbishments on the subway network throughout 2010. In addition to this, Kypol Electroplating produced all of the chemical processing for these parts."

Given the wide spread of capability it possesses, it's no surprise that business has been good in recent times; the 2010-2011 financial year, for example, saw a 25 per cent increase in turnover on the 2009-2010 season. This is something that Rishi credits to both new manufacturing processes and equipment as well as to the flexibility and dedication of the company's staff. This, of course, sets the company up for a bright future.

Looking forward, Rishi is understandably confident in the future of Kypol Ltd and associated businesses: "Over the next four to five years I think we are going to be developing into a more streamlined business. Making things more efficient, implementing new equipment, investigating new chemical processes: all these things so that we can turn out a better service for the customer. We have a definite strategy for expansion into the auctioned lands we bought so that we can expand our markets and services even further." □

**Kypol Ltd Electroplating**

[www.kypol.co.uk](http://www.kypol.co.uk)


Employees 20

Services Electroplating and anodising

## Fashion Finishes

*Decorative Coatings*

	NiMac Bright Ni	M-Satin Fine	SatinKote Pearl	M-Satin Light	M-Satin Star
Mach 2					
	NiMac Bright - Mach 2	M-Satin Fine - Mach 2	SatinKote - Mach 2	M-Satin Light - Mach 2	M-Satin Star - Mach 2
TriMac III					
	NiMac Bright - TriMac III	M-Satin Fine - TriMac III	SatinKote - TriMac III	M-Satin Light - TriMac III	M-Satin Star - TriMac III
TriMac RM					
	NiMac Bright - TriMac RM	M-Satin Fine - TriMac RM	SatinKote - TriMac RM	M-Satin Light - TriMac RM	M-Satin Star - TriMac RM
Twilite					
	NiMac Bright - Twilite	M-Satin Fine - Twilite	SatinKote - Twilite	M-Satin Light - Twilite	M-Satin Star - Twilite
Moonlite					
	NiMac Bright - Moonlite	M-Satin Fine - Moonlite	SatinKote - Moonlite	M-Satin Light - Moonlite	M-Satin Star - Moonlite



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