

Launch of second printing of book about alarming bacteriological corrosion

Aalst, BE, 21 September 2021



Bacteriological corrosion or microbiological influenced corrosion (MIC) is a threatening type of corrosion and is nowadays a major problem, mainly manifesting itself throughout all harbours, waterways and canals worldwide.

This year, the book "Biocorrosion" will be reissued in second printing to further highlight this issue. "The urgency to take steps now is crucial. Infrastructures alongside waterways, canals and harbours pressingly need protection against corrosion," says Wim Schalley, CEO of the Acotec company.

The issue in the Ghent-Terneuzen Canal (a canal connecting Belgium and The Netherlands), recently published in the media, had been observed already 15 years ago by Acotec, a Belgian company on a global scale offering innovative and sustainable solutions in order to handle all types of corrosion. This research was comprehensively analysed in the book 'Biocorrosion', co-written by Wim Schalley, CEO of Acotec. Back then, the research was a collaboration with Ghent University (UGent) (ref. Biocorrosion, Prof. Dr Johan Mertens, Dr Lynda Beladjal, Wim Schalley).

At that time, it was stated together with UGent that this forming of corrosion could cause serious damage. Bacteriological corrosion can give rise to subsidence of the concrete and iron structures, which consequently can trigger considerable economic damage. Boats and ships avoid these canals and renovation costs can go sky high.

The Flemish authorities have immediately taken action. Steel sheet piles on the Flemish side of the canal were successfully treated with Humidur, a sustainable anti-corrosion coating by Acotec, leading to proven results for projects all over the world. These treated locations are protected thanks to the patented DZI cofferdam system of Acotec, which allows for coating under water.

Currently, the same effects of bacteriological corrosion are observed on the Dutch side of the canal. The steel sheet piles over there have not yet been treated. The impact of this on the canal at the Flemish side will be limited, but the forming of corrosion in the harbour and at the Dutch side of the canal is inevitable. "There is no cause for panic, but the time has come to act. All too often, important infrastructures collapse or break down due to wrong maintenance decisions," says Wim Schalley, CEO of Acotec.

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The causes for this type of bacteriological forming of corrosion derive from various factors. Clear water offers more freedom for micro bacterial elements. This way, more life emerges, and consequently more bacteria cultivate. This explains how attached oysters and mussels in these waterways can cause accelerated pitting corrosion. This process can progress much faster than normal corrosion.

“We can see the positive effects of the governmental decisions to keep the water as clear as possible. Naturally, these efforts are excellent. People are fishing again in waterways that have been contaminated for years. The clear water on the other hand also creates a habitat for all kinds of macro- and microorganisms.” says Frederik Van Haute, General Manager of Acotec.

“It is crucial that this matter is highlighted again. The efforts of the Flemish authorities to create a well-functioning ecological environment must certainly be maintained. Our single-layer solvent-free coating offers a highly reliable and environmentally friendly solution, enabling the continuation of the efforts to preserve a green ecosystem,” says Wim Schalley.

This year, the book “Biocorrosion” will be reissued in second printing. The book Biocorrosion can be ordered via sharon.lee@acotec.be

Humidur by Acotec

Humidur® is a sustainable and environmentally friendly anti-corrosion coating. Humidur is used in various industries and markets, from marine industry & offshore, energy market and oil to gas market and petrochemical industry. Acotec is a company that offers worldwide customer-oriented solutions in order to handle any type of corrosion. The head office is based in Aalst, Belgium. Please visit the website www.humidur.be for more information.

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