



**ROLL CALL NEWSLETTER**

**Volume 37**

**March 2025**

## **Our Chairman Says....**

### **CONNECTIONS, THE KEY TO WEATHERING THE STORM**

**Matt Umentum**  
**IRMA Chairman**

A force majeure hit Parker Lord on Sunday, February 9 when a massive fire broke out and nearly destroyed Lord Corporation's Saegertown, PA facility. The facility is now out of commission and Lord will not be shipping any of their Chemlok rubber-to-substrate bonding adhesives for at least six months. Nearly all rubber roller manufacturers use these bonding materials in order to adhere elastomers to various metal cores, so this is a major disruption to our industry.

We feel for Lord and especially for the six firefighters as well as the seven Lord employees who were injured in the blaze. While we are concerned about Lord's viability in the near future, our industry must continue to manufacture. It is at times like this when the industry connections we have forged over the years ride to the rescue. At Rol-Tec, we immediately collaborated with the people we met through the International Roller Manufacturers Association (formerly RRG) for suggestions, names, and contacts to help us bridge the gap. Fellow roller companies shared information, rubber suppliers pointed us in the right direction, and equipment manufacturers sent unsolicited emails with suggestions.

We are now on firm footing with a secondary source of supply and stand ready to continue to serve our customers' needs.

You never join a trade organization with bridging a disaster in mind as the motivation. Most look to trade organizations as a source to improve industry knowledge, meet new supplier representatives, find the latest equipment, or just gather with industry peers once each year. All are true and worthwhile pursuits. This time, however, our IRMA / RRG network fostered over the years and buttressed through many RRG meetings, came through to keep us producing. The IRMA / RRG connections helped us weather the storm.

I encourage you to continue your support of IRMA not only through your membership dues but by attending our annual meetings. Bring others from your organization to deepen and layer the intercompany connections you have fostered over many meetings because you cannot predict when the next storm may hit.

Again, we hope Lord mitigates the damage and is up and running much faster than originally anticipated. We will be here ready and waiting when they are but, in the meantime, we are grateful to the suppliers, fellow manufacturers, and OEMs who have helped us tremendously to weather the storm.

I hope to see all of you in Fort Lauderdale and I'm looking forward to connecting with you!

## Note from our President—Tyler Sinclair

### **Why Attending and Networking at IRMA Matters – Plus a Look at Tariffs’ Impact on Our Industry**

As we get closer to the 2025 IRMA Annual Meeting in Fort Lauderdale, I want to take a moment to talk about why this event is so crucial, both for our industry and for you personally.

#### **The Power of Networking**

One thing that stands out at every IRMA event is the power of the connections we make. It’s easy to forget in the day-to-day grind of business, but these meetings offer us the chance to meet, learn, and build relationships that can last for years. I’ve personally found that what starts as a casual conversation over coffee or at a session often turns into a lasting partnership that helps us tackle industry challenges, whether big or small.

This is why I’m encouraging you to not only attend but bring more team members along. The more people from your company that participate, the better your network will become. There’s no telling when that connection you made in the hallway or at the reception might turn into a solution for a problem you didn’t even know was coming.

#### **Tariffs – An Ongoing Challenge**

While our speaker lineup is shaping up to address some key topics, I want to make sure we don't overlook something that's still incredibly relevant – tariffs and their impact on our industry. With the landscape constantly shifting, tariffs have added a layer of complexity to everything from raw material costs to the cost of doing business globally. Even if this isn't a direct topic of discussion at the meeting, it's something that we all need to keep in mind as we move forward. It's going to affect how we source materials, how we plan our operations, and how we stay competitive. So, I'll be diving into this in my own sessions and looking forward to hearing your thoughts too.

#### **Looking Forward to Fort Lauderdale**

This year’s IRMA Annual Meeting in Fort Lauderdale is shaping up to be a fantastic opportunity to engage with the latest trends and solutions our industry has to offer. As always, we’re going to make sure there’s plenty of time for networking, idea-sharing, and learning from experts. If you haven’t registered yet, make sure to do so soon, as space fills up fast.

I’m excited to see you all in May. Let’s make this meeting count – for our businesses, our industry, and our connections.

Tyler Sinclair - President, IRMA

## Moving Forward to the New Name—IRMA

Transitioning to International Roller Manufacturer Association (**IRMA**) is a process.

There are the legal aspects which Steve Chase, Sec-Treas, is handling. Your credit card receipts may say IRMA and/or RRG for awhile.

All the Board of Directors are involved in logistics such as the web address, logo design, etc. We want to be sure that all the I’s are dotted and T’s are crossed.

As we finalize these changes, you will begin by seeing these changes on our website and in emails.

Please be patient with us and pay attention to all announcements. We believe these changes will improve our presence in the global environment of roller manufacturers. Spread the word!

## Our Vice President — Jeff Hemingway

Hello to all ***International Roller Manufacturer Association Members:***

It is hard to believe we have weathered another long winter with spring right around the corner. Our 2025 IRMA meeting is shaping up to be quite the event! I cannot think of a better venue to break free from the winter slump than the beautiful B Ocean Resort in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. I would like to recognize Robbi Miller for her dedication to our group and for working tirelessly securing accommodations for this event. As I mentioned in my previous newsletter, these are exciting times as we transition from the Rubber Roller Group to International Roller Manufacturer Association. I look forward to the potential growth as we transition.

In my first year taking on the role of Vice President, it has been an honor to play a role in choosing speakers for our meeting. I have worked closely with our Board of Directors to build an agenda that I hope will be beneficial to a broad audience. Our keynote speaker for our 2025 meeting will be Dr. Donald McNeeley. Dr. McNeeley is the Executive Chairman of Chicago Tube and Iron Company and also a clinical professor at Northwestern University. He will be speaking on the state of our economy and the future of manufacturing domestically within the context of global dynamics. We will also feature Alan Bernstein who is the owner and Chief Human Resource Consultant of HR Office Savers, Inc. His presentation will focus on staffing, compliance, employee retention, compensation, and more. Finally, we are going to try something new during our presentations during this meeting. Darrin Roe, Director of Sales at Zeon Chemicals, will host a “town hall” style session called “Heard It on The Streets”. During this session we will have a group of suppliers discuss market trends, material availability, and challenges facing the industry.

As many of you know, networking has continued to be a staple for our organization. For those interested, Suppliers will be hosting a cocktail reception Sunday evening to kick off our meeting. To further promote networking opportunities, we will end Monday’s session with a Mini Expo with a variety of suppliers and manufacturers. To conclude our meeting, Steve Chase has worked hard to organize another exciting golf outing that he will detail in his letter.

As we move closer and closer to this event, I strongly encourage everyone to register for this meeting while renewing your IRMA membership. If you need any assistance please contact Robbi Miller at [contact@rubberrollergroup.com](mailto:contact@rubberrollergroup.com)

I’m looking forward to this event and seeing all of you in Fort Lauderdale in May!

Best Regards,

Jeff Hemingway

## Our Parliamentarian Explains...Growing Into the IRMA

Hello, fellow members of the International Roller Manufacturers Association (IRMA),

During last year’s meeting, our group voted to change our organization’s name from the Rubber Roller Group to the International Roller Manufacturers Association (IRMA). This change aims to expand our reach and include other organizations involved in roll-related industries. The board is committed to ensuring a diverse range of representatives, and we want to provide our members with advance notice on the upcoming election process.

Standard elections are held every other year (in even-numbered years) during the business portion of our annual meetings. Most officer positions have 2-year terms and will be up for election during each standard election cycle. Director positions have 4-year terms and are staggered to maintain continuity on the board. To be placed on the ballot, nominations must be submitted to the nomination committee, chaired by our Chairman.

The next standard election is scheduled for the 2026 meeting. We will be voting on the following officer positions: Vice President (must be a manufacturer), Treasurer, Secretary, and Parliamentarian. Additionally, the Director positions up for election in 2026 include a manufacturer representative and an international representative.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please reach out to Matt Umentum, the IRMA Chairman Or Myself, IRMA Parliamentarian.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Fort Lauderdale in May.

Josh Watson, IRMA Parliamentarian

## Meet the New Manufacturer's Representatives

During our 2024 business meeting in San Antonio, I introduced the fact that the board had solicited volunteers and were in search to bring on 2 Manufacturers Representatives. At that point, I mentioned the 2 individuals who will begin their service on the board for the group starting with our spring 2025 meeting. Our new Manufacturers Reps are Ryan Smith and Steve Aker. Please see below a quick intro to both men:

### **Ryan Smith, Harwood Rubber**

As President of Harwood Rubber Products, Ryan leads a team of experienced industry professionals dedicated to providing high-quality rubber-covered rolls and services. M7 Acquisitions purchased Harwood Rubber last year from RRG Life Member, Rick Harwood. At M7, Ryan is responsible for the acquisition and operations of manufacturing companies in the lower middle market, with a focus on optimizing systems, improving efficiency, and driving long-term growth.

Ryan is a U.S. Army veteran and previously served as an Engineer Officer, including a deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, where he developed a strong foundation in teamwork, discipline, and problem-solving.

Outside of work, Ryan enjoys spending time outdoors with his wife and their 3 boys, aged 10, 8, and 5, and they look forward to welcoming their fourth child in June 2025.

### **Steve Aker, American Roller**

Steve serves as the VP of Coverings for American Roller and is in his 9<sup>th</sup> year at American Roller and 6<sup>th</sup> year in his current position. Steve is a career 'Roller Man'. Before joining American Roller, he served 19 years at Rotadyne. He worked in multiple facilities in operations management positions. Today, Steve is responsible for the 6 Roller Coverings Plants, their Rubber Mixing operation, as well as leading the R&E team in Union Grove.

Steve currently resides in Northwest Indiana and when not working, spends time supporting his daughter's competitive swim club, vacationing in warm weather climates, and following collegiate and professional sports.

## 2025 IRMAQ/RRG Golf Tournament

As we prepare for yet another great Rubber Roller Group meeting, I look forward to the IRMA/RRG Golf Outing to close out our annual meeting. This will be our 22<sup>nd</sup> year for this event. We always have a great time, while there is a broad spectrum of golf amongst the group, the scramble format allows us 'duffers' to not feel so intimidated. We have decided on the site for our tournament and in Florida, you almost can't go wrong with a selection, but we landed on Jacaranda Golf Club in Plantation, FL.

We will be teeing off in the early afternoon of May 6<sup>th</sup>. We will have plenty of time to complete the meeting and travel to the course, before we kick off the golf. The following is a quick summary of cost and opportunities to support the event:

- Tournament Registration: \$140/player. This fee will cover the golf, practice facility, lunch, and prizes.
- Golf Hole Sponsorship: \$275- Each sponsor will have a sign provided at their hole to advertise their company logo.

Please let us know your interest to play in the golf tournament or participation in as the hole sponsorships. When you are registering for the meeting, you can pay for this event at the same time. If you want to rent clubs for the event, please contact the club directly at 954-472-5836.

You may contact us at the main RRG office at [contact@rubberrollergroup.com](mailto:contact@rubberrollergroup.com) or my business e-mail at [schase@nextgencompounding.com](mailto:schase@nextgencompounding.com).

We look forward to seeing everyone on the links!

Steve Chase,  
Treasurer



## With Great Sadness We Share This Obituary



**Joseph C. Wolf**

**March 19, 1937 –January 12, 2025**

**Tinley Park, IL**

Joe was an active member and supporter of the Rubber Roller Group for over 30 years.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce, and three sons and families.

He graduated the Premier Class of '55 Mendel High School and Loyola University. He served Knox & Schneider, Inc. as salesman and vice president for 46 years.

He was an US Navy veteran and laid to rest with full military honors at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

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## Speaker preview

DONALD R. McNEELEY, Ph.D.

Donald McNeeley is the Executive Chairman of Chicago Tube and Iron Company, a steel distribution and engineered fabrication company founded in 1914, headquartered in Romeoville with ten subsidiaries. Founded upon sound free-market principles, they have achieved 110 years of consecutive profitability, a record unmatched in the United States Steel Industry. In 2011, Dr. McNeeley was the architect of a merger of his company with Olympic Steel, Inc. The combined forces producing \$3.0 billion in revenue and 44 locations positions them as one of the top 10 in the nation.

Dr. McNeeley is also a clinical professor at Northwestern University where he teaches in the graduate program at the prestigious McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Mathematics. He also writes a quarterly column on the political, societal, and economic landscape for The Wholesaler Magazine.

Dr. McNeeley is a graduate of the Harvard Business School. In addition, the University of Wisconsin, Benedictine University, and George William College. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics, an MBA, an MS in Management and Organizational Behavior as well as a BA in Business.

He serves on a number of boards in the industrial space. He has been featured in many industry and business publications, including the Wall Street Journal. He was a finalist for the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year. In addition, he was recognized as the ASA Executive of the Year, The P.V.F. Hall of Fame, Metal Center News' Man of the Year, and has been featured as an industry thought leader in Forward Magazine.

## Speaker preview

### **Alan Bernstein**

**Alan Bernstein, SHRM-SCP is owner and Chief Human Resource Consultant of HR Office Savers, Inc. Alan advises small business clients on employment practices and Human Resources solutions related to staffing, compliance, employee relations, compensation, outplacement, and more.**

**Alan's Human Resources career includes management and director level positions with Harris Corporation, Honeywell International, and Verizon Wireless prior to beginning his company. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from The University of Buffalo, is Six Sigma Green Belt Certified, and is a Senior Certified Professional with the Society of Human Resource Management.**

**Alan is active in the community serving as Board Member of LEAD Brevard and Melbourne Regional Chamber of Commerce, Past-President of the Space Coast Human Resources Association, and Executive Committee member for HR Florida State Council. Additionally, he has been voted Best Consultant on the Space Coast and HR Florida Volunteer of the Year.**



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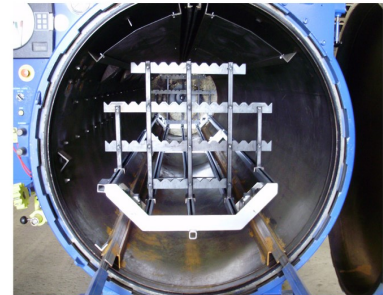
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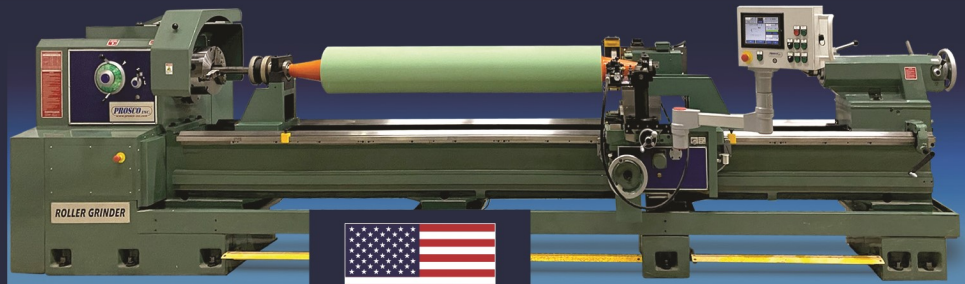
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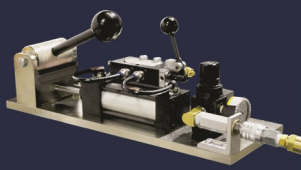
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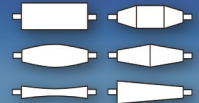
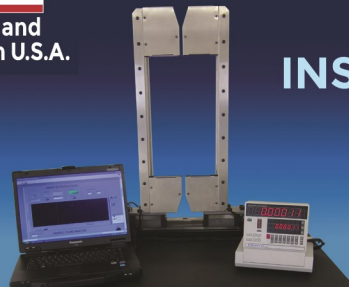
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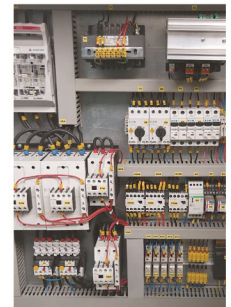
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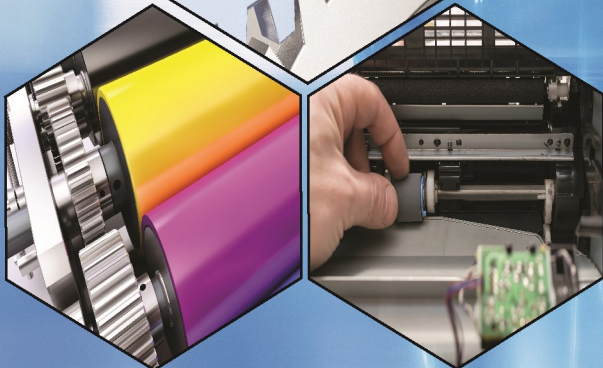
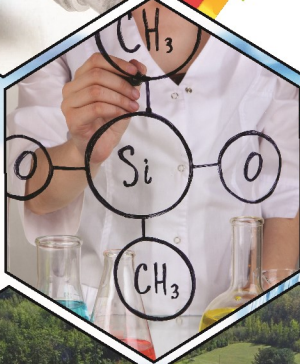
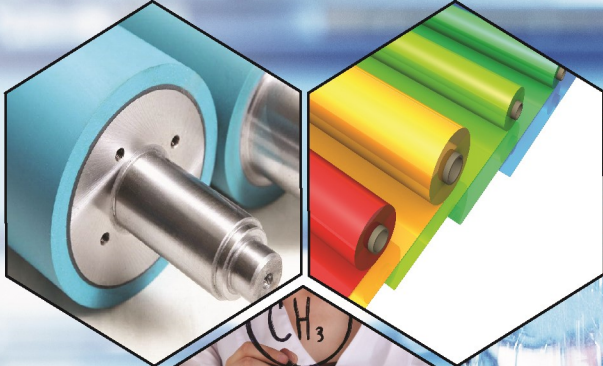
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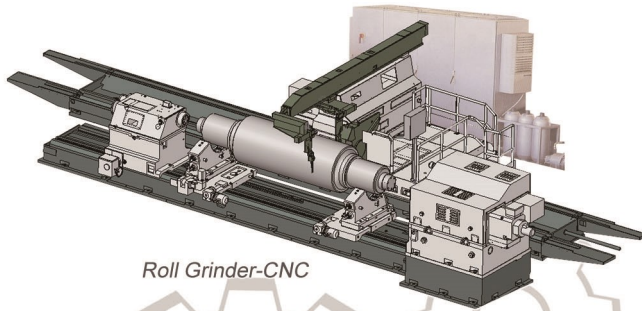


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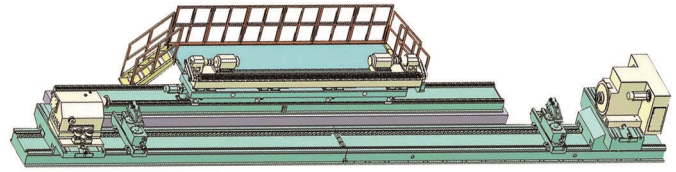


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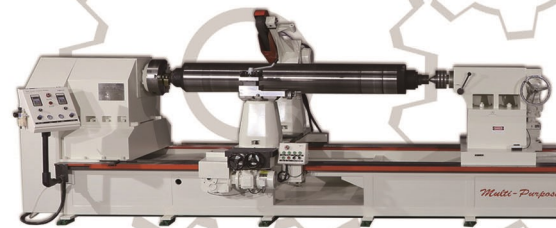
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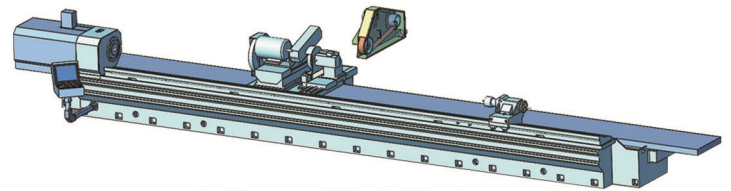
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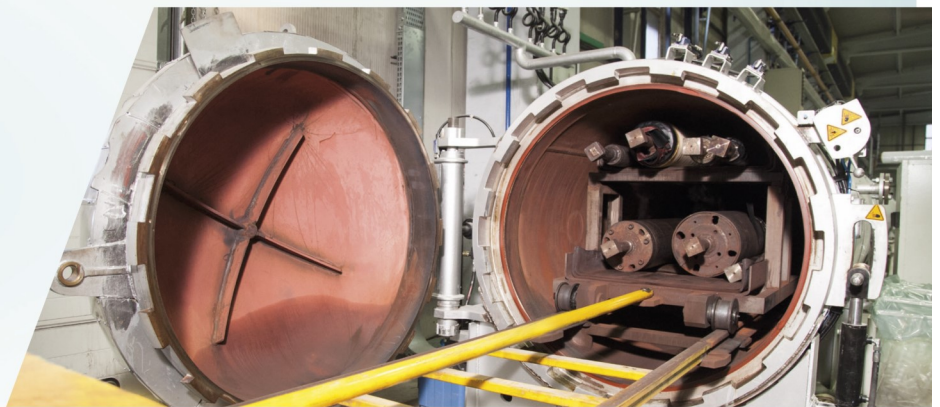


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# YOUR EXPERTS FOR RUBBER-TO-METAL BONDING AGENTS



H.B. Fuller



CILBOND®  
THE SCIENCE BEHIND BONDING

Our Cilbond® high-performance bonding agents are designed to chemically bond rubber and polyurethane elastomers during the molding and casting processes to a variety of substrates.

## FEATURED PRODUCTS

### Cilbond® 24

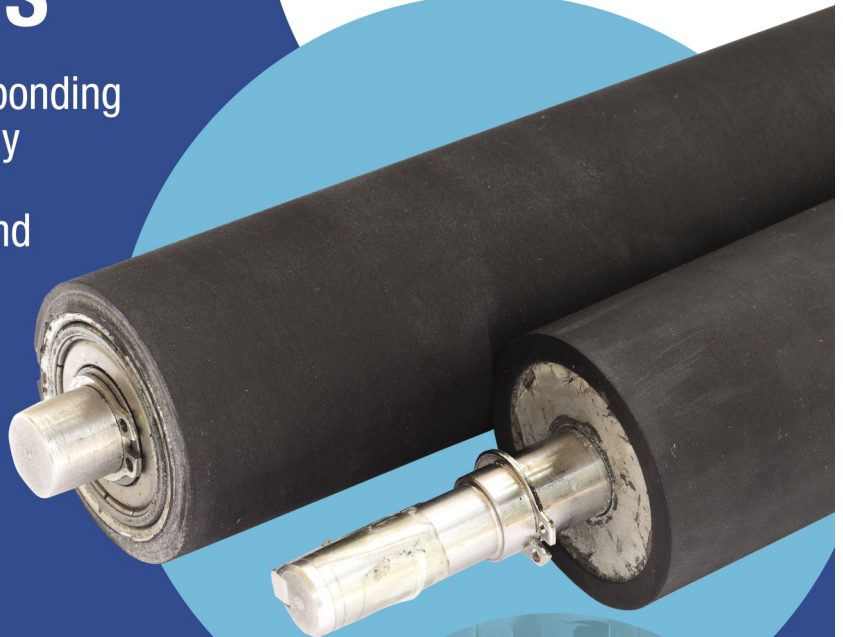
High-performance one-coat solvent-based bonding agent for various elastomers.

### Cilbond® 12E and Cilbond® 80ET

High-performance solvent-based primer and cover-coat bonding agent for a wide range of rubber compounds

### Cilbond® 7290W

High-performance one-coat water-based bonding agent for various elastomers



## CILBOND® PRODUCT BENEFITS



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with one coat  
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Improved  
process time  
with one coat  
products



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under tough  
environments



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of inventory  
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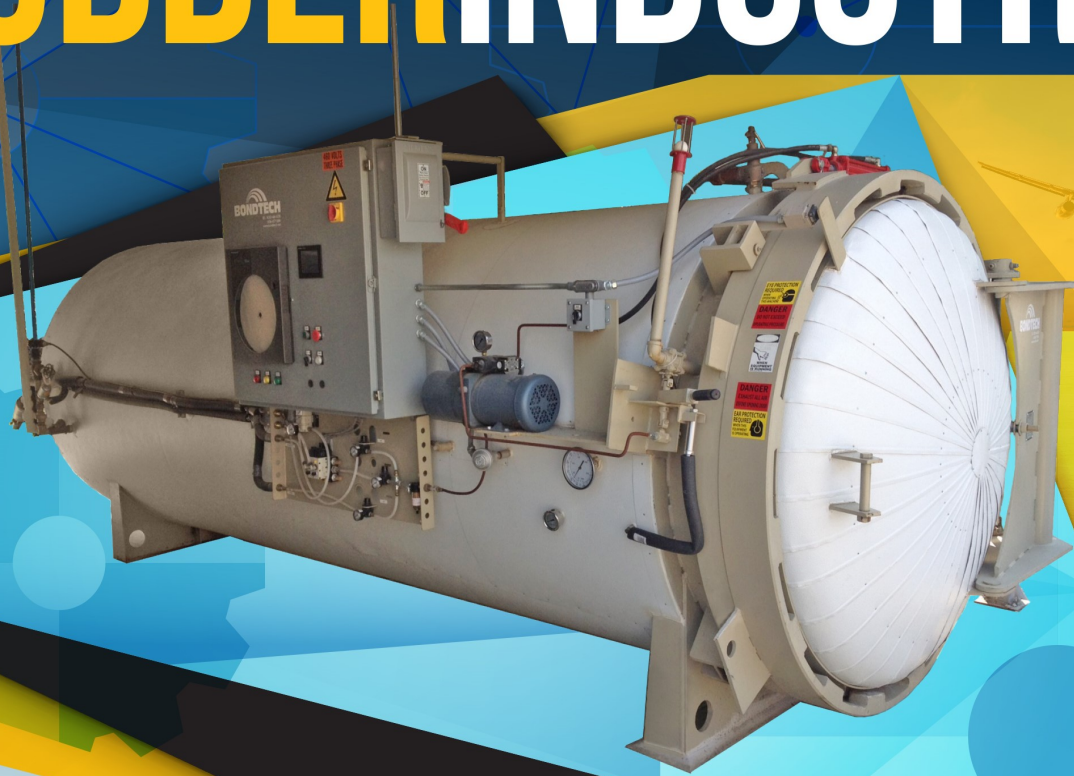
**For Sales and Technical Assistance:  
Mike Godfrey  
Advanced Textiles Account Manager  
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mgodfrey@burlan.com**

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# RUBBER INDUSTRY



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### Heating Systems

- **Indirect Heat:** Electric or Indirect Steam
- **Direct Heat:** Direct Steam

### Quick Opening Door

- Hydraulic powered door for quick and save open/lock
- Locking ring rotation only – Extends gasket life
- O-ring gasket – Long lasting
- No air system required for gasket seal

### Controls

#### Basic Temperature/Pressure Controls

- Prepackaged in C/S Nema 12 Enclosure
- 24 hour circular chart recorder

#### Programmable Logic Controller (PLC)

- Maximum flexibility to program autoclave process cycle
- Effective tool for achieving high quality products
- Modem hookup capabilities
- Optimization of autoclave cycle for desired results



### Vessel Specifications:

<b>Pressure</b>	90-150 PSIG with corrosion allowance
<b>Size</b>	Per customer specifications
<b>Door</b>	Hydraulic quick opening, manual swing
<b>Loading</b>	Horizontal loading arrangement

### Quality Control and Safety

- ASME & National Board Certified
- Safety interlocks
- Safety relief valve
- Complete acceptance testing prior to shipment
- Engineers available for on-line technical support

### Custom Engineering

- In-house Engineering
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**BONDTECH**  
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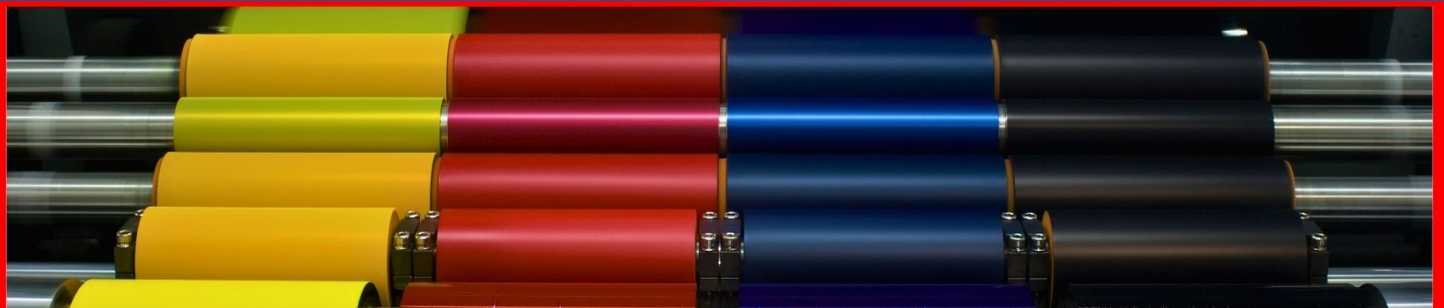
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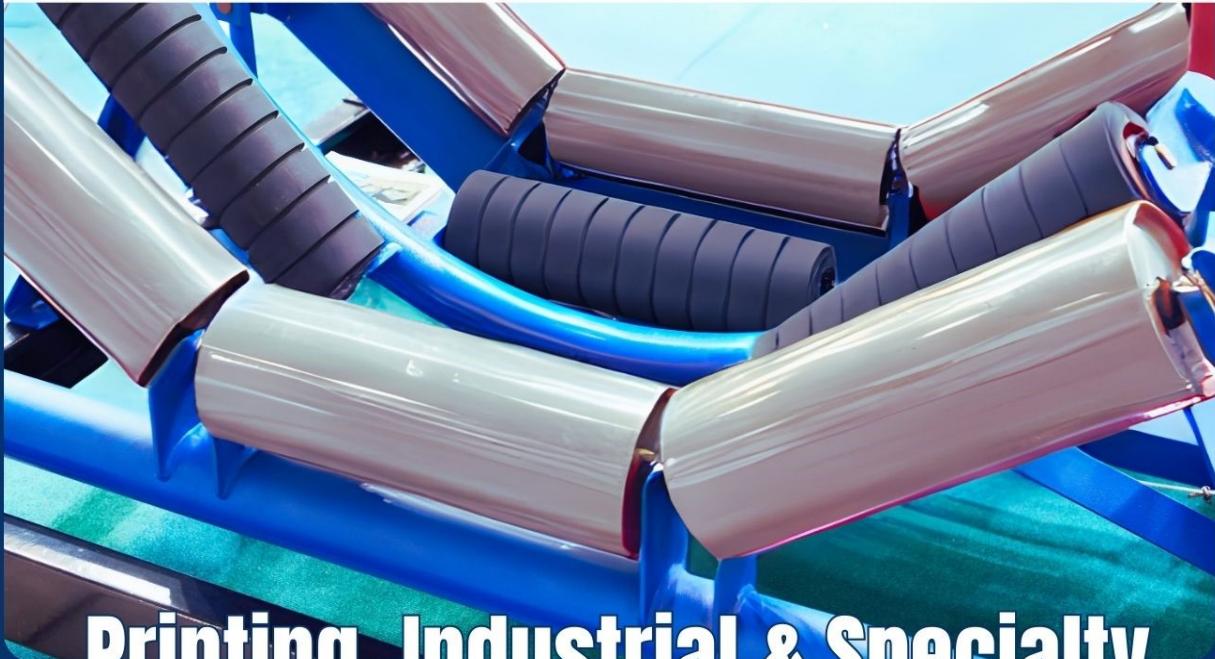
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The Rubber Roller Group's "Technical Handbook for Elastomeric Roll Covering" was assembled by the efforts of over 35 key individuals with years of knowledge and hands on experience.

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**Executive Secretary**

Phone#: 417-337-0210

Host Hotel B Ocean Resort—Fort Lauderdale, FL



**Our Annual meeting May 4, 5 and 6 is fast approaching! Send in your Membership and Registration now!**

## RESERVATION LINK & CUT OFF DATE:

Make your reservations online before **Wednesday, April 2, 2025**.

Link: [Rubber Roller Group](#)

**They expect to sell out so don't you miss out!**

We will start with the Reception on Sunday, May 4th, at 5:00—7:00 pm. The Board is working on the meeting content and timeline and that information will be shared via email as it is available.

Please invite others to join and to come to the meeting. Send any suggested members contact information to

[contact@rubberrollergroup.com](mailto:contact@rubberrollergroup.com).

**Looking forward to sunshine!**

