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Nippon Paint Automotive Coatings Co., Ltd.

Nippon Paint Automotive Coatings Wins Audience Choice Award at CARES Americas 2026
—Joint Presentation Highlights Next-Generation In-Mold Coating Technology for Sustainable Automotive Manufacturing—

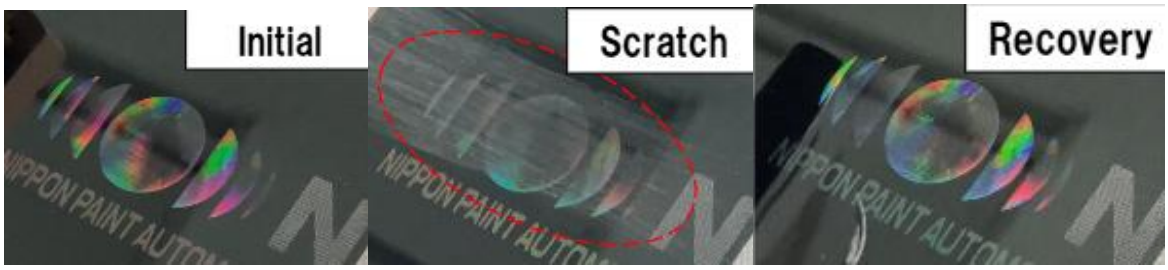
Nippon Paint Automotive Coatings Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Hirakata City, Osaka; President and Representative Director: Satoshi Nishimura; hereinafter "NPAC") is pleased to announce that it won the Audience Choice Award at CARES Americas 2026, an international automotive technology conference held on October 13-14, 2026, in Rochester, Michigan, USA.

CARES Americas is an international forum that brings together automakers, suppliers, and other industry leaders to advance sustainability in automotive manufacturing and supply chains. The event provides a platform for sharing sustainable manufacturing strategies, technologies, and practical initiatives, while promoting collaboration across the industry.
At the event, which attracted leading automakers and suppliers from around the world, NPAC gave a joint presentation with Uchihamakasei Corp. (Head Office: Toyota City, Aichi; hereinafter "Uchihamakasei"), a developer and manufacturer of plastic automotive exterior parts. The presentation was titled "Innovative In-Mold Coating Technology for Next-Generation Sustainable Automotive Manufacturing."

The in-mold coating technology presented at the conference forms a coating film on the surface of a molded plastic part by injecting paint directly into the mold after molding. By eliminating the need for conventional coating booths and post-coating drying ovens, the technology streamlines the manufacturing process, reduces CO_2 emissions by approximately 75% (as estimated by Uchihamakasei and NPAC), and contributes to achieving zero VOC emissions.
The technology uses solvent-free paint developed by NPAC and precisely transfers the mold's surface texture on the coating surface, enabling smooth finishes, geometric patterns, and embossed textures. By reproducing nanoscale structures, it also creates iridescent effects through structural coloration, delivering visual effects that are difficult to achieve with conventional spray coating.
In addition to the technology's established benefits, the presentation highlighted its newly confirmed scratch-recovery properties. Testing demonstrated that fine surface scratches recover when exposed to heat from a hair dryer or to outdoor conditions in midsummer. This effect was confirmed across a wide range of finishes, from mirror finishes to structural coloration created by nanoscale surface textures.

By streamlining the manufacturing process, reducing environmental impact, and delivering high-quality

decorative finishes, this technology is expected to advance sustainable automotive manufacturing.



Scratch-Recovery Test Results (Before Scratching / Immediately After Scratching / After Scratch Recovery)

Established in 2023, the Audience Choice Award is determined by a vote among conference participants rather than a judging panel. It recognizes technologies and innovations that attract participants' interest and resonate with them. The award reflects the strong interest in and support for NPAC's technology among conference participants.

Takashi Kawai of NPAC's Parts Technology Div, Parts Paint Innovation Department, IMC Section, who co-presented the technology, commented: "In-mold coating simplifies the coating process, helping reduce CO_2 and VOC emissions. Alongside these environmental benefits, we have explored new possibilities for decorative finishes that are difficult to achieve with conventional coating methods. Our presentation also highlighted the technology's newly confirmed scratch-recovery properties. We are delighted to receive this recognition for a technology that combines environmental performance, design flexibility, and durability."

NPAC will continue to develop and deliver innovative coating technologies that contribute to sustainable automotive manufacturing and a sustainable society, as it works toward becoming a leading company in the automotive coatings industry.



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