



## Best Product Improvement Winner

Jowat, Lobers and Frank GmbH, Detmold is a world-wide manufacturer of adhesives, which this year was awarded the solvent stewardship award for Best Product Improvement.

Jowat produces solvent-based glues for applications in the upholstery and foam mattress industry. The team at Jowat, identified a risk during the application of glues, in that sparks resulting from static charge could inflame the upholstery and the foam on which they were being used. With the aim of eliminating this risk an adhesive was formulated with an increased solid content. At the same time, the required viscosity was maintained, allowing the glue to be applied with precision as a spray thus keeping emissions to a minimum. Jowat therefore ensured that the risk of flammability in the industrial application could be reduced to a level comparable with water based adhesives with no compromise to the quality afforded by solvent based adhesives.



Time is saved during product application as the required amount of active ingredients can be applied in one coating operation instead of two for the original adhesive formulation. Further improvements in the quality of the adhesive include heat resistance, soft pasted seam and increased adhesive efficacy.

The demand for the new solvent-based adhesive was such that Jowat invested in a new production site in Zeitz, Germany. The success of Jowat's new formulation with adhesive users lies in the fact that costly refittings and changes to working procedures have been avoided and greater efficiency in processing was achieved through higher yield and fast evaporation times. Equally there is no risk of rusting of barrel cores or moulding of the upholstery material through the addition of water.



Jowat have organised product information in worker news, a film on product safety, a customer symposium, and training for workers on handling solvents by solvent suppliers. They have also worked in conjunction with manufacturers of the adhesive application installations and with trade associations.