



March 2018

# Research Tender

## Benchmarking different company approaches to removing lead and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) from paints.

**Purpose:** Lead is a highly toxic metal that is associated with a myriad of health problems, especially in young children. When lead is absorbed into the body, it can cause damage to the brain, nervous system and other vital organs, such as the kidneys. Lead poisoning can also cause behavioural problems, learning disabilities, seizures and in extreme cases, death.

An analysis of international studies published in 2005 found that a lead level of 10µg/dL in young children lowers their IQ by 6 points and can contribute to a lack of ability to focus and plan. Other studies even suggest a possible correlation between lead exposure and violent crime, although this is hotly debated.

Most developed nations have regulations in place to restrict the use of lead in paints. However, many emerging markets have far fewer regulatory controls. Many multinational paint companies sell lead-free coatings in some markets while they continue to market lead-containing products in jurisdictions where there are no regulatory constraints and customers are less aware of the hazards.

In addition to the lead concerns, paints also contain VOCs which are linked to a host of other health problems, including kidney and liver damage, and even cancer.

We are keen to understand where companies stand, particularly in emerging markets, in their journey to reduce or eliminate lead and VOCs in their paints.

### Requirements:

- (a) Provide a brief overview of the regulatory environment across various developed and emerging markets; focusing on the attempts being made to reduce/eliminate lead and VOCs in paints (both consumer and industrial).
- (b) Compare and contrast the companies below on their approach to reducing/eliminating lead and VOCs in their paints; ensuring the focus covers all of their global operations, including their local subsidiaries.
- (c) Highlight any positive or negative government lobbying from the companies.

### Scope:

Approximately 10 listed Worldwide companies (with a focus on Emerging Markets); names to be provided by Stewart Investors. Maximum 20 page report, with a maximum of 2 pages on any individual company.

Regulatory environments to review include: India, China, Thailand, Philippines, Bangladesh, Kenya, Nigeria, Europe and the US.

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**Tender specifics:**

Please submit a proposal by email (maximum of two pages) to [siresearchtenders@stewartinvestors.com](mailto:siresearchtenders@stewartinvestors.com) on how you would conduct this research, over what timeframe and for what price.

We would be happy to accept country or regional specific proposals.

In principle we support making your research report more widely available. However, we reserve the right to prohibit, or place restrictions, on such circulation if we believe that is appropriate. Closing date for application: 30 April 2018.