Automotive coatings – current practices and future trends from a steel perspective

The automotive industry in Europe is facing multiple challenges in the near and longer term future. These challenges include increased performance requirements due to new crash regulations, tougher fleet CO₂ emission limits of 95g/km by 2021 whilst remaining competitive in a global market. Additionally, vehicle design and the outer surface is the face to their customers and hence the key differentiator for OEMs. A steel supplier who wants to be a preferred partner to the automotive industry needs to take these challenges into account and provide affordable solutions for current and future trends. Tata Steel in Europe is committed to the grand challenges of its automotive customers by providing cost effective solutions for the Body in White and Chassis & Suspension applications through
- Innovative coated Advanced High Strength Steel (AHSS) and Ultra High Strength Steel (UHSS) for increased weight savings and improved crash performance
- advanced surface finish for outer panel applications with enhanced paint appearance
- new zinc-magnesium coatings providing improved stamping behaviour and corrosion performance
- exploration of novel coating systems e.g. graphene based coatings for the grand challenges in the longer term future.

In this paper specific examples will be shared on how steel can help the automotive industry overcome their current challenges but also support their future trends by developing novel automotive coatings.

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