Self-Priming Cladding Not Just for Bulkheads

By Matthew Veazey

Offering low volatile organic compound content, high solids, and single-coat application advantages, the Navy’s self-priming cladding is a promising technology that can lend itself to myriad military and civilian applications.

Daniel Zarate of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) noted that self-priming cladding will be available via uniform construction specifications that specifically use the coating system, as well as those that might use it as an alternative to other systems. “The United Facilities Guide Specifications apply to all DoD and NASA facilities, and other federal agencies are free to use them,” he said.

Zarate added that self-priming cladding could be used in commercial applications as well. “Wherever steel sheet piles are on the waterfront, this same coating system could be used to replace currently used systems,” he explained. “This new system could be applied during installation (applied out of the water) or may be applied in situ either as a recoat or as a protective coating where one is not in place.”

Examples of structures and equipment that could benefit include tainter gates, pipe piles, H-piles, cranes, ships (ballast tanks), bridges, water and wastewater structures, industrial facilities, mooring structures, and marine equipment.

In terms of non-waterfront applications, self-priming cladding could be applied to meet the requirements of other immersion situations, said Zarate. He cited freshwater immersion as one example. “Also, because of the more chemically resistant nature of the starting product, it may be used in other chemical environments,” he added, cautioning that such environments have yet to be tested or identified.