

The platinum metals catalyst formulation is dispersed over the surfaces of the ceramic honeycomb support, providing the maximum reaction surface with the smallest possible volume. This configuration ensures high catalyst activity and minimum pressure drop within the Honeycat® unit



where the organic components of the gas are destroyed by low temperature oxidation, yielding harmless carbon dioxide and water vapour. The catalyst unit consists of a finely divided platinum metals formulation supported on a ceramic honeycomb, to ensure that the surface area of a given weight of catalyst is maximised, and that there is little resistance to the flow of gas through the unit. While it is generally necessary to pre-heat the catalyst to the required operating temperature the fuel required

is significantly less than that required for thermal incineration of the pollutants.

By analysing the process exhaust gas composition and its temperature and flow characteristics a pollution control system incorporating a platinum metals catalyst can be designed which is optimised to meet the specific requirements of both the process and the plant. This is only one of the ways in which the platinum metals are contributing to an improvement in the quality of life.

Platinum 1987

The third annual survey of commercial aspects of the platinum group metals has just been published by Johnson Matthey. Well supported by statistical data, "Platinum 1987" concentrates on the events of 1986 that affected the six platinum group metals, and outlines the prospects for 1987, and beyond. Compiled from numerous sources, the 63 page review considers exploration and mining, prices, supply, major uses of the metals, demand for different purposes—and in the case of platinum and palladium demand by geographical region. While the emphasis is on these two metals, rhodium, ruthenium, iridium and osmium are also included.

In a year when the requirement for platinum for automobile emission control catalysts first exceeded 1 million troy ounces, and when the electronic industry in Japan consumed 750,000 troy ounces of palladium, record levels of demand for platinum, palladium and rhodium were closely matched by supplies of primary metals.

Readers of Platinum Metals Review who do not have ready access to a copy of "Platinum 1987", and who wish to receive one, should write to the compiler: Mr. G. G. Robson, Johnson Matthey P.L.C., New Garden House, 78 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8JP.