

of catalysis it achieves a fitting tribute to Wyn Roberts – it makes you think about, and analyse, the route we have taken in catalysis and surface chemistry. Any ‘crystal ball’ gazing would have made the book seem very dated in a few years’ time. As for the question of how progress is made – Professor Roberts has already provided us with a few accomplished answers to that during his 50 years’ work (2)!

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## References

- 1 T. Vol’kenshtein, “The Electronic Theory of Catalysis on Semiconductors”, Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1963
- 2 M. W. Roberts, ‘Heterogeneous Catalysis Since Berzelius: some personal reflections’, *Catal. Lett.*, 2000, 67, (1)

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## Johnson Matthey Catalysts Division

In November 2002, Johnson Matthey completed the acquisition from ICI of its Syntex business. Syntex was added to Johnson Matthey’s Catalysts & Chemicals Division, which was then renamed Johnson Matthey Catalysts. This division comprises Process Catalysts and Technologies (PCT), Environmental Catalysts and Technologies (ECT) and Fuel Cells. The former Syntex businesses, now part of PCT, bring a complementary range of base metal technologies to Johnson Matthey’s traditional precious metals catalysis business.

Syntex was formed in 1998 from three ICI businesses: Katalco, Vertec (adhesion promoters) and Tracerco, and from businesses from Unilever:

Unichema catalysts and the HTC catalysts business from Crosfield. It also included the former BASF syngas catalysts, linked to the ammonia and methanol markets.

Subsequently, units such as J & J Dyson’s ‘Dycat’ business related to the hydrogen industry and to refineries and the oil and gas areas, and the former catalyst units of Celanese: ‘Hoecat’ for edible oils and ‘CelActiv’ linked to the alcohol sector, were acquired. In India, the catalyst business of Hindustan Lever – linked with oleochemicals and the Taloja facility for catalysts for oleochemicals and edible oils, were also acquired.

Syntex also brings expertise in chiral catalysis.

## ‘Platinum Today’ Website – New Informative Features

The ‘Platinum Today’ website ([www.platinum.matthey.com](http://www.platinum.matthey.com)), which along with the Ingenta Select site ([www.ingentaselect.com](http://www.ingentaselect.com)), gives access to the electronic version of *Platinum Metals Review*, has been redesigned. ‘Platinum Today’ contains new features and services designed to maintain its position as the premier source of information on the platinum group metals and the platinum industry.

‘Platinum Today’ carries the Johnson Matthey publication ‘Platinum 2003’, the annual review of the platinum metals markets, as well as a library of earlier issues. The site also includes data on prices, metals supply and demand, applications and mining resources. It has an up-to-the-minute news service and a full news archive, a list of upcoming platinum industry conferences and events, and a photo library containing high quality digital images.

Five home pages cater for specific interests: Market Analyst; Press/Media; PGM Producer/

Trader; Technical Research; and PGM User. These can be selected from a drop down menu. There are links to other Johnson Matthey sites which give access to technical data and to Johnson Matthey’s platinum group metals products and services.

‘Platinum Today’ has all the facilities and services expected of a well-run site, such as a ‘search’ function which enables a word search to be conducted on any item on the site; a ‘Register for Email’ facility, enabling alerts for new issues of *Platinum Metals Review*, price reports and updates to be received; ‘FAQ’s’; and a ‘Contact us’ link.

*Platinum Metals Review* can be accessed via the Technical Research homepage or the ‘Publications’ button. The features: ‘Back Issues, Instructions to Authors, Request Back Issues and Existing Reader Address Change’ – are retained. The address of *Platinum Metals Review* on ‘Platinum Today’ is: [www.platinum.matthey.com/publications/pmr.html](http://www.platinum.matthey.com/publications/pmr.html).