

Era
Polymers

THE Herald
ERA POLYMERS NEWS BULLETIN



INSIDE THIS EDITION

#24

LESSONS FROM LIFE
2 - MOTHERS

FEATURING:
URETHANE COATINGS

EASTER HOLIDAY CLOSE:

FRIDAY 18TH APRIL -
MONDAY 21ST APRIL 2014
RE-OPEN:
TUESDAY 22ND APRIL 2014

ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
FRIDAY 25TH APRIL 2014

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“So Pappou, what’s the hardest story that you have ever had, to write?”

“This one, children.... Let me tell it to you.”

Elpiniki Papamanouil was born in the village of Mitilini, on the Island of Samos, Greece (just like dad), on November 8th, 1915.

She was the only daughter of Maria and Manoli Valassis. And had two younger brothers, Theo Dimitri, and Theo Nicolas.

Mum had a totally different character to dad. Whilst dad believed, that with all of life’s, trials and tribulations.... it was still there, to be ENJOYED.

Mum, on the other hand, believed that life, was to be, ENDURED.

And where did she get that character from?

(Continued page 2-3)

A New Look for Urethane Coatings.

Urethane Coatings who joined the Era Polymers Family in 2013 have been manufacturing high quality specialist floor coatings since 1979.

In February this year at the Flooring &



Finishes Show in Sydney we launched our new packing for our floor coating range to reflect the increased focus on **the Urethane Coatings brand.**

If you didn’t make it to the show and would like to download a copy of our New Product Brochure or would like more information on our product range please visit:

www.urethanecoatings.com.au

(continued page 4)



As I've written in the past, about 60% of your personality comes from your DNA, and 40% from your environment. Well mum got 100% from YiaYia Maria, her mother...

But then again, she was born in the First World War. Then the Depression came. Then the Second World War. Then the Greek Civil War. Then transplanting the family to Australia.

Dad was away SO much. She had to cope with so much stress and strain. And so much loneliness.

I have two photos of both sets of grandparents, leading up to the TV room. So I say "Good Evening" to them, as I walk up the stairs, every night. And as I look into YiaYia's eyes, I remember my mother's words that HER mother, NEVER, ever smiled.... Yes she has that very stern look, with VERY, pursed lips....

Interestingly my Pappou (grandfather) Manoli, has that faraway look, in his eyes, that comes from incipient dementia. The time, when the mind turns inwards, and loses focus of the world around... I wonder, I wonder!

And what is the strongest memory that I have of my mother?

WELL, I was about 10 years old, so it was around 1960. It was about the time when young children, start to pay attention to their parents conversations. So I would listen to "matter of fact" conversations... about the drudgery of menial factory work. Of family conflicts, of what would you like for dinner tomorrow night, when you are eating TONIGHT's meal.

Conversations with little emotion in their voices.

It was a time in our house, when it was full of young men, out from Greece, starting their lives in the new, promised land... So, sleeping room was at a premium.. So, for a few years, I slept in the same room as my parents.... One night, I woke up, listening to my parents talking quietly, and LOVINGLY to each other... I had never heard that tone in my mother's voice, before... and it has stayed with me all these years.... A beautiful woman's voice, in love with her husband...

It was a different ERA, back then. A public show of emotion, was frowned upon (unlike now, where a lot of young people are determined to show the

world around them, how much in love, they are!)...

"I NEVER HEARD THAT TONE IN MY MOTHER'S VOICE BEFORE.....A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN'S VOICE, IN LOVE WITH HER HUSBAND"

THEY loved each other deeply... but it wasn't for the whole world, to see.

Mum and dad, met on a Wednesday, married on the Saturday, and were back in the tobacco fields of Kamara, on Sunday (YES, the wedding was arranged, but then again, nearly all marriages were arranged, back in 1939. And, would you believe that they stayed happily married for 54 years... In my early twenties, she would lecture me to marry first, THEN fall in love. Just



like she did. Equally, I was determined, to do it the other way, around ... and then along came Tina...!

Mum was a mother's mother.

In my late teens, and early twenties, when there was just the three of us, in the house, she would come to my room, whilst I was still asleep. She would sit at the edge of my bed, and tell me stories... Tell me, about the dreams that she had had, that night. Tell me about the lottery that we hadn't won, the day before. Tell me stories about her youth, about life's hardships. She would even tell me funny stories, and she would laugh,

and her ill-fitting teeth would clatter... It was a wonderful way to wake up, every day.

She knew how to keep house, she knew how to look after dad (but never understood his Alpha male character. She always had a knack for disturbing the sleeping lion). And above all, she knew how to fuss over her children... especially me, the youngest BUT, every now and again, a darkness would come over her.

When she was a young girl, her teacher at school, told each child in the class, what they would become, when they grew up... Mum got a short straw;

"Elpiniki, when you grow up, you'll become a nun "

In her darkest days, she would always cry out. ... "I should have become a nun, just like my teacher told me "

Whilst dad was alive, she was alive, even with those dark days.

When dad passed away in 1993...she was lost. She moved in, with Maria, and settled down to widowhood. A few years later, she broke her hip, twice. Her ligaments went, and she ended up in bed. Unable to walk. She had to be carried to the bathroom. Her two daughters would give our mother, her weekly bath. She lost her mobility and something more...

Her independence, and her dignity.

(When dad was alive, she would do her housework, and be finished by 9 am. Then she would head for the hills... she would catch a bus, to Central to buy a lottery ticket, then catch another bus, to go to Bondi Junction, to buy a couple of tomatoes, then go to the Spot, to buy a loaf of bread. She was on the move, all day. She needed to be FREE). So, unfortunately, she spent the last four years in bed. Helpless, and TOTALLY dependent on Maria.

Losing her mobility..... made her bitter.

Even with Maria's infinite patience. It, on occasion, drove Maria to distraction to look after her.

The record was 15 wake up calls during one night. "I'm cold, I'm hungry, I'm thirsty I'm...!m..." Occasionally Maria, still feels a sense of guilt, that she didn't do enough for mum. She did much, much more than anybody could have, and would have, done.

Over these years in bed, mum started to waste away. In her younger days, she was the quintessential Greek mother, all hips, and arms, and bosoms. I remember on a hot summer's day, as a young boy, I would put my head on her arm. And it was always COOL!

In her last few years she become gaunt ...I would visit her on Mondays nights, and kneel beside her bed. And it would make me sad, looking at her frail and withered body.

On Thursday 14th December, 2006, Maria called me, to tell me that mum hadn't eaten for a day. So I went to the local Fish shop, and bought a dozen oysters (her favourite food), and took them over to her. She looked bad, very bad. I tried putting an oyster in her mouth, and she chewed and chewed, but didn't swallow. COULDN'T swallow. Swallowing, is learnt response, learnt in the womb... sometimes people forget how to swallow. Mum had forgotten. The next day we took her to the hospital. She fell into a coma. The doctors, said that there was nothing that they could do for her... Her body was shutting down. So, she went into palliative care.

Maria, Tina, and I were with her.

We would take it in turns to moisten her lips with some water. We talked to her. She would drift in, and out, of consciousness. As the days wore on, she was less and less, conscious. I would hold her hand and talk to her, she would open her eyes, and there was nothing there... her mind had turned inward. Then I would have panic attacks, every time I went to the toilet... WHAT IF, she passed away, whilst I wasn't there...what if...? I had missed saying goodbye to dad, by 10 minutes, and I was determined to not let that happen with mum.

Then I would talk to her, and tell her to turn the lights off, and go and find, dad.

As the days wore on, I would tell her that dad was calling her, she would occasionally open her eyes, whenever I mentioned dad's name.

We slept there, every night to be with her. She had made so many sacrifices in her life, for us. And I wanted to be there, until the end....

But the end, wasn't coming. The week wore on. She had had, NO food, NO water, only her lips moistened.

By Saturday 23rd December, I had to have

a shower, a shave. I rushed home, in the morning, and I rushed back, afraid to miss, saying goodbye....

BUT how do you help your mother, go, when it's time, to go...I talked to her about dad.. I told her dad was calling her, then I would tell her, to call dad.

Late on Saturday night, I repeated, and repeated; "Fonaxe to baba (call dad).

At 10pm, she opened her eyes for a brief moment, she opened her mouth to speak. To call out, to dad.

And she went.

She was gone.

I'm sure that that night they found each other, that they are together again, again talking gently, to each other.

She passed away at 10.03 pm on



Saturday 23rd December 2006.

And, in our lives together, she unknowingly, taught me that the most important, Lesson From Life is ... LOVE.

Theos sihorestine?

Nah, there was nothing to forgive.

I still miss you mum. AND I still remember, ALL your Lessons.



DID YOU KNOW?

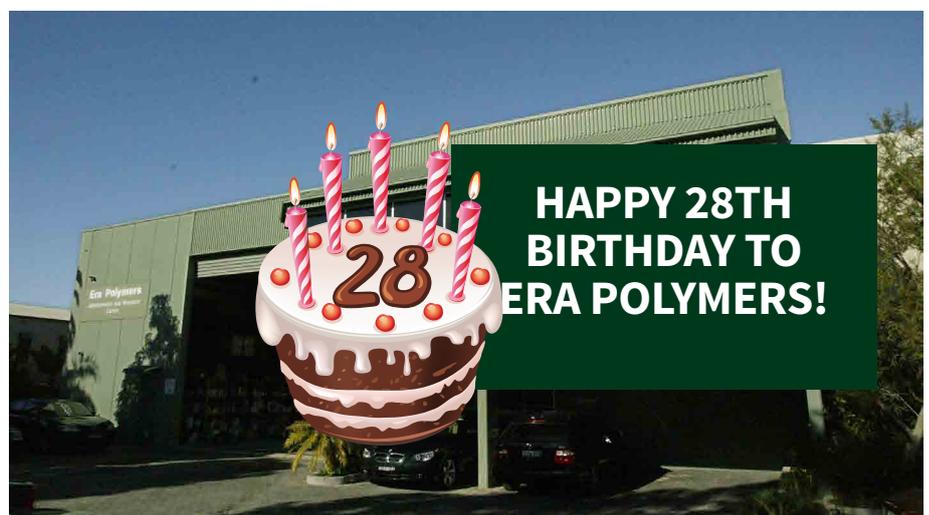
IT'S BEEN 77 YEARS SINCE THE INVENTION OF POLYURETHANE?

Otto Bayer, pictured above, (1902–1982) discovered Polyurethane in 1937. He was born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany on November 4, 1902. There he began his study of chemistry, which he concluded in 1924 with a doctorate.

He had an interesting career working for Bayer for many years. (Although he shared the name of his employer he was not related to the founding family of Bayer Corp.) At 32 Otto Bayer was transferred to Bayer in Leverkusen where he was made head of a Central Scientific Laboratory.

His greatest achievement was ultimately the invention of polyurethane chemistry. The team of inventors involved in inventing Polyurethane headed by Otto Bayer were: Werner Siefken, Heinrich Rinke, L... Orthner and H... Schild.

The work of Otto Bayer and his team means that today polyurethanes are ubiquitous throughout modern life.



URETHANE COATINGS

(cont'd from page 1)

The show was a success with plenty of interest from the delegates attending, it gave us the perfect vehicle to launch our new look.



SUPERB PACKAGING FOR SUPERIOR PRODUCTS

From 1979, Urethane Coatings has assembled a portfolio of superior timber finishes in every respect. Era Polymers refined the graphics, refreshed the Urethane Coatings logo to develop high gloss superb packaging for the superior and well-proven formulations. Urethane Coatings: proudly a Division of Era Polymers



1 With colours that dazzle the best of any rainbow, the Urethane Coating - Decking Oil Frog is poised to spring to the next step. Ask us about our Water Borne and Oil / Solvent based products.

2 With packaging this good, the jig-saw pieces of Duothane Part A and Duothane Part B are guaranteed to fit together!

3 From 21st Century production to new packaging, inclusive of QR Codes for every product providing instant access to Technical and Safety Data.

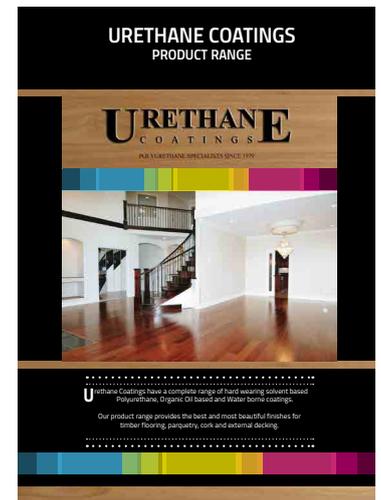
Pictures courtesy of Era Polymers and Mark Webb

NEW BROCHURE AVAILABLE NOW

For more information please contact **Mark Webb**, our National Coatings Manager who will be happy to assist you with your coating enquiries.

Mobile: 0412 818 817

Email: mark@urethanecoatings.com.au





PU TECH India 2014

PU Tech India 12th – 14th March 2014

The Indian Polyurethane Association (IPuA) presented their **4th Polyurethane Exhibition & Conference** at India Expo Centre, Greater Noida (near New Delhi) India.

The Polyurethane Industry is experiencing rapid growth in India registering a double digit growth during the past 5 years and is expected to double every four years in the coming decade. **Era Polymers** exhibited with our Indian Agent **Chemex Chemicals**. This strategic alliance, like many of the others, we have enabled us to offer a Global Reach with Family Values. Both George Papamanuel and Tony Hatzikiriakos attended.



EXCELLENCE IN
POLYURETHANE
CHEMISTRY

25-27 Green Street
Banksmeadow NSW 2019
AUSTRALIA



MEET THE ERA TEAM



NICOLAS DOLMAIRE

BUSINESS MANAGER A.C.E

Nicolas, came to us in early 2011. As you can probably work out from his name, he's French and, yes, he's even from... France!

I happened to make a comment when we first met, that you don't often see French people emigrating to Australia. And his answer was, in his delightful accent; "But yes, Australia is the FUTURE, and this is where I want to be".

Over the years he's taught me, stuff like: Moet is NOT pronounced like MoeY... but rather the French say MoeT....

I betcha you didn't know that?



EMILIE DEGOUE

CHIEF CHEMIST, ELASTOMERS

In keeping with our French theme... Emilie is also from France... this time, from somewhere outside Lyon.

Emilie joined us in early 2011, about the same time as Nicolas... Interestingly they did NOT know each other, before they joined our company... I think that she came out with her then partner, now husband Enguerran Gillet. She had had PU experience back in France, and was immediately a natural... she fitted in perfectly.

Apart from Enguerran, she is also, passionate, about GOOD French smelly cheese, and has on occasion, when she comes back from a business trip to Europe.

I also made another faux pas, in saying that I LOVED smelly cheese with CRACKERS.

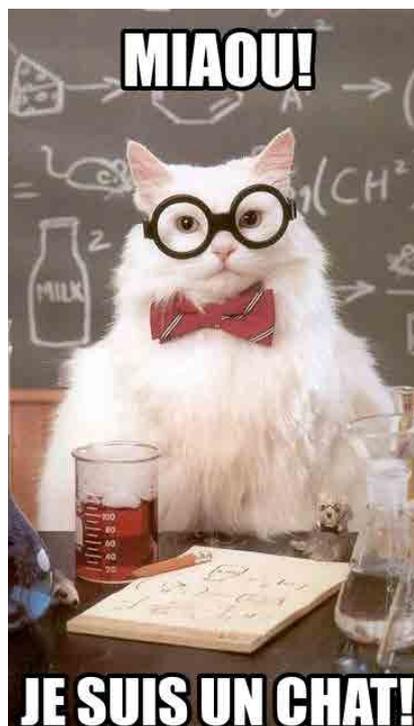
"Mon Dieu, NO... French Cheese should ONLY be eaten with GOOD bread... preferably a baguette"

Betcha, you didn't know THAT, either.

Professional.....Exceptionally so!
High work ethic.....Definitely!
Intuitive, in chemistry AND Business.....absolutely!

He's one of the new generation of stars that makes us what we are...AND, he's a great Sci Fi fan.... And we share a common love of everything STARGATE...

It doesn't get much better than this!



brought back some REALLY smelly cheese. Just for me... It smells so delightful, that Tina puts it into the fridge in the garage, and only brings small pieces into the house, when I beg her. Last year, I was privileged to fly to Europe with Emilie and Enguerran... I was on a business trip. Emilie and Enguerran, where on their way to Lyon to get MARRIED! We had a stopover in Dubai... and shared some time together in the Emirates Lounge.

So, Emilie said that she admires the very successful marriage that Tina and I have (38 years, and still going strong!)... "And George" asked Emilie, "What is the reason for such a successful union?" Quick as a flash with only a microsecond to think. I tell her, that to have a REALLY successful



WELCOME BACK TERRY PETKOVIC R & D MANAGER

An Old New Employee

From time to time, staff move on its human nature and so the Era Team changes as some familiar faces leave and some new faces arrive.

This year on the 18th February we were pleased to welcome Terry Petkovic back into the Era fold. Terry was with us for 19.5 years (or thereabouts!)... In fact he was the first chemist that Era employed, way, way, back. After an absence of 3 years, we are pleased to say that Terry has decided to come back as Era's Research & Development Manager, responsible for chemical functions of the company, including Quality Control and Research & Development.

In the meantime, I can tell you, that all the old timers of the company, who go back to 1987-1988, including yours truly, the "real" boss, Tony Hatzikiriakos and Lyndell Andrews, are VERY, VERY glad, that Terry is back.

Tony Hatzikirakos, by the way, celebrates 22 years at Era Polymers this year.

marriage, firstly the WOMAN should be the boss, AND, you must fight every day, to keep marriage interesting, and alive... Quick as a flash, Enguerran says; 'Mon Dieu, perfect. Emilie likes to be the boss and I, like her to be the boss.. And Emilie likes to fight and I like to listen to her fighting"

They, like Tina and I, are going... GREAT.

And, by the way, she was / is THAT good, so we promoted her quickly, to a Chief Chemists role... she does it brilliantly.. She is an intuitive chemist, and an excellent organiser... And she even understands me (I think) when I talk at my normal 100 miles / kms / hour !!

WHAT'S NEW IN MACHINERY



Era Polymers have recently become the exclusive agents for GAMA & Vortex Mixers in Australia & New Zealand for:

GAMA



Era Polymers will supply the full range of **GAMA** Spray equipment and spare parts, including:

The **GAMA G-50H**; is the most powerful Hydraulic Proportioning unit on the market for Polyurea & Polyurethane Foam Spray Applications. This machine was selected for the Polyurea application of the Maracana Stadium in Brazil for the Football World Cup and Rio Olympic Games due to the high quantity of m² to be sprayed in a tight timeframe.

The **GAMA G-50H** Capabilities & Features:

CAPABILITIES

A maximum output of 26kg/min at 110 bar (Polyurethane Foam Spray), 12kg/min at 240 bar (Polyurea) without changing pumps!

FEATURES:

The new monobloc pumps come as standard, which incorporate a revolutionary Anti-Leak System.

A USB system to record working day parameters such as product consumption, pressures, temperatures, etc.; enabling the user to analyse the success of a job simply by downloading the information using the **GAMA** Logger software on any personal computer.

The **GAMA Easy Spray** an easy-to-use portable air driven proportioning unit.

The product tanks on the **GAMA Easy Spray** are positioned on a chassis with wheels which provide excellent mobility together with easy access to all types of work sites. Due to the electrical console having just one control switch it is an ideal unit for less experienced personnel as it is very easy to operate, this can also save time during set up and application.

Vortex



Era Polymers will supply the **Vortex** Range of Mixers produced by Statemix in Canada.

Vortex Mixers are designed to mix and de-gas difficult to blend materials over a wide range of viscosities with no blades in seconds! They use dual axis centrifugal mixing which produces a tremendous shear force therefore no blades are required which also results in no time consuming clean-up of equipment.

The **Vortex Mixer** range starts with the **Vortex VM-200** which is a bench-top lab machine capable of mixing and degassing up to 200g of material, the largest **Vortex Mixer** is the **VM-10,000** which is ideal for large production runs and is capable of mixing and degassing up to 10kg of material.

To watch a video demonstration of the **Vortex** in action please visit: www.statemix.com

Era Polymers continue to be Machinery Agents in Australia & New Zealand for:



Polytec: Specialize in casting machines using low pressure mixing technology. These machines are made to order to your exact requirements and can be used to process all prepolymer types as well as various curatives including MOCA and Ethacure.



Cannon Afros: The world leader in rigid and flexible pu foam dispensing technology. **Era Polymers** represent the **Cannon A-System** for high pressure and the **Cannon B-System** for low pressure machine mixing in Australia.



Fecken-Kirfel: A German based company founded in 1870 manufacture cutting machines for processing pu flexible foam, PE foam, rigid rubber, neoprene, expanded rubber cork, fleece, honeycombed materials and many more.

For further information on any of our machinery please contact

Era Polymers Machine Specialist
Hugh Fraser on +61 (0) 2 9666 3788
Email: hugh@erapol.com.au who will be happy to assist you with your enquiry.

You can also visit our website at <http://erapol.com.au/english/Products/machines/>

EVENTS

The RACI Young Chemists Group

Founded in 1917 and granted a Royal Charter in 1932, the RACI is the professional body for the chemical sciences in Australia. It acts both as the qualifying body in Australia for professional chemists, and as a learned society promoting the science and practice of chemistry.

The Young Chemists Group held their meeting at Era Polymers on the 23rd January 2014 exclusively to hear Mr George Papamanuel, founder and owner of Era Polymers, talk about how he got started in the Polyurethane Industry and to inspire all young chemists to follow their dreams.

For more information on the RACI please visit: www.raci.org.au





WHAT'S NEWS?

GLOBAL REACH FAMILY VALUES – ERA AGENTS



Cirex have been a distributor of **Era Polymers** for only 3 years, but already they are making inroads in Europe on Era's behalf. They are currently representing **Era** in SWITZERLAND, AUSTRIA & more recently in parts of GERMANY too. The Cirex team is small but effective, comprised of husband and wife, Gerhard and Silvia Stroehle and Martin Bonzli. Gerhard has been in the Polyurethane industry for many years and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table, Silvia in the office keeps track of all the orders, samples and literature necessary to do business in Europe.

I recently spent some time with Gerhard visiting customers and in one afternoon we travelled through Switzerland, Germany and France only to return to Switzerland to fly out. Amazingly the odometer on Gerhard's car was over 210,000km. When I enquired to the age of the car which looked pretty new. The answer – "Only 4 years". So clocking up more than 50,000km per year it is clear to see Gerhard is working extremely hard visiting customers and

pushing our products. He even drove from Zurich to Frankfurt Airport (4 hours) for a meeting with George only to turn around and drive home.

Gerhard and Silvia were in Sydney earlier this year with some new Swiss customers while they visited **Era & Samos** to conduct an Audit to become their potential supplier. We passed with flying colours and hope to get this business in the near future.

A big thank you to Gerhard, Silvia and Martin for all your professional work, I hope the business continues to grow in the future from all your hard work.

Dave Weir - Era Polymers, Technical Service Manager



TESTING PRODUCT PERFORMANCE FOR CRYOGENIC SAFETY FACTOR INSULATION FOAMS IN THE LNG INDUSTRY

Applied Polymers a division of **Era Polymers** supply **APTANE®** a range of Cryogenic Insulation Foams suitable for pipelines, valve boxes, flanges and High Density pipe supports in processing plants and distribution points in the LNG (Liquidified Natural Gas) Industry.

Cryogenic Insulation Foams need to perform under harsh environments. Prior to application these foams are subject to various testing procedures one of the most difficult and critical parameters they need to pass is Cryogenic Safety Factor (or CTSR – Cryogenic Thermal Stress Resistance).

Era Polymers Laboratory owns a Universal Testing Machine (Cryogenic conditions) so are able to test the suitability of foams for the LNG industry in house, ensuring the foams meet the strict specification for the Cryogenic Safety Factor.

Era Polymers use the **Shimadzu** precision universal tester AGS-X with thermostatic chamber (TCL-N) and trapezium software. This setup is used for the determination of Cryogenic Safety Factor (CSF) for LNG foams.

For more information on our **APTANE®** a range of Cryogenic Insulation Foams please contact:
Marcel Tondo, Mob:0438 373 576 or
 Email: marcel@erapol.com.au



Features	
Capacity	10kN
Loading Method	Direct high-precision constant speed strain control method via non-backlash ball screw drive
Speed Range	0.001 to 1000 mm/min (stepless)
Sample speed	1ms max
Crosshead position detection	Display resolution 0.001mm
Thermostatic chamber (range)	-180°C to 320°C
Temperature probe indicator	-165°C to 80°C

For more information on **Era Polymers Testing Facilities** please contact:
Jose Diaz, Tel:+61 (0) 2 9666 3788 or
 Email: jose@erapol.com.au

Visit our website:

www.erapol.com.au



Strategic Alliances

