TC-CCAI sponsored a breakfast meeting presentation titled “Project Financing Resources & Assistance” on Thursday morning March 23rd. The presentation offered detailed information on loan and grant resources available through State of MN and other sources working with Minnesota businesses. Specific to this presentation was the subject of financing for compliance improvement type paint & powder application system projects. TC-CCAI Board member Paul Pagel opened the meeting with a welcome all and then moderated the proceedings from that point on.

Four speakers each shared their specific experiences regarding recent successful financing opportunities relative to industrial finishing upgrade events.

**Eric David**, State Program Administrator Principal working for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency began the meeting with a detailed report on the loan and grant programs for Minnesota small businesses that can make VOC reduction updates in their finishing operations. Eric then introduced **Tim Milner**, President of JIT Powder Coating Company. Tim related his very positive experience working with the MPCA in the replacing an old limited 3-stage washer with the purchase of a new multi-use chemical parts washer. Tim explained how the MPCA actually coordinated the financing process with Tim’s bank to bring the new washer installation to a successful completion.

Eric then gave a brief overview of Valley Craft Industries, a company located in Lake City, MN that manufactures material handling equipment and storage cabinets. Working with the MPCA Valley Craft converted their liquid paint operation over to a conveyorized powder spray application system.

**Paul Pagel** Senior Engineer for the Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) gave commentary on how MnTAP, with a staff of 14 people, offers support to Minnesota businesses regarding environmental issues. Paul announced that in the coming year MnTAP is planning 17 projects sponsoring interns working with businesses on specific environmental issues around the State.
Roopesh Pushpala, an industrial process engineer for Nordic Ware, a producer of home bakeware products shipped across the world gave a presentation on his initial intern project for MnTAP at Nordic Ware on their paint finishing lines and parts washer. Roopesh detailed specifically his work regarding the efficiency of electrostatic painting with IR curing in an overhead conveyor line system. Roopesh was also responsible for the implementation of a flat line washer upgrade. Roopesh concluded his report on a standard work procedure program that is in the execution stage at Nordic Ware.

The breakfast attendees were area business owners and equipment vendors, many of whom had industrial finishing related questions of the presenters regarding the topic of business financing and like procedures covered in the speaker presentations.