

## To Our Industry Partners & Potential New Distribution Partners:

By now, we have all heard that the nonpartisan National Bureau of Economic Research group formally declared in early December that the U.S. economy officially entered a recession almost one year ago. As such, while many will remember 2008 as the year of ongoing turmoil in world financial markets, rising manufacturing costs, and have observed firsthand the continuing changes in the industry TTR landscape, all of my recollections will not be of the negative market conditions.

As I look back on this year, a key memory for me will be how even in a difficult economy, ITW Thermal Films continued to offer its customers quality and competitively positioned TTR products and value-added services. This is a direct result of the manufacturing and customer service model we have in place, our talented and committed global ITW Thermal Films team, our valued channel partners, and being part of a successful and stable Fortune 200 company, Illinois Tool Works Inc. (ITW).

With an uncertain economy in front of us all, and many major corporations and companies struggling to survive, I believe it is important to note this year, the financial strength of the company you have partnered with, and/or are considering for future opportunities with your company. As such, I am very pleased to report that ITW has a strong financial base and holds the following credit ratings:

<b>Standard &amp; Poor's (long-term)</b>	<b>Standard &amp; Poor's (short-term)</b>	<b>Moody's (long-term)</b>	<b>Moody's (short-term)</b>
<b>AA-</b>	<b>A1+ (highest rating)</b>	<b>AA3</b>	<b>P1 (highest rating)</b>

So, despite the current challenges facing the U.S. and global economy, our organization has the resources and assets in place to continue to grow and make capital investments, so we can operationally support your business now and well into the future. Accordingly, as we move towards a new year, I would like to take a moment to outline a few of the activities that you can expect and leverage from the ITW Thermal Films team in 2009. They are as follows:

- **TTR industry leader as your partner** - we offer you field based sales support and leading edge technology, and are ready to sit face to face to help support your business strategy and growth
- **Product breadth** - beyond our core group of products, we have expanded the stock sizes of our B324 and B128 resins and midrange products respectively
- **Resources that support your business** - ITW Thermal Films offers a number of web based tools and resources in order to support your business on a local level - let us show you how!
- **Unique growth programs** - our sales and customer service team stands ready to provide you with project pricing/special manufactured products to ensure we are supporting key projects and the margin requirements of our distribution partners

At ITW Thermal Films, our commitment to our business partners' success is integral to our own. Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working with you in 2009, and *wish you a safe and happy holiday season.*

Sincerely,



**Pete Gallette**  
General Manager