

**VADEKO INTERNATIONAL INC.**

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**Keywords:** Thin film security device, optical thin film, optical security, anti-counterfeiting systems, security applications, currency and document security.

**History:** Vadeko was founded in February 1981 by C.E.O. Dr. Graham Whitehead and a small group of colleagues, all of whom were associated with the successful Space Shuttle CANADARM program at Spar Aerospace. Significant possibilities were envisaged for commercialization of the large scale robotics technology which was developed for the U.S. space program. Although conceived as a systems engineering company, a new approach resulted in a company based on technological synergy, rather than specialization. Vadeko pursued the challenging task of developing multiple leading-edge technologies which would result in viable stand-alone products and would also "cross-pollinate" to produce dramatic new solutions to real-world manufacturing problems. Initiatives were launched in several major areas, including large scale robotics, vacuum thin film fabrication, flexible automation and R&D.

**Capabilities/Products:** Program management, systems engineering, integration and design, automation engineering, thin film, high vacuum engineering, product design and development, process development, contract R&D, ceramic coating consulting. Optical security devices for anti-counterfeiting, ceramic coating production equipment, cold foil transfer systems, wide band optical monitor systems, vacuum deposition instrumentation and control systems, large scale rolling cantilever process robots, railcar robotic painting/cleaning systems, aircraft robotic painting/depainting systems.

**Experience:** Bank of Canada - thin film optical security device systems; Vadeko/Customer - ceramic coating systems; NASA - robotic system for advanced solid rocket motors; McDonnell Douglas - robotic aircraft painting system; CN Rail - robotic paint application system; Hercules Aerospace - automated robotic painting system; Morton Thiokol - bore inspection tool system.

**Plant Size:** 49,225 square feet

**Average Work Force:** 90

**Gross Sales:** \$8 M

**Export Sales:** \$5 M

**Export Markets:** U.S.A., Mexico, Europe, S.E. Asia, South America

**Ratio Commercial/Defence:** 35/65

**Date of this profile:** January 1992