Metallized Products

Since the early 1960s, virtually all NASA spacecraft have used metallized films supplied by King-Seeley Thermos Company, Winchester, Massachusetts for a variety of purposes, principally thermal radiation insulation (see prologue to Section II, page 52). As a result of its space work, the company has become a leader in research and development of vacuum metallized plastic films and its Metallized Products Division now manufactures a broad line of industrial and consumer-oriented metallized film, fabric, paper and foam in single-layer sheets and multi-layer laminates. King-Seeley markets its own products — through its Thermos® Division, Norwich, Connecticut — and also supplies sheet films and laminates to manufacturers of other products.
Shown on these pages are a few examples of the wide range of metallized products. Among those marketed by King-Seeley are the compact, three-ounce Thermos Emergency Blanket (1), which reflects and retains up to 80 percent of the user's body heat, thus helping to prevent post-accident shock (2) or keeping a person warm for hours under emergency cold weather conditions; the blanket was used by all participants in last year's Boston Marathon (3) as a post-race measure to prevent loss of body temperature. Other King-Seeley products include the All-Weather Blanket (4) for outdoor activities, the Even-up Tanning Blanket (5) for faster sun-tanning by reflectivity, and a reflective club jacket (6).

Products sold by other companies include a reversible drapery liner (7), metallized on one side and plain vinyl on the other, which can be turned inward or outward to keep heat in or block it out, depending on the season; the liner is marketed by Wind-N-Sun Shield, Inc., Melbourne, Florida. Among other examples are the Thermacon Heat Screen (8), marketed by Morgan Stanford Aviation, Berkeley, California, which reflects sunlight and protects costly aircraft electronic equipment from heat damage while the airplane is parked; and an award-winning meat packaging design (9) featuring metallized gold film, produced by the Canadian packaging firm Condor Laminations, Agincourt, Ontario.

* Thermos is a registered trademark of King-Seeley Thermos Company.