

INDA's e-Filter Newsletter

The Filtration Industry's Information Hub

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Welcome to e-FILTER, sponsored by INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry (www.inda.org). It is sent monthly to executives within the global filtration business and focuses on the latest news, new products, patents, legislative issues and commentary in the filtration industry. Check out the information at the end of this newsletter on how to subscribe or submit your company's information for inclusion.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FILTRATION 2004 – DECEMBER 7-9 IN PHILADELPHIA

The much-anticipated and always-successful Filtration International Conference and Exposition is coming up – December 7-9, 2004 back on the East Coast at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA. There are three ways to be involved in the largest and most important event in filtration in the world this year:

1. Exhibit: Booth sales are progressing rapidly, so if you haven't already don't wait too long to reserve your space. Contact Marilyn Bellinger at mbellinger@inda.org today to make your statement at Filtration 2004.
2. Attend the Exposition: Just go to www.inda.org to pre-register and avoid the long first-day lines.
3. Attend the Conference: Filtration end-uses will be the focus of INDA's Filtration 2004 conference. End-users will be on hand to tell you what they want, expect and need from their filtration products. Conference Sessions include: Emerging Markets, Homeland Defense, Automotive Filtration and Filtration Media.

By the way, Filtration 2004 Conference discounts are available for members of:

American Filtration & Separations Society
American Institute of Chemical Engineers
EDANA
Filter Manufacturers' Council
Filtration Society of Europe/Asia
GEO-Institute of American Society of Civil Engineers
INDA
Institute of Environmental Sciences and Technology
National Air Filtration Association
Society of Automotive Engineers
TAPPI

INTC IS HEADED NORTH OF THE BORDER NEXT MONTH

INDA and TAPPI members have once again partnered to develop the International Nonwovens Technical Conference (INTC) and the 2004 event promises to be the best ever. INTC 2004 will be held at the Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto, Canada, September 20-23, 2004.

Of particular interest to the filtration industry will be an Indoor Air Quality Panel Discussion. During this session three IAQ experts will share their knowledge and take audience questions about the role insulation plays in indoor air quality.

Other Conference highlights include:

1. INTC 2004 Keynote ... Robert Balke, Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer at Eastman Chemical Company will provide the keynote speech. Balke will share his experiences with changing the corporate mindset from a product-driven company into a consumer-driven company
2. Modeling Short Course ... A four-hour short course delving into the complexities of creating and using computational fluid dynamics in the design and development of fabric production.
3. New Technology Showcase ... Fifteen companies will be on hand to provide attendees with information about new products, services and technologies available to them. After the Showcase, plan to network with more than 30 corporate and university representatives at the tabletop event and reception.

INDUSTRY NEWS

AHLSTROM AND LYDALL PARTNER IN FILTRATION ALLIANCE

Ahlstrom and Lydall, through their respective U.S.-based subsidiary companies, last week entered into a strategic alliance designed to better serve the liquid engine filtration market in North America with a new technology and product offering – Lydall's wetlaid microglass media known as LyPore XL.

The partnership offers growth opportunities for the Lydall microglass product platform in North America. Ahlstrom is a global leader in filtration materials and has a strong emphasis on liquid engine filtration products in North America. Lydall is a world leader in producing wetlaid microglass products for challenging filtration/separation applications.

Scott Murdock, VP&GM, North America Engine Filtration, said the partnership is a bonus for both companies. "In addition to Ahlstrom's traditional range of cellulose and synthetic-based engine filtration media, the integration of Lydall's microglass media and engineered composites, now provides a complete range of high-performance products for North American liquid filtration customers from one source," he says.

Joe Petrosky, Lydall's Director of Marketing and Sales for Liquid Filtration, adds, "Ahlstrom's strong relationships and leadership position in liquid engine filtration complemented by the addition of Lydall's state of the art microglass technology and product development expertise, position the alliance as one of the leading suppliers to high value added applications in this segment."

Sales, marketing, customer/technical service, invoicing and application engineering services will be offered by the alliance based out of Ahlstrom's Madisonville, Kentucky, location. Manufacturing and product development will be provided by Lydall's Rochester, New Hampshire, location.

PURADYN GRABS FLORIDA FILTER CONTRACT

Miami-Dade County, FL has approved the purchase of 75 automated garbage trucks outfitted with puraDYN systems to add to its existing fleet of 2000 puraDYN-equipped pieces of equipment. The puraDYN systems will save more than \$3,500 over the 7-year life of each truck. The Peterbilt trucks with Caterpillar engines will require just one oil change a year, since the puraDYN system continuously cleans the oil. The extended oil drain interval reduces the purchase of lubricating oil by approximately 23,000 gallons over the trucks' seven-year life cycle.

The puraDYN bypass oil filtration systems work with the full flow filter to reduce solid contaminants in engine oil to below one micron with the use of its patent-pending CGP filter element; to evaporate liquid contaminants; and to replenish the base additives so as to maintain the proper total base number and viscosity of the oil. By maintaining continuously clean oil, oil drain intervals are dramatically and safely extended thus reducing new oil purchases.

BUTLER NAMED FILTRATION HEAD AT NATIONAL NONWOVENS

National Nonwovens has appointed Amanda Butler to the Product Manager position for its Filtration Division specializing in High Performance Engineered Nonwovens. She will lead the effort to increase the use and understanding of nonwoven materials in the filtration industry by demonstrating the effectiveness of National Nonwovens' wide array of wet and dry filter media engineered for improved tensile strength, efficiency and permeability.

Butler has spent 15 years in needlepunched nonwovens with extensive experience with liquid/air filtration and industrial textiles. Her primary responsibility is to expand National Nonwovens presence in the filtration industry. Included in National Nonwovens' filtration product line are pre-filters with weights ranging from 3.5 to 6.2 oz. Other filter media include PurusFelt, HepaFelt sub-micron filtration, and Dual Density filtration composites.

QUARRY OPERATOR FINED OVER FILTRATION RECORDS

From the legal files comes news that the operator of two Bucks County (PA) quarries has been fined \$41,100 by the state Department of Environmental Protection for dust-emission violations and other problems. On at least 12 inspections from October 2000 through September 2003, DEP officials found that the Rush Valley Quarry in Wrightstown and the Chalfont Quarry in Warrington were also failing to keep proper daily records on maintaining the quarry air-filtration systems.

Both quarries are overseen by Eureka Stone Quarry Inc., a Chalfont-based company that operates eight hard rock quarries, eight asphalt plants and one sand plant. DEP officials say that inspections were prompted by complaints about dust emanating from the quarries. Particles from stone-crushing machines, usually enclosed, are not permitted into the atmosphere.

The \$41,100 fine payment was received last month and placed in the state's Clean Air Fund.

FOSS RECEIVES ANTIMICROBIAL PATENT

Nonwoven fabric manufacturer Foss Manufacturing recently received U.S. Patent No. 6,723,428 for its "Fosshield." This synthetic fiber guards against the growth of a broad spectrum of odor-causing and destructive bacteria, mold and mildew without affecting the look or feel of the fabric.

The now-patented process, known as Fosshield Antimicrobial Technology, is built around registered inorganic silver-based antimicrobial agents. Silver, one of the oldest known antimicrobial agents, has been proven effective against more than 650 strains of bacteria, yeast, fungi and mold. Foss' patented process incorporates the silver antimicrobial additives throughout the bicomponent (two polymers/additives) and binder (adhesive) fibers of fabrics. This unique design allows for the continual slow release of silver.

The result is a fabric that maintains the efficacy of its antimicrobial protection for the longevity of the product, even withstanding multiple launderings. The patent also covers other antimicrobial additives such as copper, tin and zinc.

EFP TO BUILD FILTER MEDIA PROTOTYPES FOR HOMELAND SECURITY USE

Emergency Filtration Products has been notified that its application to apply for participation in a Navy-funded Technology Transfer project (Center of the Commercialization of Advanced Technology (CCAT)) commercialization and services which encompasses filter technology products, has advanced to the final stages of competition and evaluation. Accordingly, the company will make a final technology presentation to a special panel of subject matter experts on Monday, Aug. 9, 2004 in San Diego.

Assuming that EFP is selected to proceed following the Aug. 9, 2004 presentation, the company will build two filter product prototypes, both of which will employ the company's patented 2H filter technology. One of the prototypes will be built with the additional protection offered by the company's proprietary nanotechnology process in which the filter prototype will be treated with a coating of nano particles.

The prototypes, which are expected to take approximately one month to build, are designed for a large number of potential applications, including, but not limited to: biohazard masks, transportation (aircraft, tanks, armored personnel carriers) and buildings (military, industrial, office and residential). The prototypes will then be tested over a period that is expected to take one month or less. Assuming the successful completion of prototype development and testing, the filter products would then be produced by a U.S. Navy-approved manufacturer.

CDC PUSHING FOR CLEANER SWIMMING POOLS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says more Americans - perhaps a thousand or more each year - are getting sick from public swimming pools. Reported pool-related outbreaks - mainly bouts of diarrhea - rose from two in 1986 to 21 in 2000, the most recent CDC statistics available. While the agency does not keep track of how many people were affected in those cases, it does

know that most of the 16,800 confirmed illnesses in the 1990s linked to outbreaks in recreational waters occurred in swimming pools and spas.

The latest numbers from the federal agency show that more than 1,800 pools had to be immediately closed after inspections found serious health violations that put swimmers at risk, such as not having enough disinfectant to kill germs in the water. The CDC analyzed 22,131 inspections conducted two years ago and found that 54 percent uncovered one or more pool safety violations, everything from filtration to chlorine problems.

Improperly treated pools can be the source of a range of waterborne illnesses, including giardia, E. coli, shigella and cryptosporidium, said Joan Rose, a microbiologist at Michigan State University.

PATENT REVIEW

TWO FIBER FILTRATION MATERIAL

Pub. Number WO 2004060530

Appl. Data US 03041676 2003 12 31

Applicant: Hollinee LLC

Inventors: WILKINS, Rodney, R.; MONTGOMERY, Dale, K.; ALEXANDER, Stephen, W.; TUTTLE, James, G.; HOEL, Edwin, G.

Abstract A filtration material comprising a blend of at least two types of fibers: (a) polypropylene fibers and (b) either acrylic or modacrylic fibers. In a preferred embodiment, the blend contains about 50 weight percent polypropylene fibers and about 50 weight percent modacrylic fibers. In another preferred embodiment, the blend contains about 50 weight percent polypropylene fibers and about 50 weight percent acrylic fibers. The fibers can be blended ranging from 90:10 to 10:90 polypropylene to acrylic or modacrylic. Performance of the blend is superior to the prior art filtration materials, especially at the preferred compositions.

THAT'S ALL, FOR THIS MONTH ...

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