

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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FILTRATION 2004 COMPANY PREVIEW

With the Filtration 2004 International Conference and Exposition next week -- December 7-9 -- at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, this issue of the e-filter newsletter is devoted to some of the industry news the close to 2000 attendees will want to know.

In addition to the more than 100 companies exhibiting from around the world, the world-class trade show will focus on filtration end-uses for two days. 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.

For more information on Filtration 2004: www.inda.org

FILTRATION GROUP EXPANDS WITH DUTCH ACQUISITION

Filtration Group, Inc., the largest privately held filter manufacturer in the U.S., has expanded its global presence with the acquisition last month of Netherlands-based Filtrair B.V. The move is part of a growing trend among manufacturers to expand product lines and market territory to maintain an edge in the competitive filter industry.

“The acquisition combines the best of both North American and European nonwoven manufacturing technologies,” says Larry Ost, CEO of Filtration Group and Filtrair.

Filtrair has merged with Filtration Group Technical Media, located in York, SC, and the combined company now operates under the Filtrair name. Filtrair was a family-owned business founded in 1921. The new Filtrair specializes in high-efficiency air filtration media and filters for automotive paint facilities, gas turbines and high-end HVAC installations. Its products will be blended with Filtration Group Technical Media’s variety of HVAC nonwoven media, including high-loft media, paint arrestor products and meltblown filter media.

While Filtrair is now based in York the company maintains existing facilities in the Netherlands, Italy, Delaware and South Africa, to meet regional demands. Additionally, Filtrair is a joint venture partner with Shanghai Filter, which has a manufacturing and distribution facility in Shanghai, China.

H&V HEADS TO CHINA

Just prior to the opening of Filtration 2004, Hollingsworth & Vose announced the formation of a subsidiary company and a manufacturing site in China to support long-term growth in the filtration, battery separator and other technical specialty markets. This expansion is part of an ongoing H&V investment program to build capacity in Asia, Europe and North America.

H&V's new subsidiary company will be known as Hollingsworth & Vose (China) Ltd. and is a wholly owned foreign enterprise. Its presence in the region includes a trading company and a local warehousing and distribution facility near Shanghai.

The first line installed will produce engine filtration media and technical specialty products for customers in the Asia Pacific region. Processes will be added to support H&V's broader market participation in the region including High Efficiency Filtration, Battery Separator and Industrial Specialty products. Equipment for the initial line is being engineered and ordered; a start-up in the first quarter of 2006 is targeted.

Additional capacity expansion projects will be pursued on machines in the United States, Mexico, the UK and Germany. The entire investment program is estimated to add an additional 25-30% to H&V's capacity for production of engine filtration media and similar products by the end of 2005.

LIQUID CONTROL DISPENSING NEW PRODUCTS

Following successful acceptance of the C-500 XYZ Dispensing Work cell, Liquid Control is introducing at Filtration 2004 its XYZ dispensing bench top version, the C-450, for use in filter assembly. Taking advantage of all the Windows-based software development done on the C-500, Liquid Control is launching the C-450 Desktop Dispensing platform. It combines the portability of a desktop system, and the robustness of the C-500 technology.

The C-450 XYZ is a bench top system offering one of the largest payload capacities and most rugged dispensing platforms on the market. It is designed for filter applications such as gasketing, sealing, end cap potting/filling, and other automated dispensing needs and is offered with a 13 x 11-inch motion envelope, servo motor drive, and +/- .001 repeatability. The Windows-based software, loaded on a separate laptop, makes programming simple and fast, even for someone that has never programmed before. A graphical LCD interface provides all the commands for operating the unit.

PAINT PRODUCTS CELEBRATES A DECADE OF PRODUCT

This fall marks 10 years since Filtration 2004 exhibitor Paint Pockets Company introduced its Paint Pockets overspray filter. Launched in October of 1994, the Paint Pockets overspray filter has become a leading single-stage overspray filter because it holds up to five times more overspray than any other filter available, allowing the end-user to reduce filter changes by up to 80%.

Also available from the Paint Pockets Company are the new Paint Pockets Green filter and the Paint Pockets Zipper Mounting system.

KEYSTONE IS CLEANING UP

Keystone Filter Division, Met-Pro Corp. is using the occasion of its 40th year in business to completely update its manufacturing facility in Hatfield, PA. Keystone Filter now boasts a new, clean, climate controlled environment for its glue bead HEPA pleating line; new pleating and cartridge assembly equipment; and a re-layout of the facility to improve product flow are a major part of this new initiative.

BBA UNVEILING FREEDOM, ALLURE

BBA Fiberweb Filtration has chosen Filtration 2004 as the venue for unveiling two major new filtration products.

First, BBA is introducing Reemay Freedom, a media for pool and spa filters that combines advanced antimicrobial technology with an easier-to-clean media. Reemay Freedom utilizes Reemay spunbond, the pool and spa industry standard in filtration efficiency for 30 years, with an easy-to-clean surface.

Reemay Freedom has built-in Microban product protection, which can be found in leading consumer, institutional and personal care products around the world. Microban technology protects the filter during the life of the filter and inhibits the growth of bacteria that can cause odors and adversely affect the filtration media. BBA Fiberweb has applied for a patent for this combination because it represents the next generation in pool and spa filtration media.

The second new product is Allure polyester spunbond, which has a filament size between conventional spunbonds and meltblowns to offer a filtration efficiency better than conventional spunbonds at equivalent basis weights. It offers spot-to-spot uniformity for heightened reliability and its continuous filaments mean reduced fiber migration and added strength.

COMPANY BRIEFS ...

- Miller Weldmaster has developed a filter bag closing machine to complement its line of continuous tube welding systems. This filter bag closer enables the operator to close the end of a filter bag easily and without thread. This simple option may be fitted to an existing machine or built as new.
- D-Mark offers CarbonWeb (CW) roll media that can be pleated with a minimum of heat and does not require wire backing. As an alternative, CW

pleated inserts are ready for immediate assembly. CarbonWeb roll media, pleated inserts and pleated filters are available in a variety of carbon loadings. CarbonWeb is a carbon filled, fiber media that provides low air resistance and high capacity. CarbonWeb materials of 1/8 to 3/8-inch thick contain carbon loadings of 15, 25, 45 or 90 grams/square foot.

- BHA Technologies/GE Energy is launching its HEPA rated vacuum bags with Sears. This patented product combines a hydroentangled nonwoven with ePTFE membrane to produce a vacuum bag of superior performance. The non-stick surface of the membrane reduces clogging while offering filtration efficiencies of 99.97% at 0.3 microns at the vacuum flow rate.
- Sonobond Ultrasonics will be running continuous demonstrations of its complete line of filter assembly machinery, either through live demonstrations or by viewing their filter assembly video, during Filtration 2004. Filter machinery on display and/or featured in the video include: RingMaster, the IDEAA04 Equipment Achievement Award-winning machine that attaches heavyweight felted filter bags to rigid plastic collars; PlungeBonder, for producing box filters or sealing ends of filter bags; and the SeamMaster High Profile Bonder that can handle bulky materials, pleated filters, and hand-guided operations.
- Aeroglide is displaying its drum and conveyor drier technology for drying and curing nonwoven substrates and/or filtration media. The National/Aeroglide technical team is available to discuss processors' specific applications to tailor the most efficient systems for their operation.

THAT'S ALL, FOR THIS MONTH ...

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