

INDA's e-Filter Newsletter

Information

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Welcome to e-FILTER, sponsored by INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry (www.inda.org). It is sent every other month 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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INDA FILTRATION NEWS

FILTRATION 2007 SET FOR NOVEMBER IN CHICAGO

Filtration 2007 International Exposition and Conference returns to the Midwest this year with the world's largest filtration industry event set for November 13-15 at Navy Pier. The Filtration Expo switches between East Coast and Midwest locations every year – it was held in Philadelphia last year – and each year half of the attendees are from the local region and the other half comes from around the country and around the world, essentially providing a new and different trade show every year.

The world's most important filtration event this year will bring together thousands of buyers and exhibitors for three days filled with buying, selling and learning. Every link in the filtration products supply chain – from raw materials, equipment and filter media to converted products for industrial and consumer end-uses – will be at Filtration 2007.

In addition to the Exposition, the Filtration Conference is being put together by a volunteer group of filtration industry professionals and academics and will attract hundreds of attendees intent on learning about the latest technical, marketing and research developments in the global filtration industry. Exhibitors receive one free registration to the Conference.

INDA offers discounted attendee registrations to members of industry associations to make it even more cost-effective. These special discounts are available to members of: American Filtration & Separations Society, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, ASHRAE, 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, and TAPPI.

For more information on Filtration 2007: www.inda.org.

CONSUMER FILTRATION PRODUCTS ELIGIBLE FOR 2008 VISIONARY AWARD

Nonwovens and consumer products companies from around the world – including makers of consumer filter products – are once again competing for the

industry's most prestigious recognition as the nomination process for the 2008 Visionary Award continues through the summer.

INDA, which sponsors the annual award, will be accepting nominations through September 1. Now in its seventh year, the award recognizes consumer end products that utilize nonwoven fabrics or employ nonwoven technology during their manufacturing process.

The 2008 Visionary Award will be presented at the VISION 2008 Consumer Products Conference, scheduled for February 11-14, 2008 in Fort Worth, Texas.

The process and criteria for the 2008 Visionary Award are simple:

1. The finished consumer end product must contain a nonwoven fabric or utilize a nonwoven technology during its manufacturing process.
2. The consumer product has to have been introduced to the trade or to consumers in 2006-07.
3. The product cannot have been selected as a finalist in any previous Visionary Award competition.
4. Companies can nominate their own products. While any number of products can be nominated, only one product per company will be selected as a finalist.

Products will be judged on their novel use of nonwoven technology, as well as on their consumer and trade acceptance. Eligible consumer product categories include disposable diapers, feminine hygiene products, adult incontinence products, household wipes and home filters, among others.

The nominees will then be reviewed by an INDA selection committee and five finalists will be selected to make presentations at the VISION 2008 Consumer Products Conference. Conference attendees will then vote on the recipient of the award and the recipient is announced on the final day of the Conference.

Last January at the VISION 2007 Conference in Denver, Tyco Healthcare Retail Group's Swim Pants were named as the recipient of the 2007 Visionary Award. Other previous winners include Chicopee's Disaster Relief Blanket (2006); Fiberweb's Resolution Print Media (2005); Brillo Scrub 'n' Toss (2004), FMJ ChemBio's Civilian Quick Escape Mask (2003) and Procter & Gamble's Swiffer (2002).

To nominate a product, email an explanation of the product to Michael Jacobsen, Visionary Awards coordinator, at [mjacobson@inda.org](mailto:mjacobsen@inda.org). Samples of the product should also be sent to Michael Jacobsen, INDA, 22 Paterson Avenue, Midland Park, NJ 07432 USA.

Call 201-612-6601 with any questions. For more information on the VISION 2008 Consumer Products Conference, log on to www.inda.org.

INTC TO ADDRESS WORLDWIDE TECHNOLOGIES

Advances in nonwovens technology around the world, with a focus on sustainability, will be the highlight of the International Nonwovens Technical Conference (INTC), scheduled for September 24-27, 2007 at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel in Atlanta, Ga.

The world's largest technical conference, co-sponsored by INDA and TAPPI, Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry, will feature presentations from dozens of researchers and experts from around the world during the four days of technical sessions (including a number focusing on filtration and nonwoven technologies to make filter products), tutorials and networking.

Sessions during the four days of INTC will focus on Binders & Additives, Building & Industrial Mats, Filtration, Flame Retardants, Insulation, Meltblown/Spunbond, Modeling, Nanotechnology, Polymers & Processes, Protective Materials and Surface Enhancements.

In addition a Meltblow, Electrospin, Spunbond, and Spunlace Tutorial will provide new and experienced industry professionals with an orientation into key areas of these important technologies. The Tutorial will be led by Gajanan Bhat and Larry Wadsworth, both from the University of Tennessee.

Registration for INDA members is \$1050 before August 17 (\$1470 after August 17) and \$1260 for non-members (\$1765 after August 17).

For more information or to register online: www.inda.org.

FILTRATION INDUSTRY NEWS

TICONA HOLDING ON-LINE WEB SEMINAR FOCUSING ON IMPROVED FILTER PERFORMANCE

Ticona Engineering Polymers will host a free online seminar on Thursday, July 26th, at 10 a.m. EST to educate filter producers on the next generation PBT melt blown polymer that reduces system cost through elimination of scrim backing and an improved processing window.

Ticona reports that this new Celanex PBT polymer is 5X stronger than standard PBT, offers significant lint reduction and media pleating without scrim. Further, the new grade offers fine fibers to 1 micron. PBT Melt Blown Polymers meet regulatory approvals for food, medical, and potable water applications and is suitable for use in filter media for the medical, chemical processing, automotive, and industrial/building markets.

To learn more or to register for this free online event, go to: omnexus.com/rd/?rd=64 or contact Steve Hamilton, Marketing Communications Manager, Ticona Engineering Polymers, at steve.hamilton@ticona.com, 859-372-3229.

This event is being managed for Ticona by SpecialChem, Innovations and Solutions Provider for the Chemical and Plastics Industries. (www.specialchem.com)

AHLSTROM CLOSING MASSACHUSETTS FACILITY

Ahlstrom will close its Bellingham, MA, plant during the first half of 2008 and consolidate some of the assets to its Darlington, SC facility, according to a recent report from *Nonwovens Industry*. This move is driven by the need to be more cost competitive, and it will also allow Ahlstrom to locate its dust filtration business closer to many of its customers. Ahlstrom previously announced the addition of a new needlepunch line for the Darlington site with start-up scheduled by the end of June 2008.

The relocation will affect approximately 80 jobs in Bellingham and the transition will take up to one year to complete. Ahlstrom purchased the Bellingham site in late 2005 as part of its acquisition of Lantor.

"The consolidation allows us to improve our competitiveness by moving our most efficient lines to our Darlington facility. Furthermore, the move will create some 50-60 positions at our Darlington, South Carolina facility," says Scott Murdock, VP & GM Filtration North America. "The move will begin early in 2008 and should be completed by July. During the transition period, service to Ahlstrom's customers will not be disrupted."

LYDALL INTRODUCES LYPORE SEPARATION MEDIA

Lydall Filtration/Separation recently introduced LyPore Unity liquid/liquid and liquid/gas coalescing media grades, which are optimized for efficient separation of water from other liquids and oil and water from air streams. All grades are constructed utilizing borosilicate microfiberglass, which the company says offers a high level of coalescence at the lowest pressure drop.

Lydall's fluoropolymer oil and water repellency treatment processes "ensure exacting separation of target compounds and long element life," according to the company. LyPore Unity grades can be pleated or wrapped and are available in a wide range of efficiencies, repellency levels, and binders.

JOHNS-MANVILLE INTRODUCES THREE PRODUCTS IN FILTER LINE

Johns Manville introduced three filtration and three building products during the recent Techtextil in Frankfurt, Germany. In the filtration line are its new CombiFil Premium, SpunFil EasyPleat and Micro-Strand XP.

- ❑ CombiFil Premium combines the advantages of both polyester spunbond and microglass and provides a filtration product that has consistent mechanical filtration efficiency up to HEPA, low pressure drop with high dust-holding capacity and requires no additional reinforcements.
- ❑ SpunFil EasyPleat is a calendered polyester spunbond made with the company's new BC technology. It has high air permeability and features a very high stiffness even at low area weights of between 60 and 120

gpsm. The product enables high pleating machine speeds while continuing to achieve sharp and precise pleats.

- Finally, Micro-Strand XP microfiber is for use in manufacturing microglass paper used in HEPA, ULPA and ASHRAE filters. The new glass microfiber meets the health testing standards established by the European Union for fiber exoneration. Micro-Strand XP gives manufacturers the ability to create value-added products that can be used with confidence both today and in the future. Made up of fibers that are approximately one micron in diameter, tests have proven that Micro-Strand XP is rapidly cleared from the lungs if accidentally inhaled, making it ideal for even the most stringent of regulatory environments. Micro-Strand XP also meets the demanding performance requirements needed in HEPA and ULPA filtration applications.

PERFORMANCE VERSUS PROTECTION: NAPA SEEKS A HAPPY MEDIUM

[The following item is provided by NAPA Filters] If you thought the "great taste/less filling" beer debate got people worked up, go hang around a garage or auto parts store and listen to the arguments over air filtration. "Performance versus protection" really stirs up the dust.

Air filters do just that: they filter dust and debris from the air before it enters the engine as a key component of combustion. But there is an inherent trade-off between air flow and air filtration.

As an example, one independent study posted online at the engine performance site www.bobistheoilguy.com, found negligible differences between the NAPAGold filters' composite media, and K&N Filters cotton filter. "So a K&N probably does yield some power on higher output race motors where every last ounce of power must be squeezed out. On lower powered street cars, it is probably not much of an improvement over paper," was the conclusion.

At one end of the spectrum is an engine without any filter at all. The engine would have an unrestricted flow of air, but it would also ingest whatever was in the air, which could cause damage.

At the other end would be an engine whose air intake was completely closed off. No dirt would get in, but neither would any air, and the engine would starve.

Since the invention of the internal combustion engine, there has been near-constant attention to the filter medium in an effort to balance performance and protection.

In modern times, the debate comes down to cotton versus paper, with cotton filters billing themselves as the high-performance choice, while paper (which is actually not paper at all, but a composite of materials) is seen as more protective and convenient.

But is that really the case? Not necessarily, according to several tests done recently. The argument in favor of cotton filters is they let in more air, and thus allow for more power, especially at the top end.

But in fact, composite filters allow as much air as most engines can handle, at any range. Air has to be balanced with fuel in combustion, and excess air is no benefit once the fuel has burned.

But there are other elements to this debate as well: cost and convenience. Cotton filters must be cleaned periodically in a process that takes several hours and includes spraying the filter with a special cleaner, rinsing the filter, letting it air dry completely, then applying a special oil.

The cotton versus composite debate will probably never end. But as more tests are done showing that composites have the same performance characteristics as cotton, with much higher rates of protection and with a lower cost/high convenience factor to boot, composite filters will increasingly be the filter of choice.

FREUNDEBERG IN ARGENTINA JV

Argentinean companies Tel Rad Cuyo S.A (TRC) and Freudenberg Telas Sin Tejer SA, a subsidiary of Freudenberg Nonwovens, Weinheim/Germany, have launched a joint venture company called Bicomfiber S.A. The new company will produce different types of bi-component fibers for multiple purposes and applications.

TRC, the main shareholder of the new company, is a producer of polypropylene fiber for the hygiene market in Latin America. "We are proud of the new venture which enlarges our involvement within the market in Latin America," says Guillermo Kraves, president of TRC.

Freudenberg Nonwovens Latin America is the nonwovens regional market leader in non commodity businesses. "We will continue to deliver different types of added value products to our customer. The raw material sourcing is a key part of our growth strategy", says Juan Carlos Borchardt, president of Freudenberg Nonwovens Latin America. "With this new joint-venture we will be able to offer a complete package of different materials for the markets where we are presently active, being better prepared for the new challenges to come."

Bicomfiber will be headquartered near Buenos Aires, Argentina, with an annual capacity that will exceed 10,000 tons.

WEST PALM OFFICIALS SKIP WATER FILTRATION STEP

Recent local news reports detailed how, faced with a depleted water supply and extreme drought conditions, the city of West Palm Beach (Florida) decided this spring to bypass a water filtration step and instead pump treated sewage water into its well fields, officials said.

Utility managers opted to not filter the treated sewage water through a marsh, a process that takes two years. Instead, officials blended the reuse water with

millions of gallons of water from old Palm Beach County quarry pits then sent that water to well fields that serve more than 100,000 customers.

"It sounds a little bit, it sounds, how should I say, disgusting. It doesn't sound appetizing," Mayor Lois Frankel said. "But our water is tested every day, and we have very good water."

Officials developed the plan after water managers ordered the city on April 3 to stop pumping from Lake Okeechobee, which dropped to record-low water levels this year. Without Lake Okeechobee, the city had trouble replenishing its water supply.

"Changing a system cannot be done overnight," Frankel said. "We got a little bit blind-sided." Customers were not informed of the temporary fix, but city officials said there was no public risk.

ENTEGRIS EXPANDS LIQUID CONTAMINATION CONTROL LINE

With the launch of its newest QuickChange ATE wet etch and clean (WEC) filter rated to 30nm retention, Entegris has added the next generation to its line of industry-standard non-dewetting Teflon liquid filters. The new QuickChange filters combine ease-of-use, rapid change-out and true 30nm particle retention to introduce a new level of flow performance to WEC processes, according to the company.

"The proven reliability of the QuickChange family of WEC technologies provides peace-of-mind and performance in sub-65nm roadmap applications. The 30nm retention rating and exceptional flow performance allows our customers to achieve their roadmap objectives in critical front-end cleans as well as a variety of wet etch and stripping applications," said Chad Ruwe, Entegris vice-president, Liquid Microcontamination Control.

Entegris will debut the QuickChange ATE 30nm WEC filters at SEMICON West in San Francisco, July 17-19, 2007.

THAT'S ALL, FOR THIS MONTH ...

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Any company with news for the INDA e-FILTER Newsletter, or any individual with something they want to say to the industry, should send an email to Michael Jacobsen, INDA, at mjacobsen@inda.org; 201-612-6601; Fax 201-612-6677.