

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR ...

FILTRATION 2003 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

November 18-20, Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois. For more information: www.inda.org

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WAR NEWS

The War in Iraq, along with the concerns about biological warfare and terrorism, has once again thrust the filtration industry into the spotlight. e-Filter each month will highlight the news items related to the war and its impact on the filter business.

EFP REPORTS SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN DEPT. OF DEFENSE ORDERS

Emergency Filtration Products reported last month that it has received a significant increase in orders from the Department of Defense for products that it supplies under its National Stocking Numbers. EFP supplies a CPR isolation mask and its components, as well as a hemostatic collagen for surgical applications and wound care to the United States military and government.

In addition, EFP has provided requested information regarding applications of its 2H Technology to the Department of Defense in its exploration for new technologies in the area of bacterial and viral contamination management in buildings and transportation.

EFP recently completed two configurations of prototypes of a new environmental isolation mask featuring a nanotechnology-enhanced 2H Technology filtration system. The company's core 2H Technology filtration system utilizes a combination of hydrophobic and hydrophilic filters able to capture and isolate bacterial and viral microorganisms with efficiencies of 99.9% at 0.027 microns.

DUCT TAPE IS NOT ENOUGH

In the event of a chemical or biological attack, a room sealed with duct tape and plastic provides only a temporary refuge. Without a filtered air supply, the air trapped in a sealed room soon becomes stale and toxic. Without "positive pressure" inside the room, the air becomes contaminated when a door opens or by air leaking in as the barometric pressure changes.

To this end, Gaffco, a Mount Vernon, NY, company specializing in the installation of "safe rooms," is touting its low-cost solution for continuously filtering the air within sealed rooms for apartments, offices, homes and public buildings. Gaffco's solution, known as a "Biological Defense Unit" or "Bio Cell," starts at \$1600 for protecting a small space, such as a bedroom, an office or a vehicle.

The Bio Cell consists of an advanced air filtration system and an electric air pump that maintains a continuous positive pressure and flow of filtered air. The entry-level system can provide an 8'-by-8' room with a safe air supply capable of supporting eight adults.

The Bio Cell uses a combination HEPA/Carbon/Adsorber "war-gas" filter to protect humans from a wide range of biological, chemical and nuclear toxins, such as anthrax, hydrogen cyanide, phosgene, mustard gas, sarin, ricin, VX, and radioactive particulates.

INDUSTRY NEWS

PALL REACTS TO MYKROLIS PATENT SUIT

Pall Corp. said last month that a patent infringement suit filed by its chief competitor, Mykrolis Corp., is without merit. Pall makes filtration systems that serve the semiconductor fabrication process market, among others. Mykrolis, spun off from Millipore Corp. in 2001, also supplies filtration technology, as well as gas and liquid delivery subsystems and components for chip fab equipment.

Mykrolis filed its suit in early March in the U.S. district court in Massachusetts, alleging that Pall's PhotoKleen EZD-2 product infringes two Mykrolis patents covering point-of-use dispense and filtration of photoresists and solvents. Mykrolis' Impact, Optimizer ST and Panelgard 1-2-3 filters and manifolds, as well as its IntelliGen and RGEN dispense pumps use patented technology in question.

Mykrolis filed a motion for preliminary injunction asking the court to stop Pall from manufacturing, selling or offering to sell its PhotoKleen EZD-2. Pall says it is confident the PhotoKleen EZD-2 product does not infringe any patents and it intends to defend itself vigorously in court.

AERUS CLOSING VACUUM CLEANER PLANT IN VIRGINIA

The Aerus Electrolux vacuum cleaner plant in Bristol, VA will shut down by the end of May, leaving 250 people out of work. The company said in a statement that Aerus had signed an agreement with The Eureka Co, a subsidiary of Swedish firm AB Electrolux, to have Eureka's El Paso, TX, plant take over assembly and some manufacture of Aerus vacuum cleaners, floor polishers, floor shampooers and air-filtration devices now made at the Bristol plant. Aerus and AB Electrolux are separate corporations.

RUBICON'S FILTER WINS INNOVATION AWARD

Rubicon Medical, a Salt Lake City manufacturer of medical devices and products, has been named the winner of the Utah Innovation Award in the Medical Devices category. The honor was given to Rubicon Medical's Rubicon Filter as part of the first Stoel Rives program, a new event designed to identify and recognize significant high-tech innovations in the state and the Utah companies that created them.

The Rubicon Filter is claimed to be the world's smallest-profile embolic filtration device. Embolic protection devices are used to prevent pieces of blockage within the blood system from breaking free and moving through the body to clog smaller blood vessels or damage vital organs, which can lead to stroke, heart attack, kidney failure or death.

DECTRON EXPANDS TO PURSUE GAS FILTRATION TECHNOLOGY

Circul-Aire Inc., the air purification subsidiary of Dectron Internationale, Montreal, is undertaking a significant modernization and expansion of its Quality Control, Testing and R&D Laboratory. Prompted by last year's record sales in replacement filtering media, the lab expansion doubles the testing capacity for the 38-year-old firm. The expansion and update will equip the laboratory to simulate more building conditions when custom-designing a gas phase filtration media mix for a client.

PALL ATTACKING 'MAD COW DISEASE' WITH NEW FILTER TECHNOLOGY

Research released last month indicates that a filtration technology in development by Pall reduces infectious prions in blood below the detection limit of current methodologies. Prions, often referred to as rogue proteins, are implicated as the cause of several degenerative diseases including variant CJD (Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease), the human form of "mad cow disease."

Using filtration technology that also reduces white blood cells, it was found that prions in red blood cells, whole blood and plasma are reduced to levels below the detection limit of the Western blot assay. The new technology is based on Pall's surface modification chemistries that have demonstrated an affinity for prions.

CUMMINS NAMED RESPONSIBLE CORPORATE CITIZEN

Cummins Inc. has been selected by Business Ethics magazine as the second "Most Responsible Corporate Citizen" out of the top 1000 companies in America. This marks the fourth year in a row that Cummins has been recognized on this list. The company was ranked seventh overall in 2002 and 16th in 2001.

CANDOVER SELLING UK'S AIR TECHNOLOGY

Candover has agreed to sell Airtechnology, a UK-based supplier of motors, fans and environmental control systems for the aerospace and defense markets, to Ametek in the U.S. The deal provides a partial exit from Candover's investment in Charter plc. The value of the transaction was not disclosed, Airtechnology was one of three businesses that formed the majority of the specialized engineering division of Charter plc. Airtechnology produces motors and fans for equipment cooling systems and for maintaining environmental integrity, including temperature control systems as well as filtration systems for nuclear, biological and chemical contamination.

H2O INNOVATION DISTRIBUTING GERMAN MEMBRANE TECHNOLOGY

H2O Innovation, a Canadian company involved in the treatment of drinking and waste water, has signed an exclusive distribution agreement with Inge AG, a German developer and manufacturer of ultra-filtration hollow fiber membrane technologies for drinking water, waste water and industrial processes. H2O Innovation becomes the exclusive distributor in the Canadian water treatment market for a two-year period.

CRYSTAL PURE ENTERING BOTTLED WATER BUSINESS

Crystal Pure, a Minnesota company that began in 1987 as a water filtration service, is expanding operations and soon will bottle city water for regional sales. Currently, Crystal Pure specializes in the returnable water container business. Later this year, the company will build a new production and warehouse facility and instead of using water supplied by Aqua Systems, Crystal Pure will treat and bottle Bloomington, MN city water.

SUBSURFACE STARTS CARBON RECYCLING PROJECT

Sub-Surface Waste Management, a subsidiary of U.S. Microbics, has started another carbon recycling project for a national manufacturer of specialty process filters for the pharmaceutical industry located in Southern California. The project leverages SSWM's patent pending BAC treatment process. SSWM is the only environmental remediation solution provider of its kind to apply its proprietary microbial technology to the carbon recycling business. Due to competitive dynamics, the client's identity was not disclosed.

MEETINGS PREVIEW

TANDEC CALL FOR PAPERS

The Thirteenth Annual International TANDEC Nonwovens Conference will be held at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, November 18-20, 2003. Papers including poster presentations are solicited in the following areas:

- New Development and Technology in Nonwovens;
- Innovations in Spunbond and Meltblown Technology;
- Nonwoven Composites and New Applications in Nonwovens;
- Filtration and Protective Clothing in Nonwovens;
- Fundamental Research in Nonwovens.

Selection of the papers to be presented will be based on abstracts of 300-500 words. Authors should emphasize new and significant findings. Poster presentations related to nonwovens are also welcome. Abstracts must be sent before May 1 to Dr. Dong Zhang, TANDEC, 1321 White Avenue, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996, USA. The abstract may also be sent on-line at <http://web.utk.edu/~tancon/call.html>

NEW PRODUCTS

PEAK H2O WATER COOLER SYSTEMS

PEAK Advanced Water Systems (PEAK H2O) has introduced the first water coolers in the U.S. to feature carbonated water and patented UV purification technology. The UV purification system kills 99.9% of harmful microorganisms, including e. coli, salmonella, influenza, and staphylococcus, as well as all viruses, molds, yeasts, algae, and protozoa with dual UV lights internally and at the dispensing point.

PEAK H2O is debuting its AVANT and CONNECT models. These high-end water coolers are manufactured in Italy and feature options for hot, cold, room temperature, and carbonated water. The patented internal UV purification feature comes standard on both models.

PALL ASEPTIC CONNECTION DEVICE

Maintaining sterility is a costly process for drug manufacturers. Now biopharmaceutical producers can make aseptic connections instantly, reaping large savings in time, money and regulatory compliance. Pall's new Aseptic Connection Device (ACD) connects converging fluid paths without compromising sterility. It is the only aseptic connection device that does not require laminar flow hoods or other capital equipment to maintain sterility. The Pall ACD is used any time two pieces of flexible tubing need to be aseptically connected in an uncontrolled environment. Its use at critical junctures throughout biopharmaceutical processing speeds the formation of aseptic connections from starting fluid to purified product.

FINANCIAL NEWS

INTERNATIONAL ABSORBENTS FINANCING NEW FACILITY

International Absorbents, a developer and producer of environmentally friendly pet care and industrial products, recently said that the Washington Economic Development Finance Authority has issued Industrial Revenue Bonds totaling \$2.9 million on behalf of the company's wholly owned subsidiary, Absorption Corp., to finance a new manufacturing facility in Washington State.

FEDDERS REPORTS LOWER SALES FOR SECOND QUARTER

Fedders, a global manufacturer of air treatment products, including air conditioners, air cleaners, dehumidifiers and humidifiers, and thermal technology products, last month reported sales of \$71.5 million for the second quarter of fiscal year 2003 ended February 28, 2003 compared to sales of \$73.1 million in the second quarter of fiscal year 2002. In the first six months of fiscal 2003, sales were \$110.7 million compared to sales of \$111.2 million in the comparable fiscal 2002 period.

Second quarter and fiscal year-to-date sales were essentially flat compared to prior year periods primarily as a result of continued weak demand in the capital equipment market for commercial and industrial air filtration products.

The company normally reports a loss in the first half of the fiscal year due to the seasonality of its business. Operating income for the quarter was \$0.5 million compared to \$0.2 million in operating income, as amended, in the prior year quarter.

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 Director of Publications, at [mjacobson@inda.org](mailto:mjacobsen@inda.org) or mail to 22 Paterson Avenue, Midland Park, NJ 07432; 201-612-6601; Fax 201-612-6677.