

# INDA's e-Filter Newsletter

The Filtration Industry's Information Hub

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June 1, 2004

Volume 5, Issue 5 of the INDA e-FILTER Newsletter.

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**Welcome to e-FILTER**, sponsored by INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry ( [www.inda.org](http://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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### **DELSTAR WINS IDEA04 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

DelStar Technologies' DelPore Filter Media is one of six recipients of the prestigious IDEA04 Achievement Awards recognizing outstanding contributions to the global engineered fabrics industry. DelStar was honored in the Roll Goods category.

The winners were announced during the IDEA04 International Engineered Fabrics Exposition and Conference, April 27-29, in Miami Beach, Fla. The Awards are sponsored by Nonwovens Industry magazine and INDA, the organizer of the triennial IDEA trade show.

The Achievement Awards recognize new product introductions in nonwovens and engineered fabrics since IDEA01 in 2001. Companies and products were nominated by the industry late last year and three finalists in each category were voted on through internet balloting during the month of March. The five other recipients were:

- Raw Materials/Fibers – H.B. Fuller: Hydrolock
- Machinery/Equipment – Sonobond Ultrasonics: Ringmaster
- End Use-Short Life – Unilever, Dove Cleansing Pillows
- End Use-Long Life – BBA Fiberweb: Typar House Wrap
- Entrepreneur – Saudi Arabian Advanced Fabrics

"These companies represent the best of the best in motivation for the engineered fabrics industry and it is appropriate that their accomplishments are recognized during IDEA04, the largest and most important industry event of the year," says Rory Holmes, President of INDA.

IDEA07 will be held April 24-26, 2007 at the Miami Beach Convention Center, Miami Beach, Fla. USA. Nominations for the IDEA07 Achievement Awards will be held during the first half of 2006.

### **USFILTER SAYS TRANSITION TO NEW OWNER WILL BE SMOOTH**

Workers at USFilter will see virtually no changes when the company is acquired by the multibillion dollar corporation Siemens.

The German-based company announced last month that its Industrial Solutions and Services Group signed an agreement to purchase the water treatment and supply company for \$993 million from USFilter's French parent, Veolia Environment. The sale needs regulatory approval, but it seems to be a formality. Management is preparing for the ownership change as early as late July or August.

"We're very excited about the acquisition. We're glad the process is over," said Gerald Rogers, senior vice president of U.S Filter/Zimpro in a news item in the Wausau Daily Herald, referring to Veolia Environment's preparations to sell the business that began in September.

That's when Veolia announced it would divest itself of USFilter and other assets. The French conglomerate, formerly known as Vivendi, moved to pare down debt created by a wave of acquisitions in the 1990s, including the ill-fated purchase of entertainment giant Universal, which was sold to NBC earlier this week.

"Management at Siemens has already indicated that management of USFilter will remain intact," he said. "Siemens is an \$80 billion company with offices globally. All this does is enhance Zimpro's ability to further penetrate the international markets - currently that's where 70% of business is coming from."

Siemens also has a large presence in the instrument side of the oil and gas industry, Rogers said. He believes that will only help USFilter/Zimpro's continued penetration into that sector with its filtration technology. In a press release, Siemens said the size of the water treatment and supply industry and its annual 6 percent growth rate appealed to the company. USFilter will be its first venture into that industry, Rogers said.

US Filter consists of around 120 locations worldwide and does about \$1.2 billion in annual sales.

#### **DONALDSON SELLS OHIO PLANT TO MANAGEMENT TEAM**

Early last month Donaldson sold its manufacturing operations in Stow, OH, to a private group led by the plant's current management team for an undisclosed amount. The private group, Falls Filtration Technology Inc., will inherit a plant that posted about \$5 million in revenue in fiscal 2003. Donaldson first acquired the Stow plant in 1999 as part of its buyout of AirMaze Corp. Remaining operations from AirMaze aren't affected by the Stow sale.

#### **DONALDSON CHALLENGING PATENT VERDICT**

In other news at Donaldson, the company has said it plans to vigorously challenge a recent jury's verdict requiring the company to pay \$5.3 million in damages to Iowa-based Engineered Products Co. In 1998, Engineered Products filed a patent infringement lawsuit against Donaldson in the U.S. Federal District Court for the Northern District of Iowa claiming patent infringement by Donaldson arising out of its sales of graduated air restriction indicators from 1996 through the expiration of the Engineered's patent in May 2001. Early last month, the jury found in favor of Engineered Products.

In a press release, Donaldson said the court hasn't yet ruled on certain motions by Donaldson or on the possibility of increasing the damages based on the jury's findings.

## **PALL IN NUMBER OF LEGAL BATTLES**

Filter supplier Pall Corp. has been in the news for the past month due to a number of legal developments.

In the first, Mykrolis Corp. said in early May that a U.S. court had ordered rival Pall Corp. to stop selling its PhotoKleen EZD-2 filter assembly products in the United States. Pall in turn said that it plans to appeal the decision, even though it no longer sells the product in question.

Pall's PhotoKleen EZD-2 Filter Assembly products are the subject of a Mykrolis lawsuit alleging that Pall infringed upon two U.S. patents owned by Mykrolis. The patents cover technology used in semiconductor manufacturing for point-of-use photochemical dispense and filtration of photoresists and solvents, according to Billerica, Mass.-based Mykrolis.

After a hearing on Mykrolis' request for a preliminary injunction, the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts ruled in favor of Mykrolis and ordered Pall to immediately stop making, using, selling, or offering to sell within the U.S., or importing into the U.S., its PhotoKleen EZD-2 Filter Assembly products or "any colorable imitation" of those products, Mykrolis said. The court concluded that Mykrolis had "made a clear showing of its likely success on the merits on both validity and infringement" and was therefore entitled to the preliminary injunction, the company said.

Meanwhile, Pall said that even though the filter assembly in question is no longer the product that it is now selling, it nevertheless is appealing the preliminary ruling and is asking the court to expedite the appeal.

In a separate legal development, the city of Ann Arbor, MI, filed a lawsuit against Pall Life Sciences asking that the company pay damages for contaminating a water supply well. Ann Arbor Water Utilities Director Sue McCormick said in a press release that in 2001, the city discovered one of its water supply wells contained trace amounts of the 1,4 Dioxane chemical during routine testing.

The chemical was used as a manufacturing solvent at Pall Life Sciences' plant and was disposed of in uncontained lagoons. These lagoons are not lined with sealants to isolate the chemicals from surrounding water. The 1,4 Dioxane leaked from a lagoon into the well.

"We are searching for alternatives to the well," McCormick said. "Those alternatives are going to cost money. Pall should shoulder those costs, not Ann Arbor's citizens." The city is recommending that Pall pay for a double-lined pipeline that will treat water containing the chemical and move it to the Huron River.

McCormick added that although the long-term future is threatened, the municipal water is safe for all uses.

### **KX FILTER HONORED AT FILTRATION CONGRESS**

KX Industries, Orange, CT, received the 2003 New Product Award at the Ninth World Filtration Congress, held April 18-22 in New Orleans by the American Filtration & Separations Society. The Matrikx microbiological barrier was nominated for the award as a unique entry into the marketplace and represents a totally new technological achievement in water filtration for the consumer market.

### **NANOFIBER AGREEMENT REACHED**

From *Nonwovens Industry*: U.S. Global Nanospace and Allasso Industries have formed a joint agreement under which U.S. Global Nanospace has received sole and exclusive worldwide rights to all nanofiber output from Allasso's state-of-the-art spunmelt nanofiber production facility for commercial and defense applications. Additionally, the two companies have formed a strategic alliance for continued nanofiber development, production and commercialization. Allasso has improved on current, low-volume, high-cost production methods such as electrospinning by an order of a magnitude from 10 to 100 without the hazardous waste by-products associated with other nanofiber production technologies.

The current facility can produce 65,000 square feet of spunmelt nanofiber material per day. Additional facilities, designed to increase production capacity, will go into operation in 2005. This agreement allows USGN to expand production of its NanoFilter, NanoFilterCX and G-Lam products to meet current and future demand

### **PURE RESUMES REGULAR NASDAQ TRADING**

PURE Bioscience recently announced that PURE has resumed regular trading on the Bulletin Board. The company's stock symbol remains "PURE." PURE develops and markets technology-based products in the bioscience and water treatment sectors to provide non-toxic solutions to global health challenges. PURE's proprietary high efficacy/low toxicity bioscience technologies, including its Axenohl® antimicrobials and Triglycylboride pesticides, represent innovative advances in diverse markets. PURE is a leader in pharmaceutical water purification with its Fillmaster equipment, and the company has expanded into residential water treatment with its Nutripure water filtration systems.

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### **NEW PRODUCTS**

#### **PALL WATER FILTER**

To help control the problem of Legionella bacteria in medical settings, Pall has introduced for the European market its Pall-Aquasafe Water Filter (AQL3), a disposable point-of-use, clip-on showerhead, validated to remove Legionella for up to one month. The new water filter was launched last month throughout Europe at the 19th annual meeting of the European Working Group for Legionella Infections (EWGLI) in Chamonix Mont-blanc, France.

The Pall-AquaSafe Water Filter is a CE marked medical device incorporating a 0.2 micron membrane validated to remove Legionella. Its effectiveness has been demonstrated in the clinical setting in French, Italian, German and British hospitals. The disposable showerhead is easy to clip on for protection. It withstands even high water temperatures and requires only a simple change every thirty days.

### **I-BERHARD I-AIRCON RANGE**

I-Berhard recently introduced its latest nano-series air conditioners, which incorporate the latest technology in air filtration. The filters now act as an anti-microbial, anti-fungal and anti-fouling coating to purify the air. "Our latest i-air conditioner provides a self-cleaning, self-sanitizing and self-deodorizing effect when air passes through it. It can absorb and decompose smoke, odor, bacteria and various air-pollutants," said its executive director Monica Ong.

### **STORMFILTER INDUSTRIAL FILTER**

Stormwater Management, Portland, OR, has introduced the stormwater management StormFilter for industrial markets. The announcement follows 15 months of testing and the qualification of the StormFilter for removal of common industrial pollutants.

The StormFilter, a modular, siphonic media filtration system, treats polluted water flows created by runoff at industrial sites. It removes particulate and dissolved metals, hydrocarbons, oils, and suspended solids. The system requires no electrical power or chemicals, and it has sufficient pollutant removal capacity to extend the maintenance interval. It uses sustainable gravitational energy and has only one moving part.

A StormFilter system typically consists of a structure that houses rechargeable, media-filled filter cartridges. Stormwater from storm drains or surface runoff is percolated through these media-filled cartridges, which trap particulates and remove pollutants. During filtering, the StormFilter also removes surface scum and debris, as well as floating oil and grease. An integral air-scouring mechanism assures the StormFilter does not plug. Once filtered through the media, the treated stormwater is directed to a storm drainage pipe or discharged to an open channel or stream.

The StormFilter has been shown to reduce toxicity of stormwater by removing heavy metals and neutralizing acid rainwater among other mechanisms. It is offered in multiple configurations: precast concrete; catch basin (steel, concrete, or plastic); downspout; and cast-in-place concrete. For more information, contact Stormwater Management, 12021-B NE Airport Way, Portland OR 97220.

## **DUPONT ACTS ON NEW FABRIC TECHNOLOGY**

DuPont Nonwovens has introduced a fabric technology platform named Advanced Composite Technology (ACT). DuPont Nonwovens ACT is capable of using multiple polymers and multiple polymeric structures to greatly expand the embedded functionality possible in a nonwoven fabric. This highly versatile process enables customers to design their own fabrics to meet specific performance needs. It opens a much wider range of solutions available to customers and provides the ability to customize fabrics with the exact performance characteristics needed for each application.

## **FILTER PATENT REVIEW**

### **Method for producing a microtiter plate**

European Patents Number EP 1418004

Applicant: 3M Innovative Properties Company

Inventors: Vaaben, Tue; Jacobson, Jason R.; Perman, Craig A.

Abstract A well-less filtration device comprising a plurality of preformed filter means, wherein said device comprises a laminate of a pre-filter layer and a porous support layer with a solid phase extraction medium there between, said pre-filter layer and porous support layer being ultrasonically welded together at the complete periphery of each preformed filter means, wherein the preformed filter means comprises solid phase extraction medium enclosed between the pre-filter layer and porous support layer and wherein land areas are defined between preformed filter means.

### **Filter medium for a vacuum cleaner bag**

European Patent Number: 01415699/EP-B1

Inventors: Sauer, Ralf; Schultink, Jan

Assignee: Eurofilters, The Netherlands

Abstract: The invention is directed to a filter medium, in particular, for a vacuum cleaner bag, comprising a filter structure wherein a surface of the filter structure is provided with a filter paper layer having a smaller surface area than the filter structure.

### **Electret articles and filters with increased oily mist resistance**

European Patents Number EP 1402934

Applicant: 3M

Inventors: Rousseau, Alan D.; Jones, Marvin E.; Mei, Betty Z.

Abstract Novel electret articles containing a polymer and a performance-enhancing additive can be identified by their thermally stimulated conductivity characteristics or their filtration properties. Electret articles such as nonwoven filter webs and respirators exhibit superior oily mist loading performance, low penetration and a small pressure drop.

### **Filtration module including unitary filter cartridge bowl construction**

European Patent Number EP 1401554

Applicant: Mykrolis Corporation

Inventors: Stankowski, Ralph, J.; Stockbower, David

Abstract A filtration module is provided which includes a manifold, a filtration cartridge and a bowl that houses the filter cartridge. The filtration cartridge and bowl are connected to each other by a key and a mating keyway to form a unitary construction. The filtration cartridge and bowl are in fluid communication with the manifold in a manner which prevents mixing of a fluid feed to the module and a permeate removed from the module.

**Filtration device for separation of concretions, fragments or other body material from liquids**

U.S. Patent Number 6733664

Assignee: Ferton Holding S.A.

Inventors: Menne, Andreas; Merkle, Wolfgang

Abstract A filtration device for separating concretions, fragments or other body material from liquids which are processed by means of a lithotripter connected to a suction device equipped with a peristaltic valve and sucked out of body cavities. The device has a functional zone having an inlet zone connected at one end to the lithotripter, and an outlet zone connected to the suction device. There is a collection zone mounted on the functional zone and connected to the other end of the inlet zone. A filter element is disposed between the functional zone and the collection zone, so that body material processed by the lithotripter will be deposited in the collection zone, and the filter element will separate the body fluids collected by the lithotripter from the body material.

**Hydroentangled filter media with improved static decay and method**

Pub. Number WO 2004037372

Applicant: Polymer Group, Inc.

Inventors: Hartgrove, Herbert; McNaull, Cynthia, Dawson; Tindall, Russell

Abstract The present invention is directed to a filter media comprised of an electro-conductive scrim so as to improve on the dissipation time of an electrostatic charge. Further, the present invention is directed to a method of making such a filter media, which is formed through hydroentanglement, thus avoiding the deleterious effects of mechanical needling, while providing a filter media having the requisite strength characteristics, without possessing a limiting factor in performance. The filtration media of the present invention also demonstrates a highly desirable uniformity for cost-effective use.

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**THAT'S ALL, FOR THIS MONTH ...**

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