

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 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.

In This Issue:

INDA NEWS

NEEDLEPUNCH INDUSTRY TO GATHER IN CHARLOTTE

TIME TO REGISTER FOR FILTRATION 2006 IN PHILADELPHIA

IDEA 2007 IS NEXT YEAR!!!

INDUSTRY NEWS

BBA TO SPIN OFF NONWOVENS BUSINESS

MICRONAIR CABIN AIR FILTERS HELP DRIVERS SURVIVE SPRING ALLERGIES

SALE OF FOSS MANUFACTURING PLANNED

LYDALL ANNOUNCES REDESIGN OF ITS RETIREMENT PROGRAM

CORNING UNVEILS CORDIERITE FILTER

HALOSOURCE ENTERS DRINKING WATER BUSINESS IN INDIA

KRONOS PARTNERS WITH FAA TO IMPROVE AIRLINE CABIN AIR QUALITY

MILLIPORE TO ACQUIRE SEROLOGICALS

NEEDLEPUNCH INDUSTRY TO GATHER IN CHARLOTTE IN OCTOBER

The 2006 International Needlepunch Conference is set for October 17-19, 2006 in Charlotte, North Carolina. This is the only conference in the world devoted to needlepunch technology and products. Attendees will gain insight into the latest technologies, fabrics, equipment, materials and applications, along with a unique networking experience where everybody connected to the needlepunch industry will be in one place.

Among the companies that will be speaking at Needlepunch 2006 are Agion, ASHRAE, CPSC, Filtration Group, Finetex, Ford Motor Co, GE Advanced Materials, Glo-Tex International, Hatch, Inc., ISPA, Lydall, Nanofiber Technologies, NATICK, Nicolan, Nissan, PCI, Reiter Automotive, Sealy, UL Labs and Wellman.

Industry Topics will include Fiber/Fabric Treatments, Fire Retardancy, Meltblown/Spunlace, Market Trends, Novel Fibers (PLA, PPA, Holo-Fiber), "Green" Auto Interiors, Alternative Technologies, Nanofibers and Natural Fibers (Kenaf & Jute).

End-uses to be covered include Automotive, Filtration, Home Furnishings, Wipes, Geotextiles, Military, Protective Apparel and Medical.

For more information and to register: www.inda.org or call (919) 233-1210 Ext. 0

TIME TO REGISTER FOR FILTRATION 2006 IN PHILADELPHIA

Filtration 2006, the largest gathering of the filtration industry in the world, is set for November 28-30, 2006 in the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia. Many companies that exhibited at Filtration 2005 last year in Chicago have already turned in their re-booking forms for Filtration 2006. Booth assignments are already being made and companies will be sent their assignments for approval prior to contracts being mailed.

If your company has not yet rebooked your booth space for Filtration 2006 – or if your company is interested in exhibiting for the first time – please contact Marilyn Bellinger at 919-233-1210 X118; mbellinger@inda.org or Tracey Barefoot at 919-233-1210 X129; tbarefoot@inda.org.

IDEA 2007 IS NEXT YEAR!!!

The world of filtration – from suppliers to converters to end-users – will once again be a key component at IDEA07, set for April 24-26, 2007 at the Miami Beach Convention Center in beautiful warm, trendy Miami Beach, Florida. While many companies have already reserved their IDEA 2007 space, many wait until the year prior to the show before they determine their space needs and send in their requirements. That's now!

Companies that have exhibited at IDEA in the past know that it is not to their advantage to wait too long or prime locations will be long gone. Make sure your

company gets a prime location, get your group together, decide on your booth size requirements (10 x15 feet [150 square feet] is the smallest booth size available). Unlike most other expositions, booths on our initial floor plan are not "fixed." Please note that we can design a booth for you of any size up to 100,000 square feet as long as increases are made in 5-foot increments.

Contact Marilyn Bellinger at 919-233-1210 x118; mbellinger@inda.org or Misty Ayers at 919-233-1210 X112; mayers@inda.org with your IDEA07 booth requirements today!

INDUSTRY NEWS

BBA TO SPIN OFF NONWOVENS BUSINESS

The BBA Group has announced plans to seek a separate listing for its Fiberweb nonwovens business as part of a plan to sell its nonwovens operation. At the same time, BBA will restructure Fiberweb's North American hygiene business, a move that involves the closure of a number of production lines as well as a reduction in workforce.

MICRONAIR CABIN AIR FILTERS HELP DRIVERS SURVIVE SPRING ALLERGIES

Spring has arrived once again, and millions of people with allergies in the United States – especially those with seasonal hay fever – have come to dread this time of year. In addition, with travel season also at its peak during the spring and summer, sniffing drivers will find themselves on the road more than usual. But, says Freudenberg, cabin air filters from micronAir can help allergy sufferers enjoy the season – at least while driving in their cars.

Cabin air filters from micronAir – a product line of Freudenberg Nonwovens' Filtration Division – help to remove these harmful particles, as well as odors, tailpipe emissions, gases, dirt, dust and debris, from air entering and circulating in the passenger compartment. This reduces contaminants that can trigger hay fever, asthma and other allergy problems.

“Preventing contaminants from entering a vehicle is essential in maintaining the health and safety of passengers, especially those with allergies, asthma and other upper-respiratory ailments,” said Barry F. Kellar, VP & GM, Freudenberg Nonwovens Filtration Division. “Inside a typical vehicle, pollutants can be up to six times more concentrated than outside. With people spending more and more time in their cars, they are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of having and maintaining a cabin air filter.”

Cabin air filters by micronAir are installed on two-thirds of the vehicles manufactured worldwide equipped with cabin air filtration systems, including more than 120 different models from more than 25 automakers. Consumers can check if their car has a micronAir filter and find simple filter-installation instructions for their vehicle make and model at www.micronair.us.

SALE OF FOSS MANUFACTURING PLANNED

According to a recent report in Nonwovens Industry, bankrupt Foss Manufacturing could be sold for \$39 million to Foss Manufacturing LLC, a Nevada limited liability company. Citing published reports, the magazine wrote that trustee Patrick O'Malley, who has run the company during its bankruptcy proceedings, filed documents asking for the bankruptcy judge to approve the purchase agreement.

The sale, if approved, provides for continuation of the company, which manufactures nonwoven fabrics and synthetic fibers, and the continued employment of 355 workers. Foss Manufacturing LLC would purchase all the company's assets except for the securities of Foss Manufacturing Europe.

The proposal also pays off all secured claims, administrative expenses and \$300,000 in cash to wind down operations, according to court documents. Foss Manufacturing filed for bankruptcy last September after its chief lender, CapitalSource, cut off credit, alleging the company fraudulently borrowed millions of dollars to benefit itself and company insiders. According to the bankruptcy filing, the company estimated assets of \$10 million to \$50 million and estimated debts in the same range.

LYDALL ANNOUNCES REDESIGN OF ITS RETIREMENT PROGRAM

Lydall recently announced that it is redesigning its retirement program and will move away from its traditional defined benefit pension plans while concurrently enhancing its 401(k) plan. Effective June 30, 2006, Lydall will freeze the accrued pension benefits for all U.S. employees currently under its defined benefit plans who are not covered under a collective bargaining agreement.

The company will increase its 401(k) match to a cash contribution equal to 100 percent of employee pretax contributions up to 6 percent of compensation. The current match formula is a cash match equal to 100 percent of the first 3 percent of compensation contributed by an employee plus a Company stock match equal to 50 percent of the next 2 percent of compensation contributed by an employee. The enhanced Lydall 401(k) plan will also feature automatic enrollment of employees not currently in the plan.

As a result of these actions, the Company expects a reduction in its retirement-related expense of approximately \$1.5 to \$2.0 million on an annual basis, based on year-end 2005 pension assumptions.

CORNING UNVEILS CORDIERITE FILTER

Corning Incorporated will begin supplying a new, advanced cordierite diesel particulate filter to light-duty diesel vehicle manufacturers. Compared to traditional cordierite, Corning's monolithic DuraTrap AC filters offer low pressure drop to help reduce fuel consumption and increase the power rating. They also offer improved thermal durability and high-filtration efficiency.

DuraTrap AC filters are targeted to be the first cordierite filters used in large-scale for diesel passenger cars. They are optimized for use in light-duty diesel vehicles that have new and advanced regeneration systems.

Corning will begin manufacturing and supplying DuraTrap AC filters in the first half of 2007. This is the second filter for light-duty diesel applications that Corning has launched. In 2005, Corning introduced DuraTrap AT filters, which are being used by leading auto makers for light-duty diesel applications as an effective alternative to systems designed for silicon carbide.

HALOSOURCE ENTERS DRINKING WATER BUSINESS IN INDIA

HaloSource, Inc (formerly Vanson HaloSource) of Redmond, WA, is establishing a business presence in India to support its HaloPure water purification business expansion. Located in Bangalore, India, HaloSource Technologies Pvt. Ltd. will establish business development, manufacturing, supply chain and quality assurance functions.

"Most people take it for granted that we can turn on the faucet and drink safe water. But more than three million people a year die from drinking contaminated water," said John M. Kaestle, CEO, HaloSource. "By employing HaloPure technology in affordable in-home, point-of-use drinking water purification products, we can impact this critical public health issue."

HaloPure patented technology uses common halogens -- chlorine or bromine -- that have the potential to simply and safely enhance drinking water treatment systems. Internal laboratory testing at HaloSource has demonstrated that these halogens, bound to HaloPure beads, can kill bacteria and viruses often found in drinking water, promising to improve common water treatment methods.

The HaloPure technology is ideally suited to low cost, point-of-use water purification applications, according to Kaestle. "The system is effective and can be deployed much more broadly and cheaply than large, central water-treatment plants and pipe systems. It is scaleable and can have an immediate impact on people's health for a fraction of the cost of large infrastructure projects," Kaestle added.

KRONOS PARTNERS WITH FAA TO IMPROVE AIRLINE CABIN AIR QUALITY

Kronos Advanced Technologies has been invited to serve as a member and an industrial partner in the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Air Transportation Center of Excellence for Airliner Cabin Environment Research (ACER CoE). In this capacity, Kronos will provide its real-time decontamination, air filtration, purification and technology expertise to evaluate and develop solutions that proactively address and improve cabin air quality. The program, led by the FAA, includes senior executives from aerospace equipment manufacturers and leading American universities.

The ACER CoE was formed to examine cabin air quality and study chemical and biological threats in airliners, which has resulted in major advancements in aviation science, decontamination technologies and technology transfer. Auburn University heads the ACER CoE and partners include the Air Force Research Laboratory, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory, Purdue University, Harvard University, Boise State University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Kansas State University and

Ohio Aerospace Institute among others and includes industry leaders, such as Boeing, GE and Steris.

MILLIPORE TO ACQUIRE SEROLOGICALS

Millipore Corporation and Serologicals Corporation have approved a definitive agreement whereby Millipore will acquire Serologicals in an all-cash transaction. The acquisition will transform Millipore into a company with combined annual revenues of approximately \$1.4 billion, based on 2006 full year projections. Assuming stable foreign exchange rates, Millipore believes 2007 revenues for the combined company will grow between 9 and 11 percent over 2006 pro forma revenues.

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.