

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.

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FILTRATION 2006 OPENS LATER THIS MONTH

The long-awaited and highly anticipated Filtration 2006 Conference & Expo is only a few weeks away — November 28-30 at the Philadelphia Convention Center. Filtration 2006 will once again attract professionals from around the world who are involved in all aspects of the business of filtration, from raw material and equipment suppliers to end-use converters.

There are a number of promotional opportunities for companies exhibiting at Filtration 2006, including advertising in the Daily Filter, the official Show Daily newspaper produced by INDA. Contact Misty Ayers at mayers@inda.org to find out how to spread your advertising message to the thousands of attendees. (For editorial opportunities see item below.)

For more details on Filtration 2006, log on [to www.inda.org](http://www.inda.org).

CALL FOR NEWS FOR DAILY FILTER

All exhibiting companies at Filtration 2006 in Philadelphia can receive some free publicity in the Daily Filter, the official Show daily newspaper of Filtration 2006. Produced by INDA, the Daily Filter is distributed to all attendees on both days the Exposition is open. All editorial materials and photos should be sent directly to Daily Filter editor Michael Jacobsen at mjacobsen@inda.org.

NO FILTER FINALISTS FOR VISIONARY AWARD

For one of the first times in its six-year history there are no filtration products among the finalists for the prestigious 2007 Visionary Award.

Now in its sixth year, the Award – which is given annually to a new consumer product that utilizes nonwoven fabrics in its final form – will be presented at the VISION 2007 Consumer Products Conference, January 21-24, 2007 in Denver, CO. The finalists will make presentations during VISION 2007 and Conference attendees will vote on the recipient of the 2007 Visionary Award.

The six finalists are:

1. **Cotton Feminine Hygiene Products, Corman SpA, Italy.** These 100% pure cotton napkins and panty liners are designed specifically for women with sensitive skin and for those who prefer a natural alternative.
2. **Cool2Go Insulating Wrap, DuPont, U.S.** Labatt Blue Cold One cans are wrapped with DuPont Cool2Go, a thin, insulating layer that protects beer from warm hands, condensation and the outside temperature.
3. **Johnson Baby Extracare Wipes, Johnson & Johnson Europe.** The construction of J&J's Baby Extracare Wipes separates the lipid and the aqueous phase of the emulsion, allowing it to incorporate incompatible components in the different phases.

4. **Petsleeves Petwear, Petsleeves, U.S.** Petsleeves are reusable but disposable apparel for dogs and cats.
5. **Pampers Cruisers, Procter & Gamble, U.S.** Pampers Cruisers feature a new AbsorbAway Liner with 5 Star Absorbency that helps keep wetness away from a child's skin, even upside down.
6. **Swim Pants, Tyco Healthcare Retail Group, U.S.** Through a use of a machine direction stretch film, the Swim Pant product provides BM containment for babies not yet potty trained.

Last January at VISION 2006 in Denver, Chicopee was presented with the 2006 Visionary Award for its Disaster Relief Blanket. Other previous winners include BBA Fiberweb's Resolution Print Media (2005); Brillo Scrub 'n' Toss (2004), FMJ ChemBio for its Civilian Quick Escape Mask (2003) and Procter & Gamble's Swiffer cleaning system (2002).

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

INDUSTRY NEWS

SUPERIOR FIBERS MAKES GLASS MEDIA ACQUISITION

Superior Fibers, Bremen, OH, has purchased Chicago-based Hollinee, LLC. The acquisition makes Superior Fibers the largest glass fiber filtration manufacturer in the world, according to Superior Fibers chairman Bill Miller.

"This is an exciting acquisition that places Superior Fibers in a dominant position with a market presence that ensures a bright future for the company," Miller says.

Currently, Superior Fibers operates three Ohio plants located in Bremen and Obetz and the purchase includes plants in Shawnee, OH, Reedsville, WV, and Vanceburg, KY. The combined operations will support more than 525 jobs and several new corporate positions will be created at the Bremen headquarters.

Superior Fibers manufactures fiberglass filtration media for both the HVAC and paint arrestor markets, as well as reinforcement mats for the composites industry. Hollinee produces similar filtration products along with complementary composite products. Both companies sell their products worldwide.

Additionally, Superior Fibers will be combining its line of reinforcements with the Nicofibers brand of reinforcements and surfacing veils for the composites industry allowing for a stronger market presence and new innovation opportunities.

PARENTS GRADE SCHOOLS' INDOOR AIR QUALITY

Increased absenteeism, decreased concentration levels and declines in academic performance are, according to a national survey, some of the areas of concern voiced by parents of school-aged children that can result from poor indoor air quality (IAQ) in schools. Conducted by Opinion Research Corporation on behalf of Kimberly-Clark Filtration Products, the survey revealed that half of the 476 parents polled were concerned about the quality of the air children breathed while at school. In fact, eight out of 10 said they believed a school's poor IAQ can have a direct negative effect on a student's academic performance and health.

Parents also voiced concern about other negative effects of a school's poor IAQ:

- ❑ 70% believe a school's poor IAQ can have a negative effect on students' concentration levels.
- ❑ 66% believe a school's poor IAQ can have a negative effect on students' academic performance.
- ❑ 61% believe a school's poor IAQ can have a negative effect on student absenteeism.

Slightly more than half reported that their child repeatedly complained about or repeatedly suffered from health problems during or immediately after a day at school. Allergies, runny nose, and coughing were the most often-reported health problems.

Are these and other parents' fears well-founded? Consider the following statistics:

- ❑ 20% of the country's schools have problems linked to IAQ, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- ❑ U.S. children miss more than 10 million school days each year because of asthma due to poor IAQ, according to the American Lung Association.

"The IAQ industry is closely watching issues relating to both absenteeism and 'presenteeism,' which is when people come to work or school while sick," explains Dave Matela, Kimberly-Clark Filtration Products. "Presenteeism not only affects productivity in the workforce, it may also affect a child's ability to learn or concentrate while in school, as our survey suggests."

When asked what course of action they would most likely take if they found out or suspected their child's school had a problem with IAQ, 47% of the parents indicated they would bring up the issue at a school board meeting or directly to school administrators.

For more on the survey: www.kcfiltration.com

HESS FORMS BUSINESS UNIT TO DEAL WITH EPA STANDARDS

As many manufacturers face product changes to comply with upcoming EPA Emission Standards, Hess Industries has launched a new business unit called Formitt Metal Labs. The unit was created specifically to support product development for a variety of industries.

For the past 30 years, Hess Industries -- an exhibitor at Filtration 2006 this month in Philadelphia -- has applied spinforming and flowforming technologies in the automotive industry to improve emissions through unique production of exhaust components and catalytic converters. Formitt Metal Labs will utilize this experience in the automotive market to offer prototyping, short run and production runs to a variety of other industries with the intent to bring products to market faster with an accelerated return on investment.

Formitt Metal Labs utilizes spinforming, flowforming and assembly technologies to create hollow symmetrical and asymmetrical shapes, fabrications, and assemblies using flat stock or tubing in both ferrous and non-ferrous metals, including stainless and high alloy steels.

For more information: www.formitt.com.

FILTRATION 2006 COMPANY PREVIEW

With Filtration 2006 set for later this month in Philadelphia, here is a sampling of some of the new product introductions being planned by some of the exhibitors:

Ashby Cross: Ashby Cross will be introducing Dyna-Stat, a dynamic mix/dispense head that provides consistent, high-shear, high-speed mixing, particularly important in foam applications. Disposable mix chambers eliminate the need for costly solvent flush used in conventional dynamic mixing devices.

Also on display will be the company's Urethane Foam dispensing system, designed to produce urethane foam filter encapsulate for flexible or rigid filter applications. The GP80 system is designed for use with static mixing or the Dyna-Stat dynamic mix/dispense head. The unit may also be used to produce the conventional flexible elastomer encapsulate.

Chase Machine and Engineering: Chase will be showcasing its newly designed Chase FS-90 Ultrasonic Fabric Sealing System. Branson's 2000 series ultrasonic welding equipment provides the ultrasonic technology that allows the equipment to fuse, bond or slit knitted, woven and nonwoven thermoplastic materials as well as films without the need for consumables. The FS-90 may be used manually like a sewing machine or it may be incorporated into an existing process line reaching welding speeds up to 123 fpm (machine can be modified to achieve faster speeds). The Chase FS-90 is only one of the many machines custom designed and manufactured for the Filtration Industry.

D-Mark: Featured at Filtration 2006 will be its OdorGuard Rigid Cell Filters, which offer extended surface chemical filtration. These self-supporting rigid box filters are designed for pharmaceutical, microelectronic and cleanroom

applications, in addition to traditional HVAC installations. The OdorGuard 12-inch deep pleated filters provide seven pounds of GAC or 8.6 pounds of 50/50 adsorbent blend in a 24 x 24 x 12-inch dimension.

Intertek: The ETL SEMKO division of Intertek, recently opened a new laboratory in San Antonio, TX for HVAC/R filter flammability testing to the UL 900 standard. Intertek is now one of only two independent testing labs that tests to the UL 900 standard.

“The opening of our new filter flammability testing facility provides manufacturers with a choice in testing partners for the UL 900 standard,” says Don Nicholson, HVAC/R national sales manager, Intertek. “Until now these manufacturers were forced to wait for testing by only one provider. A choice provides these manufacturers with the opportunity to bring their filters to market faster.”

Keystone Filter: Keystone will be announcing additional pleating capacity now available for its hot melt bead pleating line, including increased capacity to pleat ASHRAE and HEPA grades of microfiberglass with hot melt bead separation. A continuous range of pleat heights from 3/8 to 3-1/4 inches with a variety of glue bead application options are available. Choices of media also include ULPA and a number of synthetics. Other recent improvements at Keystone include a new, clean, climate controlled environment for their glue bead HEPA pleating line; new pleating and cartridge assembly equipment; and a re-layout of the facility to improve product flow.

Lydall Filtration/Separation: Lydall’s product line that will be on display provides solutions for air, industrial fluid, drinking water and separation challenges. Its process capabilities include wet laid, meltblown and composite technologies utilizing microglass, synthetics, cellulose, and carbon. Being featured at Filtration 2006:

- ❑ Redi-Pleat, a 100% synthetic filter media that offers a perforated support layer. The perforations, spaced according to pleat height, remove the need to score the media. Folding, gathering and incorporating an existing separator system are all that is required.
- ❑ AlphaMax microglass air filtration media reduces air handling system energy costs by providing the lowest airflow resistance for a given efficiency requirement. Providing 100% mechanical efficiency, AlphaMax does not rely on an electrostatic charge and will not lose efficiency over time.
- ❑ LyPore XL microglass liquid media is optimized for the most demanding fluid filtration requirements. This epoxy-bound media has fluid compatibility for today’s synthetic- and mineral oil-based hydraulic fluids while maintaining its integrity at higher fluid temperatures. LyPore XL is available in a variety of efficiencies as well as FDA versions.

Norafin (Americas): A member of the Jacob Holm Group, Norafin will be at Filtration 2006 featuring a range of product solutions in the field of liquid and dry filtration. Norafin offers an alternative to the existing filter media which

thanks to the company's spunlace technology results in a better uniformity of the web and therefore enhances filtration efficiency. Greater basis weight flexibility is given, which leads to an improved filtration performance at lower basis weights. The proprietary production technique of Norafin allows to be engineered with all kinds of fibers ranging from standard fibers such as polyester and polypropylene up to high performance fibers such as PTFE, PPS, micro fibers, aramid and meta-aramid fibers.

Sonobond Ultrasonics: Filter bonders manufactured by Sonobond Ultrasonics will be on display. Its Filter Collar Bonder ultrasonically attaches nonwoven filter bags to rigid plastic circular frames, and can assemble between 50-80 bags per hour. It is designed for low-production assembly of filter bags.

Also being featured is the Seam Master High Profile Ultrasonic Bonder, which seals, sews and trims nonwoven and synthetic fabrics in one pass and with speeds up to four times faster than conventional sewing, heat sealing and adhesive machines.

Texon International: Texon will be highlighting its manufacturing locations in the U.S. and Europe that make cellulose media for stacked disc filters. Current applications are for filtering diesel lube oil and EDM/spark erosion liquid. The company is equipped to make paper media in a range of gauges and basis weights suitable for filtering beverages, cosmetics, transformer oil, and other industrial liquids. Its nonwoven felts are designed for use in rigidized filter elements for standard, antistatic and high temperature filtration applications.

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.