

INDA NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF THE NONWOVEN FABRICS INDUSTRY

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Message From The President

Engineered Fabrics: The Wave of the Future

In 2001, at the urging of one of our Board members, INDA initiated a project to consider ways to mitigate the negative aspects associated with the word “nonwovens.” After several meetings and some intense debate, it became obvious the word was in such prevalent use no meaningful change could be made.

Committee momentum then moved to creating a tag line that would be a positive descriptor and have a ring to it. We queried our membership on this topic and about 75 possible tag lines came flying in. Through a narrowing process, the list was trimmed and we then asked our members to choose the best from a list of five.

From that selection process came “Nonwovens – Engineered Fabric Solutions.” You will see this catchphrase now in many pieces of communications from INDA – check out our website www.inda.org. INDA is currently promoting the use of “Nonwovens – Engineered Fabric Solutions” throughout the global nonwovens industry.

Concurrently with the tag line project, in April last year, soon after the closing of IDEA 2001 in Miami Beach, FL, the INDA business team met to review our success, learn from our shortcomings and begin the planning process for the IDEA exposition in 2004. This is a critical process because the overall performance of the IDEA show is critical to INDA’s

success. The IDEA show is the single most important source of revenue for INDA; hence, the income stream is a major factor in growing our industry support efforts and at the same time keeping member dues low.

As we move to the future, the IDEA 04 planning team must continuously focus on finding ways to:

1. Grow the number and quality of attendees
 2. Grow the number of exhibitors
 3. Protect and enhance the very important IDEA show franchise.
- Some of the key issues we

“NONWOVENS ... ENGINEERED
FABRIC SOLUTIONS”

are addressing include:

- How is our marketplace changing?
- What is the best way for INDA to react to these changes?
- What threats have become evident?
- What opportunities exist today that did not exist a few years ago?
- How can the IDEA show be made even more valuable to exhibitors and attendees?

As we flesh out and publish industry volumes and trends each year, what becomes more and more apparent is that nonwoven materials are being used in an enormous number of new applications. The result is the rapid growth of nonwovens versus other methods of forming fabrics. Since nonwovens find themselves going head-to-head with tradition-

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Technical Update

It's hard to believe that three quarters of the year has passed already. This has been a busy time for the technical area. Here are some highlights since our summer edition.

Healthcare Committee

This committee is extremely active and vigilant regarding standards that could affect the single-use market. One major achievement of this committee's members was to come to a consensus through AAMI with the reusable interests on a proposed standard for barrier protection of operating room gowns and drapes.

AAMI discussions on a barrier standard have been ongoing for several years without much progress. However, at the last meeting in Salt Lake City, the group was able to reach an agreement. There are still some hurdles to overcome with the FDA on gown design but the committee can take pride in its accomplishment.

Members of the committee are also working with ASTM committee F23.40 to set up parameters and standard tests for the physical properties associated with protective clothing. These parameters will cover both single use and reusable garments.

Standard Test Methods

The STM committee will be meeting this month at INDA's offices. These are some of the highlights of what the committee is working on:

- Finalizing the production of INDA Standard Test Methods on CD-ROM. This will be available for sale in the fourth quarter and will include a cross reference of test methods from various sources.

- Continue work on harmonizing test methods with EDANA.

- Conducting round robin testing of

a proposed Cup Crush method of measuring softness.

- Round robin testing of a Ball Burst test method.

- Round robin testing to determine correlation between an ASTM and ISO tensile method.

Jean-Luc Wertz, Technical Director of EDANA, is our guest at the September meeting. He will give the STM committee an update on the standards work that is going on in Europe, including the progress on a CEN proposal for barrier protection and physical properties of gowns and drapes.

Filtration

The Filtration committee has basically completed putting together the conference program for the Filtration 2002 Conference and Exposition scheduled for December 3-5 in Washington, DC. The conference will include two short filtration courses ... a basic and an advanced.

At the last formal meeting, the committee brainstormed on ways to improve the general public's understanding of filtration. The committee arrived at two projects:

- One that deals with informing the ultimate retail consumer in layman's language.

- A second program that informs businesses about buying the proper filters.

Work has almost finished on the project for the ultimate retail consumer and will be made available on INDA's website and in a host of magazines and journals.

INTC Committee

The next major upcoming conference is INTC 2002, scheduled for September 24-26 in Atlanta. This conference is a joint effort by INDA

and TAPPI and is jam packed with technical papers covering 20 nonwoven market segments.

The conference includes a Showcase where companies can tout their new products and equipment and this is followed by a networking reception, including Tabletop exhibits and student posters.

Our keynote speaker is A. Branton Godfrey PhD, Dean of the NCSU School of Textiles. Other highlights of the Keynote session will an award ceremony, including the TAPPI Nonwoven Division's Technical Award and Mark Hollingsworth Prize and INDA's coveted Lifetime Technical Achievement Award.

Other Committee Highlights

- The Technical Advisory Board (TAB) met on August 27. Its main function at this meeting was to choose the finalists for the second annual Visionary Award. The finalists will make a short presentation at the Vision 2003 Conference scheduled for January 26-29, 2003 in New Orleans. The audience attending the conference will vote to decide a winner.

- INDA and several of its member company representatives plan on meeting this month with the California Bureau of Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation in Sacramento to discuss the requirements and use of nonwovens in upholstered furniture in relation to proposed standard TB 117.

Did you know ... IDEA has been expanded to include technical textiles? It will be called "IDEA 04 International Engineered Fabrics Conference and Expo."

INDA Expands Membership To Include Other Associations

For many years companies have become members of INDA in one of two categories:

1. Corporate (roll goods producers, converters, end product manufacturers, suppliers of machinery/equipment, binders/adhesives, fibers/pulps, films/tapes, Commission Services, Paper/packaging & other)
2. Associate (academics, consultants, research agencies)

Now, in order to allow international trade associations to affiliate themselves with INDA and to allow U.S. associations in related industries to show support of each other's activities, INDA has created a third membership category — Association.

Association Membership is available to any trade association or similar organization that represents corporations, partnerships, sole proprietorships, or individuals that produce fabrics, components, and/or related materials, products made from such materials, and machinery or equipment used in the production of these products.

INDA is pleased to welcome our latest Corporate, Associate and Association members:

- Adhesives Research, Inc. provides custom coated adhesive solutions with a diverse portfolio of high performance adhesive technologies.
- Allasso Industries, Inc. provides and markets custom designed image analysis equipment as well as providing off-line/on-line systems to measure ODF, basis weight, uniformity, pilling, texture and fiber dimension. Much of their work is based on technologies developed in the NCRC Image Analysis lab.
- American Fiber Manufacturers Association provides industry data, trade policy and Washington representation for U.S. domestic producers of manufactured fibers.
- China Nonwovens & Industrial Textiles Association (CNITA), the primary association for nonwovens and industrial textiles in China, coordinates trade business between

producers and end users in China and internationally.

- Hanwei (Quanzhou) Machinery Manufacturing Company Ltd. designs and manufactures cellulose converting machinery for feminine hygiene, baby diapers and incontinence products.
 - Guang Dong Nonwovens Association (GDNA) is the regional nonwovens trade association for Guangdong Province, China. They provide technical training, communication, exchange of information and organize participation in nonwovens exhibitions/events both domestically and worldwide.
 - Hydac Technology Corporation is a filter manufacturer involved in the use of nonwoven filtration media.
 - Nonwoven Associates LLC provides technical consulting services for nonwoven product development, process design and process optimization.
 - RKW US, Inc. supplies microporous film for disposable apparel & construction. They are also able to supply carded and spunbond nonwovens, hygiene films, wound-care films and composites of the above.
 - Sewn Products Equipment & Suppliers of the Americas (SPESA) is the association for suppliers to the sewn products industry. SPESA speaks for and acts on matters affecting its members as well as providing a forum for addressing global challenges.
 - Textile/Clothing Technology Corporation (TC2) offers consulting services, seminars, training programs, technology development and transfer to the textile/clothing industry.
 - Tredegar Film Products produces and supplies film and film-laminate structures and components used in the disposable hygiene and healthcare industries.
- If you know of anyone you feel would benefit from INDA membership, please contact Marilyn Bellinger at 919-233-1210, Ext. 118 or mbellinger@inda.org.

Want Prime Space? Sign Up Now!

IDEA 2004
April 27-29, 2004

Miami Beach Convention Center,
Miami Beach, Florida

Did you know ... the Fall, 2002 issue of the International Nonwovens Journal, the only peer-reviewed technical journal in the industry, will be available online by the end of the month at www.inda.org?

Hydroentangled Technology Primer To Be Released

A new primer on the Hydroentangled Technology is now available to pre-order from INDA. It is scheduled for November 2002 release.

Hydroentangling is the method of bonding a web of fibers by using high-pressure jets of water directed onto a web of loose fibers supported by a screen. The intensity of the water twists, curls and entangles the fibers about one another to yield a cohesive fabric. This bonding technology is also referred to as spunlacing, water entangling and, occasionally, hydraulic needling.

Worldwide demand for hydroentangled fabrics has almost tripled during the past decade. This technology's growth is broad-based ... in global markets considered mature as well as in developing and emerging markets. Hydroentangled machinery suppliers now produce state-of-the-art technologies capable of making excellent hydroentangled materials and can be credited with some of this technology's rise in importance as fabrics became available. The increase in fabric demand has been strong and the pace of growth is expected to continue as new products are developed.

As with other INDA nonwoven technology primers, this book is a quick-read ... written to provide the reader in about 35 pages with an overview of the hydroentangling industry, its markets, growth rates and examples of product Success

Stories. It is intended for new employees, students and executives wanting to understand this technology.

To pre-order this handbook please contact Tracey Barefoot at 919-233-1210 ext. 129 or e-mail at tbarefoot@inda.org.



VISION 2003 CONFERENCE IS SET FOR NEW ORLEANS IN JANUARY

Arrangements for INDA's Vision 2003 Consumer Products Conference are being made and members will be excited to learn that the January 2003 conference will focus what is on every consumer product company's mind — the consumer!

With sessions devoted to consumer understanding, marketing and value, VISION 2003 is the one conference you should not miss next year. Plus, you get to vote on the recipient of the 2003 Visionary Award!

Vision 2003 is set for January 26-29, 2003 at the New Orleans Marriott Hotel, New Orleans, LA. Mark your calendars!

IDEA 2004 Is Closer Than You Think

The success of the INDEX show in Geneva this year prompted many international companies to reserve their booth space for IDEA 2004. There are less than two years to go before IDEA 2004 takes place in April, 2004 in beautiful Miami Beach, FL and already 75% of the floor space has been reserved.

Does your company have a reservation for space at IDEA 2004 yet?

Contact Marilyn Bellinger at 919-233-1210 Ext. 118; mbellinger@inda.org; or Tracey Barefoot, Ext. 129; tbarefoot@inda.org.

For more information or to register for any INDA meeting, go to www.inda.org or contact Marilyn Bellinger at mbellinger@inda.org or Tracey Barefoot at tbarefoot@inda.org

Government Relations Update

EPA Proposes MACT Standards For Printing, Coating, Dyeing

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed new national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants (NESHAP's) for textile coating, dyeing, printing, slashing and finishing operations. This NESHAP – if finalized in its proposed form – would require facilities involved in this type of work to implement Maximum Achievable Control Technologies (MACT) if the facility is identified as a “major source” of hazardous air pollutants.

Under MACT standards, targeted facilities would have to reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants by 60%, according to EPA, at an estimated annual cost of \$14.5 million industry wide.

For additional information, contact Vinson Hellwig at 919-541-2317 or by e-mail at hellwig.vinson@epa.gov.

FDA Asks Industry If Medical Devices Need Barcodes

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is considering the possibility of mandating use of barcodes for packages that contain pharmaceuticals, biologics, and medical devices. While the effort is primarily geared at drug products as a means of reducing medication errors that occur in hospitals, the Agency is exploring whether patient safety would be optimized if medical devices were bar-coded as well.

Since surgical drapes and gowns, feminine hygiene products, bandages, and other healthcare products made with nonwovens are considered medical devices, FDA's interest in this area is especially noteworthy.

But during a public meeting convened by FDA on the issue in late July, the repeated theme from dozens of participants was that pharmaceuticals should be FDA's sole priority.

Moreover, if the Agency eventually does consider barcode requirements for medical devices, several speakers urged FDA to “stratify the universe” of all types of medical devices such that barcodes would only be required for those which are extremely complicated or prone to failure.

President Signs TPA Bill into Law

In a move that is expected to have a major impact on international trade negotiations, President Bush signed a bill into law on August 6 that, among other things, renews Presidential “fast track” negotiating authority.

Now commonly referred to as trade promotion authority, or TPA, this new law allows the Bush Administration to broker international trade deals with foreign countries and present the finished agreement to Congress for an up or down vote with no amendments, on an expedited basis. Also included in the legislation were provisions related to trade adjustment assistance (TAA) legislation, reauthorization for the Customs Service, and renewals of the Generalized Systems of Preferences and the Andean Trade Preference Act.

Trade officials from European Union, Japan and Australia have all praised passage of the TPA bill, and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick has noted that the

move will enable the U.S. to complete free trade agreements with Chile, Singapore, Central America and Morocco. Ambassador Zoellick also predicted that free trade negotiations with Australia, Southern Africa, and several other countries will get attention in the near future.

INDA Members Appreciate International Trade Bulletin

Six months after the launch of the INDA International Trade Advisory Board's (ITAB) International Trade Bulletin, INDA has collected and compiled results of a survey designed to determine the efficacy of the bi-weekly bulletin which appears on the INDA website (www.inda.org) under the “Global Activities” heading.

All told, INDA received 68 replies to the survey, of which 72% said they find the Bulletin either “very useful” or “useful.” In addition, more than half of the respondents said they forward the e-newsletter to colleagues.

If you are interested in having your name added to the International Trade Bulletin's Internet mailing list, please contact Misty Ayers at 919-233-1210, ext.112 or email her at mayers@inda.org.

Did you know that INDA now has a Nonwovens Glossary available with all of the commonly used terms clearly defined in easy-to-understand terms? There should be one copy on everyone's desk.

Filtration 2002 Expo ... A Marketplace For The World

Filtration 2002 is the only filtration event that brings together a world market of filtration equipment, materials, media and new technology with worldwide decision-making attendees.

The Filtration 2002 International Conference and Exposition comes to the East Coast this year from December 3-5 at the Washington DC Convention Center.

Don't let your company miss out on this valuable opportunity to sell your product to the world. It is not too late. Reserve your Filtration 2002 Booth Space NOW!

Please contact INDA's Marilyn Bellinger at 919-233-1210, Ext. 118, mbellinger@inda.org; or Tracey Barefoot at Ext. 129; tbarefoot@inda.org.



Free Publicity For Exhibitors ...

We are currently putting together the DAILY FILTER newspaper for Filtration 2002. Any news or new product information should be sent to editor Michael Jacobsen at mjacobsen@inda.org. The deadline is November 1. Call 201-612-6601 with any questions.

The Filtration 2002 Conference Program

New! New! New! The industry asked for an advanced filtration tutorial and we've done it. Filtration 201-Advanced Filtration, will be held Tuesday, December 3, 2002 during the Filtration 2002 International Conference and Exposition, December 3-5, in Washington, DC. It will cover topics beyond any of the previous Filtration 101 tutorials.

Led by instructors Evan Koslow, Ph.D., KX Industries; Krishna Gupta, Ph.D., Porous Materials, Inc.; R. Vijayakumar, Ph.D. Air Techniques and Joe VanCura, R.P. Fedder, topics from air filtration principles to prometry to new water filtration technologies will be covered. Bring your questions!

INDA Members Form Furniture & Bedding Flammability Task Force; Education Efforts Begin this Month

In late August a group of INDA members met at INDA headquarters in Cary to discuss flammability standards for upholstered furniture and bedding that are being separately developed by regulatory officials in the U.S. government and the state of California.

In the course of this meeting, it was agreed that a new Task Force is needed to ensure that the interests of the nonwovens industry are represented

during development of both sets of standards.

A key goal for the Task Force, in fact, is to educate officials in California and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) regarding the advantages and benefits of using fire-resistant nonwovens as "barrier materials" in the construction of upholstered furniture and bedding. Many Task Force members further agreed to participate in a meeting with the California

Bureau of Home Furnishings in September in Sacramento. INDA staff will provide an overview of nonwoven technologies during this meeting and Task Force members will describe the FR properties of the products they offer.

If your company is a supplier to furniture/bedding manufacturers and you would like more information on this Task Force, please contact Misty Ayers at mayers@inda.org, or call 919-233-1210, Ext. 112.

Pre-Order Your 2002 International Nonwovens Directory Today

INDA takes pride in publishing the most comprehensive International Directory for the Nonwovens Industry. This year's directory contains five times more listings than our previous edition and includes a subscription to the on-line directory.

With the on-line directory it is possible to download the information to create mailing labels, reports, and form letters. The electronic version is updated on a daily basis and accessible any time of the day. Only INDA's directory can do all of this, putting it

definitely a step above the rest.

INDA has dedicated more than 1,500 staff hours to produce the largest, most up-to-date nonwovens directory in the world. EDANA and our other sister organizations have devoted a great deal of time and effort as well. This represents a major cooperative effort; we know you will be impressed.

A discount will be available if you pre-order your copy of the directory by October 1. Please visit us at

Did you know ... that the finalists have been selected for the coveted Visionary 2003 Award, presented at the Vision 2003 Conference in New Orleans, LA in January? Log on to www.inda.org to find out who they are.

<http://www.inda.org/pubs/directorypromo.pdf> to place your order today or call Tracey Barefoot at 919-233-1210, Ext. 129 to place your International Directory order.

Engineered Fabrics: The Future

(Continued from page 1)

al textiles in some of these new applications, it is also becoming progressively more obvious that there is a large market overlap between nonwovens and textiles and each year this intersection is becoming increasingly significant.

Connecting all these points, the INDA staff devised the concept of broadening the IDEA show to include technical textiles. After all, in many markets, the customers don't care whether a product is a woven, knitted or a nonwoven. What they want is specified performance at the lowest cost. Since we share both markets and customers, it is a logical extension to add technical textiles companies to the IDEA exhibitor list. Earlier this year, this concept was deliberated and the INDA



INDA President Ted Wirtz

Board authorized staff to initiate a market research program to test this presumption.

During the early summer we conducted face-to-face interviews with 15 technical textile manufacturers. Given that we bump into each other in the marketplace, we asked:

1. Should our industries get to better know each other?

2. Are there joint educational and market promotion opportunities?

3. Could the resources and capabilities of INDA be useful to technical textile companies?

4. Should IDEA 2004 be expanded to include technical textiles?

On the subject of expanding IDEA, out of 15 leading technical textile manufacturers interviewed, we received only one negative response. Of course, we also heard a few "maybes" and "tell us mores," but most were very positive in their feedback.

We brought the market research results to the August Board meeting with the recommendation that INDA immediately take steps to alter IDEA's focus from the narrower nonwovens only to the broader "engineered fabrics." If the customers mix wovens and nonwovens in their buying decisions, then, we asked, why shouldn't there be a first-rate trade show organized that gives fabric buyers the most complete array of materials to shop? The Board enthusiastically endorsed this concept. And the term "engineered fabrics" materialized again.

In late July at our two-day retreat to rework the INDA strategic plan, the staff instinctively used the term "engineered fabrics" again and again. From my perspective, the latent nature of this word combination seems to be moving in to the open and is obvious among the INDA staff and throughout the industry. Where these thought patterns lead us in the long range is not at all clear. What is clear, however, is that INDA staff is now committed to changing IDEA 2004 to an exposition highlighting "engineered fabrics." — Ted Wirtz

INDA Board

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.....

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The INDA Nonwovens Glossary Is Here

Now anyone can tell the difference between a spunlace and a spunbond ... between a card and a calender. That's because a new comprehensive dictionary for the nonwovens industry is now available for sale.

The INDA Nonwovens Glossary is a critical resource for your company and your customers and covers all aspects of the industry, from raw materials to converting.

The Nonwovens Glossary is written in layman's terms and all words are easily defined. Glossary also includes illustrations of nonwoven technologies. Please visit us at <http://www.inda.org/pubs/nwglossary.pdf> to place your order today.

Did you know ... that INDA (at the request of the Filtration Committee) has developed an educational mini-website regarding air filters for the home aimed at the retail consumer?

Did you know ... that INDA has just updated the International Nonwovens Directory and increased the number of contacts five-fold?

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