

# INDA NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF THE NONWOVEN FABRICS INDUSTRY

WINTER, 2000

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## Message From The President

### Inaugural INTC Paves The Way To A Bright Technical Future For INDA And Its Members

**I**NTC 2000, the International Nonwovens Technical Conference held from September 26-28, 2000 in Dallas, Texas, marked the first time a joint technical meeting of INDA and TAPPI has ever been held. INDA was extremely proud and excited to be a part of it.

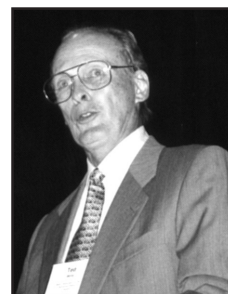
The first International Nonwovens Technical Conference grew out of the realization on the part of members and staff of both organizations that we had the same educational goals and basically the same method for reaching them. But, because of the structure of our two organizations, INDA and TAPPI operated parallel to each other and seldom touched.

It is a testament to the vision and hard work of both associations that INTC 2000 had a record-breaking crowd and an impressive line-up of technical papers.

For years, both INDA and TAPPI sponsored high-quality technical conferences catering to the specific needs of their memberships. Many people attended both and benefited from the exposure to different segments of the global nonwovens industry.

But as the technologies of forming paper and nonwovens began to overlap more and more and companies began to expand beyond their traditional technology niches, it made perfect sense to combine the two. This partnership brought together the best of both worlds rather than duplicating efforts with a pair of technical conferences held at different locations at different times of the year.

As President of INDA, I had the pleasure of taking part in many of the joint planning meetings that produced INTC 2000. Through the impressive efforts of industry volunteers, along with the staff of INDA and TAPPI, a single goal was successfully accomplished: INTC 2000. Many thanks go out to all members of the INTC Committee, the speakers and moderators, INDA and TAPPI staff, and a special thank you to Peter Wallace, Conference Chairman, and Girish Grover and James Harrington, Co-Chairmen.



For more on the inaugural INTC, see related story and photos on page 7.

## Technical

### Nonwovens Cooperative Research Center (NCRC)

INDA attended the semi-annual meeting of the NCRC at North Carolina State University October 24-26. INDA is one of the 20 full members of the research center. There are also four affiliate members and three associate members. Industry membership and the state of North Carolina fund the center, which conducts research projects at NC State as well as other universities, as directed by the membership. The results of the research are confidential to the members. INDA's technical director is on the executive advisory board and is the membership chairman of the center.

The center also conducts nonwoven-related short courses and operates a laboratory that contains state-of-the-art instruments capable of measuring physical properties of nonwovens. It also operates a laboratory that can produce all forms of nonwovens, except for stitchbonded, spunbonded and meltblown fabrics.

At the meeting, the membership heard detailed reports on nine current research projects. There was also exciting news about new capabilities in the near future. A 20-inch twin beam bicomponent spunbond/meltblown line that incorporates the latest JML and Hills, Incorporated technologies is to be installed at NC State by mid-summer 2001. Also, a Fleissner hydroentangling unit with a matching drum dryer will be installed in-line with the spunbond/meltblown unit. There are also negotiations to install a high-speed card, also in-line, with these units. The NCRC has secured an appropriate space large enough to house these units in the Partners Building just across the street from the School of Textiles. Members of NCRC will be given priority for line time on this equipment.

#### **NCRC Full Members**

3-M  
Albany International  
AstenJohnson  
CHA Industries, Inc.  
C. H. Dexter (Ahlstrom)  
Cotton Incorporated  
Dow Plastics  
E. I. DuPont de Nemours and Company  
FiberVisions  
Freudenberg Spunweb Company  
Goulston Technologies  
Hills, Incorporated  
INDA  
JM Laboratories  
Hollingsworth  
Kimberly-Clark Corporation

KoSa  
PGI  
Procter and Gamble  
Wellman Incorporated

#### **Affiliate Members**

AQF Technologies  
Biax-Fiberfilm Corporation  
Eldim Incorporated  
MK Systems

#### **Associate Members**

CSIRO  
Institute of Textile Technology  
Wool Research Organization of  
New Zealand (WRONZ)

If you are interested in membership or in discussing the capabilities available at NCRC, please contact Dr. Behnam Pourdeyhimi at 919-515-6551 or visit the web site at [ncrc.ncsu.edu](http://ncrc.ncsu.edu) or e-mail to [nonwovens@ncsu.edu](mailto:nonwovens@ncsu.edu)

#### **AAMI**

The November meeting of the AAMI PB 70 committee, Barrier Performance Standard and Classification for Protective Apparel and Drapes in Health Care Facilities, was canceled. The next meeting will be in January on a date and location that have yet to be chosen.

#### **ASTM**

INDA attended and chaired the Fall meeting of D64.13, the subcommittee on nonwovens. All eight nonwoven methods that were out for balloting — one from the main ballot and seven from the subcommittee ballot — received negatives. All the negatives were minor but must be addressed. Therefore, all methods will return to the Spring ballot. One method — Durability of Highloft Batting — passed the ballot and will become an ASTM method in 2001.

#### **EDANA Test Method Harmonization**

The INDA Standard Test Method committee adopted three EDANA test methods in September, thus harmonizing these three methods. The methods are:

1. ERT 1.3-99, Recommended Nonwoven Vocabulary
2. ERT 40.3-90, Mass per Unit Area
3. ERT 70.4-99, Nonwovens Tear Resistance

In addition to the above, EDANA has agreed to make changes to two ERT methods, which will harmonize them with INDA IST methods:

1. ERT 170.0-89 Nonwovens Wet Barrier Mason Jar
2. ERT 10.3-99 Nonwovens Absorption, Wicking

Harmonization of test methods is a major goal of both INDA and EDANA. This is not an easy process and accomplishing the harmonization of five methods this year and six methods last year brings us to a total of eleven. One thing to keep in mind, in these first two rounds of harmonization we have chosen the methods most alike; therefore future harmonization of methods will likely be a little more difficult.

## Industry Looking Forward To IDEA Achievement Award Finalists

Now that the deadline for nominations has passed, the nonwovens industry is eagerly awaiting the announcement of the three finalists in each of seven categories for the inaugural IDEA 01 Achievement Awards, which are co-sponsored by INDA and *Nonwovens Industry*.

The companies that made it through the industry nomination and review process will be revealed in an early 2001 issue of *Nonwovens Industry* and at [www.inda.org](http://www.inda.org) and [www.nonwovens-industry.com](http://www.nonwovens-industry.com). The winners in each category will be announced at a ceremony on March 27, prior to the keynote presentation that will open IDEA 01 in Miami.

"We are looking forward to recognizing the outstanding companies in the nonwovens industry that have made a significant contribution to the business since the last IDEA Show," said Ted Wirtz, INDA president.

The IDEA 01 Achievement Awards are going to be presented in the following categories:



- IDEA 01 Equipment Achievement Award ... Presented to the company with the best equipment new product introduction since IDEA 98.

- IDEA 01 Roll Goods Achievement Award ... Presented to the company with the best roll goods new product introduction since IDEA 98.

- IDEA 01 Raw Material Achievement Award ... Presented to the company with the best fiber/raw material new product introduction since IDEA 98.

- IDEA 01 Short-Life Product Achievement Award ... Presented for the best new short-life product utilizing nonwovens introduced since IDEA 98.

- IDEA 01 Long-Life Product Achievement Award ... Presented for the best new long-life product utilizing nonwovens introduced since IDEA 98.

Criteria for the above awards is market acceptance, commercial viability, technical advance and/or new end use. New product nominations

### 3M's Guehler Will Keynote IDEA 01

Paul F. Guehler, Ph.D., Senior Vice President of Research & Development, 3M, will be the keynote speaker at IDEA01 Conference & Exposition, March 27-29, 2001 at the Miami Beach Convention Center, Miami Beach, Florida. His address will cover nonwoven-based businesses at 3M. 3M has built an impressive array of businesses based on products made from unique nonwoven materials. Hear about 3M's innovative approach to product development.

After Dr. Guehler's presentation, the conference begins with sessions covering eight end uses. At the conference, learn about markets and trends for the end uses. The end uses featured will be Automotive, Products for the Home, Filtration, Medical, Protective Apparel, Hygiene, Wipes, Construction/Geotextiles and special sessions on e-Commerce and Basic Training Courses.

### Bill Blackburn Retires; Palenske Assumes Role

INDA would like to acknowledge and thank Bill Blackburn for his contributions to the nonwovens industry and INDA. Bill has been a consultant for INDA in charge of ASTM test methods, including the chair of the ASTM committee, involved in the INDA Standard Test Methods committee and this Fall putting together the new edition of the INDA Standard Test Method Manual. Bill was also a former Technical Director of INDA. We wish Bill and his beautiful bride, Ann, a wonderful life in Wilmington, NC.

INDA is happy to announce that Carl Palenske will replace Bill in his duties at INDA and ASTM. At the end of December Carl is retiring from Kimberly-Clark Corporation after 34 years of service. Carl has been a member of the INDA Standard Test Method committee for 11 years and chairman for nine years. He has also been active on the ASTM D13.64 committee as the secretary. We are very excited to have Carl coming on board. His vast experience and knowledge will allow for a smooth transition and will be a great benefit.

must have been introduced to the market, either through a technical paper or as a commercial product, since IDEA 98. In addition, the nominated product must be designed for a nonwoven application or for the production of a nonwoven or in a nonwoven process.

Also to be presented:

- IDEA 01 Entrepreneur Achievement Award ... Presented to the company started since IDEA 98 that has achieved the most since its founding.

- IDEA 01 Lifetime Achievement Award ... Presented to the individual or company that has contributed the most to the advancement of the nonwovens industry for at least 20 years.

## 2000 INDA Membership

Update ... We're Still Growing!

INDA's membership has always been its most important resource. As the holiday season approaches it is a time to thank those that have contributed to the success of our association and to reflect on this year's accomplishments.

In the past three-to-four years, we have added record numbers of new nonwovens and nonwovens-related companies to our membership roster. 2000 has been another record year for membership recruitment. The 13 companies listed below, along with 41 other companies recruited earlier this year, have combined to make a grand total of 54 new member companies recruited in 2000!

The entire INDA staff wishes to thank these and all of our member companies for their participation and contributions for a successful 2000. HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

INDA is pleased to welcome the following companies who have joined our association in the final quarter of 2000:

**Air Techniques International**  
**Appleton Paper Mills**  
**Conversion Technologies Int'l.**  
**Glens Falls Interweb, Inc.**  
**Henkel Adhesives**

## Annual Meeting 2001

*\* For Members Only*

*Unique Networking Opportunity!*

**April 26-28, 2001**

**Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island**

**Amelia Island, Florida**

**Herman Reeves Sheet Metal, Inc.**  
**Hickory Springs/Inno-Therm Products**  
**Kleissler Company**  
**Matador Converters Co., Ltd.**  
**Milliken Coated Products**  
**Naltex**  
**SRI Consulting**  
**W.G. Steve Company, Inc.**

## IDEA 2001 GET YOUR BOOTH SPACE TODAY!

MARCH 27-28-29, 2001, MIAMI BEACH CONVENTION CENTER, MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, USA

With INDA's largest three-year event sneaking up on us, watching the floor plan change daily as companies reserve their space has become an event unto itself here at INDA headquarters! The main question on everyone's mind is

whether IDEA 2001 will set a new trend for future IDEA shows. With more and more first-time IDEA exhibitors reserving large amounts of floor space, it appears that more companies than ever before are bringing their "products" to next year's show ... not just setting up information booths. INDA has long promoted IDEA as a selling show for machinery and equipment manufacturers, as well as nonwoven roll goods producers and other nonwoven-related products. IDEA 2001 promises to be the show where all that promotion has paid off and large machinery producers will be showcasing complete lines of their equipment!

If your company has not yet reserved their space, it is still not too late. The way the floor plan has shaped up, there does not look to be any bad locations! Make sure your company is part of this history-making show.



**Exhibit with the best nonwoven companies in the world!**

**IF YOU HAVE NOT RESERVED YOUR IDEA 2001 SPACE, SEND IN YOUR BOOTH SIZE REQUIREMENTS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE! PHONE, FAX OR EMAIL MARILYN BELLINGER or TRACEY BAREFOOT: 919-233-1210; FAX: 919-233-1282; mbellinger@inda.org or tbarefoot@inda.org**

## Government Relations Update

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### INDA/CPSC Meeting On Furniture Flammability Highlights Benefits Of Nonwovens

INDA members met with representatives of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission on October 30 to discuss CPSC's development of a national flammability standard for upholstered furniture, along with ways that fire-resistant (FR) nonwovens could be utilized within the standard to minimize damage caused by furniture fires.

During the meeting, INDA noted its concern that laboratory tests under consideration within CPSC that would serve as the underlying basis for a potential standard might not be able to be passed through the use of FR interlinings. To date, in fact, CPSC's attention has focused on a test method that is expected to require that outer fabrics be backcoated with FR chemicals to pass the test. Yet backcoating every fabric used on each piece of upholstered furniture sold in the United States presents a number of logistical, political and practical concerns that could make such a standard unfeasible.

While INDA members noted that nonwoven interlinings may not be able to ensure that furniture fabrics will self-extinguish if ignited in all circumstances (a CPSC goal for the standard), they pointed out that FR nonwoven interlinings can prevent fire from spreading to cushioning and structural components, and thereby eliminate the release of toxic gasses as well as the possibility of flash over. It was also noted that nonwoven interlinings can be used with any type of furniture fabric, that nonwovens are

readily available, and that nonwovens can be made with FR fibers and/or chemically treated such that potentially toxic materials will not be released into the home environment. Moreover, if nonwoven FR interlinings are used as double upholstery (i.e., not laminated to furniture fabric), it was noted that the FR treatment will not be compromised should the furniture fabric be laundered, dry cleaned or have fluid spilled on it.

During the meeting, CPSC staff announced that they are in the final stages of drafting a proposed standard and expect to present their recommendations to the three CPSC Commissioners early next year.

### OSHA Ergonomics Standard Provokes New Controversy

In the closing days of the Clinton Administration, a defiant Occupational Safety and Health Administration is reportedly planning an end-run around Congress by publishing a final rule that would force sweeping requirements on employers throughout the country to protect their workers against repetitive strains caused in the workplace. The rule, which has been in the works for more than eight years and is bitterly opposed by business interests, is estimated to cost American industry at least \$4.5 billion each year to implement.

It would require virtually every employer in the country to make corrective changes in their workplaces if a single worker develops carpal tunnel syndrome, tendinitis or some other injury that has been related to repetitive stress. As such, it is expected to have a significant impact on

hospital, restaurant, grocery, trucking and courier industries, but will also apply to workplaces where employees spend long hours using computers. While several court challenges are planned, the rule is expected to take effect next October.

### U.S. Reaches Free Trade Agreement With Jordan; Mexico Inks Similar Deal With EU Countries

The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) reported on October 24 that a free trade agreement between the U.S. and Jordan had been signed. Under the agreement, duties on virtually all goods traded by the two countries will be eliminated within the next 10 years. The deal also calls for Jordan to open its service markets (finance, telecommunications, etc.) to U.S. companies and contains dispute settlement procedures intended to facilitate the resolution of trade disagreements between the two countries.

Approval by the U.S. Congress is required for the agreement to take effect, however, and Congressional leaders do not intend to begin consideration of the matter early next year.

In somewhat related news, on November 3 the Mexican government finalized a free trade agreement with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA, a group that includes Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) that will completely eliminate tariffs on goods traded between Mexico and EFTA members by 2007. Approval is needed by the legislative bodies of each country and, therefore, implementation of the agreement is not expected before mid-2001.

## International Nonwovens Journal Going Digital In 2001

The world of publishing is changing, as is the way people in every industry are receiving their information. All aspects of business, especially academia and the research community, are embracing new technologies and new ways of communicating with one another.

The global nonwovens community is certainly no exception, and that is the impetus for the *International Nonwovens Journal* taking a step into the future of communications by becoming a strictly digital magazine beginning in 2001. Starting with the March 2001 issue, the *INJ*, published by INDA and sponsored by TAPPI and ANIC, will be available strictly in a digital format through the INDA website at [www.inda.org](http://www.inda.org). (The December, 2000 issue will be printed and distributed in the traditional manner next month.)

"We have polled our members extensively, both in the universities and research institutions as well as the industry in general, and have found a general acceptance of pub-

lishing in a digital format," explained INDA president Ted Wirtz. "The product will be the same, just its delivery different and, we believe, more streamlined."

The *INJ* will look the same as recent issues and will be available at the INDA website in a PDF format, allowing for easy reading and downloading utilizing Adobe Acrobat Reader, a universal software program available for free to everyone. Each issue will be posted to the site and INDA will inform its members and *INJ* subscribers via email as to its availability.

"The *INJ* has been archived on the INDA website for some time now and this is simply taking that process a step further into pure electronic publishing, an advance that is happening in almost every business today," added Michael Jacobsen, INDA Director of Publications Development. "By making the *INJ* available in this manner we can expand its scope and make it even more available to the nonwovens community around the world."

### INTC 2001

#### *The International Nonwovens Technical Conference*

#### Mark Your Calendar for 2001

INTC 2000 Was A Huge Success!

- \* Over 500 People
- \* 70 Speakers

**September 5-7, 2001**  
**Renaissance Harborplace**  
**Baltimore, Maryland**

.....

**Call For Papers For INTC 2001**  
**Visit the INDA website at**  
**[www.inda.org](http://www.inda.org) for details, or call**  
**Deanna Lovell, 919-233-1210, ext. 119**

#### INDA Redesigns Its Website

The INDA website ([www.inda.org](http://www.inda.org)) has been redesigned to better meet the needs of the nonwovens industry. The new format makes it easier for our visitors to maneuver through the site to find what they are looking for.

A new feature of the site is the new "search engine," which allows visitors to search within INDA's site for specific topics such as filtration, diapers, Mexico, etc. The visitor then receives a listing detailing where on the site the topic appears.

This new search engine does not search the Abstract Search Engine (formerly the Bibliography Search), which is a separate search engine set up only for the Conference Papers and the *International Nonwovens Journal*. This search engine allows visitors to search through INDA's past conference papers and view the abstracts for each paper.

#### BANNER ADVERTISING NOW AVAILABLE SITE HITS ARE INCREASING

In the September *INDA News* newsletter, we reported that the average number of hits at [www.inda.org](http://www.inda.org) per business day was 6,000. That number has now increased to 9,000 hits per business day. Thus, INDA's site is receiving 250,000 hits per month ... what a perfect time to advertise on our site. INDA is definitely the best venue to promote your company and your products. Banner advertising is limited, so please contact Cindy Garcia at [cgc Garcia@inda.org](mailto:cgc Garcia@inda.org) for detailed information.

[www.inda.org](http://www.inda.org)

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## INDA Board

Executive Committee  
Leo Cancio, *Chairman*  
President, Clopay Plastic Products

Tom West, *Past Chairman*  
Global Business Director,  
DuPont Nonwovens

Lee Sullivan, *Vice Chairman-Planning*  
GM, Freudenberg Nonwovens

Dennis Tavernetti, *Vice Chairman-Finance*  
Global Vice President, BBA Nonwovens

Walter Jones, CO-CEO & President,  
Precision Fabrics Group, Inc.

Michael J. Hudson, President, Converters/Custom Sterile, Allegiance Healthcare

David Whitley, Business Manager,  
Wellman, Inc.

### Directors

C. Allen Bodford, Vice President,  
First Quality Fibers, Inc.

Bronly Boyd, President, Boyd Converting

Bruce Brazelle, Senior Vice President-Marketing, Leigh Fibers

David Bucheck, Technical Director,  
3M Nonwovens Technology Center

Frank Iezzi, Vice President – Sales,  
Buckeye Technologies

George Kappler, Jr., President,  
Kappler Protective Apparel Fabrics

David L. Lunceford, President,  
HDK industries, Inc.

Klaus G. Maitre, Executive Vice President,  
Dilo System Group

Duncan Middleton, President,  
Dexter Nonwovens

Marvin Mitchell, Vice President & GM,  
Johns Manville Corporation

Todd Piper, Market Manager,  
Dow Chemical USA

Salvador Rojas, General Director,  
Milyon S.A. de CV

Basil "Sonny" B. Walker, Vice President  
Sales & Marketing, DuPont/Akra

Jeffrey N. White, Director of Logistics,  
PGI Nonwovens

C.K. Wong, President, CEO,  
U.S. Pacific Procurement Co.

### INDA Staff

Theodore R. Wirtz  
President, INDA

Wayne Black  
INDA Legal Counsel, Keller & Heckman

## 2000 Winds Down Did You Miss Any New Publications?

As the year is coming to a close, we'd like to list our publications that came out in late 1999 and in 2000, in hopes that you didn't miss out on buying any of them. Visit our website at [www.inda.org/pubs/pubs.html](http://www.inda.org/pubs/pubs.html) for order forms or contact Ann Pleasants at [apleasants@inda.org](mailto:apleasants@inda.org).

*International Nonwovens Directory* (hardcopy-released late 1999)  
*Nonwovens Handbook* (released fall of 1999)  
*Global Comparison of Test Methods* (March 2000)  
*Spunbonded and Melt Blown Handbook* (2000)  
*Analysis of the Nonwovens Industry in North America 2000*  
*E-Filter Newsletter* (January 2000)  
*On-Line International Nonwovens Directory* (Fall 2000)  
*Filtration Handbook* (Winter 2000)  
*INTC 2000 Book of Papers* (September 2000)

### Buy One Directory Get One Free

Special offer available for a limited time only, buy one copy of the *International Nonwovens Directory* (Volume XV, 1999-2001) and get one copy free. Visit our website at [www.inda.org/pubs/nwdir/intord.html](http://www.inda.org/pubs/nwdir/intord.html) to download order form or contact Ann Pleasants at [apleasants@inda.org](mailto:apleasants@inda.org).

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Cary, NC 27512

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