

## IN BRIEF

- The California Environmental Protection Agency's Air Resources Board (ARB) has verified **Donaldson Company Inc's** diesel particulate matter low temperature filter (LTF) muffler for 1994-2006 model year non-EGR diesel engines used in on-road applications operating on ultra low sulfur diesel fuel. "Donaldson is proud to receive this verification from ARB," said Fred Schmidt, director of sales - Emissions Group at Donaldson. "The Level 3 verification of the LTF muffler complements our retrofit product line, providing our customers a wider selection of products to meet the ARB diesel reduction requirements. The Donaldson LTF muffler, used with or without the patented Spiracle crankcase filter system, utilises a durable, patent pending design to effectively reduce particulate matter emissions."
- **Orelis SAS** has merged with its parent company Applexion SAS. The Saint Maurice de Beynost site in France becomes a commercial and industrial enterprise of Applexion, while maintaining its sales, production, engineering, research and development activities.
- **H<sub>2</sub>O Innovation (2000) Inc** has granted 190 000 share purchase options to its directors and selected key personnel, in accordance with the terms and conditions of its share option plan.
- **Flottweg GmbH & Co's** new building in Vilsbiburg, Germany should be ready to move into in March 2007. The 1600 sq m facility will house the final inspection of centrifuges, rotor balancing, storage, receiving and testing, and the repair department.

the TSX Venture Exchange. Seprotech is listed on the TSX Venture Exchange under the ticker symbol SET.

### GE, TEXAS TECH TO DEVELOP AFFORDABLE DESAL

**GE Global Research is partnering with Texas Tech University to develop affordable water desalination systems to increase the quantity and quality of clean water available in arid areas around the United States and globally.**

The GE-Texas Tech partnership will focus on the integration of renewable energy systems, such as wind turbines, with membrane desalination processes. The development of the integrated renewable energy-water system has the potential to significantly reduce the cost of creating new sources of freshwater from impaired resources, such as brackish water, by directly addressing energy costs.

The partnership is part of GE's company-wide ecomagination initiative, where the company is working closely with its customers and other key partners to bring to market new technologies that address pressing environmental challenges and growing water scarcity concerns. Under the initiative, GE has pledged to more than double its level of investment in the development of cleaner energy technologies, from US\$700 million to US\$1.5 billion over the next five years.

"Up to 50% of the operating costs of desalination is derived from energy consumption. With the potential for large variability in energy costs due to fuel price volatility, desalination systems can have significant operational costs. The integration of wind energy provides an opportunity to mitigate this variability and

allow for a lower cost desalination system," explained Dr Minesh Shah, project leader, GE Global Research.

The focus of the research partnership will be the integrated control and optimisation of the two systems to improve operations, reduce capital costs and reduce energy consumption. This would help to improve the commercialisation of a renewable energy-water system. The program also aims to develop a commercial scale demonstration within the next few years.

### AHLSTROM TEAMS UP WITH ARGONIDE

**Ahlstrom has signed an exclusive licensing agreement with the Argonide Corp to manufacture and commercialise their patented electropositive nano fibre filter media.**

The new Ahlstrom Disruptor nanoalumina filter product is based on Argonide technology developed through basic research over the last five years. The development was partially funded by NASA, aimed at purifying recycled water in advanced space vehicles. Ahlstrom and Argonide have been working closely together to obtain independent test data validating the effectiveness of the technology and to initiate the commercialisation process.

Disruptor is a wet laid technology that is designed to be used in pleated, spiral wound, disc or flat sheet media formats. The key to the Disruptor is the grafting of alumina nanofibers onto microglass fiber. The microglass fiber acts as a platform for the nanoalumina while also enhancing flow rates through the creation of pore space and providing mechanical retention for large or uncharged particles. The

nanoalumina fibers are approximately 2nm in diameter and several hundred nm in length, having a typical surface area of 350-500 m<sup>2</sup> per gram. Disruptor technology can remove a wide range of contaminants from water including bacteria, virus; metals such as lead iron, tin, copper, chrome 3, and aluminum as well as colloidal minerals such as carbon dust and silica.

Ahlstrom says that the Disruptor is an alternative filter media to membranes for many applications including Point Of Entry and Point Of Use potable water, pharmaceutical make up water, boiler feed water, chiller water, metals removal from waste water; filtration of gelatin, inks, starch, carbon, paint pigments and many other industrial and pharmaceutical processes.

### CUMMINS OPENS EXHAUST AFTER-TREATMENT UNIT

**Cummins Emission Solutions' North American exhaust aftertreatment manufacturing facility has started producing the diesel particulate filters that will help engine manufacturers to meet the 2007 US EPA emissions standards.**

Those standards will reduce particulate matter emissions in on-highway diesel-powered vehicles by 90%, while also resulting in a significant reduction in nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions.

"Cummins Emission Solutions has the right technology to allow our engine and vehicle customers to meet these challenges reliably and cost effectively, and that technology is ready for the market," said Mike Cross, general manager of Cummins Emission Solutions. "Catalytic exhaust systems may be considered something of a new technology for medium- and

heavy-duty diesel engines, but they certainly are not new for this facility or Cummins Emission Solutions.”

### OILFIELD DESAL TECHNOLOGY LICENSED

**Texas A&M University has agreed to commercialise a desalination process technology with GeoPure Water Technologies LLC.**

The technology, which was developed by Texas A&M researchers, is designed to provide quality drinking water from brine produced during petroleum drilling, stimulation and production operations. The technology was developed by a joint venture between industry, the US government and a team of researchers from GPRI, the Texas Water Resources Institute, the Harold Vance Department of Petroleum Engineering and the Institute for Food Science and Engineering at Texas A&M developed the technology.

GeoPure will offer the GPRI Design Desalination Technology to the petroleum industry for the effective resource management of produced water in oil and gas operations.

### HAMWORTHY OPENS MIDDLE EAST OFFICE

**Hamworthy's new office in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates - Hamworthy Middle East (HME) - has been**

**opened to improve Hamworthy's customer support to the Middle East market.**

“This latest development increases Hamworthy's ongoing rapid growth and ensures its presence among its key markets within the Middle East,” said Roar Olsen, HME's general manager. “We will be delighted to serve our customers with planned maintenance, as well as urgent delivery of service and spare parts. Dubai, Fujairah and Qatar are strategic ports of call for many of our customers. We have also opened this office to better serve customers such as Qatargas, which will have many LNG carriers delivered with Hamworthy equipment and systems over the next few years.”

HME offers planned maintenance according to an owner's requirements. Depending on the degree of maintenance achieved while a ship is in operation, intervals vary between one and five years. Defined maintenance intervals have been developed for the best balance between maintenance costs and plant reliability. HME's service agreements include planned maintenance, spare part discounts, free 24-hour telephone service, and priority when service is required.

### ITT ANNOUNCES US\$1 BN SHARE REPURCHASE PROGRAM

**The ITT Corp board of directors has authorised the company to repurchase up to US\$1 billion of its common stock from time to time**

**in the open market. The repurchases will occur over a period of up to three years.**

“This share repurchase program is consistent with ITT's commitment to a balanced and disciplined capital allocation process,” explained George Minnich, senior vice president and chief financial officer. “Our capital priorities are centered on those investments necessary to grow our businesses organically and through acquisitions, while also providing cash returns to shareholders. With our strong balance sheet and robust cash flow generation, we continue to support our growth priorities while returning additional cash to shareholders through the repurchase program announced today.”

This program replaces the company's current practice which has been to cover the shares granted or exercised in the context of ITT's performance incentive plans. In the nine months to 30 September 2006, ITT repurchased 2.5 million shares for US\$136.4 million.

### MET-PRO REVISES PENSION PLAN

**Met-Pro Corp is freezing its current defined-benefit pension plans and replacing them with a defined-contribution plan for all its salaried and non-union hourly employees effective 31 December 2006.**

The company has already closed its pension plans to all employees hired after

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- **Daikin Industries Ltd** has concluded its mandatory general offer for **OYL Industries Bhd** shares. As a result, Daikin has acquired about 99.3% of OYL shares (see *Filtration Industry Analyst*, November, September and June 2006). OYL is the parent company of **AAF Filtration**.
- **Groupe Laperriere & Verreault Inc** chairman and chief executive officer Laurent Verreault, president and chief operating officer Richard Verreault, vice-president and co-chief financial officer Marc Barbeau, and vice-president, corporate development Mike Froud, will give a series of corporate and financial presentations for investors in several Canadian and US cities between 4–15 December 2006. A copy of the presentation is available on the company's website at [www.glv.com](http://www.glv.com).
- Based on **Larox Corp's** share issue to top management in 2004, 27 075 of the subscribed B-series shares were released for trading together with other Larox B-series shares on 1 December 2006. A total of 108 300 B-series shares were subscribed.
- **Parker Hannifin Corp** saw a 6% increase in total orders for the month of October compared with a year ago. Orders in the Industrial North America segment were flat versus October 2005, while orders in the Industrial International segment increased 13% over the same time frame.