



FilterTalk

FRESH NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM FILTERCORP INTERNATIONAL LTD • SUMMER 2003

Stellar is a real star

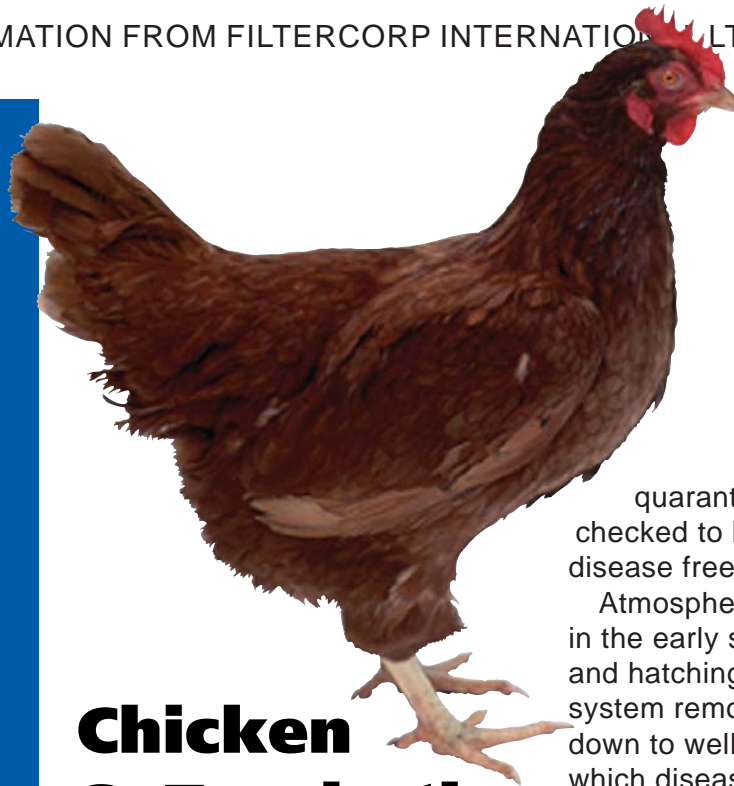
Stellar by name, Stellar by shape and our new range of MK2 pleated filter bags are going to be a star in the performance stakes.

Six years of continuous development and improvement have created a pleated bag with unique features.



PTFE impregnated media coupled with sonically welded bands and a pleat configuration based on extensive industry experience has created a pleated bag with increased surface area. Stellar operates at very low-pressure drops, shedding dust or product, and performs year in and year out.

If you have yet to discover the Stellar 2, call us at Filtercorp for an amazing demonstration.



Chicken & Egg both come first

Ever wondered why Tegel chicken is meatier? It's the result of careful cross breeding of some of the world's leading strains imported to produce birds that eat less ... yet grow bigger.

Quarantine atmospheric protection is provided throughout incubation and hatching by Filtercorp.

The breeding programme starts with tens of thousands of eggs imported each year from Scotland, and more recently Canada and the USA for incubation and hatching at Ross Poultry Quarantine Farm, a Division of Tegel, at Ngongotaha near Rotorua.

Farm Manager Colin Phillips says that under our bio-security regime, the eggs and resulting chicks have to be treated as "contaminated" and are strictly

quarantined until bloods are checked to be contaminant and disease free.

Atmospheric filtration is crucial in the early stages of incubation and hatching. The Filtercorp system removes dust particles down to well below the level at which diseases can be transmitted.

The system comprises pre filters in the hatchery shed to remove dust particles stirred up by the young birds. There are also filter banks and 12 box type hepa filters providing protection against contaminants.

Apart from providing better quality stock for local consumption the breeding programme also supports a little publicised multi-million dollar export industry that could be jeopardised if struck by disease.

Three generations on from the imported strains, eggs from their progeny are exported to the Middle East, Malaysia and the Pacific – some 360,000 a year to Turkey alone – for further crossbreeding and production.

Colin Phillips says the Filtercorp system is rigorously and regularly tested by MAF officers and there have been no problems at all ... it's performed to expectations!



Forres' Feedback



Our Newsletter was created to give you an insight into what Filtercorp is all about.

During our 27 years in business under the ownership of the McPheat family, we have provided technical information as well as engineering solutions to most of the companies in the filtration business in NZ today.

We were the first company to introduce ptfе membranes, snap-tex seals, micro-denier fibres, pleated bags, anti-static felts, electronic pressure sensors, Aerovane headers, and many other lesser innovations to the New Zealand market.

Like many of our clients, research and development is a vital part of our business. At present we have eight new projects under development ranging from a completely new concept of moisture resistant filter media to a break-through in bag house inlet design.

Ken Skinner our Engineering Manager and Sales Manager Blair McPheat were recently in Europe working with Nordic who manufacture our pleated bags. There, they developed a pleated CIP (Clean In Place) bag for the world wide dairy industry.

And that's just one of the innovations you'll either be seeing soon or will read about in this issue of Filter Talk.

Over the next 12 months we will introduce the most exciting new filtration products that have ever been seen in New Zealand.

Naturally we're proud that they've all been developed here at Filtercorp.

Ciao for now!

NEWS FROM THE FILTERWORLD

As you read this, our latest Clear-Flex 060 flexible connectors and sleeves are being launched in Australia for use on all types of vibrating and gyrating equipment such as sifters, screeners, feeders and conveyors. And to meet demand (that in New Zealand alone rapidly outstripped production capacity), we've imported the latest, higher capacity welding equipment to increase volume and produce longer connectors – up to 1.2 metres.

The 060 connectors evolved from the highly successful 020 series. They're made from clear polyurethane that has proven to be far superior to any rubber or fabric alternatives used for the same purpose.

The 060 features seamless welding, superior abrasion resistance, smooth internal and external surfaces that reduce product entrapment and contamination. And they're transparent – with full visual flow offering better process control.



Filtercorp has solved the problem of filter bags getting wet in static collectors and blocking up with the development of a moisture proof media.

Through our research into the best media for CIP (Clean In Place) bags we discovered a new process in Europe. It involves media being impregnated with permeable PTFE creating a product that breathes at a conventional rate but resists the ingress of moisture.

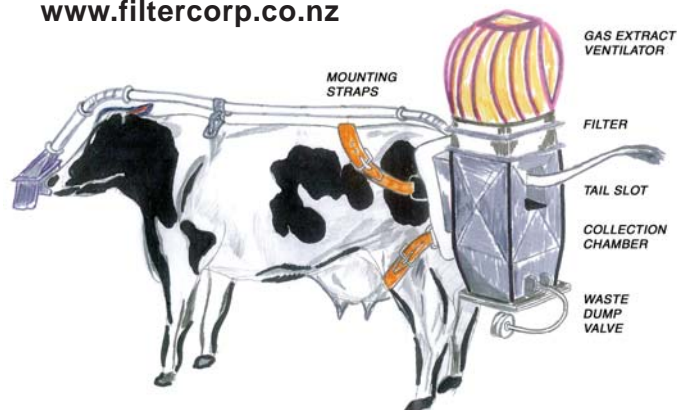
This is not a coating or a laminate but rather a homogenous blending of fibre and PTFE.

Two grades are available FM-T or SB-T, which is the basis of our new STELLAR 2 range of pleated bags.

In Denmark recently, Filtercorp's Blair McPheat and Ken Skinner researched ways to improve the standard pleated filter elements that have proved so successful over the past seven or so years. But with all the technology they saw, no one had created anything that provided as many solutions as the concept Filtercorp engineers had in mind.

And that's why a revolutionary new kind of filter element is on the drawing board as you read this. As it will be very different from anything you may have used before, we are also working on a dust collector design to capitalise on the new filter design's benefits. Watch this space.

Filtercorp's new website will be up and running for the summer – giving you access to the widest range of filtration products and services in the country. Visit www.filtercorp.co.nz



Just as the fart tax was leaving a bad smell around the place, Peter James at Stainless Steel Specialties (1997) Ltd in Warkworth (North Auckland) suggested we invent a fart filter for cows. Our R & D boffins spent an exhausting tea break at a cost of almost three million dollars to create the new Filtercorp Phew Fighter. It incorporates an exhaust pipe with a vertical stack including XB 17 and a HEPA filter, and a mask of odorsorb. Oh, and there's also a dump valve. During trials it successfully filtered, captured and bagged the gas emitted – and automatically sent it to parliament for recycling.

Thanks Peter – you've won yourself a Parker gift pen.

Sonic Silo Vent

Beat this: in 1997 Filtercorp's newly developed sonic silo vent was installed at one of the busiest hardest working cement sites in the country (Stevenson's). Normally you'd expect some maintenance work to be required given its operating environment. But now nearly 7 years later, it's still operating at 100% efficiency ... and it's never been touched! We knew it was good when it was launched – after all it was designed for low maintenance economical operation and it was self-cleaning. And its design was hailed at the time as a complete technological breakthrough. But even we've been surprised.

The SSV system was developed to replace the traditional green bag silo venting system in industries requiring cost effectiveness ... such as conveying cement, flour, milk powder and other bulk powders.



DDO's OK!

Some of our people sacrifice weekends or private time to get jobs done ... and ask nothing in return.

Appreciating the importance of their contribution we created DDO's – or Directors' Days Off. What it means for some is a four-day weekend at Labour weekend ... or an extra day off when they do decide to take time off. Long weekends for example. It's our way of saying thanks to our team – without whom we could not maintain our reputation for service!

Penmanship!

Enjoy this issue of Filter Talk? Then email or fax your feedback to us before December 20 and you're in the draw to win a brilliant Parker pen. Last issue's winner was **Dave Helg of Marley** in Auckland.

Congratulations and thanks for your comments.

The Unfiltered Truth

Filtercorp Financial Controller Melanie van Buuren reflects on how things have changed!

When I started my business career as an articled clerk in an accounting firm, the dress code for a man was trousers, jacket and tie. For a woman, dress and stockings had to be worn at all times, no matter how hot it was – try Zambia at 38 degrees Celsius.

Every one senior to you was addressed as Mr or Mrs/ Miss so and so. There was no such thing as first name basis so commonly used today.

Women in the profession were still a rarity. When I was promoted to an audit senior conducting my own audits, one of my clients was a professional businessmen's club. When I arrived at the front door of the premises to conduct the audit, I was rapidly shown to the back door – the women's entrance!

I recall writing my final exams in a huge hall under strict supervision. The writing desks were old-style with the desk and chair attached to one another – no way I could fit into the confined space, as I was 8 months pregnant!

Many clients used our firm to write up and prepare their final accounts. Each year one particular farmer would bring in his 'accounts' consisting of a brown cardboard suitcase that seemed to contain every single piece of paper he had ever received over the previous year, including wedding invitations.

Gone are the days of written ledgers, telex machines, huge debtor ageing machines, hand pulled calculators and a computer (with revolving reels of tape) that took up office space of at least 72 square metres. Mind you, if the electricity went down, you were still able to carry on working in your written ledger. Hang on, maybe that is one very good thing to have changed. Now when the electricity goes down, I can sit around doing nothing along with the rest of the staff!!!!!!

When the dust settles

City Care – as its name might suggest – is in the business of caring.

From bases in Christchurch and Auckland, City Care's 500 staff care for such things as water and wastewater network maintenance and construction, parks and waterways maintenance, landscape design and road construction and maintenance.

It was to help keep roading asphalt production environmentally clean that Bitumen Equipment Ltd, a main contractor to City Care, called in Filtercorp.

The City Care plant in Christchurch dries aggregate before it is combined with black bitumen to produce asphalt. But the drying process creates dust. And the wet scrubber used previously did not meet Resource consent requirements.

So Filtercorp's Ken Skinner was contacted about a bag house. The job needed precise site measurements and drawings to facilitate the installation – something Filtercorp took on when City Care people were tied up on a large project in Australia.

Using information supplied by City Care from their stack emission tests we initially quoted on a 3.3m³/s high temperature bag house. But while measuring the exhaust stack we discovered that the main duct to the wet scrubber was almost blocked with wet grit, restricting the airflow, making it impossible to carryout any sensible measurement.

After City Care had the duct cleaned out and independently airflow tested, the bag house requirement turned out to be 5.2m³/s; an increase of nearly 60%.

In June 2003 the new bag house became reality. Now, when the dust is emitted from the aggregate during drying, it's collected by Filtercorp bags ... and added back to the bitumen during asphalt production. No dust. No residue discharged into the atmosphere.

We're pleased to say the stack has clearly had no visible emissions and the operators are enjoying the cleaner working environment.



Thought for the Season

There are many ways to measure success, not the least of which is the way your child describes you when talking to a friend. – Unknown.

FILTERPEOPLE

Well-known Agriquality NZ (formerly MAF Quality Management) senior food quality specialist **Russell James** has joined us as Technical Sales and Fonterra Support Waikato and Taranaki Representative. Prior to joining MAF, Russell was Production Manager, Cream Products, Alpine Dairy Products (Tai Tapu Dairy Co) following some years with NZ Dairy Research Institute and Northland Dairy Co-op. A background that sees him well qualified to meet our dairy industry clients' needs.



Paul Hill has been promoted to Technical Sales and Fonterra Support South Island. Paul brings to Filtercorp clients extensive business, construction and civil engineering knowledge. He began his career in Christchurch as a draughtsman for five years with Powell Fenwick Consulting Engineers. After moving to

the UK, he worked with Kee Klamps, and returned home to become NZ Distributor for that company. Some years later he was headhunted to set up a Hamilton company promoting industrial spray nozzles and related equipment, where he spent five years before joining Filtercorp.

Kevin McPheat is now Company Operations Manager – moving on from his former position as Engineering Sales Manager. The role sees him responsible for company internal activities. Blair McPheat is responsible for all external activities. Forres simply continues to be responsible.

Rallying to the cause

It's not uncommon for us to work weekends. And so we were there when Ross Poultry rang urgently from Rotorua needing pocket bags. But how could we deliver after hours? No problem said our in-house 4wd off-road racer **Graham Pike**. He just happened to be heading to a competition in the vicinity of Ross Poultry in Rotorua.

And so it was that within 12 hours a hot 4wd crammed to the roof with pocket bags raced into Ross Poultry's property. Our candid photographer just happened to catch the action as the vehicle sailed into their entrance.



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