NANOCERAM® FILTERS
Winner of 2005 Space Foundation Hall of Fame Award

Argonide Corporation, Sanford, Florida
www.argonide.com
About Argonide

• Founded in 1994 to develop nano powders using technology developed in former USSR – we make and sell nanopowders for several developing applications

• In 2000 we invented the NanoCeram® filter media based on a nano alumina fiber

• Supported by NASA SBIR for purifying recycled water in space, as well as the Depart. Energy, Air Force and EPA

• We have a US and EU patent and others in process

• Our water filter got the 2005 Hall of Fame award from the Space Foundation

• An arsenic sorbent will be available in 2007

• Air filters are in development
NanoCeram® Electrostatic Filters

- Filters sub-micron particles with high efficiency, and at a high flowrate
- Its active ingredient is a nano alumina fiber that is charged and attracts particles like a magnet
- Retains all types of particles including silica, natural organic matter, metals, carbon, bacteria, DNA and virus.

- Pleated filter cartridges are now being sold for industrial, commercial and residential applications
- Thicker filter developed for filter/sterilizing drinking water
- A high capacity air filter, capable of HEPA/ULPA rating, is under development
The nano alumina (AlOOH) fiber is only 2 nanometers in diameter, smaller than a carbon tube and about the size of a DNA molecule.

The nano fibers are highly electropositive.
A major cost barrier was overcome when we produced our media at a paper mill.
Features and Benefits

- Flow rates tens to hundreds of times greater than membranes
- Separates sub-micron particles by charge rather than size
- Higher filtration efficiency than membrane filters
- Resistant to clogging by fine and ultra fine particles
### Zeta Potential & Virus Removal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NanoCeram® Wt % on Supporting Fiber</th>
<th>Potential, mV</th>
<th>Virus Retention (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>-35</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>94</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>&gt;99.9999</td>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>&gt;99.9999</td>
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</table>

Zeta potential becomes positive with increasing nano alumina and this causes a marked increase in virus (MS2) retention.
Filtering Dirt Particles

(A2 Fine Test Dust)

Its dirt holding capacity (life) is almost twenty times greater than microglass filter media and 300 times greater than either meltblown or membrane media. This results in remarkable savings when filtering colloids.
Comparison of Flow Capacity

NanoCeram® can support a much higher flowrate than those filters rated at 1µm pore size or less.
A 5” cartridge was challenged by 250 NTU of fine test dust (equivalent to a very muddy river) at 1.5 gallons/min. At end of test it had filtered out ¼ pound of dust, removing it all (>99.996%). A significant application is the sampling of municipal, well water and seawater for virus contamination.
RNA Filtration

DNA and RNA are filtered much like viruses. The thicker the filter, the higher is its filtration efficiency.
Nano ink adsorption – Slide # 1

A pigment nano-ink with a particle size of about 2 nm was diluted until it was transparent.
When forced through a 25 nm ultraporous (UP) membrane (Millipore VS), the back pressure was very high. The small amount of ink that passed through the membrane was as colored as the influent.

After the test, the UP filter showed very little color change.
When the ink was injected through the NanoCeram® filter, the back pressure was low and filtration was easy. Yet the effluent came out water white. The filter (above) was intensely colored, proving that it retained the nano ink.
Pleated Nanoceram® Cartridges

2.5” diameter cartridges – 5” and 10” long (P2.5-5 and P2.5-10) are shown.

4.5” diameter X 10” long (P4.5-10) is also shown

The smallest unit is a prototype
We can improve on HEPA two ways. We can achieve ULPA rating, either by substituting NanoCeram (AF 16) or by adding it as a pre filter to a HEPA filter.
Life of NanoCeram vs HEPA

The life under load is also many times greater than HEPA
Applications

- **Drinking water**
  - Portable hand held for campers, military, emergency water
  - Point of Use (at kitchen sink, pitcher, refrigerator)
  - Point of Entry
  - Emergency water systems
  - 3rd World (village wells)

- **Pre filter for reverse osmosis, ultraviolet and ozone water purifiers**

- **Purifying coolants**
  - Removing Legionella from HVAC
  - Filtering metal working coolants

- **Purification of bio/pharma fluids** – removal of endotoxin, virus, etc

- **Separation of proteins**
Other Applications

- Swimming pools and spas
- Processing food and drink
- Biological and virus detection schemes (SBIR program in progress)
- Biological warfare filters
- Improved air filter (SBIR in progress) with 10 times HEPA life
- Proprietary medical wound dressings
Alfox™ Arsenic Filter Media

- New EPA regulations reduces arsenic level from 50 to 10 ppb effective Jan 06
- 11+ million US households affected
- Ecological disaster in S E Asia affecting tens of millions
- Under EPA SBIR we developed granular (nano) media
- Arsenic capacity of Alfox™ is 3-4 times the dynamic capacity vs competitive sorbents
Business Plan

- Develop distribution partners for industrial (pleated) filters
- Obtain NSF certification of POU (virus) filter
- Scale up POU manufacture
- Develop POE, refrigerator, pitcher, portable drinking water filters
- Develop distribution partners in the diverse markets
Argonide Corporation
Sanford, Florida
(407) 322-2500
Info@argonide.com
www.argonide.com