



## Media Release

### IFC Initiates Landmark Fibre and Textile Filter Knowledge and Skills Training Program

**Monday June 21, 2010.** International Fibre Centre (IFC) CEO Mr. Joseph Merola confirmed IFC has initiated and will fund an extensive training program to enhance knowledge and expertise for industry stakeholders across the filter media supply chain.

The landmark initiative of high level interactive and industry specific learning workshops will be managed and coordinated by the Filtration and Separation Association of Australasia (FSAA) and will bring together the capabilities and insights of –

- CSIRO Materials Science & Engineering,
- Deakin University Centre for Material & Fibre Innovation,
- The Gordon Institute,
- University of Melbourne School of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, and the
- Technical Textiles & Nonwoven Association (TTNA)

“New and innovative applications for fibres and textiles that provide industrial filtration and separation solutions for a rapidly growing number of industries have increased significantly in recent years,” said Mr. Merola.

“Technological and engineering fibre and textile advances are being utilised in metalworking, water, wastewater, chemical, mining and steel industries to improve production processes, remove solids and contaminants, recycle water, meet environmental and disposal guidelines, increase production, improve product quality, reduce energy consumption – and the list of uses continues to evolve and advance.”

Whilst filtration is not a new application for fibres and textiles, the higher education and vocational learning providers have not been keeping pace with rapid scientific and engineering advances.

Furthermore, enquires and research confirmed that no such industry filtration specific training program as proposed by the IFC currently exists in Australia or overseas. This void requires local graduates to personally undertake ‘join the dots’ activities in order to improve their knowledge and expertise in usage and application of fibres and textiles in the filtration process.

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In support of IFC's initiative, FSAA's Mr. Robert Bell said Australia currently has an international marketplace advantage as the mining and power generating industries (although they sit outside the traditional fibre and textile industry networks) were in fact significant users of filtration media and driving many of the new technological and engineering applications.

"The Victorian Fibre and Textile Industry Filtration Media training program will be delivered in a multi disciplined format that ensures a balance between practical workplace experience and knowledge dissemination," said Mr. Bell.

"Through a collaborative approach that will optimise available capabilities of the learning and association stakeholders, each workshop will be a standalone component but interconnected with the other units so that participants can select the module (s) best suited to their business and industry's requirements."

The workshop program will encompass the following –

- Workshop / Topic 1 Flow properties of textile fibres and materials used in filter media products
- Workshop / Topic 2 Release properties of textile fibres and materials used in filter media products and how to achieve improved performance.
- Workshop / Topic 3 Tenacity and elasticity properties of textile fibres and materials used in filter media products
- Workshop / Topic 4 Chemical resistance of textile fibres and materials used in filter media products

"The use of fibres and textiles to provide robust, environmentally friendly and effective high tech commercial and industrial solutions is growing at an unprecedented rate within Australian and overseas."

"IFC continues to provide an important industry benefit by facilitating industry and higher learning provider partnerships to develop sector specific training programs that will position Victoria's leading manufacturers for long term, sustainable commercial success and growth," concluded Mr. Merola.

## **Ends**

Issued by the International Fibre Centre      [www.ifc.net.au](http://www.ifc.net.au)

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