

## MICREX ANNOUNCES A NEW 124" CONTRACT MICROCREPING CAPACITY

A continuing trend in nonwovens is to increase production efficiency and lower cost by making them wider. Our response has been the installation of a new 3.15-meter (124 inch, 120 inch working width) Micrex®/Microcreper at our facility outside of Boston. It will serve as a confidential testing resource for those companies interested in testing the Micrex Process at maximum width. Start-up will be in November 2003.

One example of the need for a wide Microcreper -- some geotextiles are over 100" wide with important performance requirements such as toughness. After Microcreping, geotextiles could have the stretch to provide doubled toughness (area under the tensile break curve). It's an interesting opportunity to add previously unavailable properties, improve performance and do so faster and less expensively than developing a totally new product. For information about this machine see <http://www.micrex.com/newsletter.htm>.

Contact Micrex if you have a wide nonwoven that might be run on our new 3.15 meter line.

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### New Microcreping Ideas

Microcreping polypropylene nonwovens historically resulted in a harsh, stiffened web because frictional heat melts PP fibers. We now have two methods to Microcrepe PP fabrics without generating excessive heat giving polypropylene softness, thickness, stretch, drape and hand without melting fibers.

Products that absorb oil, water, or other liquids usually increase in volume. A Microcreped nonwoven cover wrap can stretch as much as (but not more than) needed to accommodate the volume increase. The stretch will allow internal expansion until maximum capacity is reached. Think of it as a one way stretch nonwoven knit.

All cellulose fibers (e.g., pulp, rayon) are usually thought to be impossible to keep in the creped position when wet because water relaxes them and crepe patterns are lost. But, add as little as 20% thermoplastic fiber or a film to hold the creped shape and suddenly the problem of pattern retention when wet is solved.

Plastic film and film / nonwoven composites have great potential to be improved. Microcreping can easily result in 100% MD stretch, much greater thickness and Z direction cushioning. Crepe pattern hills and valleys allow the film to breathe by allowing air to circulate underneath to prevent anaerobic bacterial growth. It's a way to add valuable enhancements to commodity film without the expense of creating a totally new product.

Show Your Next Customer How Versatile Your Roll Goods Are!

Micrex is getting an early start on preparing for INDA'S Idea show in Miami. We plan to feature a variety of customers roll goods both before and after Microcreping. Our intention is to show visitors how a good nonwoven can be converted into a higher value specialty product. Even if you have never had

your roll goods Microcreped before, we invite you to send us sample rolls to display. It's a no cost opportunity to exhibit your product. However, space may be limited so don't wait until the last minute! The categories we have in mind and a few examples are:

\* Spunlace wipes, medical, personal care, cosmetic, including PET, PP and fiber blends.

\* Spunbond; both light and heavy grades using PET, PP, & Nylon. Applications range from top sheet to geotextiles and any of the alphabet soup of combinations e.g. SMS, MSM, SSS, etc. are candidates.

\* Thermal bond; ex. thin grades made thicker, low stretch grades made to stretch up to 300%+ (and if you run your lines fast, we might even cover some of the holes).

\* Wet lay; softened to be more like cloth and less like paper, with better hand, drape, and lots of stretch so they conform to curved objects. Or make filters with much greater surface area and increased internal volume to lower Delta P and increase collection capacity.

\* Film and film composites; examples include packaging covers and separator sheets with greater thickness and less cohesion, wipes with a built in protective barrier layer and greater burst resistance, or a new stretch envelope that expands on demand.

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We look forward to discussing how we can enhance your products using The Micrex Process. For information on our free trial program please see <http://www.micrex.com/trial.htm>.

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