



# *The Institute For Briquetting and Agglomeration*

September 2006

IBA WEBSITE: [www.agglomeration.org](http://www.agglomeration.org)

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## FROM BILL'S DESK:

### **ANOTHER LOOK AT THE 2006 POWDER SHOW**

Not my take on the show, but that of a member of the Powder & Bulk Engineering editorial advisory board, James L. Davis, of Procter & Gamble, in a recent editorial in P&BE. He was basically informative and positive in his comments in general, the ability to (re)connect with vendors in particular fields of interest, update on new developments and lay the groundwork for possible future purchase. He concluded by saying, in his commentary, that the exhibits covered one floor of the Rosemont Convention Center, recalling that in an earlier year visit, "this show was huge, spanned two floors and required two hours just to walk all of the aisles...." He also stated, that a sales contact for a key vendor indicated, that attendance has dropped off significantly since 1998.

I did not visit the show this year, having attended for many consecutive shows since show No. 2 as exhibitor, conference participant and seminar presenter. My vote in favor of biennial shows, which is now the practice, was based on the hope, that more "really new" innovations would result in a two-year span, as many other vendors and visitors also seemed to suggest, to avoid "same old – same old" reaction.

The editorial concludes by asking, in the light of reduced attendance numbers, how industry people these days keep current. Is it increased use of the Internet, local sales reps, publications, such as P&BE. Last sentence reads, addressing the readers: "How do you find out about new equipment in the powder industry? Do you care?"

After a telephone conversation with writer Jim Davis, I commented in writing to him, speaking as AME Pittsburgh, not IBA, that I believe this to be the result of increased information by Internet, company websites, CDE presentations and – perhaps – the effect of downsizing of

companies, with less key people available to do the work, train others and attend shows. Perhaps, some key specialized seminars by academia, consulting companies and vendors also offer 1-3 day in-depth education and demonstration.

At this time, the drop in attendance mentioned by the writer may be a one-time blip, but perhaps worth the questions above.

If you, IBA members and Newsletter readers, wish to give your take on this or related experiences, please contact Tom Feldkamp at IBA (tnfeldkamp@centurytel.net) or this writer at AME Pittsburgh (Fax 412-264-4902). Remember: **“Agglomerate and Communicate!”**

### **SOCMA, ANYONE?**

Yes, SOCMA, which stands for Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers Association, Washington, D.C. As mentioned in Chemical Processing, August 2006, pp. 36-39, there was a February 2005 trade show in Orlando, featuring 500 exhibitors, 4000 attendees, with particular emphasis on custom manufacturing and toll processing. Specific company highlights featured among others, grinding, jet milling, classifying, drying, paste/cake to powder conversion, evaporation and fractionation. Toll services covered the field from expanded lab and pilot plant runs, to full-scale tonnage and repeat contract work in the U.S. and Europe (Denmark, Germany, as examples). SOCMA, which calls this show “informEx”, [www.informex.com](http://www.informex.com), will next present such information in China, November 8-9, 2006.

### **READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 2006, CHEMICAL PROCESSING**

We reported last year's awards. This time 285 readers returned their ballots, based on a blank survey (no pre-selected candidates list). Out of 46 different categories, we mention the following:

- Catalysts: BASF/Engelhard 20%, UOP 6%, Degussa 6%, Sued Chemie 5%
- Dryers: Niro 14%, Wyssmont 8%, Ingersoll-Rand 5%
- Dust Controls: Donaldson Torit 31%, MidroPul 9%, Flex-Kleen 6%
- Engineering Design Service: Flour Daniel 15%, Jacobs 7%
- Feeders: K-Tron 17%, Acrison 8%, Accu-Rate/Schenck 8%
- Filtration: Siemens/US Filter 18%, Pall Filter 17%, 3M 8%
- Flow Instrum.: Emerson Process Management 54%, Endress-Hauser 11%, Honeywell 6%
- Mixing Systems: Lightnin/SPX 39%, Chemineer 9%, Philadelphia 5%
- Pneumatics: Dynamic Air 19%, Conair 5%, Smoot 5%, Zeppelin 5%
- Process Automation: Emerson 32%, Honeywell 23%, ABB 14%, Rockwell/Allen-Bradley 7%
- Screening: Sweco 31%, Rotex 20%, Kason 12%
- Weighing: Mettler Toledo 43%, Sartorius 8%, Rice Lake 6%

## **PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING, JAN. 2006, VOL. 5, ISSUE I**

What a way to start the year with a jolt, in the first issue, with a story, headlined “Building Community in an Age of Anxiety” including the line that there are no guarantees of job security for anyone anywhere anymore. How’s that for alliteration? Citing the gentler era, Merck as an example, when talent was nurtured and retained, comparing it to a recent Merck news item of 7000 people layoff in the next three years, PM magazine suggests that an international outlook will be essential to the survival of the fittest as a new global pharma center wave takes shape, spanning continents and bringing about mergers.

That particular P M issue then features a number of profiles on Puerto Rico and in the April 2006 issue does a similar set of profiles on Indian pharma companies, with a cover article titled “Could your next Employer be based in India?”

While this is mentioned here for the pharma industry in general, the No-Job-Is-Secure phenomenon has been and is a familiar experience in, for example, the international steel industry and other heavy industries, where closings, mergers and cross-international-border considerations are now common and seen as one way to improve the bottom line and increase market share.

## **NEWS ITEMS**

The energy company E.On US has donated \$1.5 million to the University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research (CAER) for a project to find ways to decrease carbon dioxide release from the flue-gases of coal burning power plants. CAER researchers in charge will be Kuniei Liu and Darrell Taulbee. Darrell is an IBA member, a Paper presenter at IBA 29 (2005) and was featured in a profile in IBA Newsletter of Spring 2006 (P.7).

The May 2006 issue of Tablets & Capsules, P.64, contained an article by Dr. Bryan J. Ennis (E & G Associates) “What exactly is Powder Flowability?” References are included on powder flow studies as far back as 1885 and as recent as 2006 (Perry’s Chemical Engineers Handbook, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Sect. 19).

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Iron Ore 2006, Oct. 18-20, Philadelphia, PA, Intertech, contact: [dsanborn@intertechusa.com](mailto:dsanborn@intertechusa.com) or 207-781-9603. Examining the Global Market for Iron Ore (business and technical), including global steel and iron ore demand, trends for pig iron, HBI, DRI, new ironmaking technologies and more.
- Filtech 2007, Feb. 27-March 1, Wiesbaden, Germany, Filtech Exhibitions Germany, [info@FiltechEuropa.com](mailto:info@FiltechEuropa.com)
- Carbon Black World 2006, Nov. 6-9, Budapest, Hungary, Intertech, [www.intertechusa.com](http://www.intertechusa.com)
- Metcoke Summit 2006, Octo. 16-18, Philadelphia, PA, Intertech, see above for contact

The following course seminars by the University of Wisconsin:

- Advanced Mixing Technology: Practical Applications, Oct. 17-19, Las Vegas, NV
- The Art and Science of Industrial Mixing, Oct. 3-5, Philadelphia, PA
- Pneumatic Conveying Systems: Design, Specification and Application, Oct. 25-26

Contacts: 800-462-0876, or [www.epd.engr.wisc.edu](http://www.epd.engr.wisc.edu)

For the pneumatic course: [bower@engr.wisc.edu](mailto:bower@engr.wisc.edu)

### **MORE ABOUT UNIVERSITY OF KY/CAER**

CAER's Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering Department are studying the production of Biomass Briquettes as an Alternative Fuel Source, based on the use of agricultural and wood wastes. The program will be directed by Darrell Taulbee and Rodney Andrews working with professors Scott Shearer and Mike Montross.

### **POWDER & BULK ENGINEERING**

The October issue of P&BE (CSC Publishing Inc.) will feature an Agglomeration Advisor column on "The Quality of Agglomerates: A Test of Strength", by this NL writer. This is an ongoing series of twice a year columns on size enlargement.

For information on previous column subjects contact P&BE at [www.powderbulk.com](http://www.powderbulk.com), or this writer at fax 412-264-49902.

### **IN CLOSING, ANOTHER MENTION OF THE POWDER SHOW**

The Show Directory and Buyers Guide listed 20 exhibitors under the category of Agglomerators. Several additional exhibitors not listed in the Agglomerator category are listed under Coating Machinery, Conditioners and Granulators, as well as Tableting, Coating and Encapsulation Equipment.

As with many other Buyers Guides and Reference Publications, the Agglomeration Category is now finding prominent publicity. And it is SO NICE to see the term "Agglomeration" now quite commonly used!

**"AGGLOMERATE AND COMMUNICATE!"**

**IBA UPDATE**

**Tom Feldkamp, Executive Director**

**2007 CONFERENCE IN SAVANNAH, October 21-24**

Well, the summer has come and gone as we look forward (?) to our average snowfall of 150 inches in Northern Wisconsin, which makes me think of sunny Savannah, Georgia, the site of our 2007 IBA Conference, which is a little more than a year away, October 21-24. We realize that companies will be preparing their budgets soon, and should take into consideration this important technical conference.

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**IBA "AGGLOMERATION WORKSHOP"/TRAINING SESSION**

This is mentioned by our President, Brian Young and also in a Special Report from the Chairman of the Agglomeration Workshop Committee, Bruce Moechnig. I would like to stress that this course will be presented by The Institute for Briquetting and Agglomeration, which is 57 years old and is the technical resource center where our members as well as non-members (to a lesser degree) can draw upon.

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**WEBSITE**

We currently have 13 company links on our website, [www.agglomeration.org](http://www.agglomeration.org). Your company can still be added. Contact Tom at [tnfeldkamp@centurytel.net](mailto:tnfeldkamp@centurytel.net) for more information.

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**IBA LOGO**

It has been suggested that the IBA logo (shield) be changed to something more identifiable with agglomeration. Your suggestions are welcome.

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**CURRENT NEWSLETTER**

We are proceeding to send out this newsletter by email. There are still a number of people that we have not heard from regarding their current email address. We certainly hope that all the email addresses are current and that this newsletter will reach you.

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**PROCEEDINGS**

All members and all attendees were sent a copy of the 2005 IBA Proceedings, Volume 29 on CD. Extra copies are available for \$50 (\$35 for IBA members). If a book is preferred there is a limited amount for sale for \$60 (\$42 for IBA members).

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**MEET YOUR MEMBERS**

We are continuing to profile speakers from our last conference as well as IBA members. Andy Britt, Aeroglide Corporation, "Determining the Economic Payback of a Conveyor Drying System" and Dr. Roman T. Dec, K.R.Komarek Briquetting Research Inc., "Recent Developments in FEM Modeling of Powder Processing in the Roller Press" are both IBA members. Lee D. Hoffmann of Feeco International Inc. is our third profile.

**DUES**

Membership dues for the 2005-2006 years will expire December 31, 2006. We will be mailing invoices in December for the 2007-2008 years. Dues will remain the same, Individual \$100, Company \$200, Consultant \$150.

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**EARLY CALL FOR PAPERS**

Yes, this is early to call for Papers, but it would be helpful at this time if our members or someone you may know would notify us if there is any interest in presenting a Paper.

Want to know more about our conference site?  
Visit [www.desotohilton.com](http://www.desotohilton.com)  
Or  
[www.savannahvisit.com](http://www.savannahvisit.com)

**IBA FUNDAMENTALS OF AGGLOMERATION WORKSHOP**

At the May 2006 meeting of the Board of Directors for the IBA, the decision was made to hold a workshop on agglomeration at the Biennial meeting to increase meeting attendance and grow the IBA membership. A committee was formed consisting of Bruce Moechnig (chairman), Tom Marrero, Bob Hinkle, Richard Komarek and Brian Young (ex-officio) to develop the workshop.

A questionnaire was developed and sent out to get input from members regarding the content to be covered in the workshop. Based on the results, a course outline was developed covering the following topics: basics of particle size enlargement, size enlargement processes, upstream and downstream processes (and their effects on agglomeration), binding mechanisms in agglomeration, applications of agglomeration in various industries, and process troubleshooting.

Next steps are to further define the information to be covered in each of these topics and to identify individuals to lead the workshop. If you are interested, or have suggestions for workshop leaders, please contact Bruce Moechnig by phone at 217-231-2441 or by e-mail at [bruce\\_moechnig@admworld.com](mailto:bruce_moechnig@admworld.com).