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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Kuss Filtration Uses
Ultrasonic SeamMaster™
From Sonobond in
Assembly of Fuel Filters**

WEST CHESTER, Pennsylvania, May 14, 2003 – The SeamMaster™ textile assembly system from Sonobond Ultrasonics is providing Kuss Filtration with a reliable and efficient cutting method for the assembly of the fuel filters it manufactures. The Findlay, Ohio-based company utilizes the ultrasonic equipment to cut custom shapes out of a ribbon of filter media as it passes through the machine. With a configuration similar to a traditional sewing machine, the SeamMaster runs in a continuous mode, cutting the material at speeds up to 120 feet per minute. According to Marty Borer, Tooling Technician for Kuss, the SeamMaster continuous



cutting and sealing system has proven to dramatically increase plant efficiency, as compared to the stand-alone assembly equipment which was previously used.

Filter manufacturers prefer ultrasonics

Sonobond's SeamMaster cutting and sealing system has long been used for the assembly of apparel items, home furnishings, industrial fabrics and medical disposables. Now filter manufacturers are

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Sonobond's SeamMaster™ assembles fuel filters – page 2

discovering the benefits of utilizing Sonobond's ultrasonic equipment to assemble their products. In addition to significantly reducing production time, the SeamMaster™ cuts and seals cleanly without leaving frayed or beaded edges, and operating the SeamMaster requires very little training over traditional sewing machines.

"As a cutting tool, the SeamMaster is ideal for Kuss Filtration's application, because it offers the flexibility to easily change the pattern wheel to produce the unique patterns required by each of their customers," says Janet Devine, President of Sonobond Ultrasonics, West Chester, Pennsylvania. "We offer over 500 standard pattern wheels for slitting, sealing, seaming, embossing and tacking, and we can custom-design additional pattern wheels for specific applications, which is what we did for Kuss."

An additional advantage of the SeamMaster equipment used by Kuss is that it has been

designed to cut through the filter media without cutting through the release tape. Says Borer, "The SeamMaster makes a precise cut in the material, while leaving the backing attached, so it can quickly go to the next processing stage." The one-step, continuous cutting and sealing method has helped Kuss to achieve a reduction in overall production time. "With the SeamMaster, a day's work is now done in an hour," adds Borer.

How ultrasonics works

Sonobond's SeamMaster equipment channels high-frequency vibrations to the material as it passes between the horn and the rotating pattern wheel, creating a rapid heat build-up at the material contact point. "Nonwoven filter media with its high content of synthetic fibers is ideally suited for ultrasonic assembly," says Devine, "because the synthetic material quickly fuses as it passes through the SeamMaster™ equipment." Depending on the
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pattern wheel used, the SeamMaster can slit, cut, emboss, imprint, seal and bond all in one step, and it can be used on a variety of thicknesses or layers.

Sonobond Ultrasonics is a worldwide leader in the application of ultrasonic bonding

technology. Its products are used to bond textiles, metals, plastics, and nonwovens in a variety of industries. Current customers include leading companies in the automotive, appliance, filtration, HVAC, apparel, aerospace, medical, electronic, and electrical fields.

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