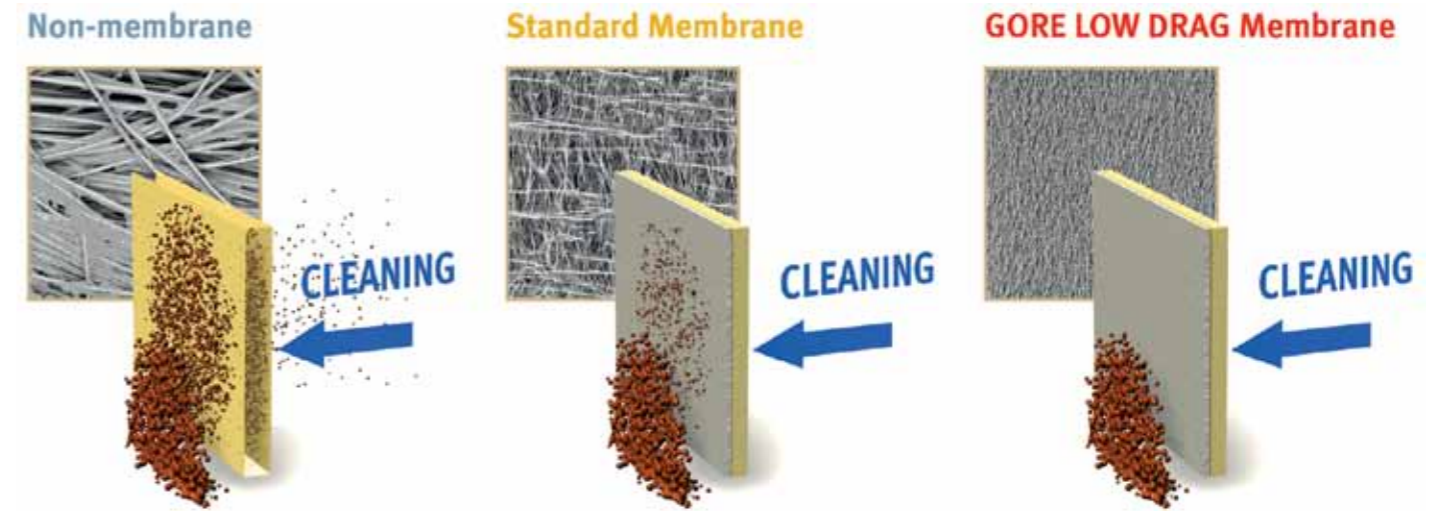




SUPREME FILTRATION FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

W.L. Gore, the American company famous for its industry-leading solutions, has achieved leadership in yet another area. The company has recently launched a pioneering new product, a game changer for the filtration sector. Romana Moares reports.



WL. Gore summarises its core business as follows: “In manufacturing, controlling contamination is a must. Gore provides reliable air, gas, liquid and particle filtration solutions that purify processes, increase yields and control costs.”

This global player, which is commemorating its 60th anniversary in 2018, is at the same time celebrating 45 years of experience in the filtration business, serving a diverse set of markets including chemical, cement, steel and ferroalloy production as well as the waste-to-energy sector. The company has accentuated this important anniversary by introducing a new product that will bring substantial benefits to a wide range of industrial players.

Cost-saving benefits

Chemical production is one of the company's largest filtration segments. Chemical manufacturing demands high, consistent throughput under challenging baghouse operation conditions. Filter bags are critical to their processes. Membrane-based GORE® filter bags provide consistent reliability and long product life, meeting or exceeding the production requirements of demanding chemical processes.

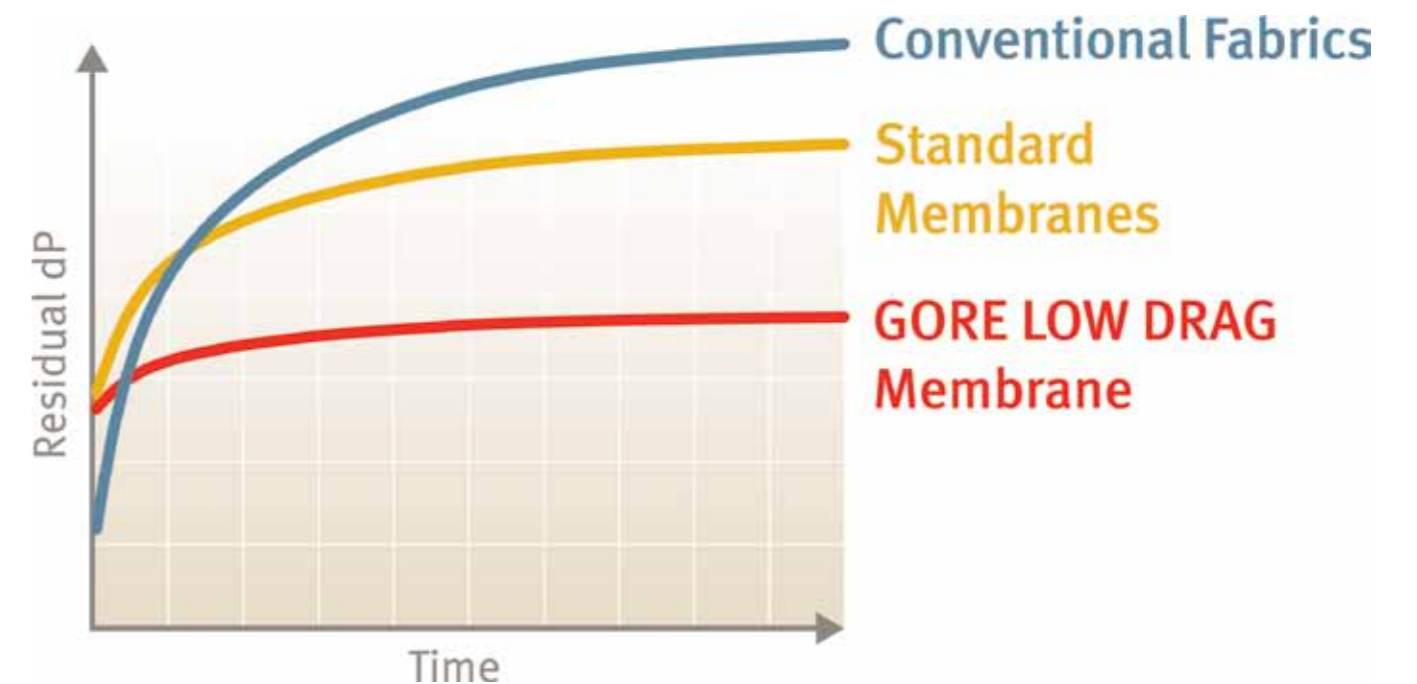
Steven R. Aubuchon, Ph.D., Global Product Specialist with Gore's Industrial Dry Filtration business, says: “The new product that we have

been introducing and will keep introducing this year is called the GORE® LOW DRAG™ filter bag. Although the product was first launched two years ago in the steel production segment, we are now pushing for wider dispersion. Earlier this year, we launched into multiple segments including carbon black, cement and ferroalloy production, with an official introduction into carbon black in Europe in September.”

“LOW DRAG is really a revolutionary product. The LOW DRAG filter is inherently more cleanable, without sacrificing durability or particle capture efficiency. It provides a pathway to much lower cost of ownership through several advantages, including longer bag life, improved air flow, lower fan energy requirements and fewer bags required,” he explains. “The reason why these characteristics are interesting and exciting is that virtually every single industrial chemical plant is looking for ways to lower costs.”

Product leadership

The bags incorporate a new ePTFE membrane which is designed to drastically reduce drag, defined as the resistance to airflow in the baghouse. By optimising airflow, the filter bags allow operations to run more efficiently with significant benefits including lower emissions and sifting, leading to consistent regulatory compliance and >





improved downstream energy recovery; lower persistent differential pressure (dP), which enables longer bag life through reduced cleaning, and, last but not least, increased throughput.

GORE LOW DRAG filter bags are recently available for use in carbon black applications. This filtration solution for carbon black dust collection and particulate emissions provides the same efficiency, high performance and low cost of ownership that other industries have experienced through GORE LOW DRAG filter bags.

“The development of the LOW DRAG filter bag took several years,” says Dr Aubuchon. “GORE is a product leadership company and we are committed to ensuring that our products are fully fit for use in the applications in which we are promoting them. So we have a rather extensive product development and pre-launch period to make sure that the product performs as expected.”

Global interest

With GORE being a global player with sales evenly distributed around the world, the potential of the new product is tremendous. “Many of the value propositions are resonating globally, particularly lower cost of ownership – everyone strives to improve in this direction no matter where they live. We have noted a great interest in Europe, where the ability to meet environmental regulations and to lower the energy consumption is of particular interest to our European customers,” Dr Aubuchon points out.

However, he admits that Europe is far from being the only region where customers are eager to make use of LOW DRAG benefits. “Generally speaking, the fastest growing market for GORE is the APAC region. Over the last two years or so, environmental regulations have been tightened in Asia and demand for products ensuring compliance with those regulations is increasing.”

In light of current market developments, and being the only filter bag of this kind in the market, demand is expected to grow. “LOW

DRAG is the only product we are aware of that can produce this level of performance, a true leader in the filtration membrane technology.”

Still, the company is already thinking of the next stage. “GORE is the inventor of this filtration membrane and we are continuing to develop and improve this product. LOW DRAG is a family of products; we have currently launched only a small number of laminates and will continue to develop additional laminates to complement our current LOW DRAG portfolio,” says Steven Aubuchon, affirming that GORE will strive to continue to be what is at the core of its global success – an industry innovator. □

Steven R. Aubuchon, Ph.D., Global Product Specialist

