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## Lumicon no more?

Started by [ruachsheavens](#), Sep 07 2017 01:30 AM

Posted 07 September 2017 - 01:30 AM

**ruachsheavens**

ok, so maybe I'm off a bit here, but.....

I was searching for **Lumicon** filters and came across this listing on ebay from a company called Silicon Valley Optics Technology, Inc which makes some rather startling claims:

<http://www.ebay.com/...8EAAOSwo4pYLEz8> (<http://www.ebay.com/itm/Lumicon-2-Deep-Sky-Filter-Life-time-warranty-by-OEM/352130679164?hash=item51fc9fc17c%3Ag%3Aw8EAAOSwo4pYLEz8>)

they say, and I quote the broken english and all:

"Brand new in box

**Lumicon** Deep Sky filters made in USA.

Located in Fremont, California, Silicon Valley Optics Technology, Inc. is the original manufacture of **Lumicon** astronomy filters since 2014. Using the best coating technology, Ion-beam sputtering, SVOTek has made all 5 different **Lumicon** band pass filters and 15 types of color filters for then **Lumicon** LLC, but got absolutely zero payment after two years. SVOTek has made DeepSky, Oxygen-III, UHC, H-Beta and Comet followed by **Lumicon** LLC's \$1.2mil Purchase order. But it turned out the PO was fake and **Lumicon** LLC never intended to pay us. After hundreds and thousand filters delivered to **Lumicon**. The original **Lumicon** LLC is currently went out of business and never paid us anything. Because these astronomy filters were specifically made with **Lumicon**'s spec (but with SVOTek's own proprietary film stack design). The OEM filter maker is now selling these **Lumicon** filters here and on its company website, and all other possible channels to reduce our loss. These **Lumicon** astronomy filters are backed up with 100% customer satisfaction and life time warranty. For any question and technical support for these **Lumicon** astronomy filters, call 510-676-4056"

and if I go to the company's actual website, it says "may have been hacked" under the name - sounds/looks fishy to me and am concerned about folks getting ripped off and **lumicon**'s name being trashed.

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**Silicon Valley Optics Technology Inc. (SVOTek) | Photonics Buyers ...**  
<https://www.photonics.com/Company.aspx?CompanyID=18792>  
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**John Gao PhD | Professional Profile - LinkedIn**  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/john-gao-phd-2b66b010>  
 San Francisco Bay Area - CEO, Founder of SVOTek - Silicon Valley Optics Technology, Inc. - SVOTek - Silicon Valley Optics Technology Inc.  
 SVOTek - Silicon Valley Optics Technology Inc. Previous: HOYA Corporation USA Optics Coating Div. Fremont, CA. Education: University of Illinois at Chicago ...



**Silicon Valley Optics Technology** ★  
 Optician in Fremont, California

Address: 44141 S Grimmer Blvd, Fremont, CA 94538  
 Hours: **Closing soon** - 9AM-6PM  
 Phone: (510) 623-1161

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**The Ardent**

Posted 07 September 2017 - 01:39 AM

There have been numerous threads like this one

<https://www.cloudynights.com/topic/589494-optical-structures-inc-returns-to-building-research-telescopes/?view=getnewpost>

**ruachsheavens**

Posted 07 September 2017 - 01:57 AM

forgive me, but I don't see the connection between the 2 threads?

**drneilmb**

Posted 07 September 2017 - 02:00 AM

I think that when I read between the lines, the original Lumicon LLC is no more, but there is a new Lumicon company owned by the umbrella company from the second article. I agree that Ray's linked article didn't directly address the situation from your OP.

**photoracer18**

Posted 07 September 2017 - 02:13 AM

I think that is correct. Also JMI is going to be part of Lumicon also as Jim's widow (?) is selling them everything and lots of stuff is on closeout at JMI.

**ruachsheavens**

Posted 07 September 2017 - 02:17 AM

ok, but where does Sillicon Valley Optical come into the picture? Im guess Im dense, but I dont get ti :-)

also, Jim from JMI passed away ???????

Posted 07 September 2017 - 02:20 AM

**Ron359**

*photoracer18, on 06 Sept 2017 - 6:13 PM, said:*

I think that is correct. Also JMI is going to be part of **Lumicon** also as Jim's widow (?) is selling them everything and lots of stuff is on closeout at JMI.

I think this rumor of Jim's passing is greatly exaggerated. I believe he is retiring and finally found a buyer for at least some of JMI's business:

<http://jimsmobile.com> (<http://jimsmobile.com>)

Posted 07 September 2017 - 02:24 AM

**ruachsheavens**

WHEW- good news in Jim! . Well, as long as there's nothing fraudulent going on with the **lumicon** filters, I don't need to understand all the acquisitions. Just wanted to make sure our observing family wasn't getting hoodwinked.

thanks to all who responded -

Posted 07 September 2017 - 02:34 AM

**photoracer18**

*Ron359, on 06 Sept 2017 - 6:20 PM, said:*

*photoracer18, on 06 Sept 2017 - 6:13 PM, said:*

I think that is correct. Also JMI is going to be part of **Lumicon** also as Jim's widow (?) is selling them everything and lots of stuff is on closeout at JMI.

I think this rumor of Jim's passing is greatly exaggerated. I believe he is retiring and finally found a buyer for at least some of JMI's business:

<http://jimsmobile.com> (<http://jimsmobile.com>)

Sorry, you are correct, sir. I see he is still in the business of doing outreach on Christianity and modern science so he is fine. Glad I am incorrect.

Posted 07 September 2017 - 02:36 AM

**photoracer18**

Still trying to find out how JMI is selling assets to **Lumicon** and how **Lumicon** is folding into Optical Structures, Inc., Meaning Farpoint Scientific.

Posted 07 September 2017 - 03:22 AM

**jdupton**

The changes began late last year. The first announcement thread I recall seeing can be found in the Vendors section here on CloudyNights.

<https://www.cloudynights.com/topic/556155-lumicon-change-of-ownership/>

—As I understand it, Optical Structures Inc. already owned Farpoint Astro. They then purchased Lumicon. From what I tell in all the threads I've seen, OSI is like a holding company. They own (I think) Farpoint Astro, Lumicon, and OpticWave Labs. The companies, while under a common ownership, are continuing on as separate entities. (I liken it to Synta Technology Corporation holding both Skywatcher and Celestron brands, although that may not be technically an exact description of the relationships.)


Here is the key quote by Cary Chleborad from the above thread:

#### Quote

First and overview of who we are: Optical Structures Inc. is the parent corporation that houses and operates Optic Wave Labs, Farpoint Astro, and now Lumicon. OSI proper serves the institutional level customers, building larger research telescopes, LIDAR and custom one-off robotic optical projects. Before OSI was incorporated we worked under the name of SciTech Astronomical Research and the projects under that company go back to 1988 (I was a teenager). SciTech was founded by Dr. James Wray who has been my mentor, friend and partner in astronomical mischief and continues to work at OSI with us.

John

[Edit PS] Cary has given us the authoritative answer to the questions asked by the OP. Sorry if my poorly written summary caused any confusion.

 Edited by jdupton, 07 September 2017 - 05:07 AM.

Posted 07 September 2017 - 04:26 AM

**Cary**

Let me shed some light on the situation and I'll explain the SVOTek deal at the end.

In 2006 we founded a Corporation called Optical Structures Inc.

The mission of OSI was to continue building the research telescopes and institutional projects that I worked on as part of another / previous company.

OSI absorbed the small optics company that I had started in 2004 (Woden Optics) and was renamed to Optic Wave Labs due to a legal skirmish with my ex wife during divorce proceedings.

In 2007 we established the Farpoint brand to cater to the amateur astronomy market.

In November of 2016 OSI acquired the Lumicon brand, designs, company assets and moved the Lumicon Operations to our facility in Sacramento, CA.

In April I met Jim Burr at NEAF and discussed his desire to retire and sell off the JMI brand. I since have traveled to Denver two times and finalized a deal to acquire the JMI brand, designs, technical information and inventory and move JMI operations to our Facility in Sacramento. We will transfer front end operations of JMI within the next 10 days and begin moving the physical operations by the end of this month (September).

So, to re-iterate our company structure:

We are organized as one legal corporate entity known as Optical Structures Incorporated.

OSI operates the following brands: Optic Wave Labs, Farpoint, Lumicon and JMI. By the end of this year (2017) operations of all companies will be consolidated in our new facility.

\*\*\*\*\*

SVOTek

\*\*\*\*\*

SVOTek is a thin film manufacturing company with no previous experience in astronomy filters nor are they an astronomy related company.

Before OSI acquired Lumicon, the previous owners attempted to qualify SVOTek as a filter element supplier.

After two years of attempts by SVOTek to meet design specifications, production yield and delivery schedule it became increasingly apparent that they were not up to the task.

As OSI began the acquisition of Lumicon and transfer process I met with the president of SVOTek several times in attempt to work through the problems.

In our first meeting SVOTek expressed that because it invested the NRE for the filters up front and free of charge that it owned the brand name.

No contract had ever been signed between Lumicon and SVOTek, however a Non Disclosure Agreement / Non-Compete had been signed.

SVOTek provided seemingly falsified QA reports to us.

SVOTek filters tested by us did not meet transmission spec and were significantly off band.

We have evidence that SVOTek sub contracted the filters it was to have made in its USA facility to Chinese sub contractors.

SVOTek has been completely unreasonable in our attempts to resolve the issues and work with them.

The president of SVOTek has sent me no less than 20 email messages threatening to post here on CN that we are selling "Cheap Chinese knock-off filters" as well as insulting me with childish name calling games.

SVOTek has been violating the its agreement as well as have been infringing upon the Lumicon trademark.

SVOTek has filed a shakedown lawsuit against the previous owners of Lumicon and have poorly attempted to join me personally to the suit.

OSI has now filed a civil suit against SVOTek and will likely file additional lawsuits in the coming weeks.

The filters that SVOTek is selling are:

Not genuine Lumicon filters.

Do not meet Lumicon specs.

Are in violation of contract law.

Are in violation of trademark law.

Will not be warrantied or serviced by Lumicon.

Purchase at your own risk.

I'd be glad to personally discuss any of these topics with anyone in person. P.M. me here or email me at Cary@OpticalStructures.com or call the main shop line at 916-638-2003 or call my personal cell phone at 916-628-8673

Thanks

Original Lumicon since 2014? Lumicon has been around since the early 1980s.

*Richard Whalen, on 06 Sept 2017 - 8:26 PM, said:*

Original Lumicon since 2014? Lumicon has been around since the early 1980s.

SVOTek is claiming that they have been making and selling Lumicon filters since 2014.  
It's a false claim.

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