

Dear all,

Let me introduce myself, since I am brand new to this forum. My name is Ben Siers, and I am an optical thin film engineer here at Silicon Valley Optical Technologies located in Fremont, California. Recently, my team has seen posts regarding the quality and authenticity of our astronomy filters (Which were produced for, and sold by Lumicon post 2014), and therefore the legitimacy of the work my team does here at SVOTek. Since we provide specialty lens and filter coatings to high-tech industries as well as directly to individuals, we strive for the highest quality and satisfaction of any customer. Not only do we guarantee the quality of our filters, we also hope to hear community feedback on what type of filters you all are looking for that currently cannot be found, or are not competitively priced.

Early last month, a post showed up which targeted SVOTek and our products. Several legitimate questions were raised, as most people have not heard of our company's name. The post is now locked, and this post is in response to the questions and concerns raised in that post.

Reference post:

### **Lumicon no more?**

<https://www.cloudynights.com/topic/590895-lumicon-no-more/?hl=%2Blumicon#entry8090335>

\*Below are **questions** that I extracted from the post in **bold**, and the *answers* are provided by myself and my team in *italics*.

### **Does SVOTek purchase and rebrand chinese filters?**

*No, all of our coatings are manufactured in house (In Fremont, CA) and the optical glass used is also machined in house. Some of our raw material is sourced internationally, primarily from China, Germany, and Japan. In the case that we rebranded another company's filters, I would be out a job.*

### **Why does the company website for SVOTek say that it may have been hacked?**

*This was an issue between our website host and the the Chrome web browser, I believe. This problem is fixed now. We manage our own website, but do not host it ourselves. If you feel inclined to take a peek at our website, the address is <http://svotek.com/>*

### **When did SVOTek become the manufacturer of Lumicon Lenses?**

*In 2014 Lumicon's original manufacturer was bought out and ceased production of Lumicon lenses. SVOTek began submitting filters to Lumicon for quality verification in late 2014. Then, the former owner, Dr. Maurice Sweiss, came to us and contracted SVOTek to produce Lumicon astronomy filters. We provided a batch and were told by Lumicon that the parts met the optical and physical requirements for their filters, thus creating a demand for a larger production run. SVOTek delivered over 1,500 astronomy filters to Lumicon from the end of 2014 through the second quarter of 2016, during which, Lumicon had a change of management. SVOTek stopped delivering astronomy filters after 13 invoices that were overdue did not get paid.*

### **Is SVOTek taking legal action against Lumicon?**

*Yes, in addition to the unpaid invoices, SVOTek loaned money to the new management and the loan repayment date was missed in the later months of last year. In addition, we have found that the filters that were produced by SVOTek and unpaid for, have been sold by Lumicon on Ebay through an Ebay user name waycool4u (which has since been deleted). Any quality issues with filters or lenses that we produce may be reimbursed 100%. We have made it abundantly clear to Lumicon that the filters may be returned and the cost of the filters will be waived. They denied this offer and have yet to fulfill their debts.*

### **Is SVOTek a manufacturer of astronomical filters and mirrors?**

*Yes, SVOTek has been contracted to serve customers with regards to astronomy in the past, along with contracts from Lumicon to produce filters for them. Our team consists of optical engineers, like myself, who have rigorously studied light and radiation behavior and the attenuation of it. Since the beginning of production of filters for Lumicon, our team has worked hard to procure a strong understanding of astronomical filters for use with photography and research applications.*

\*\*The locked discussion was also commented on by Cary Chleborad, also known as the forum user Vendor Optic Wave Labs. Mr. Chleborad also had unfulfilled payments from Lumicon, and is trying to acquire the trademark of the now non-existent company.

## Why is SVOTek involving Cary Chleborad in the Lumicon Lawsuit?

*Since there is an outstanding debt on the Lumicon LLC , SVOTek is actively pursuing retribution. Mr. Cary Chleborad claimed that he bought the Lumicon trade mark. Since he was now the owner of Lumicon, Mr. Chleborad asked us to drop our lawsuit. Upon further investigation with the Secretary of California State and the United States Trademark Office, we found the following:*

*-The last registered owners of Lumicon LLC were the new managers Deborah and Marc Neveux and the previous owner, Dr. Maurice Sweiss.*

*-The Lumicon trademark has not been taken care of by the partial owners, Deborah and Marc Neveux. The new owners neglected their obligations and the trademark has expired.*

*-There is no Lumicon trademark registered currently.*

*-The United States Patent and Trademark office shows clearly that there is no active Lumicon trademark, and there are two applications for the trademark, one from SVOTek, and one from Mr. Cary Chleborad, neither of which have been accepted as of today.*

<http://tmsearch.uspto.gov/bin/gate.exe?f=tess&state=4801:wq0ik7.1.1>

*Despite his claims, Mr. Chleborad did not purchase the Lumicon Trademark from Deborah and Marc Neveux. Our understanding is that the trademark is not legally in the possession of OSI/ Mr. Chleborad and the company has not provided any paperwork to us to prove the purchase. Since we are a manufacturer of astronomy filters, and have coating designs and remaining filters matching the specifications of Lumicon's filters, we are trying to sell the filters directly to the customer in order to make up for losses. Any quality issues with filters or lenses that we produce may be reimbursed 100%.*

*Lastly, Mr. Chleborad sent us a purchase order for our Lumicon spec filters. We agreed and sold him a small batch of filters to be sold as OSI filters. He then sent us a second PO which we rejected after learning he was (attempting to) takeover the Lumicon trademark. It seems he has now begun to defame our company on your forum.*

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In total, I understand that you all have enough concerns and confusion already about which filter and lenses are high quality and reliable, especially regarding new members of your community. SVOTek aims to produce world class specialty filters, lenses, and mirrors. If there are any issues, concerns or questions regarding parts or coatings that we manufactured, feel free to contact us at:

Mail:  
44141 S. Grimmer Boulevard  
Fremont, CA 64538  
Company Phone:  
510-623-1161  
Company Email:  
info@SVOTek.com

And if you have questions beyond those, or want to talk to me personally please call, text, or email me anytime at:  
651-895-6350  
Bens@Svotek.com

Thank you.