

Press

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Techtextil
International Trade Fair for Technical Textiles and Nonwovens
Frankfurt am Main, 9 to 12 May 2017

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TTX_1719_Winners Innovation Award_en

Eight smart products chosen for the Techtextil Innovation Award 2017

Special exhibition of the award-winning products throughout the fair

The Techtextil Innovation Awards were presented at the opening ceremony of Techtextil today. An international jury honoured eight products, including a bicycle lock made of high-tech textiles, an intelligent knee brace and a seamless load-securing net.

The winners of the Techtextil Innovation Award

The Techtextil Innovation Award 2017 is given in four categories. In the 'new application' category, the winners are the **Centexbel** non-profit organisation (Belgium) and **Peterseim Strickwaren** from Mühlhausen. The intelligent knee brace from Centexbel supports patients during the rehabilitation phase after knee operations. A textile sensor identifies the angle of the knee in real-time and informs the patient of this accordingly. It also offers personalised exercises via an app. With SEAL, Peterseim Strickwaren presents a basalt knitted fabric that protects maritime systems, such as buoys, from environmental influences and cuts maintenance costs by up to 40 percent.

In the 'new technology' category, the Upper Franconian company of **V. Fraas Solutions in Textile** convinced the jury with its SITnet, a load-securing net distinguished by joining points for the belts, which are warp-knitted instead of sewn. Thus, the net is completely flat, even and capable of bearing higher loads than conventional products.

Vetex NV (Belgium), a company specialising in coating and laminating technology, also ranked among the winners in this category. Its OC2PUS technology permits a polyurethane coating to be applied to flexible substrates, i.e., to functionalise textiles, without the use of solvents, such as the controversial dimethyl formamide (DMF). To this end, specially developed polyurethane resins, which harden chemically during the coating process, are used.

In the 'new product' category, the Leipzig-based start-up **Texlock** was chosen for its innovative, textile-based bicycle lock, which is light, flexible

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and does not scratch the bicycle's paintwork thanks to its soft surface. **Penn Textile Solutions** specialises in the production of elastic textiles and was also selected for an Innovation Award in this category for Ombra-DLS, a shading net for use in facade construction and window installation. By expanding the net to a greater or lesser extent, the light admitted to a room or building can be modified according to requirements, regardless of how much light energy is available at the time.

Two products were also singled out in the 'new material' category. The **Institute of Textile Chemistry and Chemical Fibres (ITCF) Denkendorf** received the award for PURCELL, a sustainable composite made of pure cellulose, which is used not only as a high strength reinforcement fibre but also as a matrix component. **Durafiber Technologies** (France), one of the world's leading manufacturers of polyester fibres, fabrics and materials, was chosen for an alkaline-resistant polyester HT yarn. Tests have shown that the yarn retains its original technical properties almost unchanged even after being in contact with alkaline products at high temperatures for several days.

The jury:

Braz Costa, CITEVE, Centro Tecnológico das Indústrias têxtil e do Vestuário, Portugal

Sabine Gimpel, TITV Greiz Textilforschungsinstitut Thüringen-Vogtland e.V., Germany

Dr Klaus Jansen, Forschungskuratorium Textil e.V., Deutschland

Dr Jan Laperre (Chair), Centexbel, Belgium

Dr René Rossi, EMPA – Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology, Switzerland

Dr Thomas Stegmaier, ITV Institute for Textile and Process Technology Denkendorf, Germany

Dr Hartmut Strese, VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH, Deutschland

This is the 14th time that the Techtexsil Innovation Awards have been presented for remarkable achievements and new developments along the Techtexsil process chain. The winning products can be seen at a special exhibition in Hall 6.1 (Stand A94) throughout the fair.

This year, the concurrent Texprocess, Leading International Trade Fair for Processing Textile and Flexible Materials, honoured new technological developments with the Texprocess Innovation Award for the fourth time.

Note for the editor:

Pictures are available for download here: <http://m-es.se/Wt8g>

Further information about Techtexsil at:

www.techtextil.messefrankfurt.com

www.techtextil-blog.com

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Background information on Messe Frankfurt

Messe Frankfurt is the world's largest trade fair, congress and event organiser with its own exhibition grounds. With some 2,400 employees at 30 locations, the company generates annual sales of over €640 million. Thanks to its far-reaching ties with the relevant sectors and to its international sales network, the Group looks after the business interests of its customers effectively. A comprehensive range of services – both onsite and online – ensures that customers worldwide enjoy consistently high quality and flexibility when planning, organising and running their events. The wide range of services includes renting exhibition grounds, trade fair construction and marketing, personnel and food services.

With its headquarters in Frankfurt am Main, the company is owned by the City of Frankfurt (60 percent) and the State of Hesse (40 percent).

For more information, please visit our website at: www.messefrankfurt.com