

Press Release:

Ismaning, April 12th, 2017

PERFORMANCE DAYS ® functional fabrics fair
produced by Design & Development GmbH Textile Consult
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ECO PERFORMANCE AWARD goes to Global Merino from California

Fabrics must have function AND be biodegradable!

The current PERFORMANCE DAYS Focus Topic is "BIODEGRADABLE: Back to Nature" an important concept not only in avoiding waste and preserving the environment, but also with respect to the responsible and sustainable use of resources. Appropriately, the ECO PERFORMANCE AWARD is given to a sustainably produced and biodegradable functional fabric from GLOBAL MERINO.

The PERFORMANCE DAYS trade fair is a true pioneer when it comes to spotting the trends in functional fabrics. The date of the fair always rings in the new order cycle and the Focus Topics at the PERFORMANCE FORUM are all clearly ahead of their time. This applies once again to the next topic at the fair scheduled for April 26-27th in Munich. "Biodegradable" is all about the vision of supplying more functional fabrics that decompose at the end of their useful life as a result of biological action. Such solutions were nearly non-existent until now and are gaining in importance as the world's population continues to grow and the waste dumps grow ever larger.

Recycling cannot be the only answer to waste prevention

Recycling is certainly one possibility for exploiting waste products, but second-hand materials (PET-bottles, fishing nets, etc.) or garments made from synthetic fibres (like polyester or polyamide) are not always collected and recycled everywhere in the world. Furthermore, even if the textiles are collected, the problem is often caused by their composition because, at the present time, only pure substances - no blends (like PA/PES or CO/PA) - can be recycled. Consequently, much clothing finds its way into landfills, waste incineration plants, or is just dumped on the side of the road. Valuable resources are lost and even worse, sensitive ecosystems are harmed since synthetic fibres can last well over 100 years until they are decomposed. In addition, another effect is becoming more and more evident: Tiny fibre particles can separate from the fabric in landfill and even during the use of the textile. Laundering or rainwater carries these particles into streams and rivers so they can reach the oceans where they enter the food chain of fish and other marine life - ultimately landing in our own stomachs.

Rapid biological decomposition - also for synthetic fabrics

The answer to this global problem may well be clothing produced from biodegradable fabrics. Natural fibres decompose quickly. Cotton, wool, and reclaimed fibres such as modal or tencel only require a few months to a year. Fibres that rapidly decompose to biomass at a compost site, a landfill or even in water can help reduce the volume in the landfills and conserve resources. That explains the current interest in natural and synthetic fibres like polyamide or polyester.

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One of the undisputed pioneers in the field of biodegradable functional fabrics is the California company **Global Merino**, that deserves to be the winner of this season's **ECO PERFORMANCE AWARD**.

The winning fabric "GM 1754" is made from 64% polyester and 36% merino and, despite its being a blend, is categorized as biodegradable. Special polyester used in the fabric makes this possible. In addition to being made from recycled PET, it decomposes much faster than conventional polyester.

The fibres are tested under the standards of ASTM D5511 for "Anaerobic Biodegradation of Plastic Materials" (decomposition in the absence of oxygen). The result: The merino wool used is 26% decomposed after 149 days; over the same period, the polyester fibre from CiCLO when used as a staple fibre is at 20.7% or as a filament yarn already at 17.6%. Something to compare: A virgin polyester fabric will only decompose a maximum of 4% after 991 days; while a fabric made from polyester supplied by CiCLO can already reach 78% degradation in that time!

What a great approach to the production as well as for the end-of-life of the fabric - a real win-win contribution for protecting the environment and conserving resources!

Global Merino founder Jose Fernandez will introduce his new fabric as part of the awards ceremony for the ECO PERFORMANCE Award at PERFORMANCE DAYS at about 10:15h on April 26th, 2017.

All the latest trends for Summer 2019, the new Focus Topic, and many novelties including the winner of the ECO PERFORMANCE AWARD will be presented April 26-27th, 2017 at PERFORMANCE DAYS in the Munich MTC. For all those who just cannot wait that long, some initial information is already provided for you online at: <https://www.performancedays.com>. To avoid the waiting time at the registration desk at the trade fair, we recommend you use the online visitor registration service to secure your online ticket.

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About PERFORMANCE DAYS

PERFORMANCE DAYS – The “functional fabric fair” launched in 2008, is the first and only event created especially for functional fabrics for sports and work clothing. The aim of the semi-annual trade fair is to give leading and innovative textile manufacturers, suppliers and service providers the opportunity to present their functional fabrics, membranes plus treatments, laminates, paddings, finishes, and accessories such as yarns, tapes, prints, buttons and zippers.

The industry experts who come to this fair - the sports fashion designers, product managers, and decision-makers (see online: [Visitor List](#)) represent almost every European active clothing and functional wear manufacturer - can find a complete selection of high quality materials available at just the right time in April/May and November. The dates are intentionally scheduled early thanks to our expertise in functional fabrics and are optimal for summer and winter sport collections. (All trade fair catalogs from past events are available online at [Catalogs](#) as well as a listing of current exhibitors at [Exhibitor List](#)).

The relaxed and focused workshop-like atmosphere at PERFORMANCE DAYS differentiates it from the other fairs which are often unmanageable and more stressful. That is one of the reasons why the Munich trade fair at the heart of the European sportswear industry has become one of the top addresses for new fabrics, innovations, and is the preferred meeting place to conduct business.

In the unique [PERFORMANCE FORUM](#) of PERFORMANCE DAYS, the visitor receives an inspiring and well-grounded overview of the new materials, trends, and innovations of the exhibitors. The PERFORMANCE AWARD and the ECO PERFORMANCE AWARD are also presented here.

Qualified guest speakers present special topics and their collaborative ventures to complete the range of information provided at PERFORMANCE DAYS (see online [Presentations](#)).

No entry fee and free admission to all events for industry visitors.

Detailed information and advanced registration online at: www.performancedays.com