

Revolutionary antimicrobial fabric launched by Clinical Fabric Solutions UK

A ground-breaking development in antimicrobial fabric has been launched which could “revolutionise” the use of textiles in the healthcare and hospitality industry.

The new product, called BioShield, uses a unique process of incorporating pure silver within the fibres which makes the fabric self-sanitizing.

Any fabrics treated with BioShield begin to kill bacteria on contact, which means a greatly reduced risk of infection from bacteria, fungi or viruses - something that could have a major impact in healthcare and hospitality settings.

Gary Halpin, commercial director of UK-based Clinical Fabric Solutions, which is developing a range of clothing using fabric treated with the BioShield



technology, says the invention is hugely exciting.

“The technology is quite simply unique,” he says. “The key development is using pure silver within the yarns of the fabric itself, which ionises when dry - that means the ions within the fabric are then lethal to bacteria and other microbes permanently, even when dry.”

Silver is already used within antimicrobial fabrics but only in the form of coatings, which are expensive, non-permanent and have significant environmental concerns.

What the inventor of BioShield has done is produce fibres with very small quantities of pure silver fully encapsulated within the host polymer.

During initial development and testing, BioShield's inventors worked closely with Syntech Fibres Pvt. Ltd. of Karachi - recognised as technically innovative and one of the best businesses of its kind in Asia - and this relationship proved invaluable in realising the effectiveness of BioShield.

The particles are added during the formulation of the base material from which fibres are extruded. The fabric then feels and behaves just like any other synthetic material, but is self-sanitising, acting as a permanent barrier to bacteria and other microbes.

Mr Halpin says the impact of BioShield could be massive - particularly in the healthcare and hospitality sectors.

"Using BioShield-treated fabrics to produce hospital bed linen and staff uniforms could save healthcare and hotel organisations significant sums of money," he says.



The fabric lasts longer and only needs to be washed to remove soiling, just as any other item of clothing or domestic linen, therefore it lasts longer, reducing the need for replacement.

It would also be more environmentally-friendly than the current practice of washing fabric used in clinical settings at very high temperatures to remove infection risks.

The potential impact of replacing high volumes of uniforms and linen with this type

of treated fabric, which only needs to be washed at low temperatures, is huge.

This technology could genuinely revolutionise the way fabrics are used in hospitals, care homes, and hotels across the world.

For more information about BioShield, visit www.clinicalfabricsolutions.co.uk ♦

