



ShanghaiTex 2017: Knitting in lifestyle

The 2017 edition of ShanghaiTex will be held during November 27-30 at SNIEC, Pudong, Shanghai.

The knitting technology is always evolving in accordance to our ever-changing lifestyles, and thus manifests itself in our lives with diverse appearances, functions, and applications. In view of our different lifestyles, ShanghaiTex this year will also explore the cutting-edge knitting technology and applications to stimulate innovation and inspiration among textile manufacturers. The highlighted knitting technology at ShanghaiTex 2017 covers knitting & hosiery machines, functional fibers and wearable electronics, targeting manufacturers of sportswear, sports shoes, wearables developer, fashion and home textiles.

High Performance Textiles

The emerging technologies regarding functional fiber processing have enhanced the quality of knitwear, such as elasticity, air permeability, softness, and anti-wrinkle properties. The combination of fashion and function has delivered excellent performance and aesthetics of apparel. For examples, the COOLMAX® Fiber from INVISTA; Triactor fiber from Toyobo; and the Coolplus fiber from Taiwan ZTE are all developed with special cross-section shape to foster capillary action for better moisture transfer and sweat removal. Yet, a lot more value-added properties are to be considered in developing functional wear, such as waterproofing and UV resistant, thermal

balance, moisture wicking, radiation protection, high tensile strength, etc. The buyers at ShanghaiTex 2017 can explore all these latest technologies with different functions and applications.

Smart Textiles and Wearable Technology

With the development of textile technology, the apparel industry has made some breakthroughs in terms of comfort and intrinsic warmth retention.

The integration of electronics and textiles has enabled Smart Textiles to sense and react to changing the environment, which has triggered a revolutionary change in the industry. Wearable technology refers to smart electronic devices (with microcontrollers) that can be worn on the body as implant or accessories. The designs often incorporate practical functions and features. Wearable equipment is not only about hardware, but also incorporate software support, data and cloud interaction to achieve its function, bringing huge changes to our lives and perceptions. Cute Circuit, a British wearable technology company, has developed the world's first "smart skirt" which was made of graphene. With a built-in sensor, it can respond to the wearer's breathing rate to change colors.

ShanghaiTex 2017 will unveil some of the latest technologies and challenges behind smart textiles, bringing topics such as conductive fabrics and soft batteries under the spotlight during the four-day exhibition.

Sports Textiles Technology Zone: Gateway to fastest growing market

The emphasis on versatility, convenience, fashion, and comfort is generating a strong demand for sports and fitness textiles. This segment is expected to garner the fastest growth in the apparel category. The market appeal of sports textiles, with a combination of electronic technology and sports apparel with the aim of meeting the needs specific sports with unique functionality is steadily growing. The majority of sports textiles are characterized by combining functional performance with electronic high-tech features to achieve more innovative products in line with the wearer's demands.

The newly launched "Sports Textiles Technology Zone" at ShanghaiTex 2017 Hall W1 will highlight the technology and equipment used in sports textiles. A series of conferences and activities in this field will also explore cutting-edge design and trends for sportswear, footwear, fashion and smart fabric manufacturers.

ShanghaiTex is sponsored by Shangtex Holding Co Ltd, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Shanghai Sub-council and China Chamber of International Commerce Shanghai Chamber of Commerce; and is organized by Adsale Exhibition Services Ltd, Shanghai Textile Technology Service & Exhibition Co Ltd., and Shanghai International Exhibition Co. Ltd. ♦