



# Sächsisches Textilforschungsinstitut e.V.







































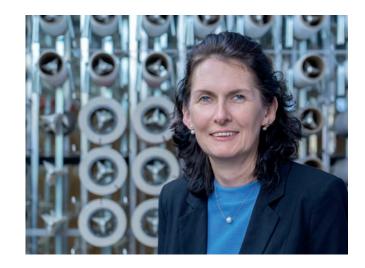


stfi

Center for Textile Sustainability



"30 years of Saxon Textile Research Institute – 70 years of textile research and testing at the Chemnitz location – this is lived competence through experience."



Dear customers and partners,

Since its foundation in 1992, Saxon Textile Research Institute (STFI) has been a strong innovation partner and reliable service provider on behalf of its customers. Processing of textile materials has always shaped the activities. Initially, a growing market was opened up with the nonwoven sector. Foundation of the Competence Center for Nonwovens and establishment of the Spunbond Technical Center based on spunbond and Aquajet patents represent milestones in the history of our institute. Recycling potential was also recognised at an early stage. Nevertheless, the areas of technical textiles and functionalisation grew continuously. Carbon recycling, which was initially started as niche project, led to foundation of the Center for Lightweight Textile Construction and successfully combines aspects of nonwovens and recycling research with high-performance fibers and lightweight construction. The Twenty20 project "futureTEX – The textile industry as future model for traditional industries" coordinated by STFI was the corner stone for topics like "digitisation" and "networked production". With many years of experience and competence, STFI also offers accredited tests and certification of personal protective equipment (PPE) as well as geosynthetics (Notified Body 0516).

Practical research of our institute is reflected in our semi-industrial plant technology, which we use for research and development. R2R work is of great importance in order to make transfer to industrial production as easy as possible. And it opens up opportunities of start-up or replacement production for you, our customers and partners – we are, so to speak, a unique oversized FabLab!

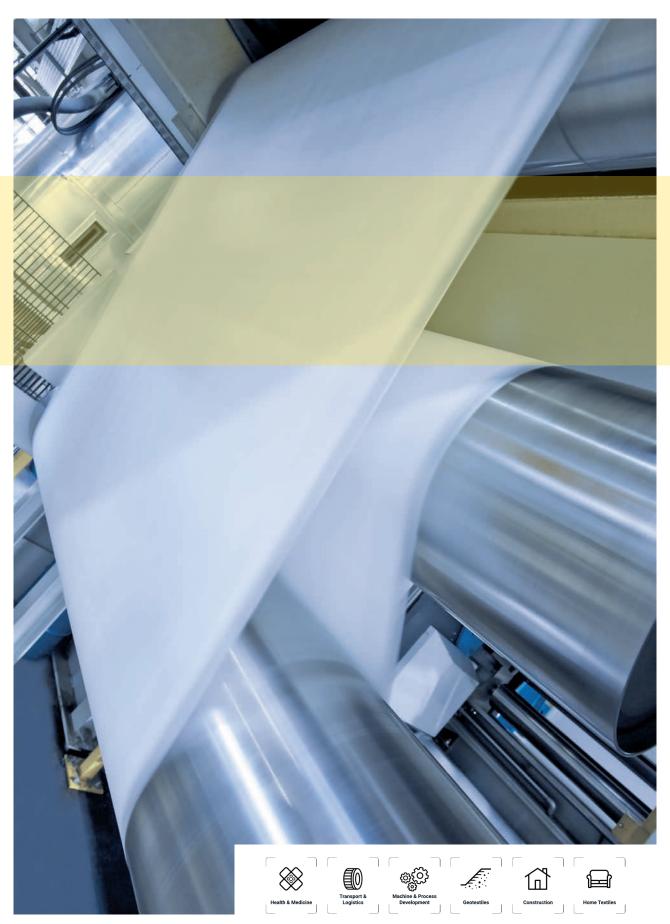
STFI is consistently pursuing this path in focused manner and will establish the Centre for Textile Sustainability as next step. Here, energy-efficient, dry finishing processes as well as another, yet missing nonwoven formation process, will be found under one roof. Sustainability in terms of resource, energy and time efficiency has its origin and future at STFI.

Kithe Iling - grop

Dr. Heike Illing-Günther Managing Director







# **Technical Equipment**

- Fibre web plants with needle-punching machine on lab and semi-industrial scale
- Spunlace plant
- Meltblown plant
- Spinnvliesanlage Reicofil<sup>®</sup> 4.5
- Stitch-bonding machines
- Random web plant with thermofusion oven

# Center of Excellence in Nonwovens

# Processes, Technologies and Products

### Fibre nonwovens

### Carding processes Random laid web process – Airlay (long fibre) Random laid web process – Airlaid (short fibre)

- Needle-punched nonwovens
- Spunlace nonwovens
- Stitch-bonded nonwovens type Maliwatt
- Stitch-bonded nonwovens type Malivlies, Kunit, Multiknit
- ► Random web nonwovens Airlay
- ► Random web nonwovens Airlaid
- ► Needle-punched spacer nonwovens Typ NAPCO®
- ► Nonwoven composites



# **Extrusion Fabrics**

### Meltblown Nonwovens

- Development of innovative meltblown nonwovens
- Production of composite nonwovens type SMS, CMC and further process combinations



- ► Testing of newly developed polymer materials
- Process development for the use of special additives

# Spunbonded nonwovens

- Development of innovative nonwoven products
- Testing of newly developed polymer materials for spunbonding
- Development of biodegradable spunbonded nonwovens
- Process optimisation for micro-filaments and hollow filaments



# Processes, Technologies and Products

# Hydroentangled nonwovens

- Process optimisation to reduce specific energy consumption
- ► Improvement of the service life of nozzle bars
- Testing of screen belts, pattern, structure and perforation stencils
- Production of functional composite structures
- Process water management
- Ultrasonic dewatering



# Textile recycling

- Cutting, cut-grinding and tearing of textile waste, also from special fibres, like glass, aramid, carbon
- Material cycles and recycling friendly construction
- Products made of reclaimed fibres, direct processing to form fabrics from nonwoven waste
- Secondary use
- Recycling of smart textiles





# Fibre reprocessing and yarn production

- Preparation of natural and chemical fibres (particularly special fibres)
- Sliver production, production of yarns and twists
- Quality assessment of fibres, semi-finished and final products



# Load-bearing orientation of high-performance fibres

- Consisting of staple fibres (100 % rCF or fibre blends)
- Inline bonding method to obtain a strand-like product
- Manufacturing of doubled and stretched staple fibre webs (Mixtures with thermoplastic fibres)
- Thermal fixing into tape structures up to 300 mm width

# Center of Excellence in Nonwovens

# **Materials**

### Fibrous materials:

- Staple fibres from natural polymers (Viscose, alginates, acetate)
- Staple fibres from synthetic polymers (PP, PES, PLA, PBS, PA, special fibres)
- Special fibres from non-polymers (metal, glass fibres, basalt fibres)
- Organic animal natural fibres (sheep wool, alpaca wool)
- Organic natural plant fibres (cotton, kapok, flax, hemp, leaf fibres)
- Reclaimed fibres from textile production waste and old clothes

### Granules for extrusion:

- Petrochemical polymers (PP, PES, PA, PEEK, PU)
- Polymers from renewable raw materials (PLA, PBS)



### Seminar "Nonwovens"

The content of the two-day advanced training seminar, offered twice a year in March and October, also includes a tour through the STFI facilities and the opportunity to an open discussion with scientists and technicians.

The Center of Excellence in Nonwovens also organises the **"TEXTILE FILTER" symposium** and the **"recycling for textiles – re4tex" colloquium** every two years.

Further information can be found on: <u>https://www.stfi.de/en/events</u>

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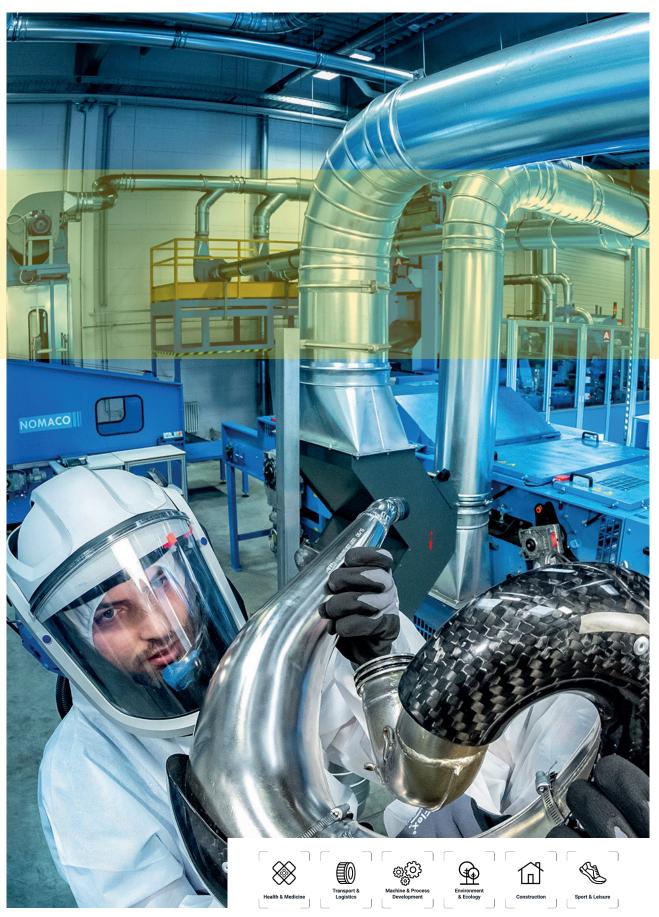
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# **Technical Equipment**

- Nonwoven production line
- Production of rCF-slivers
- Continuous compression moulding system
- Mechanical processing of laminates
- CNC-Cutter

# Center for Textile Lightweight Engineering

- Hydraulic downstroke press
- Laboratory press
- Injection Methods
- Heating Cabinet



# Processes, Technologies and Products

# **Composites Production**

At the Center for Textile Lightweight Engineering thermoset and thermoplastic materials can be produced as part of the recycling strategy and for customised material developments.

- ► Hand lay-up
- ► Resin Transfer Molding (RTM)
- ► Vacuum infusion (incl. VAP®-License)
- Press technologies
- Organic sheets



# Carbon Fibre Recycling

The following technologies for processing carbon fibre waste into isotropic or anisotropic nonwoven structures are available:

- Fibre preparation by using modified (cutting and tearing technologies)
- Web forming technologies
- Inline bonding methods
- Inline quality monitoring systems

# Processes, Technologies and Products

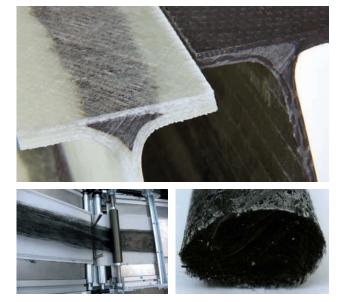
### Oriented Strand-like Structures from Recycled Carbon Fibres

Based on the research results of the STFI regarding the reuse of recycled carbon fibres in different nonwoven structures, further investigations were carried out on better fibre orientation in MD direction:

- Development and production of slivers
- Subsequent inline consolidation to form secondary rovings
- Development and production of doubled and stretched staple fibre webs
- Subsequent thermal bonding to form tape structures

well as the precision cutting or machining of test specimens using a CNC milling machine.

- Composite testing
  - DIN EN ISO 10618 (tensile behaviour of impregnated yarns)
  - Tensil test according: DIN EN ISO 527-Serie, DIN EN 2561, DIN EN ISO 14129 (shear stress)
  - Tending test according: DIN EN 2562, DIN EN ISO 14125, DIN EN 2746
  - Interlaminar shear strength (ILSS) according: DIN EN 2563, DIN EN ISO 14130
  - Compression test according: ASTMD 6641, DIN EN ISO 14126
  - Energy release rate GIc: ISO 15024
  - Fibre volume content via TGA: DIN 16459



# High Performance Fibres and Composites – Testing Laboratory

Based on the technological competencies, the area of testing fiber composite materials has been continuously expanded. Tests such as tensile, compression and bending tests according to various national and international standards are part of the standard program. The range of services also includes the production of test plates using common process technologies, as



# Center for Textile Lightweight Engineering





### Materials

- Reinforcement fibres: carbon, glass, basalt, aramid and natural fibers
- ► Thermoplastic matrix materials: PP, PA, PES, PEI, PPS, PEEK
- Thermoset matrix materials: epoxy resins, polyester resins, polyurethanes, acrylic resins, bio-based resins
- Elastomers Matrix systems: various EPDM-Compounds
- ► Mineral matrix systems: Concrete



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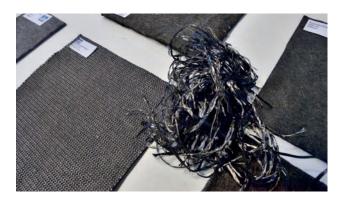
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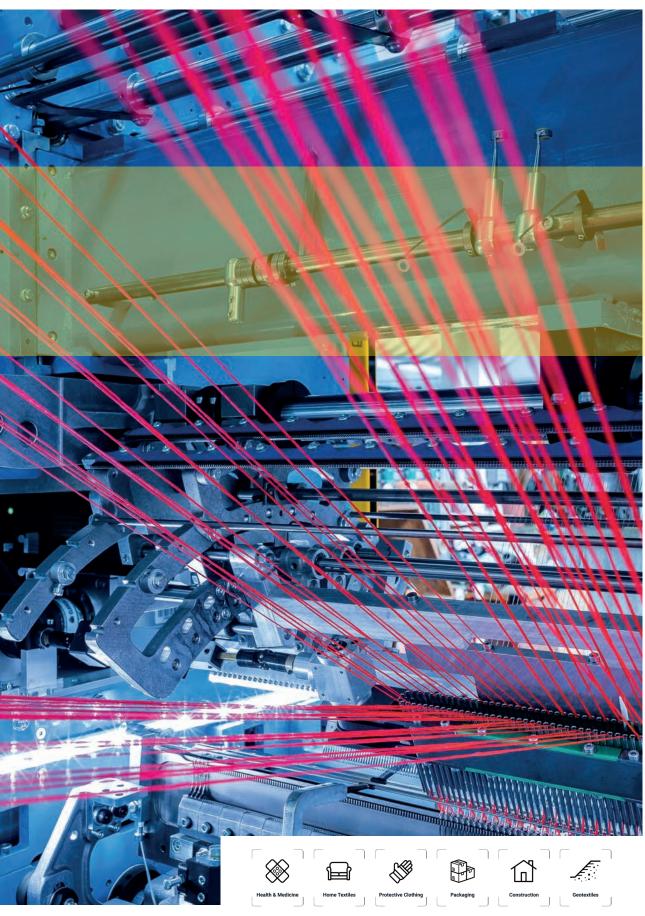


# Seminar "CARBONrecycling"

The seminar provides an overview of the state of the art and research in the field of carbon recycling. In addition to theoretical knowledge transfer, the advanced training seminar includes a tour of the technical center at the Center for Textile Lightweight Engineering at the STFI, including a presentation of the relevant machine technology.







# **Technical Equipment**

# **Production of textile fabrics –** weaving and warp knitting

- Narrow fabric loom
- 3D Spacer Weaving Machine
- Rapier weaving machine
- RL and RR knitting machine
- Compound knitting machine

# Technical woven and knitted Fabrics

# **Production of textile fabrics** – Flat knitting and embroidery

- Flat knitting machines type CMS and ADF
- Circular knitting machines
- Combination knitting machines
- Legs embroidery machines with roll to roll module
- Single motif embroidery machine

### **Production of textile ropes**

- Various braiding machines
- High speed machine KEMAFIL<sup>®</sup>

### **Textile machine construction**

- Diagonal leger
- Test stand divisible guide bars and guide rails



### Processes, Technologies and Products

# Textile lightweight I reinforcement structures

- Textile structures, semi-finished products for composites for lightweight construction
- Development, construction and design of components/preforms/ reinforcement structures (e. g. warp-knitted fabrics, spacer fa brics, woven fabrics, knitted fabrics, etc.)
- Near-net-shape manufacturing (resource and material efficiency, high substance utilisation, waste avoidance)
- ► Local reinforcements
- Processing of high-performance materials (carbon, glass, basalt, aramid, etc.)
- Consideration of drape behaviour





### Intelligent textiles in care and medicine

- ► Smart auxiliary and care textiles
- Monitoring of vital functions by textile structures
- Spacer fabrics for patient positioning
- ► Textile medical products and medical aids
- Orthoses and textile support structures for the musculoskeletal system
- Cooling and heating systems in bandages/ orthoses
- ► Textiles for filter systems/dialysis

# Processes, Technologies and Products

# Building I Environment geotextiles I Geosynthetics

- Textile reinforcements for building construction and civil engineering
- ► Double curved curtain panels
- Luminous concrete
- ► Components for lightweight bridges
- ► Urban greening/ landscaping
- ► Textile structures for frontage greening
- Textile mats for greening flat and pitched roofs
- ► Floating plant islands
- Use of renewable raw materials for slope stabilisation and renaturation
- Electrodes for the electro osmosis process for soil drainage
- ► Wick drains for soil and slope stabilisation
- ► Collector mats for solar thermal energy
- Modular heating and cooling systems
- ► Textile growth supports for water purification



# Nets and ropes

- Net and rope developments from high performance fibres
- ► Nets for Protection and safety, cargo nets
- ► Nets for aquaculture
- ► Nets for securing loads in transport vehicles
- ► Safety nets for bridge railings
- Ropes for traction and carrying equipment as well as for special applications





# **Special textiles**

- Sensor textiles with protection and alarm function
- ► Cut-resistant structures with alarm function
- Integrated product protection with RFID systems
- Smart luminous structures/smart shading systems
- ► Luminescent shading elements
- Sun sails
- ► Large-scale luminous textiles



# Development of textile machines

- Development of multiaxial technology for series production
- Development of textile machines for the production of near-net-shape textiles
- Development of feeding, cutting and positioning technology on warp knitting machines – single yarn feeding
- Combination of textile technologies
- ► test machines for cut resistant tests
- Development of new textile machines/ technologies

# Technical woven and knitted Fabrics

# Testing

- Development of testing methods and machines
- Combined development from technical textiles to testing
- Performance of special tests

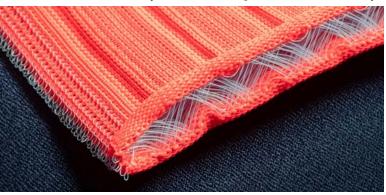
# **Materials**

### Fibres and yarns:

- ► Natural fibres (e.g. cotton, hemp, coconut)
- Man-made fibres (e.g. polyester, polypropylene, polyamide)
- ► High performance fibres (e.g. DYNEEMA<sup>®</sup>, Aramid)
- ► Mineral fibres (e.g. carbon, glass, basalt)
- Conductive yarns (stainless steel wire, mixed yarns, silver-plated yarns)

### Sensors and actuators:

- Electrically conductive (e.g. stainless steel wire, sensor foil)
- ► Fibre optic material (e.g. polyester monofilament) **Non-textile materials:**
- ▶ Wood, hay, straw, sand, gravel, ceramics, clay



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# **Technical Equipment**

### **Material characterisation**

- Rheology
- Bubble pressure tensiometry
- Differential scanning calorimetry (dsc)
- Contact angle measurement
- Inkjet printability (dropwatcher)

# Functionalisation I Chemical Analytics

### **Dispersing and compounding**

- Twin-Screw Compounder
- Dispersing- and milling instruments
- Foam mixer

### **Coating and finishing**

- Lab scale semi-automated coating unit
- Lab scale padding unit (foulard)
- Coating and finishing machine up to 0.5M fabric width
- Tensioning, drying and fixing machine up to 2 m fabric width
- Hotmelt extrusioncoating line
- Dyeing apparatus

### Lamination and joining

- Lab scale laminator
- Hotmelt coating- and lamination system
- Double belt press (flatbed)

### **Functional printing**

- 3D material application unit 1
- Processing area 700 mm x 700 mm
- 3D material application unit 2
- Inkjet printing machine Flatbed 1200 mm x 1200 mm
- Roll-to-roll experimental module for digital coating
- Semiautomatic screen printing

### Laser processing

- UV-Lab laser
- UV-IR laser combination
- IR laser cutter M-1200
- NIR laser welding device

### Processes, Technologies and Products

### Functional finishing and coating

- Direct and transfer coating (knife-over-air, knife-over-roller)
- Impregnation by padding
- Low add-on technologies (reverse roll coating, slot die coating)
- ► Foam-coating

### Hotmelt and uv-curing

- ► Hotmelt compounding
- Hotmelt roller application (fully and patterned) for lamination and coating
- ► Hotmelt extrusion coating (slot die coating)
- UV-curing (UV-LED emitters at wavelengths 365 nm, 395 nm; Fe-doped Hg medium pressure emitter)



### Laser

- ► UV-Laser (wavelength 355 nm)
- ► IR-Laser (wavelength 10,6 µnm)
- ► Cutting, surface patterning, surface cleaning
- Test procedures for testing textiles against laser radiation

### Processes, Technologies and Products

# **Functional printing**

Development of novel manufacturing processes based on additive manufacturing methods and large-area printing processes, such as screen printing, inkjet printing, micro-valve printing and research into printed functional structures in textile composites.



### Textile composites

Development of functional textile composites for technical applications, personal protective equipment and extreme situations. Research new material combinations for artificial leather UV-curing and thermoplastic materials.





### Material and material characterisation

- Dispersion
- Hotmelt compounding
- Chemical-physical material characterisation, (Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC), rheology (hotmelt and dispersion), contact angle and dynamic surface tension, droplet analysis for inkjet printing).



# Ecology and environment

- Material development (bio-based raw materials)
- Application of Encymes and proteins
- Microplastics origin and containment
- Environmental analysis (water, waste water, exhaust air)



# Functionalisation I Chemical Analytics

# Testing

- ► Textile chemical and human ecological testing
  - Material characterisation by spectroscopical, thermoanalytical and rheological methods
  - Determination of dynamic surface tension of fluids and their contact angles on textiles
  - Analysis of harmful substances (e.g. heavy metals, arylamines, phthalates, solvent residues)
  - Determination of fogging characteristics or odourpropagation
  - Quantitative analysis of fibre mixtures
  - Environmental analysis (water, waste water, exhaust air)
  - Protection against chemicals (permeation), cytostatics and pesticides
- ▶ OEKO-TEX®Test lab
  - Tests in accordance with OEKO-TEX<sup>®</sup> STANDARD 100



# **Materials**

- ► Waterborne high viscosity coating systems
- 100 % coating systems (e.g. thermoplastic, UV-curing)
- Water-based low viscosity inks and finishes
- Functional pigments

# Workshop "Functional PRINTING"

The full-day workshop provides an insight into the printing of utility functions and imparts theoretical and practical knowledge in three practical aspects:

- From colour to function
- Light as a tool
- Functional printing for technical textiles

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# **Technical Equipment**

### Robot systems and smart logistics systems

- Stationary and mobile robot systems
- Driverless transport systems
- Mobile wrapping system

### Assistance systems

Tablets and wearables (incl. smart gloves

# Digitisation I Industry 4.0

watches & glasses)

- AR and VR environments
- Machine dashboards

### 2D, 3D printing and laser systems

- Inkjet system
- 3D printing system
- Laser-assisted dry pre-treatment
- Laser cutter

### Software systems

- Open source software (e.g. Node-RED, Grafana)
- Production planning and control software (e.g. Update texware)
- Material flow system (e.g. Plant Simulation)
- 3D modelling (e.g. SketchUp)

### Tracking and identification systems

- RFID systems
- Bluetooth systems
- NFC systems
- Indoor tracking systems

### Safety technology

Safety Eye

### **Special automation systems**

- PLC
- OPC-UA
- Microcomputers (e.g. Rasperry Pi)

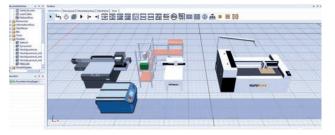
# Topics

# Networking machine systems

- Production planning and control along the textile value chain
- Derivation of machine parameters from product configurations
- Wireless communication (e.g. RFID) for identification, localisation and batch tracking

# Digitalisation of manufacturing processes

- Modelling of machine parameters for the quality monitoring of textile products
- Simulation of material flows as a basis for increase in efficiency
- Continuous data evaluation for e.g. predictive maintenance
- Assistance systems for the provision of information on mobile devices
- ► AR and VR applications as learning environment





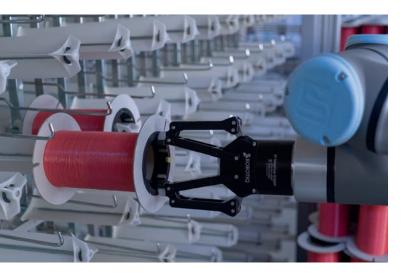
# Automated customised textile production

- ► Use of driverless transport systems
- ► Robot-assisted handling of textile substrates
- Customised production by means of 2D, 3D printing and laser systems

# Processes

# Handling and logistics processes

- Digitally assisted and automated machine tending
- Automated handling of textile goods and substrates
- Robot-assisted tape binding and technical finishing
- Transport of finished goods by mobile robot systems
- Automated transfer of endless goods



# Manufacturing processes

- Production planning and control
- ► Modelling of machine and product parameters
- Simulation of material flows
- Web-based, individual configuration of products
- Networking of software systems
- Retrofitting of machines (retrofit)

# **IT-processes**

- ► Interface management
- Networking and visualisation of data sources and web-based services

# Quality assurance

- Goods display system
- Automated error detection

# Platforms

# Research and test field "Networked manufacturing"

In the futureTEX research and test field "Networked manufacturing", the automation and networking of a multi-stage manufacturing process is illustrated using the example of a customisable carpet (play mat).

# Research and test field "Self-controlling nonwoven production"

In the futureTEX research and test field "Self-controlled nonwovens production" focuses on approaches to the self-control of plant technology. Predictive maintenance and the interface between man are in the focus.

# Interdisciplinary "Textile Protoyping Lab"

The aim of the futureTEX research project Textile Protoyping Lab (TPL) is an open and interdisciplinary laboratory for the development of high-tech textiles. Open innovation and networking between research, design and industry are promoted.

# futureTEX incubator for business model development

In the futureTEX incubator, selected results of the futureTEX implementation projects will be transferred into a realisation phase via a product preparation phase with application fields, prototypes, market testing and product tests.

### Seminar "Digitalisation in the textile industry"

The modularly designed seminar includes various topics on fundamentals, applications and industry-specific demonstrations of digitalisation in the textile industry. In addition to the general overview, the programme includes topics such as assistance systems, graphical programming, data acquisition, data evaluation, modelling, RetroFit, robotics and automation.

# Project futureTEX – A future model for the textile industry



futureTEX is an interdisciplinary competence

network of industry and research partners. It supports the transformation of the tradition-rich textile industry in the age of digitalisation into a sustainable industrial player – with technical textiles (TechTex) as its foundation. All activities within the framework of futureTEX lay focus on Germany's position to be strenghened as the world market leader in textile machinery and to pave the way to a leading global position in technical textiles by 2025. futureTEX lays an important foundation for the development of the sector into one of the most modern valueadded networks for the manufacture of technical textiles, nonwovens and composites.

The futureTEX project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) as part of the "Twenty20 - Partnership for Innovation" programme from 2014 to 2022.

### **Textile Competence Centre networks**

Kompetenzzentrum Textil vernetzt

The SME 4.0 competence centre for textile networks

supports small and medium-sized enterprises of the textile industry, textile machinery and and related sectors in expanding their digital fitness and implementing Al-based applications. With us you will find answers to questions about digitalisation from business practice. Visit our events and take advantage of our offers.

The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy makes it possible to use all our offers free of charge.

# Services & Transfer

- Labtours, workshops and trainings
- ► Trials and implementation projects
- Status quo analyses in companies

### Contact



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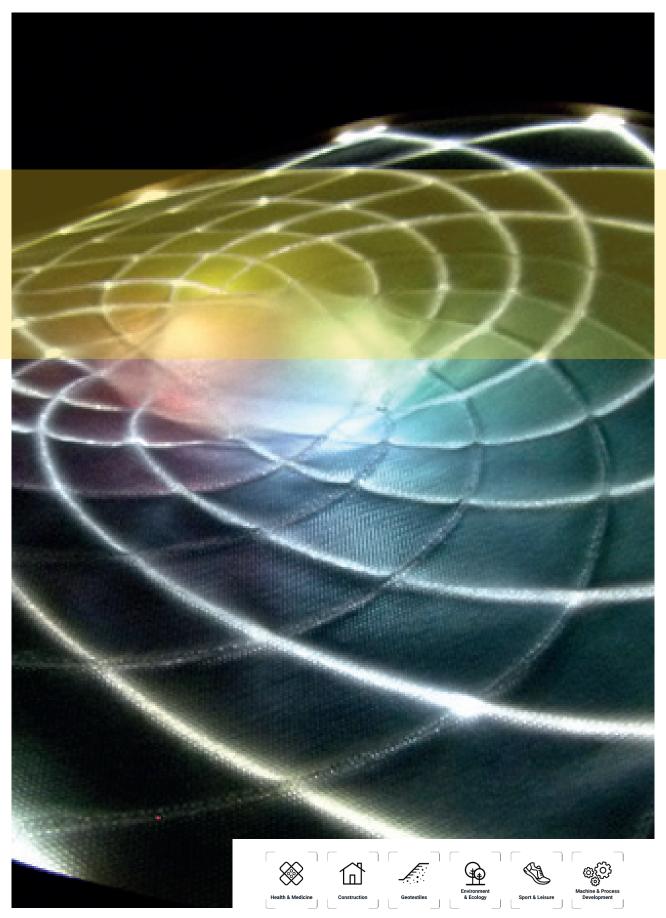
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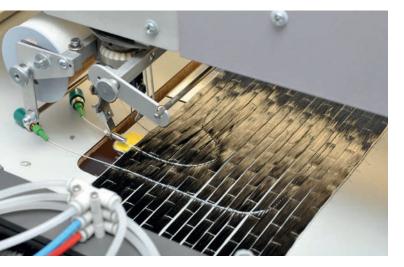


What do cut-resistant structures with an alarm function, textile therapy and assistance systems, luminous structures, shading systems or integrated product protection have in common with RFID systems? All the applications listed have an integrated smart additional function and therefore belong to the category of smart textiles.

# Smart Technical Textiles

Smart textiles and wearables are a market that has been growing steadily for years. Essential drivers are megatrends such as digitalisation, sport, medicine, demographics and mobility. The growth is driven by the now broad and still growing availability of the IT infrastructure.

In addition, the acceptance of smart products, especially in the outdoor, health and sports sectors and the associated provision of personal data by users is increasing. The combination of these developments also enables the establishment of new business models. For the development of production chains and business



# Development of smart materials

- Textiles with integrated functions (e.g. flat structures, net, grid and rope structures)
- Interactive and auxetic textile structures
- Functional coatings and customised 3D printed substances
- Contract research and customer-oriented product developments

### Integration of functions

- ► Sensory and actuatorial
- ► Communicative
- Heating and cooling
- Luminous





### Systems engineering and technologies

- Warp knitting, weaving, embroidery, knitting, KEMAFIL<sup>®</sup> and rope weaving
- Coating and surface modification
- Digital and 3D printing
- Extrusion and compounding technology

# Functional integration process

- Processing of fibre-optic and conductive materials
- Application of liquid and pasty substances
- ► Component and system integration
- ► Digital and 3D printing



# Development of test methods

- Application-related and specific development and realisation of test methods
  - Example: cut protection (cut resistance, stab protection)
  - Application: safety engineering, Protective clothing, tarpaulins

# **Recycling smart textiles**

- Mechanical processing of the waste
- Ongoing research (e.g. in the ZIM network RE4TEX<sup>®</sup>, Tricycle)
- Basic consulting and concept development
- Contact and partner mediation



# Research and application areas

# Geotextiles and building textiles

- ► Structural monitoring in geotextiles (e.g. dikes)
- Monitoring in buildings (e.g. moisture, bearing loads)
- ► Earthquake-proof construction



# **Medical textiles**

- Thermal management in medical technology and orthopaedics
- Textile support structures for the detection and correction of postures
- ► Sensory textile systems for the care sector





# Smart Technical Textiles

# Industrial textiles

- Technical net and rope structures made of High-performance fibres with sensitive properties for monitoring the load
- Protective and safety nets, nets for maritime applications, tension and load-bearing elements, rockfall protection nets
- Generation of photovoltaically (PV) effective layers on flexible technical textiles
  - Self-sufficient power supply for vehicles and silo roofs
  - Building-integrated photovoltaics with textil-based solar cells



# **Protective textiles**

- Cut-resistant special fabrics for tarpaulins, covers, tents incl. alarm function
- Padding for sensitive materials (e.g. refrigeration for transporting medicines)



# Contact



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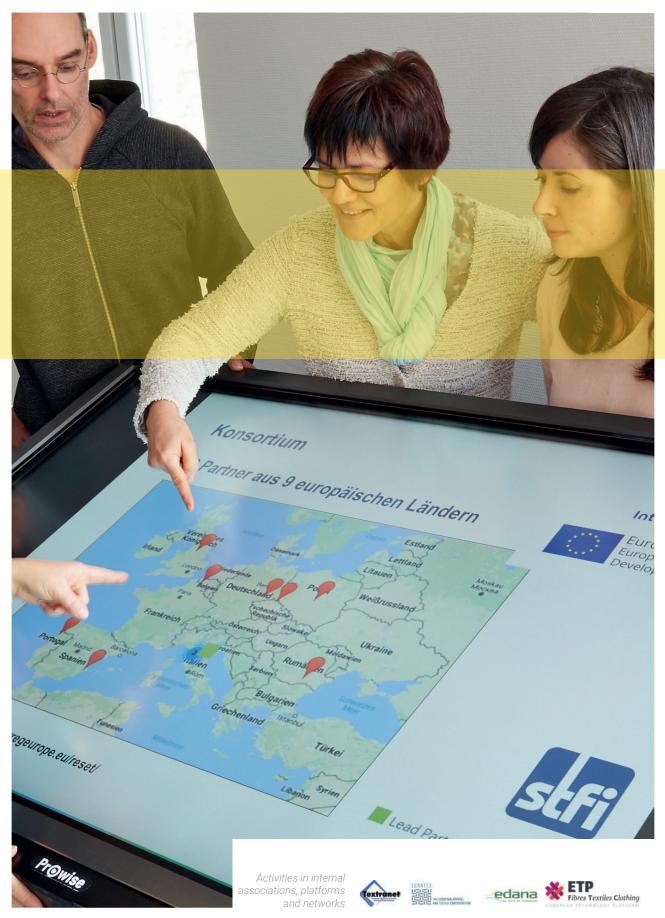
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When it comes to tapping international knowledge potential, cooperation with research institutions, companies and associations at European level is a valuable resource. In addition, for a better networking and the generation of new project ideas, the broadening of professional and cultural horizons is of great importance.

# International **Cooperation I** Transfer I Communication



STFI has been involved in the Europe-wide research network and in regional and strategic developments for more than 20 years. Reali-

sing interdisciplinary cooperation across countries is the concern of the institute's international activities.

The International Cooperation/Transfer Department is the contact point for all European project activities at the institute. In addition to the acguisition and application of projects in European research programmes, the tasks also include technical and administrative project management as well as the transfer of knowledge and results. The staff's experience from coordinating and managing research projects at national level also flows into this.

Transfer activities include the utilisation of patents and other forms of commercial IP protection to protect the relevant research results of STFI and to market them with interested partners.

# International funding programmes and Research projects

# MC<sub>4</sub>



Components made of carbon and glass fibre composites are essential for numerous technical applications, but difficult to recycle. In addition, during the production of composite parts, waste is produced that can be reintroduced into the production process for other components.

The project investigates circular approaches for the reuse of carbon and glass fibre composites and develops process technologies and quality assurance methods that enable the economic recycling of carbon and glass fibre components. MC4 will focus on different reuse and recycling processes along the life cycle of composite parts.

Duration: 01 April 2022 - 31 March 2025 Partners: 15 partners from 7 countries



# **BIONANOPOLYS**



The project aims to impro-Bionanopolys ve technologies and processes for the application

HORIZEN 2020

of nanomaterials. To this end, existing pilot plants across Europe will be adapted and offered in an Open Innovation Test Bed (OITB) for the processing of bio-based nanomaterials. BIONANOPOLYS will also provide a wide range of services to industrial partners for the introduction of new bio-based nanoproducts, such as the development of safety protocols for bio-based nanomaterials, the specialisation and training of personnel, or the development of standards. Within the framework of the project, a business model is to be developed that will enable interested industrial partners to access the pilot plants even after the end of the project.

Duration: 01 Jan 2021 - 31 Dec 2024 Partners: 27 partners from 11 countries



# International funding programmes and Research projects

### SUSCOMTRAB

# cornet

**SUSCOMTRAB** The aim of the project is to develop sustainable fibre-reinforced plastics that can meet the requirements for the transport and construction sec-

The aim of the research project is to

develop a new type of upholstered

seat cover that ensures permanent

pressure elasticity, low wear and

good physiological comfort properties. For this

purpose, 3D knitted structures are to be construc-

ted by varying manufacturing parameters, yarn

material and weaves according to the defined ap-

plication-specific requirements. The production

can be done using circular knitting machines as

well as flat knitting machines. Both technologies

are to be compared according to economic and

In the project, the functionalisation and finishing

as well as the lamination with decorative fabrics

of these pressure-elastic substrates will be inves-

tigated while retaining the specific shaping and

tors. This is to be achieved by combining nonwovens made from sustainable reinforcing fibres, such as basalt fibres, recycled carbon fibres and natural fibres, with resin systems based on benzoxazines and bio-based epoxy resins with flameretardant additives. The SusComTrab project has both composite and resin manufacturers and the textile industry as its target group. OEMs active in the transport or construction sectors can also benefit from the results of this project.

Duration: 01 Sep 2018 – 31 Dec 2020 Partners: 4 partners from 2 countries

**3DKNIT** 

3D

knit





### NANOHYB



The aim of the research project is to develop hybrid nonwoven structures with an integrated nanofibre layer. Meltblown nonwovens (M) are being

developed as the backing and cover material. The nanofibre layer (NL) is produced by electrospinning. Composite structures are developed from the individual layers, for example as a sandwich structure M-NL-M. According to the state of the art, the layers are bonded together with the help of adhesives. In order to ensure the adhesion of the individual layers even without applying a joining component, the possibility of modifying surface layers by plasma or joining by laser or ultrasound treatment is being investigated.

Pandemic protection (in the form of disposable protective and clothing textiles) is seen as a possible end application. For such applications, finishing the novel hybrid structures with antimicrobial or virological agents is being investigated and evaluated.

Duration: 01 Sep 2019 – 31 Aug 2021 Partners: 4 partners from 2 countries

cushioning function.

application-specific aspects.



Duration: 01 Jul 2020 – 28 Feb 2023 Partners: 5 partners from 2 countries



### RECARBOSIZE



The main objective of the project is to develop a concept for the re-sizing of recycled carbon fibres (rCF) and the adaptation of the sizings for se-

lected thermoset (epoxy resin, polyurethane) and thermoplastic matrices (polyamide, polyphenylenesulphide). The rCF equipped with chemically compatible and process-adapted sizings are processed into nonwovens, from which, in combination with the matrices, lightweight components with improved mechanical properties compared to unsized rCF are produced. The starting material is rCF obtained from pyrolysis and solvolysis processes.

Besides the aspect of fibre-matrix interaction, the project also considers the issue of sizing application. Recycled CF are not provided in the form of continuous rovings as in continuous sizing processes, but in the form of length-limited fibres derived from waste recycling processes. A new way of sizing application needs to be investigated, considered in terms of its effectiveness and tested for technical feasibility.

Duration: 01 Oct 2021 – 30 Sep 2023 Partners: 4 partners from 2 countries



# Contact



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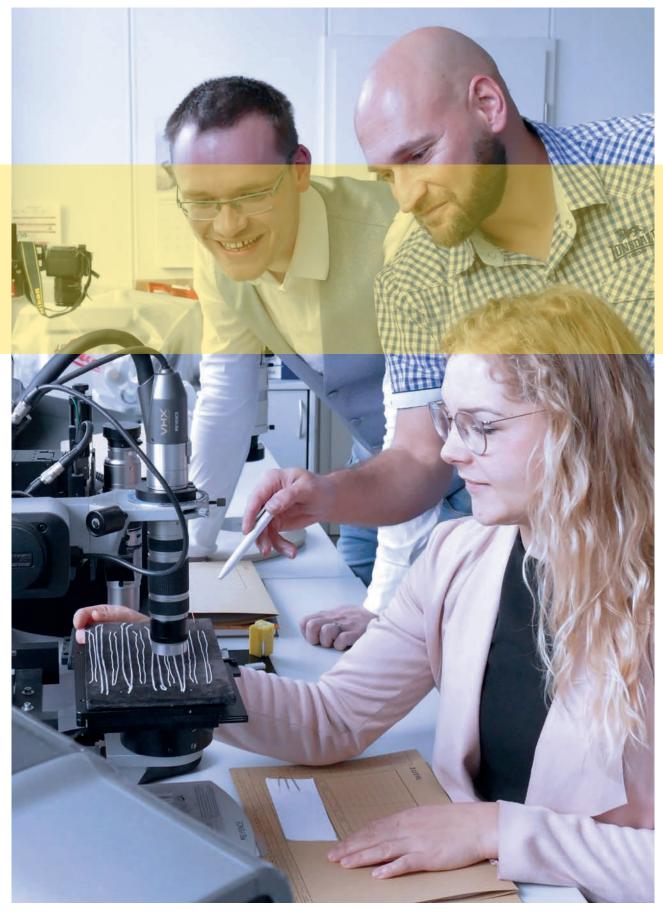
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In order to meet the requirements for innovations in the expanding market of technical textiles, an application-oriented, industry-related research and development potential is a necessary prerequisite.

# Research Services

The Saxon Textile Research Institute e.V. (STFI) is the partner for these increasingly complex tasks with the professional competence of qualified employees and modern technical equipment. Through close cooperation with other research institutes, numerous interdisciplinary fields of competence can be covered.

The wide range of possible applications for technical textiles and nonwovens requires constant improvement and modification of the technologies and thus further and new development of machines and systems. At the same time, new systems developed by the partners in the textile machinery industry must be tested and proven in their potential applications. On this basis, STFI cooperates very successfully with textile and nonwovens producers and various manufacturers of textile machinery and nonwovens equipment.

### Center of Excellence in Nonwovens

The Center of Excellence in Nonwovens is always available to you as a reliable partner for your research and development work. We see the manifold know-how in the field of technical nonwovens, the extensive and complex equipment in three associated pilot plants as well as the interdisciplinary cooperation with the other research areas of the institute as a guarantee for successful cooperation.

The diversity of samples and experience from almost 30 years of textile research, our technical equipment, which can be used for hand samples, small series and semi-industrial project tests, the in-house certified test lab for validating our research results and the variety of problem-oriented solution options are indispensable building blocks of our joint research and development work.

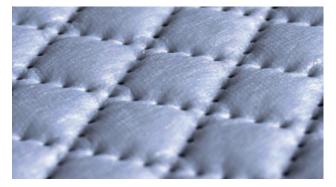
Thanks to our broad network of fibre, filament and nonwoven manufacturers, converters, finishers, research institutes and countless other stakeholders, we are happy to support you in transferring the results to commercial success.

### Contact



### Patrick Engel, M. Sc. Manager Center of Excellence in Nonwovens

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### Center for Textile Lightweight Engineering

The Center for Textile Lightweight Engineering including its technology lines and existing knowhow is available to one-time customer orders, bilateral research projects and small batch series as well as joint research activities within consortia and clusters.

Development tasks defined by the customer could be fully supported and solved by linking the existing in-house competencies. The Center for Textile Lightweight Engineering offers services, starting with the selection and characterization of raw materials, the development and testing of textile semi-finished products up to the development of composite materials and the determination of their characteristic values. Based on the test results, optimized processing parameters are provided and concepts for transferring from pilot scale to industrial scale are established.

The technical equipment is also used to produce small series, especially for SMEs, for the sampling of first customers and the subsequent market entry of new products.

### Technical woven and knitted Fabrics

The research department for technical woven and knitted fabrics has a wide range of machines. Thereby customer enquiries, bilateral contract research and publicly funded research projects can be processed.

With our know-how in the field of textile surface formation from various materials it is possible to support you actively and in an advisory capacity in the implementation of your development or research tasks. We are at your side from the selection of materials and machines to patterning and prototype production. Through a lively exchange with you, the desired product can be manufactured in optimisation loops from the preliminary tests. If desired, the results obtained can be adapted to industrial plants and thus a transfer to your company can be worked out.

For your innovative ideas we are a competent and a very well technically equipped partner with a wide-ranging know-how in the field of manufacturing technical textiles.

### Contact



Christopher Albe, M. Sc. Head of GroupCenter for Textile Lightweight Engineering

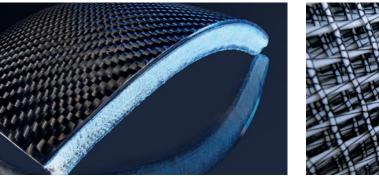
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# **Functionalisation I Chemical Analytics**

With our experience we support you in the optimisation of process parameters and formulations as well as the transfer of the ideas in recent technical processes of your company.

Depending on material properties and requested effects we select and develop suitable coating, printing and laser structuring processes up to final semi-industrial roll-to-roll processes. We realise your research and development tasks within bilateral contract research or together in publicly funded projects in small or large consortia.

With our semi-industrial equipment, we are able to make samples, prototypes and small pilot productions. Please feel free to get in contact.

# Digitisation and Industry 4.0

The Digitisation & Industry 4.0 research area has two research and test fields on the topics of "networked production" and "self-optimising nonwoven production" with state-of-the-art machines, a variety of software systems and numerous practical demonstrators.

The technical expertise of the STFI staff is applied in research and practice on a daily basis. The close exchange with companies in the textile industry and with technology partners makes it possible to find solutions to today's digital challenges and thus contribute to the future viability of the industry.

In addition to feasibility studies, the STFI advises and supports companies in funded and individually commissioned research projects.

### Contact



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### Contact



**Dipl.-Ing. Dirk Zschenderlein** Manager Intelligent production systems, modelling and process management

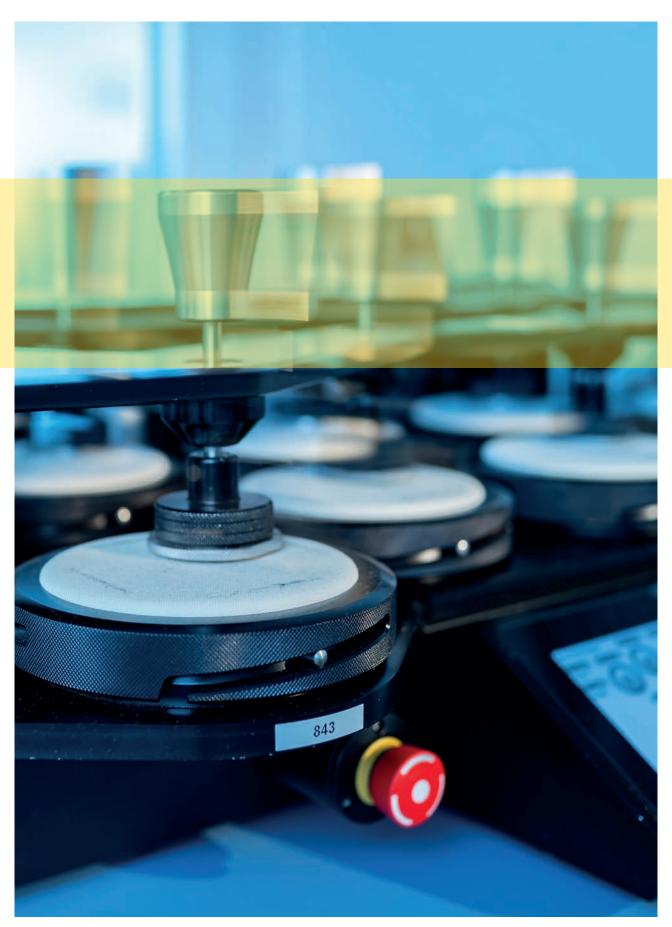
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# For you and the quality of your products – the range of our products

The independent, accredited testing laboratory offers customers a wide range of testing services. The core of our range of services is the testing according to national and international standards, recognised standards for product labels (OEKO-TEX<sup>®</sup> STANDARD 100), technical

# Accredited Test Lab

delivery conditions or industry-specific regulations (SAE). Beginning with the starting materials such as fibres and threads are also taken into account as well as semi-finished textile products as woven, nonwoven knitted, braided or composites structures. The test of final products as a "system test" complete this part of the range of services. As flexible as possible. You haven't found a standard? The STFI test laboratory is flexibly accredited for some specialist areas in accordance with the DAkkS regulations. The flexibility according to Category I allows the test laboratory e.g. to verify the free selection of standardised or equivalent test methods within a defined test area and to include them in the accreditation. Individual products require individual solutions. Here we support customers with the characterisation and quality assessment of their products for which no normative specifications are available. Through the interdisciplinary cooperation of various test competencies, we try to transfer, adapt or develop new methods - development of test procedures. What if the quality is guestioned? To this end, we offer a large pool of interdisciplinary skills for independent, neutral quality assessment of textile products - analytical competence. We are constantly working on expanding our range of services. New and special - here we report on newly introduced test methods. These are normative methods or modifications of already integrated procedures.



### **Our Test Services**

The range of our services and more information are available on our website: www.stfi.de





# Fields of expertise

Additional to the listed standards, we would also are able to provide you with individual offers on technical delivery conditions for the German Armed Forces, automobile tests and others. We also can check national or international standards, which are not listed below, for their feasibility in our lab.

Competent advice on our fields of expertise can be received from the contact persons listed below. Our areas of expertise at a glance:

- ► Textile physical test
- ► Textile physiological and ergonomic testing
- Examination of penetration / protection behaviour



- ► Colour fastness
- Weathering test
- Burning test
- Heat protection test
- Electrostatic test
- ► Examination of care and usage behaviour
- ► Textile chemical and human ecological testing
- ▶ OEKO-TEX<sup>®</sup> test lab
- ► Special optical and physical testing
- ► Testing of personal protective equipment
- ► Testing of geosynthetics
- ► Testing of filter media
- ► Testing of fiber composites
- Cargo securing tests





# **OEKO-TEX® TEST LAB**

 Tests according to OEKO-TEX<sup>®</sup> STANDARD 100



- Pollutant testing on textiles
- Advice on ecological problems in connection with the textile-technical process





# Test method development

The range of services of the Saxon Textile Research Institute e.V. (STFI) includes not only tests according to international norms and standards, but also the development of product or application-related test methods. We understand how important a good test can be to the textile material or product development process. Depending on the level of complexity we either develop the procedures mid- and long-term oriented within various research projects or in short-time missions for applications especially designed for the client's needs. For each of your requirements an experienced, interdisciplinary team with a valuable competence in testing exists. Even for the production of possibly necessary parts and elements of the new method a comprehensive mechanical manufacturing lab with CNC machines exists. And all these activities are supported by colleagues coming from fields like electrical engineering, process or control techniques.

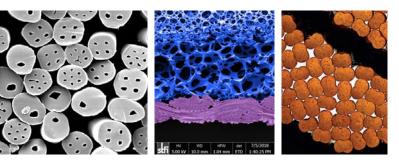
- ► Protective textiles against laser radiation
- Material development with high performance fibres
- Testing of safety nets and air cargo security network

# Analytical competence



The STFI pools his competence in the testing area. An interdisciplinary team "Analytic Group" is part of the accredited testing laboratory according to DIN EN ISO 17025 and responsible for diffe-

rent textile analyses. To the core competences of the three headed team count fiber- and quality



analysis, damage analysis and complaint's processing as well as surface- and structure analysis. The used measurement equipment is going from preparation technology over several microscopes (e.g. digital microscope, scanning electron microscope, confocal 3D laser scanning microscope) to equipment of the chemical-physical analytics (e.g. rheometer, gas chromatography, dynamic differential calorimetry).

# Information and consulting

- ► Training
- Research for standards
- Development/revision of test instructions and test standards
- Definition and implementation of technical delivery conditions

# Contact



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#### Dr. rer. nat. Antje Melzer

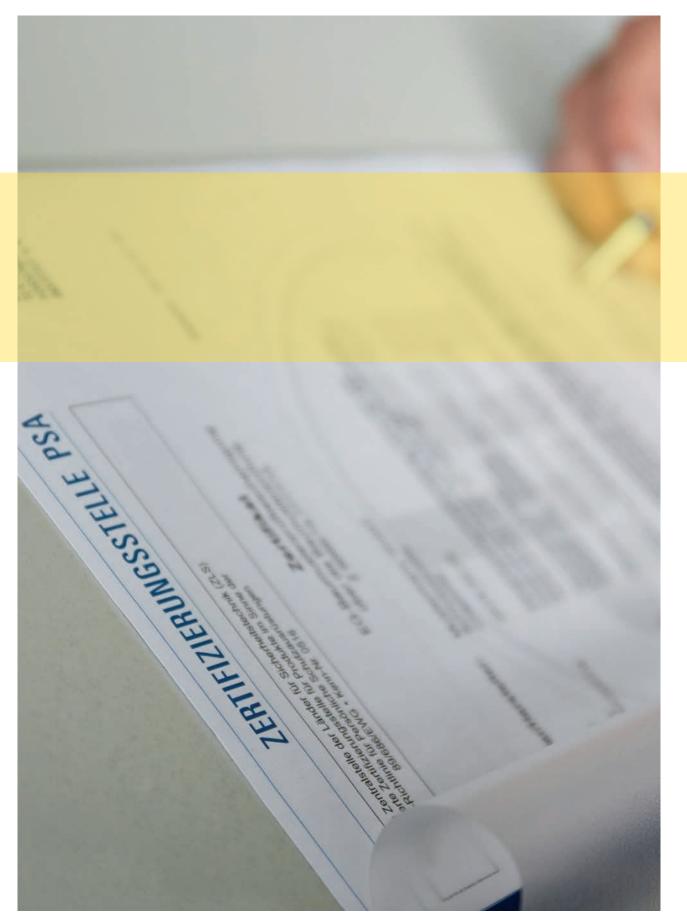
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# CE 0516 Body STFI you

s Notified ody 0516, TFI offers ou certifi-

cations in the fields of protective textiles (PPE) as well as geosynthetics. Thereby, the range of services cover the most relevant standards and product areas with which you can demonstrate

# Certification Department

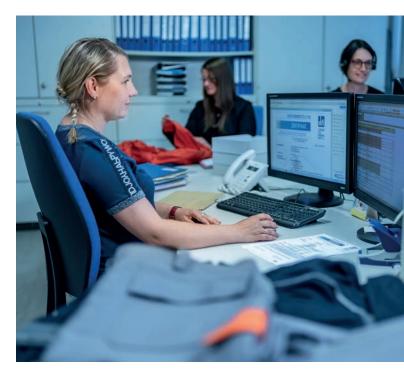
the protection performance and competence in the European but also in the worldwide market. Information on the certification programme, the individual standards, the application process, including the rights and obligations of the applicant, are available from any of our experts working in the Notified Bodies.

# Member of the European exchange of experience of notified bodies



The certification body of the STFI was accredited by the Central Authority of the Federal States for Safety Engineering (ZLS) in 1994. In November 2014, the German Accreditation GmbH

(DAkkS) carried out the current re-accreditation. The accreditation covers the product certification of personal protective equipment as well as the surveillance of products of category III according to Module C2 of the PPE Regulation (EU) 2016/425. As a Notified Body 0516, the STFI certifies the main types of protective clothing and gloves.



# Certification department for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The Notified Body at STFI combines a team of experienced textile engineers, scientists of other specialist areas, technicians and lab assistants. The activities of all members of the Notified Body are focussed on:

- Comprehensive assistance for companies in all steps of testing and c ertification
- Active participation in national and international standardisation and working groups
- Ongoing improvement of test equipment and competence in testing
- Immediate use of newly gained knowledge in assessing protective textiles and clothing



# Testing of personal protective equipment

# The Accreditation for type examinations includes

- Protective clothing for workers exposed to heat (EN ISO 11612)
- Protective clothing for use in welding and allied processes (EN ISO 11611)
- Protective clothing with limited flame spread (EN ISO 14116)
- Protective clothing against thermal risks of an electrical arc (IEC 61482-Serie)
- Protective clothing for fire fighters (EN 469, EN 13911)





- High visibility warning clothing (EN ISO 20471, EN 17353)
- Protective clothing for rescue service personnel (DGUV-Regulation 105-003)
- ▶ Protective clothing against rain (EN 343)
- Protective clothing against cool environments (EN 14058)
- Protective clothing against cold (EN 342)







- Chemical protective clothing; Type 3, 4, 5, 6 (EN 14605, EN ISO 13982-1, EN 13034)
- Protective clothing against radioactive contamination (EN 1073-2)
- Protective clothing against pesticides (DIN 32781)
- Protective clothing-Antistatic properties (EN 1149-Serie)
- Protective clothing for use where there is a risk of entanglement with moving parts (EN 510)
- ► Workwear in food business (DIN 10524)
- Protective gloves against mechanical and thermal risks (EN 388, EN 407)
- Protective gloves against chemicals and micro-organisms (EN ISO 374-1)
- Protective gloves for fire fighters (EN 659)
- ► Protective gloves for welders (EN 12477)

# Workshop "Personal Protective Equipment"

As a comprehensive training package consisting of theory and practice, the seminar PPE will provide you with detailed information and technical know-how on all essential types of protective clothing.

# **Certification Department**

# Contact (PPE)



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# Contact (Geosynthetics)

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### **Certification Department Geosynthetics**

The Geosynthetics Certification Department of the Saxon Textile Research Institute (STFI) was accredited by the German Accreditation Department (DAkkS) in spring 2013. The certificate also attested to the fulfilment of the requirements according to Article 43 of the Construction Products Regulation for a certification department for factory production control.

The notification (designation) subsequently applied for at the Deutsches Institut für Bautechnik (DIBt) for the activity in the context of the accreditation certificate (conformity certification procedure 2+ for geosynthetics) was issued by decision of 31 May 2013.



**BAUTEX – Building with Textiles** The two-day symposium with accompanying trade exhibition covers the topic of "Building with textiles". The focus is on geotechnics, civil engineering, building construc-

tion and innovations/environment.

DAkkS

Akkreditierungsstelle D-ZE-11239-02-00





The accreditation of the Geosynthetics Certification Department (D-ZE-11239-02) was changed to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065 and is valid until 30.01.2023. Since the STFI is alrea-

dy notified to the EU under the number 0516 for the product area "Personal Protective Equipment", this designation has now been extended to the product area "Geosynthetics". With this, the Certification Department Geosynthetics as Notified Body 0516 continues its activities which already started in 2001 in the subsidiary of STFI, the Institut für Technische Textilien GmbH.

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The training and further education of skilled workers as well as the qualification of lateral entrants are measures that are essential for the company's success. **With its education programm**, STFI would like to contribute to the success of your textile company. We have been an innovation partner and service provider for our customers for 30 years.

For more information, visit www.stfi.de/en/.





### Sächsisches Textilforschungsinstitut e.V. (STFI)

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