

Dyes & Chemicals

Schoeller Technologies: Coldblack® wins Textile Design Award 2009

The tenth biannual Design Prize Switzerland was held. From over 300 entries and 36 nominated projects, the eight-member international jury selected six winners in different categories. The competition with a total prize money of CHF 195,000 attracts domestic and foreign designers with a relation to Switzerland. Schoeller Technologies AG has been awarded with the Textile Design Award 2009 by SWISS TEXTILES

& ZUMSTEG FOUNDATION for the textile finishing technology "coldblack®: Sun Reflector - UV Protector". coldblack® is the result of a close cooperation between Schoeller and Clariant International.

"coldblack® represents a practically invisible but enormously useful design achievement," said juror Daniel Zehntner. "One that deserves to be known and recognized in the highest degree. The twofold protective function of this innovative high-tech textile treatment is a technical masterstroke with extensive practical relevance in the fields of design and preventive health care". Hans-Jürgen Hübner, CEO of Schoeller Group, and Hans U. Kohn, COO of Schoeller Technologies were delighted to receive the prize, which was remunerated with 50,000 Swiss Francs.

"This award is the third award within one year for coldblack®", states a content Hans U. Kohn. "And the market response to this product is very positive." Thomas Winkler, Head Textile Business from Clariant, confirms, "Within short time, we have been able to record a large number of partners that are developing products with coldblack® in the manufacturing sector."

Hans-Jürgen Hübner added, "coldblack® is not only an example of a versatile, modern and successful textile function, but also an example of new forms of cooperation." Since the development of the finish, SME Schoeller is working closely with the multinational company, Clariant International Ltd.

"Schoeller employees about 200 people and is very nimble and dynamic, and we have, in collaboration with



Nicole Salathé, presenter of Design Preis Schweiz, congratulates Hans-Jürgen Hübner (right) and Hans U. Kohn.

Clariant, approximately 18,000 people around the world guaranteeing customer focus and consistency.

The synergy of this collaboration is extremely positive." For both companies, research initiatives made from Switzerland are very important. coldblack® is a new textile finishing technology with a double benefit: The first being that it reduces the absorption of solar rays so that dark textiles, in particular, heat up significantly less when exposed to sunlight.

The second benefit is that this technology provides reliable protection from damaging UV rays. Regardless of their color, all textiles with the coldblack® finish feature a UV protection factor of at least 30.

Local creativity with a global broadcast

"A Good Year", stated the jury to the present design community, which had arrived numerously to the Design Center in Langenthal. Albert Kriemler from Swiss fashion company AKRIS in St. Gallen was granted a Merit Award for his tireless performance for Swiss Design.

Martin Leuthold, Designer of Jakob Schlaepfer AG won "The Textile Design Award for innovative solutions for textiles" for the fabric "Secret Garden". The "Textile Design Award for research and development in textile sector" was, as mentioned, given to Schoeller Technologies for coldblack. All three textile design winners come from the canton of St. Gallen and enjoy long standing excellent reputations – regionally and internationally.

Dow Corning: Innovative eco-solution for denim finishing at AATCC's Fashion Garment Washing Symposium

Dow Corning Corporation, one of a leading supplier of innovative silicone solutions for the textile industry, will present "Differentiate your garments using a green wash" at AATCC's Fashion Garment Washing Symposium this December. The presentation will highlight the company's eco-solution for denim finishing. According to Charles Zimmer, Dow Corning's global textiles strategic marketer and conference presenter, "Traditionally, processing and finishing denim to achieve the well-worn, soft look and feel specified by brand owners – and desired by consumers – requires large amounts of water and energy.

"In response to growing concerns about the effects manufacturing processes can have on our natural resources, we developed Dow Corning® GP 8000 Eco Solution, which can achieve savings up to 50 percent of water and energy consumed during denim finishing without compromising the final aesthetics of the garment."

During his presentation, Zimmer will discuss how to achieve significant water savings during denim finishing. Dow Corning GP 8000 Eco Solution saves up to 50 liters of water on every pair of jeans and provides faster processing time, using less energy to finish jeans. He will share the techniques and processing requirements to use Dow Corning GP 8000 Eco Solution, and how the unique combination of properties enables softening to be combined with previously incompatible processes, eliminating steps and reducing the amount of water, energy and time required to produce denim garments.

"The water-, energy- and time-savings from Dow Corning GP 8000 Eco Solution benefits garment processors, brand owners and eco-conscious consumers alike," Zimmer said. "With Dow Corning GP 8000 Eco Solution, processors can reduce their utility bills and improve productivity. And brand owners can improve their image by offering the market more sustainably produced garments."

Dow Corning offers a comprehensive selection of proven silicon-based performance enhancers and process aids for textiles and is breaking new ground in the realm of eco-innovation. In addition to materials, the company provides supportive services and solutions tailored to the specific business and sustainability needs of the global textiles industry. To learn more about Dow Corning's full range of textile solutions, visit dowcorning.com/textiles. ♦