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## EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN FUNCTIONAL TEXTILES

# NEWSLETTER Issue 2, February 2013

### GENERAL

The 4-year project 2BFUNTEX – funded by the EC 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme NMP – commenced on the **1<sup>st</sup> of January 2012**.

The 2BFUNTEX consortium includes 26 partners from 16 European countries deputizing all important sectors – *fundamental research and education on textiles and related materials* (universities and research institutes), *economic, policy, foresight and complexity management* (research institutes and SMEs), *associations of SMEs*, and *some national innovation agencies and governmental chamber of industry and commerce*.

### INTERACTIVE WEBSITE

The interactive website [www.2bfuntex.eu](http://www.2bfuntex.eu) was recently launched as a place for both companies - to detect new technologies and business opportunities as well as express their needs – and research institutions to present their current and future actions in research and education, and their available technologies.

The main purpose of this database is gathering in one market place all relevant information on *technologies, projects and events* related to functional textile materials. This free Open Innovation Platform has as its main objective – to foster innovation in textile companies and to enforce links with European research centres.

### INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY BOARD

An **Industrial Advisory Board** (IAB), representing both large companies and SMEs at different levels in the value chain, was set up to validate the strategy and progress of the project and give information on the industrial needs in the field of functional textiles and textile related materials.

<http://www.2bfuntex.eu/>

IAB membership benefits are (i) to be first in line to engage in strategic partnerships and trainings; (ii) exclusive access to state-of-the-art knowledge and technologies emerging and (iii) input on research frontiers in Europe and around the world. The IAB coordinator is Brian J McCarthy from C Text FTI (UK) [brianmccarthy@technitex.org](mailto:brianmccarthy@technitex.org)

### CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

From the 7<sup>th</sup> until the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2013, the 1<sup>st</sup> IAB meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> 2BFUNTEX Workshop and 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee meeting took place at IK4-Tekniker in Eibar (Spain).



The central focus of this joint event was *Industry Visions to meet Societal Challenges*. The following is a summary of issues highlighted:

- How can *foresight and complexity thinking* add value
- Textiles for a better life: prospective '2030'
- Industry demand: current trends illustrated by roadmaps
- Research fronts in functional textiles and fibres

IAB members gave keynote presentations on future markets and applications for functional textiles, some exotic solutions in textile auxiliaries formulation and the use of functional textiles in medical applications. Motivations and limitations of science-industry collaboration was a matter of debate during a panel discussion.



#### UPCOMING EVENTS ON FUNCTIONAL TEXTILES

- Introduction to Textiles: February 25-27, 2013, Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom
- COST MP1105 Workshop on Innovative Flame Retardant Systems (applications and testing): March 27-28, 2013, University of Maribor, Slovenia
- Exchange of experience on cleaning of waste air, Process engineering fundamentals especially for SME of the textile industry: April 10, 2013, STFI Chemnitz, Germany
- COST MP1106 Training School 'A way to Smart Europe': April 23-25, 2013, University of Twente, Netherlands
- XXIII IFATCC International Congress of the International Federation of Associations of Textile Chemists and Colourists: May 8-10, 2013, Budapest, Hungary
- COST MP1105 Workshop on Nanoparticles for flame retardancy : challenges and risks: May 16, 2013, Cracow University of Technology, Poland
- 13<sup>th</sup> AUTEX World Textile Conference: May 22-24, 2013, Dresden, Germany
- International Istanbul Textile Congress 2013 Innovative and Functional Textiles, May 30 - June 1, 2013, Istanbul Technical University, Turkey
- 4<sup>th</sup> 2BFUNTEX Workshop on 28-29 May 2013 in Istanbul  
***Industrial representatives and other stakeholders are cordially invited to participate***



An exciting and novel bibliometric assessment of functional textiles was performed at the Austrian Institute of Technology, Vienna. Using modern database tools such as relational bibliometrics, science mapping, network analysis, research portfolios, some important statistic results on strategic position, scenarios, roadmaps and emerging technologies in the field of functional textiles were presented by Beatrix Wepner.

Identification, formation and start-up of multidisciplinary project teams will be one of the main activities for the next period.



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