

Texas Tech's Fibertect® selected as Top Innovation by Cotton Inc

FIBERTECT®, a decontamination technology developed by researchers at Texas Tech University, was one of seven new innovations selected by Cotton Incorporated to show the versatility of the fibre. The products are highlighted in short vignettes on Cotton Incorporated's Cotton Today website.

In 2005, Dr Seshadri Ramkumar and his team at the Institute of Environmental and Human Health (TIEHH) at Texas Tech leveraged the absorbent capabilities of cotton to create the Fibertect® wipe that can absorb and neutralise gases and liquids that might be used in chemical warfare.

"To be recognised by the US cotton industry as one of seven inventions is humbling, as it showcases the practical use of cotton technology developed at Texas Tech," Dr Ramkumar said. "The need for decontamination wipes, such as the kind we've created here at TIEHH, were a top priority for the Department of Defense. Years ago, we began the research, developed a product and met a top national security issue. Now we're finding even more uses for the material."

The process to make Fibertect® has received a patent and has been validated for use as a low-cost decontamination wipe for the US military. Also, the wipe's qualities were re-engineered to create a better absorbent material to pick up the "chocolate mousse" oil slicks inundating Gulf Coast beaches following the Deepwater Horizon disaster.

Amit Kapoor is president of First Line Technology, which commercially distributes Fibertect® that is manufactured by Hobbs Bonded Fibers Inc. He said that unlike synthetic materials like polypropylene that are currently used in many oil containment booms, Fibertect® is made from environmentally friendly raw cotton and carbon.

"This summer, Fibertect® was taken to the empty beaches of Grand Isle, La, and then laid out on top of a blob of oil that had settled on the beach," Kapoor said. "It worked very well in absorbing and containing the oil. First Line technology is really pleased to take the laboratory technology into marketplace. Fibertect® is a platform technology and is finding applications in military and oil spill situations."

Kater Hake, vice-president of agricultural and environmental research at Cotton Incorporated, said that cotton has been essentially a source of textile fibre for six millennia. However, creative organisations such as Texas Tech are evolving the use of cotton and, in the process, its future.

"At Cotton Incorporated, we define sustainability as practices that create an environmental, economic and societal benefit," Hake said. "The developments of these organisations certainly address those three tiers of sustainability, and demonstrate the seemingly infinite uses for the cotton plant."

For more information on Fibertect® products from First Line Technology, visit: www.firstlinetech.com.

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More relaxed golfing thanks to coldblack®

GOLFERS are known for their enjoyment of travel and love to fly to sunny locals around the world. This is very understandable considering that sunlight is a natural antidepressant and aids in the production of Vitamin D, which can improve cardio-vascular health. However,



long-term exposure to high temperatures can reduce performance levels and wellbeing. Thanks to the coldblack® finish, the premium women's shirt from Bogner (DE) reflects a large part of the solar rays that cause heat build-up. The shirt also remains tangibly cooler.

With a UPF of 30, it offers high-level protection from UV rays, a topic, which is gaining significance around the globe. coldblack® offers two-fold sun protection. The finishing technology was developed by Schoeller Technologies AG and Clariant International Ltd and launched in July 2008.