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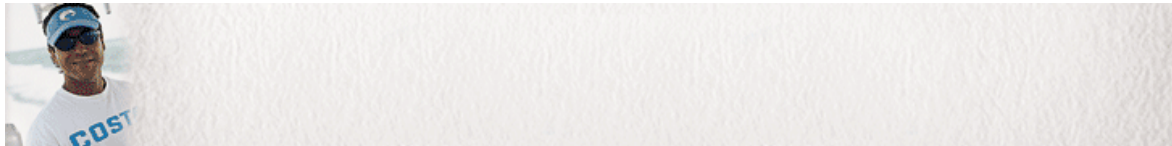
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Fibertect inventor honored at conference


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Posted: Monday, February 21, 2011 9:25 pm

Brian Howard
Staff Writer |  0 comments

The city of Lubbock has historically been known as a major cotton producer, and one professor has spent years and countless hours researching different applications of Texas cotton going far beyond what anyone could have foreseen.

Seshadri Ramkumar, an associate professor in Texas Tech's Institute of Environmental and Human Health, finally is seeing his hard work come to fruition.

After being invited to give a presentation at the 66th annual conference of the Textile Association in India, Ramkumar's paper titled "Technical Textiles: Opportunities" received the best technical paper award.

"My paper was judged to be the best by a set of juries," he said. "I was able to showcase how Texas Tech's nonwovens lab has created a technology that is being used by the Army and various oil companies."

The new innovative technology, known as Fibertect, now is being commercially marketed around the globe as an environmentally friendly and bio-degradable decontamination tool, Ramkumar said.

"After I presented Fibertect to show all it can do, people were so amazed to see how our cotton product can absorb oil," he said.

Value-added textiles, such as Fibertect, can help bring money into the struggling U.S. economy, Ramkumar said.

"In the global marketplace, our volume is 127 billion U.S. dollars, and demand is expected to grow 9 to 13 percent in developing countries," he said. "Even in countries such as the United States and Europe, where GDP growth is expected to be very low, we are expecting volume to grow around 2 to 3 percent."

As far as technical textiles are concerned, Ramkumar said the conference is of the highest level, inviting select people from around the globe to submit papers and present ideas.

"They chose the best people from around the world, including participants from India, USA, China, Switzerland and Germany," he said. "Out of the 23 invited papers, I am proud that mine was ranked the best — they don't call just anyone to do a presentation."

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While presenting at the conference, Ramkumar said, a video created by the university was shown to highlight the versatility and various uses of Fibertect.

"I showed a video created by Texas Tech to emphasize the many applications of Fibertect," he said. "It can be seen by anyone on YouTube and has now been viewed over 5,500 times."

Because of the presentation and the impact it had at the conference, Ramkumar said he has been invited back to India in May to make another presentation at an international business conference.

"They have called me specifically to make another presentation during a huge international business conference where global business leaders and textile leaders will meet to bring it all together," he said. "We will discuss how to grow the textile business around the world."



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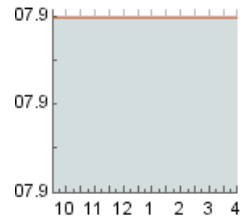
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