



Pontetorto combines key functional attributes in innovative fleece designs

Function redefined by engineered hybrids

The European fleece pioneer Pontetorto shows that all fleece is not the same. The specialists have engineered a completely new range of hybrid solutions that combine various fibers and zones to unite all functional attributes in one garment.

An athlete's body must not merely deliver top performance, it must also withstand a lot of conditions. In active phases, it can overheat; in rest phases it risks cooling down. The result: Performance and health are put at risk and there is a higher chance of injury.

To maintain a constant body temperature in all phases of activity, athletes often have to put on or take off various layers of clothing or fumble with opening and closing the ventilation zippers. Because that is tedious, more and more sports clothing manufacturers are experimenting with hybrid solutions that take into account, like body mapping, the temperature landscape of the body in the design of their clothing. The human body does not warm, cool, or perspire evenly at all points. The intensive points of perspiration, for example, are the armpits or elbows because this is where there are more sweat glands than in other places on the upper torso. The back also tends to perspire more heavily, whereas, the chest and stomach may get cold – especially, in outdoor sports. Additionally, the wind chill factor contributes to the outside temperature quickly feeling like it has dropped into the single digit range. The fact is active athletes often swing between sweating and freezing, rather than enjoying a comfortable feeling.

The fleece specialist Pontetorto is introducing a brand new approach with the hybrid clothing concept. The innovation expert from Italy is exhibiting a hybrid fleece design at the next PERFORMANCE DAYS in November 2016 that not only combines different jacquard structures, but also different fibers in various zones of the garment. Individual patterns are created on special fleece-jacquard machines based on customer requirements, depending on how much heat or ventilation is required at each point. The incredible thing is that according to zone, different fibers can be processed for each garment piece. For example, merino wool can be used where heat is needed, cordura in places that must be protected from abrasion, and functional fibers at places where moisture transport is critical.



At the next PERFORMANCE DAYS, Pontetorto is presenting two versions of the hybrid fabric: ECO HYBRID and FUNCTIONAL HYBRID

ECO HYBRIDS combine innovative, environmental solutions that provide function and comfort. Merino wool can be used where heat is needed and functional polyamide 6.6. fibers at places where moisture transport is critical. What is so special? The polyamide fibers are degradable! This new fiber is exclusively produced at Pontetorto and is completely degradable within three years, biologically and without harmful residues. These innovative blends also have an attractive look, with the length of fabric even dyed tone-in-tone, in keeping with the pleasant natural wearing comfort.

FUNCTIONAL HYBRIDS are no less exciting. A cleverly placed arrangement of wool, tencel, and cationic polyester provides for function that can be appropriately placed at each zone – wool for warmth, tencel for the best climate comfort with perfect wearing properties, and polyester, the top functional fiber for the rapid transport of moisture away from the skin. This blend of natural fibers has even more advantages: in the case of strenuous, sweat inducing sports, this fabric remains largely odorless.

In these uniquely engineered hybrid fleeces, Pontetorto combines functional attributes that have not been available before by zone and without seams in one garment piece. Comfort meets heat retention, moisture transport, abrasion protection, and stretch - all at the appropriate positions.

The first prototype demonstrates the entire range of possibilities and is on exhibit at PERFORMANCE DAYS on November 16-17, 2016.

COMPANY PROFILE

Pontetorto has been producing quality fabrics for over half a century through high levels of expertise and innovation. Since 1952, when it was founded, the mill has been perceived as a leader both locally and in the fashion industry where it has earned great visibility and standing.

Pontetorto was the first mill in Europe to develop a range of pile fleece fabrics for activewear in 1985, a time when product diversification was not generally regarded as the correct product strategy to implement. As a matter of fact, Tecnopile, the Pontetorto registered trademark for activewear fabrics that helped establish the company's international reputation, was the result of ongoing testing and development of brand new materials and processes.

Pontetorto is also aware of all the environmental issues and their sustainability. The company with its typical forward looking attitude is highly engaged in environmental protection: To this end, a photovoltaic panel system installed at the plant will make Pontetorto 95% self-sufficient energy-wise. At the same time, it is now a standard practice in the production process to use low-impact chemicals of the latest generation.

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