

What can we expect at the next Performance Days?

By Charles Ross | 17 February 2023



A month out from the 2023 exhibition, the conversation has started around what will be the newest developments to be revealed at the Munich Performance Days show. The focal points are split between the presentation schedule and trends towards newer versions of an established industry fabric, as well as how fabric mills can be helped to gain confidence in better practice.



Source: Performance Days

PFAs still in the spotlight

At ISPO 2022, it became clear that the world of permeable waterproof membranes was changing faster than predicted. Some of this was prompted by creative solutions; some was in reaction to [forthcoming environmental legislation](#).

The outdoor industry has long championed breathable waterproof jackets as its iconic product, but the most common chemicals used to create the holes in a micro-porous PTFE membrane have been classified as bio-accumulative and carcinogenic and do not break down in the natural environment.

Against this backdrop, we've seen the launch of olefin technology (what the rest of us call versions of polypropylene) – a manufacturing process that produces very little waste and creates a fiber that is 100 percent recyclable and repels and wicks moisture. We're also seeing a move back to hydrophilic solutions that maintain optimal breathability rates when the face fabrics are wetted out.

At **Performance Days**, several sessions are expected on this on the first day, as well as a panel of membrane manufacturers.

Ripples from the EU Green deal are already being felt

On the fabric side, we are beginning to see the effects of the incoming **EU Green Deal**. This legislation will divert the majority of recycled polyester that underpins the textile industry, as waste **bottles will no longer be available for downsizing into textiles** but must be looped back into new drinks bottles.

Bio-plastics are being developed, but these are not at the scale required. However, recent technology has allowed waste tires to be used as a source of recycled nylons. Up to now the use of nylon was restricted to creating more durable face fabrics, but with the predicted shortage of recycled polyester at the same time as the growth of the amount of recycled nylon, a swap over could happen. Nylon variations now include brushed fleeces & baselayers.



Source: Performance Days

Upping transparency a priority

Another big theme will once again be the calculation of the carbon footprints of materials, mainly so that retail brands will be in a stronger position to provide impact information for different products. A year ago, only 10 fabrics on display offered this insight; now it is nearer to 200.

Most textile mills chose to use the **Higg Materials Sustainability Index**, but this scale has not yet reached a tipping point in popularity – mainly due to the nervousness of the mills in calculating the scores. Hence this year's show has plans to help exhibitors gain more confidence when utilizing these systems.

For the third time, the theme is The Journey To Carbon Neutrality, with a new subtheme, "*Create. Align. Compare.*" This focus will continue to center on helping mills to calculate (and thus better) their carbon footprint.

The evolution of Performance Days

The show itself has run for 16 years (and became even more popular during the lockdown period as some of the presentations had over 800 virtual attendees, whereas the stage area contains just over 100 seats). What started in a couple of rooms at **Munich's World of Fashion Campus** has grown larger and larger.

The exhibition at **Messe Munich** will combine 270 exhibitors of fabrics, the **Performance Forum** – featuring the best swatches for the forthcoming Spring Summer 2024 season – and the Presentation stage, discussing the topics of most interest to design team departments.

This year, every stand space has sold out, and discussions are now happening about how to accommodate more exhibitors from the waiting list. Unlike most material shows, those taking part must have fabrics that offer an environmentally better solution to be allowed to exhibit in a bid to raise the responsible practice choices within the outdoor and sports industries.



Read next: Is this the end of PFAS?
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Performance Days Munich's original intention was to bring a selection of fabrics to major retail brands, and it has built on this simple premise. The Performance Forum showcases the best of the exhibitors' fabrics. Today over 1000 fabric samples are submitted for consideration into the 13 different categories, which range from 3 Layer Shells through to Outer Midlayers, Shirting, and Base-layers.

The exhibition adopted a **hybrid format over lockdown**, and exhibitors can still make use of a virtual showcase to enable sampling outside of the show period, as well as a playback facility for the presentations. However, those accessing the virtual event miss out on the relaxed conversation with their peers over a drink at the end of the first day.

The most interesting developments of the show are still likely to be when a brand works with a particular mill to create something outside its normal portfolio of fabrics – something that takes a personal commitment from both parties. We will definitely be ready to report on the latest from the upcoming event.

The Spring Performance Days 2023 will take place on March 15 and 16. **Registration** is free.