

Textiles Intelligence

Press Release

October 2018

For immediate release

Smart textiles and clothing are set to transform the health, sports and fitness, and workwear sectors

Smart textiles and clothing are expected to transform the health care, sports and fitness, and workwear sectors, according to a report in issue 63 of *Performance Apparel Markets* from the global business information company Textiles Intelligence.

Clothing is considered to be an ideal platform for the integration of smart technologies as humans spend 90% of their lives in contact with textiles.

To date, most products within the market have been tailored towards sport and fitness applications and military uses--where they are capable of monitoring the vital signs of soldiers and can help to improve the safety of soldiers in combat.

But there is also huge potential for using smart textiles and clothing to transform patient care and improve safety and efficiency in the workplace.

In the health care sector, smart clothing enables patients to be monitored remotely and this could help to reduce the cost of health care, free up beds in hospitals, and provide a more comfortable experience for patients.

In the workwear sector, light sources can be incorporated into clothing to improve the visibility of workers operating in poor lighting conditions, and sensors may be used to monitor the locations of workers such as police personnel and firefighters.

Furthermore, smart textiles and clothing products have the potential to increase efficiency in the workplace, particularly in automated production processes and supply chains, by using sensors to collect data relating to the efficiency of workers and machinery.

However, a number of challenges need to be overcome for the industry to fulfil its potential--notably those relating to environmental sustainability, legislation and standards.

Also smart textiles and clothing typically require several components and are therefore complex and challenging to design, develop and produce.

To tackle the complexity of smart textiles and clothing, some companies, such as Nike and Under Armour, have established innovation divisions or "incubators". These are specialist departments which focus on aspects of product development such as the integration of power sources and waterproof technology.

Some explorations are being made into the development of electrically conductive fibres and yarns and the potential uses of graphene--which is considered to be a highly conductive material. Developments also include stretchable smart textiles, reflecting the emergence of technologies such as

stretchable sensors and stretchable conductive inks.

In fact, many experts believe that, such is the pace of development, textile computing products may be in common usage in five to ten years--by which time there may not be a need for mobile telephones as they may be replaced by functional clothing.

Ends.

This report, "Smart textiles and clothing: opportunities for providing comfort, functionality and insight into consumer behaviour and lifestyles", was published by the global business information company Textiles Intelligence in issue No 63 *Performance Apparel Markets*.

Other reports published in the same issue include: "Fast track: a boom time for China's leading domestic sportswear brand"; "Product developments and innovations"; "Profile of Myant: a vertically integrated provider of textile computing products and services"; and "Business update".

Performance Apparel Markets is published four times a year by Textiles Intelligence. Each issue provides an independent and worldwide perspective on the global performance apparel industry.

This report, "Smart textiles and clothing: opportunities for providing comfort, functionality and insight into consumer behaviour and lifestyles", is available for purchase individually and costs £310 + VAT (UK), Euro570 (Europe, Middle East or Africa) or US\$750.00 (Americas or Asia Pacific).

Alternatively, a year's printed subscription to *Performance Apparel Markets* costs £870.00 (UK), Euro1,520 (Europe, Middle East or Africa) or US\$1,920 (Americas or Asia Pacific). An electronic supplement is also available; please contact Textiles Intelligence for details. Single issues and multi-report packages are available on request.

For further information, please contact Clare Whitfield at Textiles Intelligence, Fulshaw Hall, Wilmslow SK9 1RL, UK. Tel: +44 (0)1625 536136; fax: +44 (0)1625 536137; email: subscriptions@textilesintelligence.com

For press copies and editorial enquiries, please contact Robin Anson at Textiles Intelligence. Tel: +44 (0)1625 536136; fax: +44 (0)1625 536137; email: editorial@textilesintelligence.com