

**Passion for Cotton!**

**35th International Cotton Conference Bremen – the Hybrid Edition**

**Plastic from Cotton, Outdoor from Cotton, Fluorescent Cotton,  
Cotton in 3-D Design**

**Bremen, 15 January 2021:** For the first time in its history, the International Cotton Conference will take place on 17 and 18 March in the form of a hybrid edition, with a virtual focus. However, even in the virtual world, the topics remain relevant for the textile supply chain. Registration is already open - participants can secure the attractive Early Bird price until 22 February. To the registration: <https://cotton-conference-bremen.de/registration/>



**Cotton – Useful Beyond Your Imagination: Cotton can make plastic, it can do outdoor, it can be fluorescent and in 3D-design.**

A highly exciting session will deal with alternative uses of the renewable natural fibre in innovative products with a high utility value. The session will take place on Thursday, 18 March 2021 at 12:30 (GMT+1) in the Technical Track.

The use of cotton goes far beyond household textiles and clothing. In the session **‘Innovative Textile and Technical Products’**, four examples make it clear that the use of the biodegradable raw material cotton has grown impressively. In fact, thanks to its intelligent properties, cotton can also be found in technical products or in smart textiles.

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**Michael Jänecke**, Director of Brand Management Technical Textiles & Textile Processing at Messe Frankfurt, will lead the session with his extensive market experience. Among other things, he has been responsible for the organisation of the leading international trade fairs ‘Techtextil’ and ‘Texprocess’ for many years.

**Case Study 1:**

**Fluorescent, Super-magnetic and Water-repellent Cotton**



Fluorescent Cotton,  
© Filipe Natalio/ Universität  
Halle-Wittenberg

**Dr Filipe Natalio** is a senior staff member and researcher at the Weizmann Institute for Science in Rehovot, Israel, working for the Plant and Environmental Research Department, affiliated with the Kimmel Centre for Archaeological Science. He presents the results of his work under the theme of ‘Raw Material Agriculture: Breeding Cotton with Unique Functions’, in which cotton can be equipped with fluorescent, super-magnetic and water-repellent properties. This is brought about biologically through the implementation of a specially developed glucose molecule in cotton. The development has the potential to be used in large formats in cotton-based functional materials and textiles.

**Case Study 2:**

**Cotton, not Plastic**

**Dr Nouredine Abidi** is Professor and Director of the Fibres and Biopolymers Research Institute (FBRI) at Texas Tech University, USA. There he developed a process in which cotton is processed in such a way that it can be used as an alternative to plastic. This can also use short fibres or fibre residues that are not suitable for higher-quality processing. The resulting cellulose-based bioplastics are biodegradable. Bio-based plastics have a wide variety of commercial applications, including shopping bags, agricultural land coverings, bio-plastic packaging, and other single-use items. As

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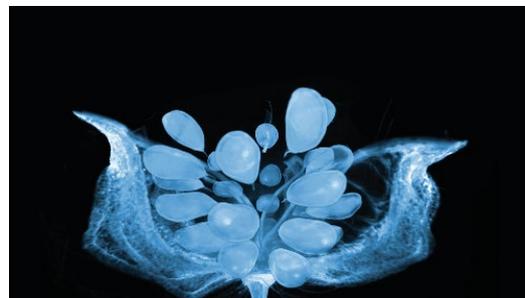
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a conceivable low-cost alternative to petroleum-based plastics, this innovation offers a way of reducing the amount of plastic in the environment.

**Case Study 3:**

**Innovative Padding and Fabrics for Furnishings and Outdoor**

In a double lecture, **Matthias Boehme** and **Daniel Odermatt** present innovative textiles for the interior design and outdoor sectors. Matthias Boehme is the owner of the Textile Solutions & Consulting agency in Bremen. He presents product ideas for padding for use in furniture from the German nonwoven and composite manufacturer Norafin Industries in Mildenau. These are not made from oil-based synthetic fibres, but from cotton and other bio-based natural fibres and are used in home textiles (e.g., wallpaper) or for functional components for technical textiles and for clothing development.



CT-Picture of a Cotton Boll – Deep Insights into Cotton

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Daniel Odermatt is Division Manager at fabric manufacturer Stotz & Co. AG, Zurich, Switzerland. The company is known for developing highly functional cotton fabrics. For example, extra-long staple fibres are softly spun and twisted and then woven in the highest possible density. The result is a dense all-weather fabric with natural properties and maximum comfort. The material is rainproof, completely windproof and equipped with a breathability that can only be achieved using natural materials.

**Case Study 4:**

**3D Cotton-Linen Fabric for the Treatment of Skin Diseases**

**Dr Iwona Frydrych** from the University of Technology in Łódź, Poland, is a professor at the Faculty of Material Development and Textile Design. Her topic is the support of

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the medical treatment of skin diseases using a 3D-design for clothing made of cotton-linen blends. Microcapsules with proven skin-soothing plant substances are applied to the material. The material treated in this way has direct contact with the skin. The content of the microcapsules is released by body heat and moisture. According to studies, this leads to relief from skin complaints.

We will continue to report on the other contents of the cotton conference in our press releases. The current conference news and programme details can also be found on the conference website. We look forward to active media coverage. Interview requests in advance are processed as quickly as possible. We are already inviting journalists to the conference and accreditations are possible at any time via the conference website <https://cotton-conference-bremen.de/press/>.

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## About the International Cotton Conference

The International Cotton Conference Bremen – the Hybrid Edition, divided into two thematic strands, offers a total of 13 highly topical conference sessions on 17 and 18

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March, with relevant subjects that are currently challenging the internationally networked cotton textile industry. Depending on the target group, a distinction is made between two lecture strands, each with a conceptual or predominantly technical focus ('Conceptual Track' and 'Technical Track'). Access to active communication and networking with all conference participants is provided using the 'Interaction Track'. Here, questions can be sent directly to the speakers to answer during or after the lectures. Participants and speakers can also arrange private video meetings to individually clarify questions of interest. There is the possibility to participate in surveys. Further dialogue formats are offered as part of a digital matchmaking service via audio and video calls for all participants as part of the break and networking activities e.g., in the form of 1:1 meetings or virtual table discussions with several participants. In-depth information can be found on the conference website (<https://cotton-conference-bremen.de/program/>).

The organisers of the International Cotton Conference are the Fibre Institute Bremen e.V. (FIBRE) and the Bremen Cotton Exchange.

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