



PRESS RELEASE

FRANKFURT, May 4th, 2015

Centexbel & Sioen Industries win Techtextil Innovation Award 2015

Centexbel, the Belgian Textile Competence Centre, and Sioen Industries, specialist manufacturer of technical textiles, yarns and fabrics, are the 2015 winner of the Techtextil Innovation Award in the category New Materials.



Techtextil Innovation Prize winning team:

Bert GROENENDAAL (Sioen Industries nv)

Guy BUYLE & David DE SMET (Centexbel)

The award winning and patented technical textile is used as a cultivation substrate for macro algae growth, an important source for our future food supplies (additives), feed, biochemicals and biofuels/energy. The innovation is the result of the research of Centexbel and Sioen carried out during the European FP7 project **At~Sea**. This project is dedicated to the development of advanced technical textiles to demonstrate the technical and economic feasibility of open sea seaweed cultivation. The advanced seaweed cultivation substrates are a breakthrough for European-based industrial scale

seaweed cultivation that is offering a **sustainable and renewable source for food and feed additives, for biochemicals/biomaterials, and for bioenergy.**

The award winning technical textile will be showcased at the special award winners' area of the Techtextil Fair. For more information, please visit the Centexbel booth at Techtextil (Hall 4.1 – E51-52).

Further information:

Youtube videos:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YC33pHeGdI>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5zSRVNzelo>

At~Sea project: www.atsea-project.eu



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Centexbel in brief:

Centexbel, the Scientific and Technological Centre of the Belgian Textile Industry, is a non-profit organisation supporting textile manufacturers in the development and introduction of novel materials, innovative products and technological processes.

Centexbel focuses its research and development activities on three technological fields while paying much attention to sustainability and the environmental impact of materials and processes:

- functional thermoplastic textiles
- textile functionalization & surface modification
- health, security and protection

Centexbel runs a whole series of physical, chemical and microbiological tests on textiles (from fibre to finished product). The centre also analyses the burning behaviour of textiles and other flexible materials. The four Centexbel laboratories are certified according to ISO 17025 and recognized by numerous national and international organisations.

Centexbel continuously invests in its (semi-) industrial application platforms (knitting, extrusion, textile finishing and coating and in a professional laundry line). These lines allow the industry to produce prototypes or samples and to have them tested before starting the large-scale production of new products.

Centexbel's services include consultancy, professional training, impartial product certification, and standardisation.

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