

C E N  
T E X  
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# clothing textiles



... FASHION | WORKWEAR | SPORTSWEAR | LINGERIE ...

Clothing textiles are finished and/or functionalized woven, knitted, nonwoven fabrics used to manufacture all sorts of garments, such as fashion wear, lingerie, workwear, protective clothing and gloves, sportswear, rainwear, outdoor garments, cleanroom suits, accessories ...

#### DIFFERENTIATION

The contemporary clothing textiles industry focuses on specialty clothing: protective clothing, or outdoor leisure wear, sportswear ... incorporating and promoting the most advanced (often cross-sector) technological innovations. Because each type of garment is worn in totally different circumstances or has to serve entirely different purposes, the fabrics, finishes, and accessories have to comply with very different mechanical, technical and/or safety requirements. However, under all circumstances, the thermophysiological comfort (or management of body heat and moisture) of a garment is a prerequisite. Indeed, a garment that is not offering this type of comfort disturbs or hinders the wearer and has a negative impact on his or her performance.

#### OPPORTUNITIES FROM CHANGING SOCIETAL NEEDS

Next to a specialisation in garments for different purposes, clothing textiles and garments are designed and manufactured to suit different target groups and their growing number of subgroups. For example, people are no longer young, middle-aged or simply old... a whole variety of in-between categories, each with its own set of needs and desiderata is now offering multiple commercial and innovation opportunities to designers, manufacturers and marketeers.

#### GROWING TECHNICALITY OF FABRICS AND ASSEMBLY TECHNIQUES

Innovations in high-tech domains (aerospace, ICT, smart materials, nanotechnology...) are infiltrating into clothing textiles leading to novel applications and improved properties. One of the best known examples is the shark skin swimsuit. The surface structure, design and manufacturing resulted in unbelievable world record breaking performances.

#### MASS-CUSTOMISATION

Since several years, manufacturers, suppliers and customers are setting up virtual networks of mass-customisation: the individual client determines the final look of the product by selecting materials, colours, finishes ... offered by a network of suppliers and manufacturers.

#### SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH ISSUES

In a globalised market, it is important to differentiate one's products in a positive way. Sustainability and eco-labelling are not only commercially interesting, they also contribute to healthier products and a better (social and ecological) environment. Because of the commercial success of the eco-concept, however, it is very important to remain vigilant and to examine the contents and transparency of the different eco-labels.

#### NEW MATERIALS & LOW TEMPERATURE WASHING

New materials, their combinations and changing ecological demands have totally altered the washing and cleaning methods of garments and accessories. Today's market is flooded with a variety of washing powders for delicate, dark and coloured fabrics. Additional products prevent colours from bleeding or are capable of (locally) attacking all kinds of stains and dirt. The manufacturers of these washing powders guarantee a clean result and economic/ecological savings with washing temperatures of 10°C.



## TESTING

The Centexbel laboratories perform an extensive range of tests according to European and international standards on both clothing textiles and complete garments, such as:

- burning behaviour
- thermophysiological comfort
- cytotoxicological tests (compatibility between skin and textiles)
- barrier properties
- colour fastness
- resistance to washing, dry-cleaning and drying
- all tests related to Oeko-Tex® and CE-marking
- linting and cleanliness
- UV-resistance
- and many other tests ...

## CERTIFICATION

- Centexbel is a notified body (#0493) for the CE-marking of protective clothing and gloves, appointed by the Belgian authorities and notified to the European Commission
- Ecolabels for clothing textiles and accessories
  - Oeko-Tex® standard 100
  - made in green
  - Proof of TRUST by Centexbel

## STANDARDS

Centexbel is the sectoral operator and co-ordinates the Belgian standardisation activities on behalf of the industry and other concerned parties.

## CONSULTANCY

- value chain approach
- mass customisation
- sustainable development
- European size designation according to EN 13402
- textile care
- REACH & CLP

## TRAINING SESSIONS

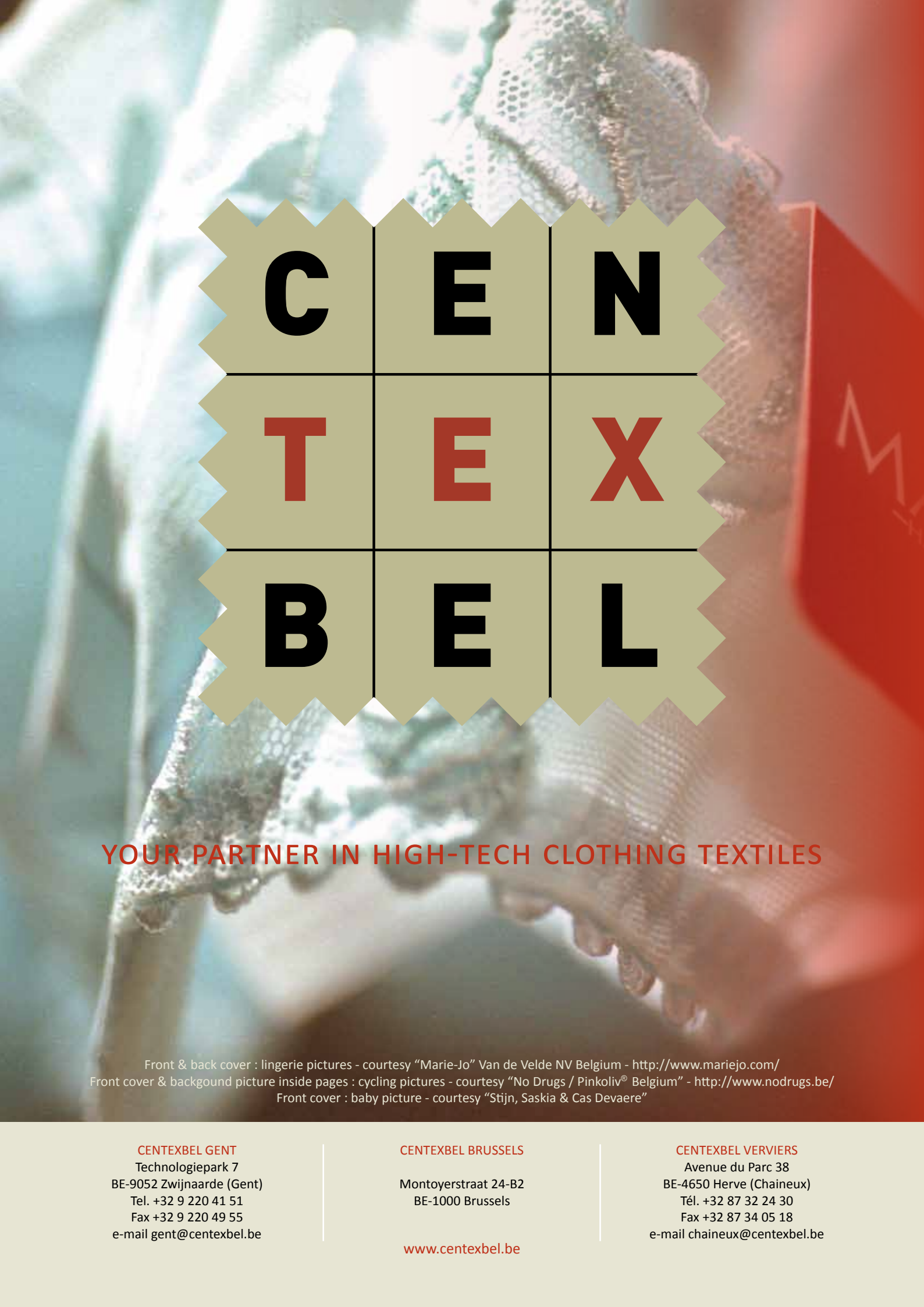
- information sessions, also in close collaboration with Belgian and international fashion and textile care federations
- international conferences
- training sessions in collaboration with IVOC and COBOT

## RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

- nanotechnology
- multifunctional textiles, finishes and assembly techniques
- self-repairing coatings for protective clothing
- smart textiles and incorporated ICT
- cosmetotextiles
- tactile properties and comfort

## PROTOTYPING

Centexbel's expertise, semi-industrial pilot lines (knitting, extrusion, textile coating and finishing, laundry line) and vast testing facilities enable the industry to produce prototypes and to perform small-scale trial runs that can be easily upgraded to a full-scale industrial production.



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**YOUR PARTNER IN HIGH-TECH CLOTHING TEXTILES**

Front & back cover : lingerie pictures - courtesy "Marie-Jo" Van de Velde NV Belgium - <http://www.mariejo.com/>  
Front cover & background picture inside pages : cycling pictures - courtesy "No Drugs / Pinkoliv® Belgium" - <http://www.nodrugs.be/>  
Front cover : baby picture - courtesy "Stijn, Saskia & Cas Devaere"

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