

Conference "Textile Wearables in the World of IoT"



The development of new information technologies in the last decade is having a significant impact on our daily lives. People are connected at any time and at any place. However, this is not the end of the story. Scientists and technicians are now preparing the revolution of the Internet of things. In the context of the emergence of new technologies like the 5G communication network, the miniaturization of electronics and the progress in the field of artificial intelligence, new applications, that are already taking shape in our imagination today, will become a reality in the next decade.

On the 1st of October, 2019, Centexbel organised a conference in Liege on this theme that was attended by an audience of more than 50 participants.

Smart textiles will be building blocks of this World of Internet of things. Sensors and actuators integrated in textiles will be able to communicate in the global network with the aim to connect, to assist and to protect humans.



This vision will drive many applications including healthcare, sports, work, leisure, and defence.

Lieva van Langenhoven, Senior full professor at the University of Gent, started the conference with the keynote speak on the state of the art and the opportunities of textile wearables in the world of IoT.

Invited guest speakers from universities, the Industry and research centres presented a large overview of available lab technologies in the lab and elaborated on the challenges to bring them to the market, illustrated by success stories of already industrialized products as solutions for smart healthcare or textiles for shielding humans or devices from electromagnetic waves, already available on the market.

Textiles as interfaces were analyzed from a User-Perspective and others explained how to implement functionalities intrinsically through modified yarns in a fabric. Printed Electronics were presented as a key enabler for wearables and smart textiles to process smart textile in the next future.

The afternoon workshop was dedicated to the recently launched European SmartX project, an acceleration platform for innovative and smart textile projects, driven by a cluster of thirteen European partners from the textile and tech industries focusing on manufacturing technologies, micro-electronics, data processing and IoT network.

Read more on <https://www.centexbel.be/en/smartx>.

During the 3-year program, funding will support up to 40 individual projects with a total budget of 2.4 million euros. This shows the willingness of the European Commission to support SME's for creating added value and becoming essential economic actors for closing the gap between Research and the Market.

The SmartX project was presented by Judith Bosch from the European Textile Platform (ETP) and by Virginie Canart from EuraMaterials.

Andreas Lymberis, Head of Sector "Wearables and Bioelectronics" of the European Commission, explained the European strategy to support the technologic and economic development of companies. The interest for SME's was underlined by presentations expert companies in the field of smart textiles: Tajima-Europe from Germany and the two Belgian companies VDSWeaving and Desimone.

During the coffee breaks and lunch time, the conference participants engaged in intensive networking activities.

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SMARTX
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