

Press Release:

Ismaning, February 26th, 2024

PERFORMANCE DAYS © functional fabrics fair
produced by Design & Development GmbH Textile Consult
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PERFORMANCEDAYS
FUNCTIONAL FABRIC FAIR

Trend Forum: Awards for Footwear & Performance-wear

PERFORMANCE DAYS recognizes innovations

When PERFORMANCE DAYS opens its doors once again on an expanded area in Halls C1 and C2 on March 20th and 21st, 2024, visitors will find the usual fabric innovations for Spring/Summer 2026 for the Performance and Footwear segments, as well as for accessories. For the 2026 season, the jury has reviewed the new fabrics for Performancewear and the Footwear sector as part of the Trend Forum and the Footwear Forum and scrutinized the innovations. In total, two Performance Awards and two Eco Performance Awards were presented, one each for Performance-wear and Footwear.

PERFORMANCE DAYS also ensures enough highlights and innovations in the technical fiber and material area in the Trend Forum as part of the spring fair. Since autumn 2023, the fair has also focused on the Footwear sector and has brought together current trends and news in a dedicated Footwear Forum area. In the spring, the expert jury is awarding two awards for fabrics and footwear.

Two Awards for the Fabric Sector
For the Spring/Summer 2026 season, the jury awarded two awards for outstanding fabrics - alongside the Performance Award Winner, which went to Long Advanced Int. Co. Ltd. for "LNT-23139-Z3B," there is also an Eco Performance Award Winner, awarded to BenQ Materials for the product "3L Electronic Waste Recycling PET MONO Product."

Performance Award Winner: The fabric in the 2-layer category impressed the jury because it relies on a completely new source for PET. The Carbon Capture yarn was specifically used to reduce PET consumption through bottles. Recycled PET membranes are used to provide waterproofing and breathability with a performance of 30k/20k. The material also feels very soft. The jury agrees: "The existence of a membrane solution as recycled PET membrane shows that the industry is on the right track and is focusing on environmentally friendly alternatives in this area."

Eco Performance Award Winner: BenQ is committed to further promoting the circular economy concept. An innovative solution: converting electronic waste into PET membranes and yarns. The combination of electronics and textiles to produce high-quality materials with striking designs is unique and completely new. The fabric is made from a single material, which facilitates easy recycling and supports environmental sustainability. The jury says: "The combination is unique and opens up new opportunities for the market. Using electronic waste as a source for recycling into new textiles is quite new. Introducing waste into the fabric is always a positive

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effect - BenQ has even succeeded in transforming electronic waste into PET yarns and membranes."

Two Awards for the Footwear Segment

To provide space for innovations and new developments in the footwear segment, in addition to the Trend Forum, there is also a dedicated Footwear Forum. On-site, the most exciting news is presented in key categories such as "Insulation," "Leather," "Upper," "Adhesive Membranes," "Accessories," or "Insoles/Midsoles." In addition, a separate Footwear jury of PERFORMANCE DAYS has awarded its own Footwear Award in two categories.

Performance Award Winner (Footwear): In the Footwear category, Manteco's product "Vita CR BIC (2) K / 294441" from the "Footwear Upper" category impressed the jury. The extremely durable fabric is a blend of 30% recycled polyester, 70% recycled wool, and weighs 690 grams. MWOol is a blend of Manteco's next-generation recycled wool and recycled polyamide. Thanks to the Recype technique, a great color result is achieved without the addition of dyes and chemicals. With multi-layered yarns, compact broken twill weave, and special surface treatment, this fabric offers remarkable strength and also boasts an anti-pilling property. It meets its own performance standard, guaranteeing extreme durability. Jury statement: "Wool has been extremely well combined in this case. The mix of the two recycled versions of polyamide and wool gives the fabric tremendous robustness and makes it look technical in appearance and feel. Wool offers very high wearing comfort, especially in the footwear sector. It absorbs water without making the foot feel wet, it is breathable and dirt-repellent, and it is flame-retardant. The special knit binding is visually stunning, as is the special structure. What is also worth mentioning is that the wool comes from post-consumer waste, which almost no one else implements in this way."

Eco Performance Award Winner (Footwear): The Suedwolle Group impressed with the product "Roller RWS," also from the "Footwear Upper" category. According to the jury, the blend of 50% Tencel and 50% wool (RWS-certified) creates a perfect duo. The upper material is the result of years of development work at Circle Sportswear. It consists of a Roller RWS yarn (100% wool, 27.5 micrometers, RWS-certified) and Tencel™ Lyocell, which merge into a durable fabric. The SuperNatural Runner, developed by Circle Sportswear, marks a revolution in the running industry - an industry that has primarily relied on oil-based products so far. Jury statement: "Great combination of Tencel and wool - the wool is processed in such a way that it does not feel woolly. Stability is also ensured by the use of Tencel. An extremely stable material that exudes special charm through its unbleached/undyed appearance. Perfect for the biological cycle without sacrificing durability."

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