

Press release

novonic. Makes life substantially more pleasant!

novonic is the first textile cable that can be integrated in any kind of textile structure without problems, while providing one or more additional functions. The novonic yarn cable can be used for producing textile surfaces, such as woven and knitted fabrics, ribbons or plaits, by using the standard technology of modern textile production processes. Textiles, in which novonic cables have been integrated, can be heated, can transmit data, and can monitor various functions or screen out radiation.

The structure of novonic is as simple as can be. An elastic or an inelastic core yarn is spirally wound around a wire, while this combination is subsequently protected with an exterior yarn covering. Through a combination of various high-tech materials, a textile cable is created that has sufficient mechanical flexibility and high elasticity, providing a kink-insensitive and expandable electrical conductor in combination with a textile feel. In short, novonic provides everything that can make modern living more pleasant.

The development of this unusual yarn was pushed by W. Zimmermann, a company from the German Allgaeu region that specialises in technical yards, in co-operation with a team of scientists (Rent-a-Scientist / Regensburg).

The integration of electronics in textiles for clothing and technical applications is an example, of how two industrial sectors, which have been completely separate up to the present time, are merging at an increasing rate. Especially for the textile industry, this presents a golden opportunity to participate in highly desirable growth markets. The application possibilities are nearly unlimited.

novonic can be processed on textile machines, for instance in the form of flat ribbons or flat knitted textiles. Products made with novonic are used in automobile interiors and also in the medical sector (for instance for the transmission of biometric data). Zimmermann, in co-operation with a number of partner companies, is currently solving electro- and textile-technical problems, which can occur during the integration of electronic components in textiles.

The first commercial applications have already been developed; novonic was, for instance, used in a ski jacket that can now be heated. Initially this means that a number of hurdles must be overcome. The material must be machine-washable and suitable for drying in a drying machine, it may not weigh too much, and it must be compatible for operation with commercially available batteries. The product that was created is externally exactly the same as a standard ski jacket, and it is a persuasive example of high quality and simple handling.

The next application, a protective novonic e-blocker textile, has been available for several months and is being integrated in the inner pockets of outerwear by renowned manufacturers. This textile consists of yarns that have been sheathed in silver. Due to the high share of silver, and by means of a patented production procedure, the novonic e-blocker achieves a unique shielding value of 99.9999% (confirmed by the university of the Federal Armed Forces of Germany in Munich, where it was tested in the high frequency, microwave and radar technology department). That makes novonic E-Blocker the best fabric of its kind, and it provides effective shielding that is equivalent to a 2 m thick concrete wall.

Other novonic products, such as heatable gloves-, elastic USB cables and a number of other product ideas, are currently in development by Zimmermann.

The company

W. Zimmermann GmbH & Co. KG has been a globally leading manufacturer of elastic and technical yarns for more than 50 years. The Zimmermann company enjoys an excellent reputation as a quality supplier with textile manufacturers and producers of compression hosiery and socks. A staff of approximately 80 persons is responsible for development, production, sales and administration, at the company site in Simmerberg (Allgaeu). A variety of elastic threads and composite yarns are manufactured on a production surface of 5500 m², which are subsequently processed in the textile industry, to make technical textiles and products for the medical sector. The company is well-established in its core market for classic, elastic yarns, and it has established itself as a leader in the growth market for intelligent textiles. The research and development activities for innovative products will, as a consequence, be strengthened at the Simmerberg site during the coming years.

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