

# The future is sustainable

*Topics such as more sustainable raw materials for membrane production, end-of-life solutions and circular economy, are increasingly coming into focus, which in part requires a different way of thinking and approach. Germany-based Sympatex Technologies is once again setting new standards for sustainability in functional textiles. Specifically, it has announced that as early as 2021, more than 25% of the raw materials required for its membrane will be converted from bio-based sources, originating from various organic waste streams (based on mass balancing). Sympatex states that in order to make the world a little better through its products and concepts is particularly appealing and motivating, even in challenging times like these.*

As one of the worldwide leading producers, Sympatex Technologies has been a synonym for high-tech functional materials in clothing, footwear, accessories and technical fields of application since 1986. Together with selected partners, Sympatex develops, produces and distributes membranes, laminates and functional textiles as well as finished products worldwide. The Sympatex membrane is optimally breathable, 100% wind- and waterproof and regulates the climate. It is 100% recyclable, bluesign® certified, and it received the 'Oeko-Tex-Standard 100' certificate. It is also PTFE-free and PFC-free. Sympatex is represented worldwide with sales offices and branches, deploying technologies and

procedures that are based on the principles of ecological responsibility and sustainability and with a special focus on the optimal carbon footprint. Sympatex its focus is clearly on exclusively polyester-based textile carrier materials, which in combination with the company's polyester-based membranes form a very good prerequisite for being able to recycle garments made from them at the end of their life cycle. Since polyester accounts for the lion's share of textile fibres worldwide, this class of material alone offers great opportunities to actually realise textile recycling on an industrial scale due to the theoretically available "raw material volume", whether via mechanical recycling processes that are already established

in some cases, or via chemical process approaches that are currently being investigated by numerous companies. Sympatex Technologies will ensure that its bio-based membrane not only retains its high performance values in terms of breathability as well as water- and windproofness, but also remains fully recyclable at the end of its life cycle. As a long-standing raw material partner DSM is supporting Sympatex to reach another milestone on the road to climate neutrality several years earlier than planned. Sympatex brand partners will benefit from these developments. Specifically, incorporating Sympatex membranes into their collections will help them to fulfil a major climate charter commitment much faster. The company notes to be very optimistic and that its 50% goal for 2025 focuses on solutions that enable the circular recycling of raw materials from textiles for textiles. The 100% goal for 2030, relates to the entire material portfolio, including the membrane, which is why Sympatex is already looking for solutions that make it possible to manufacture from waste streams without having to compromise on performance data.



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