



Press release

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Zimtstern and Sympatex win Eco Responsibility Award at ispo winter 09

Zimtstern and Sympatex[®] Technologies have been working together closely to develop an environmentally friendly, high-performance 3-layer laminate specially tailored to the needs of today's snowboarders. And the result is impressive: Zimtstern's DLX line has won the Eco Responsibility Award at ispo winter 09, presented this year for the first time as an independent award.

The partnership between Zimtstern and Sympatex has borne fruit: Zimtstern's DLX line has won the Eco Responsibility Award at ispo winter 09 for its unification of high-performance, eco-friendly materials and stylish design. The award is intended to spotlight sustainability and raise awareness of this important subject. The Eco Responsibility Award is presented to companies that are considered leaders in cutting-edge eco-friendly technologies. The jury, which was made up of scientists, consultants and journalists, evaluated candidates for the award based not only on the product, but also on the company's overall philosophy.

By using extremely robust 6.6 nylon for the outer material and integrating Sympatex highH₂O₂Out technology, Zimtstern struck an ideal balance between hard-wearing workwear and climate-controlled active sportswear. The soft lining material, which sports a modern, yet classic, checked pattern, is composed of 100% recycled polyester fibres. Because the lining is also highly absorbent, it works in tandem with the PTFE-free hydrophilic Sympatex membrane to instantly transport sweat outwards, away from the body. This highH₂O₂Out function guarantees optimal climate control, along with a 120% higher rate of breathability than that provided by conventional materials. This high-end material achieves a water column rating of 20,000 mm and an impressive moisture vapour transmission rate of 20,000 g/m²/24h.

A new wax coating reminiscent of classic hunting or riding clothing lends the outer material a natural look. At the same time, this coating also provides a water-repellent surface that keeps the fabric dry and protects it from water and dirt – all without the use of harmful PFOS or PFOA.

Like the environmentally friendly Sympatex membranes, the entire Zimtstern DLX line is bluesign®-certified. Underlying this certification are the highest standards of environmental protection, health and safety in production facilities. The goal of the independent bluesign® standard is to maximise resource productivity along the entire production chain of the textile industry while maintaining these standards. The five guiding principles of the bluesign® standard are: resource productivity, consumer safety, air emissions, water emissions, and occupational health and safety. Testing starts at the beginning of the value chain for the production process. All materials involved in the production process – from fabrics to accessories such as zippers and buttons and on to dyeing and printing processes – must be used in a manner that preserves natural resources, avoids harmful emissions and does not require substances that are hazardous to health or to the environment.

The Sympatex membrane is 100% waterproof and windproof and offers the ultimate in breathability. Because it is composed of a polyester-polyether blend, it does not release any harmful residues when burned and is wholly biodegradable. By contrast, membranes made of PTFE (containing fluorine) can cause problems for both health and the environment. The production of PTFE involves perfluorinated alkyl substances – a group of chemicals that has the potential to harm the environment. Additionally, PTFE is not naturally biodegradable, and so it remains in the ecosystem. Numerous clothing companies in the sports, leisure, contract and workwear fields have recognised this problem and have already switched over to environmentally friendly Sympatex membranes. In addition to outstanding performance, bluesign® certification is another strong argument in Sympatex's favour.

This text has been released for immediate publication. We would be pleased to receive a sample copy. Images may be used free of charge with the imprint "Image: Zimtstern". Images are to be used exclusively for press purposes.

For decades, Sympatex® Technologies has been one of the world's leading providers of high-tech functional systems for clothing, footwear and accessories. Sympatex membrane systems provide maximum breathability, total wind- and waterproofness, and therefore optimum climate control. Every application of the technology complies with a comprehensive comfort concept. And, of course, all products are environmentally friendly: Sympatex membranes are 100% recyclable and 'Oeko-Tex Standard 100'-certified. Sympatex Technologies is represented by around 20 sales and branch offices worldwide and is a limited liability corporation within the Ploucquet Group.

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