

Sympatex History

June 2022:

Puma teams up with Sympatex

Global Sports Brand PUMA and Sympatex announce a strategic partnership that will focus on an innovative sustainable approach to highly technical and recycled polyester-based materials and products. This represents another step forward for Sympatex and PUMA in their efforts to transform and empower the outdoor industry. The new collection will launch in autumn / winter 2022, available at leading retailers worldwide, as well as PUMA.com and PUMA stores.

June 2022:

Natursport connects - Sympatex partner of the Natursport Academy

The Natursport Akademie powered by Sympatex, founded in December 2021, gives nature sports a voice to communicate and live sustainability. The Natursport Akademie cooperates with a strong industrial partner: Sympatex. The partnership enables the necessary support of all participating nature sports associations, mountain sports (VDB), mountain biking (DIMB), snow sports (DLSV) and water sports (VDWS).

May 2022:

Competence Center for Public Procurement - Sympatex is an exhibitor at GPEC

Sympatex will participate in the General Police Equipment Exhibition & Conference® (GPEC) from 31 May 2022 - 02 June 2022. At Messe Frankfurt am Main, Sympatex will present how sustainability works for public procurement at Europe's largest, closed, specialized trade fair for security authorities. Knowing challenges, trends and opportunities is more important today than ever. Especially from Eastern Europe - Romania, Slovakia and Hungary - the demand for protective products, uniforms, military clothing as well as NBC protection is increasing. Correspondingly interesting and innovative exhibitors will be available to an international trade audience for future-oriented discussions.

April 2022:

A turnaround in textile sourcing

From April 27 - 28, 2022, the textile industry will meet at Performance Days Munich. The trade fair will present the latest trends and innovations in the world of textiles, yarns, equipment and accessories for functional sportswear, workwear, sports fashion and athleisure at the "Messe München" exhibition center. In Hall C1, Stand C20, Sympatex will be presenting its latest products, which already comply with the European Commission's future-binding, sustainable textile strategy. Performance Days 2022 will be extremely exciting. It is the first textile sourcing exhibition to take place after the European Commission published its "Circular Economy Action Plan" in March 2022. Designers and material

experts will be more than ever on the lookout for sustainable innovations that comply with future mandatory regulations that address all the requirements of a circular economy.

March 2022:

Shaping the future of the circular economy

For Sympatex, circularity starts with collaboration, as well as shared communication, and continues through to material selection and design. This momentum will carry over to the Functional Fabric Fair at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland, April 4-5, 2022. Portland is the center of international sportswear. In 2021, the Functional Fabric Fair was the first trade show since the Covid 19 pandemic and a clear sign that such a face-to-face meeting is essential to drive and accelerate change. Accordingly, the 2022 Functional Fabric Fair is once again attracting the global textile industry market, an opportunity no one should miss.

March 2022:

Let's connect! A day for opinion leaders

The first edition of the "Sport & Outdoor Media Days" will take place on Thursday, March 17, 2022, opposite the Munich Order Center (MOC) in the so-called "coal bunker". This day is aimed at opinion leaders and media from the sports and outdoor industry with the aim of offering a new format in terms of joint, personal meetings.

February 2022:

Unique meeting place for the footwear industry

Sympatex will be exhibiting at Lineapelle for the 13th time in a row. For the company, this platform is a fixed key date twice a year with the opportunity to show the latest trends to a broad professional audience and to jointly further develop innovative material and production concepts. So for the experts at Sympatex, there's no question that this February everything will revolve around their presence at the trade fair. Dr. Rüdiger Fox, CEO of Sympatex, comments: "This is a milestone this year, especially in Corona times: We are very much looking forward to the special energy of the trade fair. The topics around innovative recycling approaches for shoes and corresponding technologies already for production will be particularly exciting."

October 2021:

BRENTA - Sympatex's impressive impetus at A+A

At the A+A leading trade fair for occupational safety and health, in Düsseldorf, Sympatex will present the product Brenta for the first time. The focus of the 37th A+A is on sustainable occupational safety of the future. With its newly developed corporate workwear jacket, Sympatex is demonstrating that technology and sustainability can only set the pace in the industry if they work together. The 2-layer laminate is made of 100% polyester. This purity of type is considered the only efficient approach to the recycling of scarce raw materials and the urgently needed reduction of CO2 emissions, as well as the reduction of water consumption in the production of the laminate.

March 2022:

Circular economy is the new norm for Europe

March 30, 2022 - an unforgettable date for the entire textile industry. The European Commission has unveiled its future binding sustainable textile strategy. The textile sector will be the first industry to fully transition from a linear to a circular economy, where products are designed to be more durable, reusable, repairable, recyclable and energy efficient. "By 2030, textile products placed on the EU market will be durable and recyclable, made largely of recycled fibers, free of hazardous substances and manufactured with social rights and the environment in mind," the European Commission published.

September 2021:

Clear the way for the EcoHimal Charity Run presented by Salomon and Sympatex

In cooperation with Salomon, Sympatex is supporting the first EcoHimal Charity Run in September 2021. Through this charity run initiative, the Mira Rai Initiative (MRI), founded in 2017, will receive financial support for its social projects. Every kilometer run helps, and the amount donated is individual - whether five or 50 euros is irrelevant.

July 2021:

Sympatex honored as "Best for the World™" by B CORP

Sympatex was recognized for its outstanding performance in the area of sustainability. Its continuous commitment in this area paved the way for this impressive result. The Munich-based functional specialist received this award due to initiatives such as the European industry partnership wear2wear for the rapid closure of the textile cycle, for its offer of the world's first climate-neutral membrane, and for co-designing and being the first signatory of the "UN Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action".

February 2021:

Global sustainability record for functional textiles

At the start of ISPO 2021, Sympatex is once again setting new standards for sustainability in functional textiles. Specifically, the company is announcing that as early as this year, it will switch more than 25% of the raw materials needed for its membranes to bio-based sources derived from various organic waste streams (based on mass balance*). At the same time, Sympatex will ensure that the membrane not only retains its high performance values in terms of breathability and water- and windproofness, but also remains fully recyclable at the end of its life cycle.

February 2021:

"we are the first generation"

is Sympatex's new brand claim, calling for a movement to create a more sustainable textile industry together. All those who follow this path with Sympatex see themselves as a first generation that "regenerates" instead of just generating. The basis is recycled materials that can be recycled again to drive the closure of the textile cycle. More about brand claim and rejuvenated corporate identity.

February 2021:

25% bio-based material content

New standards for sustainability in functional textiles: after several years of research, more than 25% of the raw materials used in the Sympatex membrane will be converted to renewable raw materials - without compromising on performance values. One of the first customers is Mammut.

January 2021:

Recycling textile waste in a value-retaining way

Sympatex is cooperating with the eBay Upcycling Store powered by VAUDE and supporting the sustainable initiative of eBay and VAUDE with high-quality functional materials. Sewing and crafting enthusiasts can bid on sustainable Sympatex functional materials on the popular online marketplace in addition to the high-quality material scraps from the VAUDE manufactory. All proceeds from the sale will be donated to the non-profit organization Save the Children.

October 2020:

Closing the Loop with Fibre2Fibre Article BANFF

On the occasion of the Performance Days 2020, Sympatex presents the Fibre2Fibre functional article BANFF, a new 2-layer laminate with a single-grade PES outer fabric made from 100% recycled textiles. Thanks to the 100% recyclable, PTFE-free Sympatex membrane made of polyether ester, the single-variety GRS-certified article can be easily returned to the textile cycle at the end of the product life cycle.

June 2020:

Two prestigious awards for Dr. Rüdiger Fox

Award for Planetary Consciousness: As part of the "Summer of Purpose," the Club of Budapest honors Dr. Rüdiger Fox for his exemplary implementation of global awareness. The Planetary Consciousness Award, which is also regarded as the "Nobel Prize for planetary action," honors individuals who have effectively exemplified and promoted the generally required new consciousness in their personal and professional spheres of activity. In 2020, the Outdoor.markt Trophy will go to Sympatex CEO Dr. Rüdiger Fox in the "Personality of the Year" category. Due to the Corona pandemic, the award ceremony will not take place as usual in the festive setting of the Outdoor by ISPO trade fair event, but will be held in person via video conference or visit.

January 2020:

Revolution Hybrid: world's first upcycled functional jacket

The Revolution Hybrid is the world's first upcycled functional jacket made from 30% recycled waste textiles and 70% recycled PET bottles. The 3-layer high-performance jacket is the latest result of the European industry partnership wear2wear™ with the aim of jointly closing the textile cycle. The outdoor jacket not only impresses with its maximum wearing comfort, but also offers certified rain protection according to EN 343. It is absolutely environmentally and skin-friendly and has been tested according to the strict environmental standards STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® and bluesign®. Sympatex and Schoeller presented the Revolution Hybrid to the public for the first time at ISPO 2020.

December 2019:

Sam - Long Live the King's Jacket

Sam goes on a voyage of discovery again: In the third edition of the Sympatex children's booklet "Long Live the King's Jacket", everything revolves around the topic of the durability of functional textiles. Young readers learn in a playful way how natural it should be to wear clothing for as long as possible. After all, it is only after years that a jacket acquires a real soul of its own and can tell its own stories over the years ...

October 2019:

UTMOSPHERIC® seamlessly into the future

With German manufacturing know-how and a stringent sourcing and research approach, Sympatex has invested massively in the future of bootie production and developed it sustainably. Already in 2018, the first prototypes of UTMOSPHERIC®, a seamless three-dimensional waterproof inner boot, were presented. Now, the prototype phase with several customers has already been largely completed. In early 2020, the first series production machine for the fully automated thermal molding process will start operations. Sympatex UT-MOSPHERIC® is created through a thermal molding process - an inner shoe that perfectly adapts

November 2020:

New US President, New Climate Policy

Donald Trump, the 45th president of the United States since January 2017, is defeated in the election by Democrat Joe Biden. Trump's term in office was characterized by a nationally oriented foreign and economic policy and was guided by the motto "America First." It was not until early November 2019 that Trump finally withdrew from the 2015 Paris climate treaty. Shortly after taking office, Biden initiated the re-entry into the climate agreement with the goal of limiting the global temperature increase to a maximum of 1.5 degrees. The new US President Joe Biden is almost euphorically celebrated by environ-

April 2020:

Corona - and the world stands still?

Since the beginning of the pandemic at the end of 2019, the corona virus has triggered an international health emergency and is spreading across the globe. The virus infects millions of people and turns our previous system upside down. How might we take advantage of this period of gridlock? Thoughts on the "Power of Distancing" and the pioneering role that the textile industry can play.

to the shape of the foot without seams or wrinkles and without compromising the quality and function of the laminate.

September 2019:

B-Corp "Best For The World Award 2019"

Sympatex has now been awarded the B-Corp "Best For The World Award 2019" in recognition of its environmental performance and sustainable business practices. The Munich-based functional specialist, which ranks in the top 10% of all B-Corps for its environmental responsibility, received the award for initiatives such as its European industry partnership wear2wear to rapidly close the textile loop, for offering the world's first climate-neutral membrane, and for co-designing and being the first signatory to the UN Fashion "Industry Charter for Climate Action."

June 2019:

Release of highly toxic acid during PTFE combustion

In a test of flue gas density and flue gas toxicity, the Frankfurt-based Warringtonfire Institute found a notable release of highly toxic hydrofluoric acid as well as hydrochloric acid during the incineration of PTFE membranes. These results are particularly problematic because around 50% of the textiles collected worldwide (in Germany this concerns around 70% of all used clothing) are sold via used clothing collections to lower-income third countries for further use - a globally growing billion-dollar business.

May 2019:

Closing the textile loop by 2030

Recycled functional textiles from old PET bottles were yesterday - Sympatex is already taking the home stretch on the road to a circular textile economy: Around two years after announcing its Sympa-tex "Agenda 2020" in January 2017 and its associated commitment to close the textile loop for functional materials as quickly as possible, Sympatex is setting the bar for its sustainability goals at the highest level: as early as next year, Sympatex will offer the first laminates made from circularly sourced used textile material in all its business units. By five years' time, at least half of the raw material required for its functional laminates is to come from the circular textile cycle and be recyclable - by 2030, this will even be 100 percent. This is made possible by the Munich-based company's co-investment in the British company Worn Again Technologies. With the help of its technology, the textile cycle can be closed even faster and one of the major hurdles, namely the necessary purity of the used textiles for the most frequently used textile mixture of polyester and cotton, can be overcome.

February 2019:

Microplastics in focus

Together instead of against each other: as part of a new partnership between NGOs, research and industry, Sympatex is presenting initial results on microfiber pollution of water bodies from outdoor clothing at ISPO 2019. Joint research results from the Plastic Soup Foundation, the Italian IPCB-CNR Institute, PlanetCare and Sympatex show initial reduction options and further research potential.

February 2019:

From plastic waste to the shoe of the future

At the ISPO booth, Sympatex presents a concept study for the construction of waterproof "Shoes 4.0" An upcycling production line consisting

of a plastic shredder, extruder and 3D printer demonstrates the valuable use of plastic waste for the shoe industry of the future.

January 2019:

Sam on a climate mission

Our little children's book goes into the 2nd round with Sam and the Climate Plan. This time, it's all about global warming and ideas about what each and every one of us can do about it. Once again, it is shown in a playful way that shoes and clothing can already be made from climate-neutral materials today.

December 2018:

Sympatex first signatory to UN Climate Charter

Milestone for climate protection at COP24: Sympatex Technologies is one of 40 initial signatories to the United Nations "Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action". Leading fashion brands, retailers, suppliers, member organizations and NGOs in the textile industry have pledged to jointly pursue and implement a total of 16 defined goals to curb global warming. In the case of functional textiles, for example, the use of Sympatex's polyester membrane alone instead of a PTFE membrane, which is still frequently used, saves over 50% of the total CO₂ emissions released in the manufacture of a functional jacket, around 60% in the case of gloves and up to 15% in the case of functional footwear. Sympatex is the first signatory and plays a pioneering role in climate protection.

November 2018:

German Sustainability Award

Sympatex has been nominated for the prestigious German Sustainability Award 2018 for the first time. Europe's largest award for ecological and social commitment recognizes top achievements in sustainability - in categories as diverse as business, research, architecture and communities. With the award, the Stiftung Deutscher Nachhaltigkeitspreis e. V. (German Sustainability Award Foundation), together with the German federal government and other partners, promotes courageous actors and ideas that serve as role models.

November 2018:

Sympatex is B Corp certified

By receiving the internationally renowned B Corp certification for exemplary corporate governance in the interest of society, Sympatex commits to public welfare and environmental protection as official corporate goals.

September 2018:

Thermal molding process revolutionizes shoe production

Through a sophisticated innovative process, Sympatex has developed a manufacturing technology that allows their laminates to be permanently formed into a three-dimensional shape: Sympatex UTMOSPHERICTM is created through a thermal molding process - an inner shoe that perfectly adapts to the shape of the foot without seams or wrinkles and without compromising the quality and function of the laminate.

June 2018:

Provocative awareness campaign

Sympatex is launching an image campaign to raise awareness in the market and among end consumers. An appeal to the textile industry and

December 2018:

2nd dirtiest industry in the world

The textile industry is the second dirtiest industry in the world and is already responsible for 8% of global greenhouse gases. That's more than all shipping and air travel combined, or about as much as the entire EU produces - 83% of which comes from the apparel industry and 17% from the footwear industry. This amount will double by 2030 if we do not change anything. By the way, a conventional PTFE membrane produces 50x (!) as much CO₂ per kg as a Sympatex membrane made of polyether/ester and is responsible for about 1/3 of the CO₂ footprint of a typical laminate.

June 2018:

Polluter natural materials?

Cotton is responsible for 18% of the world's pesticides and 24% of the world's insecticides used in fields, and it requires incredibly large amounts of water in the (often water-poor) producing countries (2/3 of the world's water consumption for textile fibers). Leather is no alternative either: 85% of leather is made with chromium salts. 1t of raw animal hides yields 200kg of leather - plus 11kg of chrome, 450kg of waste and 50,000kg of polluted water.

its brand partners to radically rethink their approach - and to each individual end consumer to demand this with every purchase.

February 2018:

Sam on a recycling mission

Sympatex is going on a joint recycling mission with its customers. This fall, children's shoe boxes will be accompanied by a children's booklet Sam and the Plastic Plan, which provides a playful introduction to the possibility of buying shoes and clothing made from recycled materials right now.

January 2018:

Sympatex belongs to the Otto family

The Otto family is the new owner of Sympatex Technologies GmbH. In Germany, hardly any name stands for more credibility on the topic of social and ecological corporate responsibility than the Otto family.

October 2017:

First upcycled product

Sympatex presents the first upcycled end product made from old functional jackets, which emerges from the closed textile cycle of the newly founded wear2wear consortium. Five competent partners (Heinrich Glaeser Nachfolger GmbH, Märkischen Faser GmbH, Schoeller Textil AG, Sympatex Technologies GmbH and DutchSpirit) have joined forces for the European industry partnership for high-quality and at the same time sustainable clothing, which was founded in April 2017, and cover the entire recycling cycle. In the future, new functional textiles will be produced again from textile fibers from used clothing parts on state-of-the-art production facilities.

Sympatex launched its first textile take-back system with Vaude back in 1994 with the pioneering Ecolog project. At that time, it was still without long-term success - society and the market were not yet ready ...

September 2017:

First recycled climate-neutral children's shoe

Sympatex introduces the first recycled children's shoe. It was created from around 90% recycled materials and made climate neutral.

June 2017:

Launch of the functional jacket 4.0

Sympatex introduces its functional jacket 4.0. The must-have prototype was developed in a two-day "design hackathon" with bloggers and influencers. The recycled lining and outer fabric of the Functional Jacket 4.0 is made from 32 recycled PET bottles. The yarns used are certified according to the renowned "Global Recycle Standard" (GRS). The entire jacket is manufactured in the EU in a carbon footprint-optimized way.

January 2017:

Launch of Agenda 2020

Sympatex has set itself the goal of closing the ecological loop in the functional clothing industry by 2020. This eco-categorization divides the laminate portfolio according to purely ecological aspects and creates the basis for the rapid implementation of Agenda 2020.

February 2018:

Tremendous waste of raw materials

Every year, more than 80 billion garments and 23 billion pairs of shoes are produced for 7.5 billion people from raw materials (=63% synthetics, 26% cotton, 11% other), a tremendous waste of raw materials and waste production considering that 97% is made from raw materials, only 2% from recycled materials and only 1% from the closed textile loop (=upcycling).

September 2017:

US exit from climate agreement

US President Donald Trump announces exit from climate change agreement.

January 2017:

Population continues to grow

The world population is rising to 7.5 billion people. In 2011, there were seven, in 1999 still about 6 billion people. In 1987, just 12 years earlier, there were still five billion people on earth.

December 2016:

First climate-neutral membrane

To eliminate any contribution to global warming, Sympatex is additionally offsetting the CO₂ volume of its entire annual membrane production through corresponding certified CO₂ projects in partnership with ClimatePartner, starting in 2017. Sympatex has thus launched the first climate-neutral membrane on the market.

First recycled membrane: Just 3 months earlier, in September 2016, Sympatex took the next consistent step in its sustainability strategy with the presentation of a 100% recycled membrane, for which previously unused membrane scrap is fully recycled.

2015:

Sympatex becomes a member of SAC and Textile Alliance

Sympatex becomes a member of the Textile Alliance (Association of German Clothing Manufacturers for Greater Sustainability) and the SAC (Sustainable Apparel Coaliti-on). The aim of joining is to jointly achieve social, ecological and economic improvements along the entire textile value chain.

2013:

Sympatex again test winner in the Greenpeace Detox Report

A Sympatex laminate emerged from the tests by a wide margin as the test winner of the report "Chemistry for Peak Performers". Thus, 25 times more PFC was identified in the product with the second-best result. The jacket with the highest PFC contamination even had over 830 times higher values.

2012:

Sympatex becomes Detox test winner

Since 2012, Greenpeace has repeatedly tested waterproof and water-repellent outdoor products for their pollutant content. The Greenpeace DETOX Report "Chemistry for all weathers" tested two products made from Sympatex materials, among others. Both times, Sympatex products came out on top: In the Greenpeace report from 2012 Chemistry for all weathers, the jacket of the "Zimtstern" brand had the lowest PFC concentration.

2011:

Sympatex starts pre-consumer recycling

The Sympatex membrane can be recycled using standard processes - similar to PET bottles. In the production of the membrane, Sympatex and its partners have for the first time developed a process that helps to reduce the amount of material used by up to 15%. This so-called pre-consumer recycling process has been used for a selection of Sympatex membrane qualities since the beginning of 2011 and represents an important step towards improving the eco-balance. The material and thus also energy savings are attributable to the single-variety recycling of rejected membrane parts produced in the production process that had to be disposed of in the past.

2009:

Sympatex launches recycling

For the first time, Sympatex is offering laminates whose outer and lining fabrics are made from recycled PET bottles.

December 2016:

Trump becomes US president

Trump is elected US president. "Big Data" could not predict that Trump would win the election against Clinton - he, on the other hand, used "Big Data" for a tailored election campaign.

2015:

First breakthrough UN climate agreement

The 200 participating states at the UN Climate Conference in Paris agree to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius.

2013:

First ban on PFOA

Sweden is the first country to ban the use of PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) and its salts and esters in textiles and other consumer products. Major Chinese cities are increasingly suffering from massive particulate pollution.

2012:

Greenpeace launches Detox

Greenpeace launches a global detox campaign regarding the use of PFCs and PTFE in the outdoor and fashion industry.

2011:

Fukushima nuclear disaster

After the Fukushima nuclear disaster, Germany decides to phase out nuclear energy by 2022.

2008:

First PFC-free DWR

Sympatex enjoys pioneer status with its PFC-free textile coating. In the same year, the Sympatex membrane is bluesign® certified and thus meets the strictest guidelines in environmental protection, health and safety and stands for a production chain at a high and environmentally friendly level.

1992:

Standard 100 by OEKO-TEX® Foundation

Sympatex becomes a founding member of the STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® testing and certification system. Textile products are tested here for possible harmful substances according to strict rules. The Sympatex membrane is certified with STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®, product class 1, and can therefore be used in the medical sector as well as for babies and small children. Today, all Sympatex laminates and seam sealing tapes are certified STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®, product class 2. This allows them to be used in areas of application with direct skin contact, such as underwear, bed linen and running and bike wear. The OEKO-TEX® certifications also verify and confirm compliance with the European chemicals regulation REACH.

1986:

Foundation of Sympatex

The Sympatex brand was founded in 1986 by the Akzo Nobel Group as a result of a polymer patent application. The Dutch group of companies developed a pioneering membrane technology from the polymer formulation. The brand name was composed of the pair of terms "sympa-thic" and "textiles".

2007:

Smartphones revolutionize the cell phone market

The first iPhone is introduced to the market by Apple and heralds a technical revolution in smartphones. Nokia did not participate in the smartphone revolution at the beginning. Its market share fell

2005:

Kyoto Protocol enters into force

The Kyoto Protocol enters into force - the first global, legally binding agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

1996:

Google arrives

Larry Page and Sergey Brin found Google, which quickly supplants Yahoo as the dominant search engine on the Internet.

1990:

Ban on CFCs

Global agreement to completely ban the production and use of CFCs by the year 2000. The ban was enforced just five years after the discovery of the hole in the Earth's ozone layer.

1970:

Global footprint tipping

The global ecological footprint exceeds 1.0 as humanity consumes more resources than the earth can regenerate.