



# Press release

investor relations

## Royal Ten Cate patents new technology

**Royal Ten Cate (technical textiles and technical components) has patented a new technology that will enable new functionalities to be added to fabrics. The new technology will make it possible to produce intelligent and interactive fabrics, which will lead to greater efficiency and will limit the environmental impact in production.**

**Loek de Vries, Chairman of the Executive Board of Royal Ten Cate, will announce this during the Royal Ten Cate Innovation Forum, which is being held in Amsterdam today, on the occasion of Royal Ten Cate's 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

Royal Ten Cate develops and manufactures functional materials that mostly have fabrics as carrier. The company has leading positions in the field of – among others - safety fabrics for professional clothing, outdoor fabrics, bulletproof materials for personal and vehicle protection, artificial grass systems and industrial fabrics for use in the construction industry, the agricultural sector and infrastructure.

By means of coating processes, among other operations, substances are applied that give fabrics specific functions, such as fire resistance. The technology that has now been patented has its origins in the digital process industry and enables particles to be applied on a nanoscale. In addition, more functionalities can be simultaneously applied in one production run, thus making it possible to produce intelligent and/or interactive fabrics. Some examples of the new technical possibilities include fabrics that will emit colour and other signals to warn the wearer of overexposure to heat or chemical substances, or fabrics with solar cells.

Thanks to this technology, applications can be developed for use in, for example, military personal equipment and health care (telemonitoring functions), firefighters' uniforms (interactive functions) and outdoor applications (self-cleaning function).

In addition to these functional properties, the new technology will provide great efficiency and environmental benefits. Although Ten Cate has already made considerable investments in water saving and water purification, significant improvements are still possible. In the future, savings in both energy and water can be attained, ranging from 70% to 90%; savings on the use of chemicals will amount to approximately 60%. This technology will make it possible in principle to apply chemical substances more evenly and in much more precise quantities, compared with the traditional method. During order changing, considerable timesaving can also be achieved, coupled with a major reduction in waste material.

The new technology will produce great advantages in efficiency especially for the production of high-grade materials, because these products are mostly manufactured in small, customized production runs.

Royal Ten Cate will start production in a test environment, in which the functionality of a number of existing products will be optimized. Ten Cate predicts a wide range of applications for this new technology in the future. The first results in the form of concrete products are expected in the course of 2005.

In view of the fact that the process is still in the start-up phase, no financial forecast will as yet be issued.

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