

heimtextil

Performance materials from prototype to market-ready product: new Heimtextil special showcase functional futures lab

Frankfurt am Main, 27 October 2026. Guidance for future material and product decisions: With the Functional Futures Lab, Heimtextil from 12 to 15 January 2027 puts new materials and their functions in the spotlight from 12 to 15 January 2027 – from temperature regulation to flame protection. Future Fabrics Expo curates the exhibition. It shows how functional performance, material development and design interact. At the same time, it makes applications and potential tangible. The Functional Futures Lab presents both visionary prototypes and solutions that are already available, while making their stage of development transparent. Thereby, it opens up new perspectives for architecture, interior design and hospitality.

How can materials respond to changing requirements for living spaces? Which properties support well-being and longevity? The Functional Futures Lab highlights new approaches. Innovations include materials that improve thermal and acoustic comfort. In addition, it showcases products that support healthier indoor environments and can adapt flexibly to different uses and environmental conditions. The spectrum ranges from innovative textile fibres and dyes to durable composite materials for surfaces and design prototypes from research.

Future Fabrics Expo contributes its expertise in material innovation and sustainability, as well as an international network spanning material development, design and research. "Performance is a key topic for the future of the textile industry. We see this worldwide at our events, from apparel to home and contract textiles. Together with Future Fabrics Expo, we showcase at Heimtextil what innovative materials will be capable of in the future. The Functional Futures Lab connects early-stage developments with solutions that are already available and highlights new potential applications for architecture, interior design and hospitality," says Olaf Schmidt, Vice President Textiles & Textile Technologies at Messe Frankfurt.

"We are delighted to partner with Heimtextil January 2027 to elevate the conversation around the future of home and interior textiles. This partnership will connect inspiration with actionable solutions and help shape a future focused, forward-looking, responsible industry," explains Amanda Johnston, Chief Design Officer, Future Fabrics Expo.

Orientation for tomorrow's material decisions

The exhibits range from experimental prototypes to commercially available products. Accompanying information explains their functional properties and respective stages of development based on Technology Readiness Levels. This enables trade visitors to assess potential at an early stage and gain inspiration for material selection, product development and long-term planning. Professionals from architecture, interior design and

hospitality discover new applications and potential for their projects. The Functional Futures Lab thus strengthens Heimtextil's position as a platform for knowledge transfer and forward-looking interior solutions. With this, Heimtextil provides guidance for future material developments.

New materials – from living roots to bio-based composites

Three colour-coded thematic areas structure the exhibition: Circular Systems, Living Nature and Natural Performance. They categorise the exhibits according to material origin, processing and conceptual approaches. The focus is on properties such as temperature responsiveness, durability, flame resistance and antibacterial effects. Circularity and fundamental sustainability criteria guide the selection of materials.

The exhibits include upholstery materials made from untreated wool fibres and living root systems, designed to provide flame protection without toxic chemicals. Also on display are durable bio-based composites and dyes derived from food waste for textiles and wood.

In Hall 4.1, the Functional Futures Lab forms the centrepiece of Interior.Architecture.Hospitality. The area combines material innovations with knowledge transfer and personal exchange: At the Talk Spot, experts share insights on stage, while a café provides space for conversations and new contacts. The area also serves as the starting point for numerous guided tours.



Photo: Messe Frankfurt

Heimtextil 2027 takes place from 12 to 15 January 2027.

Press information & images:

<https://heimtextil.messefrankfurt.com/frankfurt/en.html>

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