



# Lead Market Initiative in protective textiles and PPE

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# overview

- Lead Market Initiative
- R&D
- Standardisation
- Future ?

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# Lead Market Initiative

- EU commission launched beginning 2008
- Support sectors where EU has a leading role to strengthen these sectors
- 6 sectors
  - eHealth, Sustainable construction, Bio-based products, Recycling, Renewable energy
  - Protective textiles
- Legislation, standardisation, public procurement, R&D programs, ...

# Lead Market Initiative Protective textiles

- Broader than PPE – including e.g. medical textiles
- Leading role for the European Technology Platform for the future of Textiles and Clothing
- Industry partners include Euratex, ETSA, ESF
- Close cooperation with European Technology Platform for Industrial Safety
- Public procurement project : Enprotex
- Not only products, also services

# Lead Market Initiative Protective textiles

- Textiles in PPE :
  - **Protective garments**
  - **Protective gloves**
  - **Safety footwear**
  - **Fall protection systems**
  - Respiratory protection
  - Hearing protection
  - Head protection
  - Eye and face protection

# Lead Market Initiative Protective textiles

Protective textiles are knowledge based and  
high-tech

EU industry is global innovation leader

# Lead Market Initiative Protective textiles

- Industry partners organised in 2008 international conferences in Bruges and Hengelo
- Early 2009 a road map was published
- International conference : 1-2 February 2011 in Brussels
- EU commission published report on LMI in July 2011

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# R&D – 2008 FP7 call – PPE topic

- Reducing the risk of injury in complex systems through advanced personal protective clothing and equipment
- A new generation of intelligent personal protective systems is needed to respond to increasing societal concerns for personal safety and security in industrial environments
- Projects should address entire system solutions for application areas such as work safety, construction, fire fighting, emergency operations and civil protection

# R&D – 2008 FP7 call – PPE topic

- 7 projects accepted
  - Started last quarter of 2009 – most for 36 months
  - Total EU funding : about 22 million euro
  - 107 partners (research institutes, SMEs, major companies, ...) from 21 countries are involved

# R&D – 2008 FP7 call – PPE topic

- ProFiTex : fire fighting
- Prosys-Laser : industrial lasers (cuts – burns)
- Prospie : monitoring and regulating body temperature in workwear
- SafeProTex : rescue operations (chemical hazards, extreme weather)
- No Bug : insects
- i-Protect : rescue operations (mines, fire fighting)
- Safe@Sea : fishermen

# R&D

- National / regional efforts encouraged by the Commission initiatives
- Example : call from CrossTexNet launched in 2010 and 2011
- Prometei initiative

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# Standardisation and innovation

Standards help translate innovation into economic growth and productivity

# Standardisation and innovation

- Strength and recognition because
  - Shaped by those who contribute
  - Open and transparent process
  - Market driven
  - Representation of all interested parties
  - Reached through agreement
  - 1 European Standard
    - = 30 national standards
    - = access to a market of about 500 million people
- Integration with international work

# Standardisation and innovation

- Quick response !?
- As first step : other deliverables than standards (e.g. CWA, TR)
- Standards innovation proof ?
- Performance standards – product description – test method
- Test methods : robust
  - Innovation independent ?

# Standardisation and innovation

- Involvement of researchers at early stage (e.g. FP7 projects) ?
- Involvement research driven companies – but fear competition
- Standardisation versus Intellectual Property ?

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# Future - expectations

- Correct selection and use of PPE
- Correct care and maintenance of PPE
- Needs from users :
  - Comfort
  - Ergonomics
- But reality : cheapest price

# Future – PPE topics suggestions for R&D

- Developed products / services from FP7 (and other) projects ready for the market
  - Awareness - training
  - Funding next step (SME involvement)
- Integrated systems
  - PPE not stand-alone as individual product but as a system and as an integral part of OHS
  - Monitoring – warning – protecting (active and passive)
- Answers to emerging risks (e.g. nanotechnology)

# conclusion

PPE / protective textiles market :

**a future**  
with several  
**technical**  
and  
**economical**  
**challenges**

# Thank you for your attention

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