

## Press release

### Super-fine knitted fabrics for life

#### **Willy Hermann-SUPERFINE® has been certified under OEKO-TEX® Standards 100 and 1000**

Hard/Zürich (hm) **Whereas, to make most conventional knitted fabrics, the knitting machine works with 20 or 28 needles per inch (1 inch equals 2.54 cm), the specialists at Willy Hermann-SUPERFINE® have achieved a real technological breakthrough: here they are using up to 80 needles per inch, and that's a world record! However, not only has this world leader in the fine-gauge knitted fabrics market reached a new dimension in terms of quality, but it also makes environmentally-friendly production a very high priority.**

Vorarlberg has a long tradition of textile manufacturing. Willy Hermann-SUPERFINE® is a family-owned company making fine-gauge knitted fabrics that has been established here in Hard since 1934. The company has always been regarded as one of the leading producers of fine jerseys for making underwear and nightwear, swimsuits and sports fashions, outer clothing and casual wear. At present, it has 150 employees working a 3-shift operation to meet demand from all over the world for the finest knitted fabrics.

#### **Superfine and high-tech knitting**

The company sets new trends for the industry, with its 150 up-to-date machines located in various circular knitting workshops, plus one room with warp knitting machines and one with Santoni seamless machines. Their latest innovation, the result of intensive development work, is the introduction of what is currently the finest knitted fabric in the world: fabrics made by circular knitting in gauge E60 and E80 are so close-knit that you can barely see the mesh pattern with the naked eye. Naturally, only the very finest and smoothest yarns, of the highest quality, can be used.

All close-knit fabrics are offered by Willy Hermann under the brand name SUPERFINE®. Within this very broad range of articles, there are numerous different options in the form of combinations of yarns, surface finishes and special stretch effects available. In addition to the wide range of colour combinations and surface structures,

there are also many possible specific applications in terms of functional fabrics and nano-technology (e.g. antibacterial fabrics).

### **Skin-friendly fabrics**

It is not only the high-tech quality of their fabrics that makes Willy Hermann-SUPERFINE© an example to the industry, but also the measures they take to protect the environment. All the knitted products made by the company are certified under the Oeko-Tex® Standard 100, demonstrating to customers that they are, first and foremost, entirely safe with regard to possible contamination by harmful substances. Since 80% of the fabrics are used for underwear and lingerie - and are therefore worn next to the skin - this step was a logical move for the company, especially as the "Confidence in Textiles" label is becoming more and more widely accepted also in non-European countries.

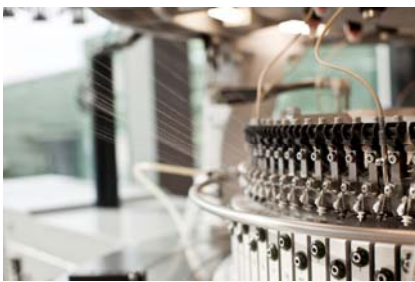
### **Exemplary environmental performance**

Furthermore, at the end of 2010, the company also succeeded in being awarded the OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000 certificate by the auditing institute TESTEX in Zurich, confirming it as an environmentally-friendly production site. This quality mark relates solely to the manufacturing conditions: only those companies are certified whose production methods are verifiably environmentally-friendly and who provide exemplary working conditions. Additional measures contributing to a sustainable production process, such as separate waste collections for recycling or disposal, have been introduced at the plant and are operating successfully.

Thanks to having a well thought-through environmental policy that is applied consistently, combined with innovative ideas, Willy Hermann-SUPERFINE© can look forward to the future with confidence: the company is in an excellent position to compete nationally and internationally.



Willy Hermann, the world leader in fine gauge fabrics, has achieved the impossible: circular knitting in gauge E80. The world record until now was also held by Willy Hermann in gauge E54 from the beginning of 2006.



Since the end of 2010, Willy Hermann's SUPERFINE<sup>®</sup> knitted fabrics are proven to be manufactured under environmentally friendly and socially compatible conditions according to OEKO-TEX<sup>®</sup> Standard 1000.

