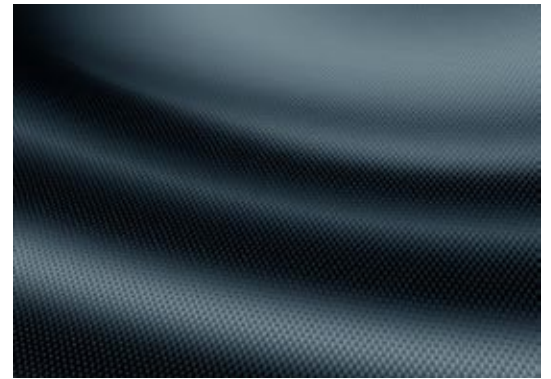


## Manchester Textiles Goes Nanofibre!

Textiles and Paper at The University of Manchester, with the support of The Clothworkers' Foundation, are investing in a new nanofibre production facility to create the "technology pipeline" to supply their world leading weaving and knitting facilities with the "raw" material to engineer the next generation of Technical Textiles. By incorporating the tailor-made fibres into sophisticated 3D woven and knitted fabrics, the Manchester research facility will reinforce its position as one of the major textiles centres in the world.

Professor Chris Carr, Head of Textiles and Paper, expects this integrated approach to provide a global focus for industry to create revolutionary textile structures, composed of nanofibrous materials containing nanoparticles, which will offer a new level of performance in areas such as composites, filtration, personal protection, medical textiles and sportswear. In addition, as traditional textiles clothing increasingly draws from performance materials, Textiles and Paper at Manchester is also aiming to present a nanofibre fashion collection, incorporating innovative design with groundbreaking aesthetics. In offering a comprehensive range of manufacturing facilities The University of Manchester is ideally placed to support and develop the creative and technological skills of designers through their BSc programmes.



### Potential Environmental Hazard:

Recently information was sent relating to the urgent request to Pre-Register under EU REACH Regulations. The acronym stands for Regulation, Evaluation, Authorisation, and Restriction of Chemical Substances. A draft report has now been produced by the Building Research Establishment, under contract to the Environment Agency, entitled "Potential Environmental Risks arising from the use of Alkylphenol Ethoxylates in Textiles".

This was produced specifically to assess the presence of the latter substances in imported Textiles and the possible consequences for the risk assessments of Octylphenol and Nonylphenol. A copy of the draft report can be obtained by contacting Adil Elmassi on the following e-mail address: [adil.elmassi@euratex.org](mailto:adil.elmassi@euratex.org).

### Plasma Technology:

We have appointed a consortium headed by Mr Danny Connaughton of ConnauTech Ltd, to conduct a technology review of plasma technology and its applicability to the technical textile sector in the NorthWest region.

The report is due for publication in June 2008, and the findings will be disseminated at an event to be held on June 18th. Details to follow in subsequent newsletters.

### CLUTEX Event:

After an interesting fact-finding trip to meet with the technical textile sector in Czech Republic, their trade association ATOK in conjunction with NWtexnet would like to develop trading links, joint ventures and technology exchange. If you are interested in exploring these links please contact us: [info@nwtexnet.co.uk](mailto:info@nwtexnet.co.uk)



A copy of our latest **TECHNICAL THREAD** magazine is available to download at: [www.nwtexnet.co.uk](http://www.nwtexnet.co.uk)

We are now extending our membership programme to companies outside of the Northwest of the UK, for details of this programme, please contact us at [info@nwtexnet.co.uk](mailto:info@nwtexnet.co.uk).