

WoolVisions™ Takes True Performance Back to Nature

CoolVisions®, the first disperse-dyeable polypropylene fiber, is taking its superior performance qualities back to nature with new WoolVisions™ intimate blends of polypropylene and merino wool. The WoolVisions™ collection of knits and wovens raises the bar for “natural performance” fabrics by offering a host of advantages over pure wool and wool + synthetic blends.

FiberVisions, producer of CoolVisions® dyeable polypropylene staple fiber, will present its collection of WoolVisions™ fabrics in Booth 155-509 at the Outdoor Retailer Winter Market, January 21 – 24, in Salt Lake City.

Merino wool, with its inherent qualities of warmth, moisture management, breathability, and natural elasticity, has become the darling of the outdoor industry for base layers and beyond. New developments combining merino wool with technical synthetic fibers have propelled the natural performance trend into end uses such as running, biking, and urban lifestyle wear.

Susan Lynn, global sales and marketing manager for CoolVisions®, comments, “As a disperse-dyeable, staple synthetic fiber, CoolVisions® is ideal for spinning with fine-micron merino wool, offering color and design options unavailable with solution-dyed polypropylene + wool blends, as well as an exceptionally soft hand.

In addition, polypropylene scores highest of the synthetic fibers for sustainability; its manufacturing process has a reduced impact on the environment, with low emissions and no toxic wastes. Polypropylene is also highly resistant to stains and chemicals, requiring less energy use in home laundering.”

“CoolVisions® is a better match for merino than other synthetic fibers,” insists Jose Fernandez president of Global Merino in California, which has developed an extensive range of circular knits using WoolVisions™. “CoolVisions®

polypropylene has better thermal performance than the other synthetic fibers--cooling when it is warm and retaining heat when it is cold.

In a world where drying time and the mechanical movement of moisture is important, the WoolVisions™ blend performs better than the equivalent blend using other synthetic fibers such as nylon or polyester," Fernandez says.



Global Merino's WoolVisions™ collection includes knitted jerseys, ponte di Romas, French terry, fleece, and rib. The company's honeycomb jacquard was selected as an ISPO 2014 Top 10 fabric by the ISPO Textrends Jury.

Chia Her Industrial Group, a vertically-integrated Taiwanese spinner, weaver, and dyer, creates the tops for its worsted WoolVisions™ yarns from 18.9μ washable merino wool and 2.5d CoolVisions® polypropylene fiber. The yarns are custom spun for knitting or weaving from Nm 1/20 to 1/70, in blends using 30% or more merino.

Chia Her describes its WoolVisions™ woven plaids as possessing cotton-like qualities that are both light weight and soft, with breathable and thermal features.



At HerMin Textile, an innovative weaver of natural and synthetic fabrics in Taiwan, WoolVisions™ is combined with cotton to enhance a brushed flannel



quality in 25 different colorways and patterns. Courtney Cruzan, marketing manager for the company, explains, "At HerMin, we value high quality, innovative yarns to develop more sustainable and technical natural blends.

With WoolVisions™ we are able to blend the great natural hand feel of cotton, with the moisture management, quick dry, stain resistant, anti-odor benefits of CoolVisions®

polypropylene, and naturally wrinkle-free and thermally insulating wool."

Textile manufacturers and major brands alike have expressed an interest in working with WoolVisions™, according to Lynn. Development is ongoing at mills such as Vinwell, Labtex, Grandtek, Sue's, Ecolnn, and Advanced Textile Products; and at Eclat, whose brushed WoolVisions™ pique will also be on display at OR.

"We are delighted to offer a product that is so well-positioned to serve core outdoor enthusiasts as well as the new urban lifestyle consumer with fabrics that are truly functional, comfortable, and good-looking," says Lynn. "WoolVisions™ unique blend of CoolVisions® and merino wool truly defines the concept of natural performance."

FiberVisions is owned by Indorama Ventures Public Company Limited, a global producer of PET and PTA, based in Thailand. With four manufacturing facilities across North America, Europe, and Asia, FiberVisions is one of the world's largest producers of polyolefin staple fibers. For further information contact Susan Lynn, at susan.lynn@fibervisions.com or visit www.cool-visions.com.