

Your awards, your views: the night in quotes



Mike Tyndall, vice president, product development & implementation, Cotton Incorporated (*Future Materials Awards sponsor*)

What plans do you have for Cotton Inc?

"We're going to expand our opportunities and look at every industry where those innovations, technologies – particularly related to sustainability – might be applicable to certain cotton technologies. At ITMA this year, we've seen a lot of innovations that we can utilise for cotton as we move forward in the development.

"Of course, it's important for cotton to remain competitive in the market place, and we know consumers really demand cotton in their products. They demand it for its comfort, its durability. But also we need to look at technologies that will elevate the performance of cotton, so that's why it's very important for us to be innovative and to look at these technologies that are applicable to cotton.

"We see cotton as a very reactive fibre: there's a lot of things that we can do with it, particularly from the standpoint of the application of new chemistry and dye applications and functional finishes. So to elevate cotton to the technical textiles arena,

we rely on companies that develop those technologies."

Why did you choose to get involved with this particular event?

"This particular innovation event is so very important because you've got a lot of the total supply chain here, and of course we're all talking about innovations, we're all talking about sustainability, so what better venue to be present at than something like an ITMA show?"



Launch of the year

Alberto Lucchin, marketing – graphic designer

How does it feel to be recognised among so many technical textile industry peers?

"It's really amazing to receive such an award among such great and qualified competition."

What are you most proud of?

"That our Water Brush doesn't use any type of products apart from water, so especially for the denim industry, this is a really big thing because it removes a lot of chemicals and minerals that harm not only the workers but possibly the environment."

Future plans?

"We are trying to make sustainability a standard for all of our products. The aim is to combine sustainability

with fashion to ensure that our customers and the environment are well catered for."



Innovator of the Year

(*first prize*)

Nick Smith, global head of textile coatings and Thomas Michleas, head of textile coatings EMEA/LA

Can you tell me the latest on the new brand identity? (The company changed from Bayer MaterialScience to Covestro in September 2015)

NS: "We're very happy to win this award. We've been Covestro for two months now. We're a new company, but also have 150 years' history. And just like our former company Bayer, we're based on innovation and sustainability and we intend to continue inventing to make the world a brighter place."

TM: "The breakthrough is our waterborne systems, which see a whole world of textile coatings that are more sustainable."

NS: "We're working very hard in technology, but in order to bring about the changes that society wants it is necessary to have deeper collaboration among the value chain. So just for example, a few days ago, we announced a collaboration with leading machine