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Rolf Arnold, Ulrich Herrmann,
Elke Thiele, Jens Mählmann***

*STFI e.V. an der
Technischen
Universität
Chemnitz*

Carsten Lies

Fraunhofer Institut IWU, Chemnitz, Germany

Innovative Technical Textiles – special features, manufacturing, application, research and development

STFI e. V. Chemnitz



SÄCHSISCHES
TEXTIL
FORSCHUNGS
INSTITUT e.V.

ca. 110 Mitarbeiter

- Technical Textiles
- Nonwovens / Films
- Knitting / Weaving
- Textile Processing / Ecology
- Recycling of Textiles
- Material Research
- Technical Nets
- Accredited Test Lab
- Inspection and Certif. Body for Geosynthetics
- Certification Centre for Protective Clothing

Managing Director:
Dipl.-Ing.-Ök. Andreas Berthel



Technical Textiles:

„Fit for the Purpose -

Fit for the Future“

Technical Textiles – what does it mean ??

Textile materials and products which are mainly produced for their technical function and performance.

Their aesthetic or decorative properties are less or not important.

1. Technical Textiles – General Aspects

- 1.1 Classification
- 1.2 Characteristics Features
- 1.3 Production Technologies, Material

2. Research and Development

Some Examples of Research Work by STFI,

Dep. Technical Textiles, Weaving and Knitting

*Head of Dep.:
Reinhard Helbig*

- 2.1 Erosion Protection and Planting of Embankments
- 2.2 Technical Textiles for Water Purification
- 2.3 Textile Plant Carriers and Irrigation Mats
- 2.4 Multifunctional Rope-like Structures
- 2.5 Textile Reinforced Aluminium Foam
- 2.6 Example of an International research network

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TECHNICAL TEXTILES

Classification (Frankfurt Fair FFM)



Mobiltech



Indutech



Protech



Sporttech



Medtech



Clothtech



Hometech



Packtech



Geotech



Oekotech



Agrotech



Buildtech

OVERVIEW

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EXAMPLE GEOTEXTILES

GEOTEXTILES: High growth rate

This market depends closely on the requirements of **application** as well as on the technological level of the user industry (geotechnics, environment etc.)

**Technological level of the user industry
= driving force of innovation**

EXAMPLE GEOTEXTILES

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Projects for developing the infrastructure etc. are mainly financed by the authorities / public institutions
- Calls for bids
- Strict technical guidelines
- High pressure to competitiveness and cost effectiveness

Sudden drastic and often unpredictable incidences can provoke a total change of conditions:

- Political changes
- Natural disasters (floods, earthquakes) etc.

EXAMPLE GEOTEXTILES

General market aspects:

- Quick changes in product development
- Growing market, slightly reduced growth rates
- Long-time development, testing, field tests and certification procedures before market launch
- Global competition
- Multifunctionality: several components integrated in final products
- Tailored solutions



SPECIALISATION, NICHE MARKETS

Geosynthetics have to be marked

Example

CE
0991
Textilfilt, Typ A

**"CE" abbr. of "Conformité Européene"
("European Conformity")
identification number of notified testing
body, type of product**

CE Marking on a product is a manufacturer's declaration that the product complies with the essential requirements of the relevant European health, safety and environmental protection legislation, in practice by many of the so-called Product Directives

F

GEOTEXTILES

ITT at STFI



www.geokunststoffe.com

Institut für Technische Textilien GmbH
at Sächsisches Textilforschungsinstitut

Dr.-Ing. Matthias Mägel

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D-09072 Chemnitz

Tel. (03 71) 52 74-172, Fax (03 71) 52 74-233

E-Mail: geokunststoffe.itt@stfi.de

STFI:

**Approval Inspection
and Certification
Body Geosynthetics**

**I
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N**

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Where to find

Information

Rules and Standards

Guidelines

Instructions etc.



GEOTEXTILES



Standards	Associations	Testing Bodies	EU-Guidelines
Terms	IVG	Sti	ENR
Testing bases	DGGT	HTW	
Test methods	FS "KGeo"	Inspection- and Certification Body	Contact
Application standards		ITI	
Guidelines			deutsch

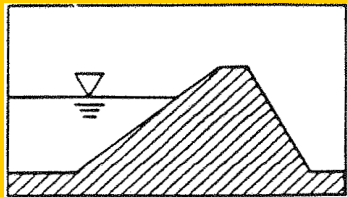


Application	Functions	Events	Literature
Symbols	Symbols	Kollo-München	ti-Bau Info. I, II, III, IV V VI
		Bautex	Guidelines

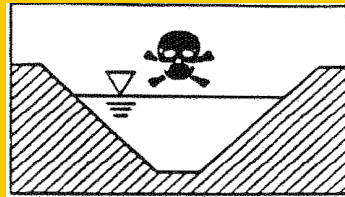
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GEOSYNTHETICS

GREAT VARIETY OF APPLICATIONS



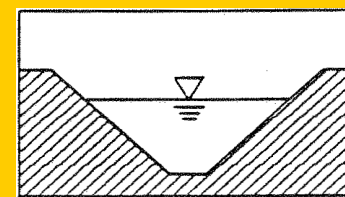
reservoirs, dams



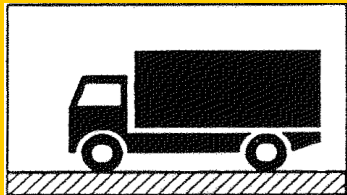
liquid waste



solid waste



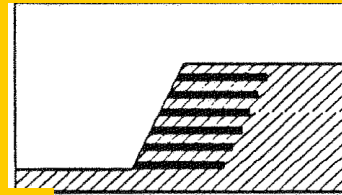
canals



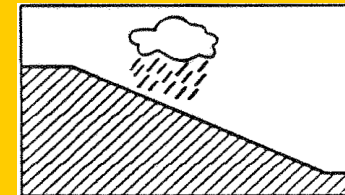
roads



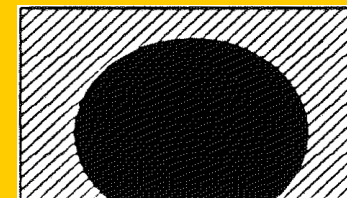
railways



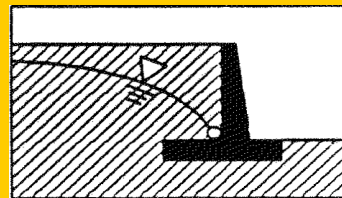
foundations, retaining walls



erosion-
control
systems



tunnel
construction



drainage
systems

**DIN EN
ISO
10318**

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Quelle: Vortrag M. Mägel, M. Hierhammer, K. Lieberenz, Einführung CE-Kennzeichnungspflicht; Bautex 2002

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TECHNICAL TEXTILES

Production Technologies

Geo

Weaving

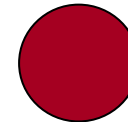


Knitting

warp knitting

weft knitting

stitch bonding

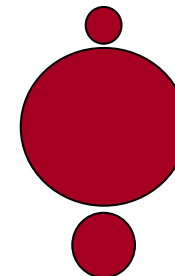


Nonwovens

Laid scrims

Braiding

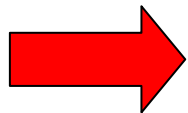
Rope-making etc.



TECHNICAL TEXTILES

Materials used

**Traditional natural and synthetic fibres,
Special technical fibers (basalt, glass,
metal wire etc.) and
unusual materials adapted to the purpose**



Examples STFI

*Up to now some used in research and development only,
some in real products:*

*Tubes, packaging tape, velcro tape, hay, straw, seaweed,
wood, cuttings, edge strips...*

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GEOTEXTILES

Reinforcing the surface soil of an embankment

Prevention from the loss of soil particles (erosion by water and wind).

Principle: Roots create a natural mechanical protection effect against erosion

Problem: No effect in the beginnings after seeding (period of germination and root development)

GEOTEXTILES

EROSION CONTROL AND PLANTING OF EMBANKMENTS

Great variety of products on the market available

coir (coconut fibre), jute, straw, flax etc.

➔ **Mats, compound fabrics made of natural material and synthetic nets, woven fabrics made of natural fibres, nowovens etc.**

in some cases with fertilizer or seeds integrated



iproplan®

Piepenbrock
Dienstleistungsgruppe



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INNOVATION: WARP-KNITTED GEOGRIDS



STFI project

Chemnitz Südverbund

Foto: STFI e.V.

**Embankment with warp-knitted
geogrids installed (before covering
with soil and hydroseeding)**

3000 m²



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INNOVATION: WARP-KNITTED GEOGRIDS



Chemnitz Südverbund

Embankment, 1 year later

F

INNOVATIVE COARSE GEOGRIDS



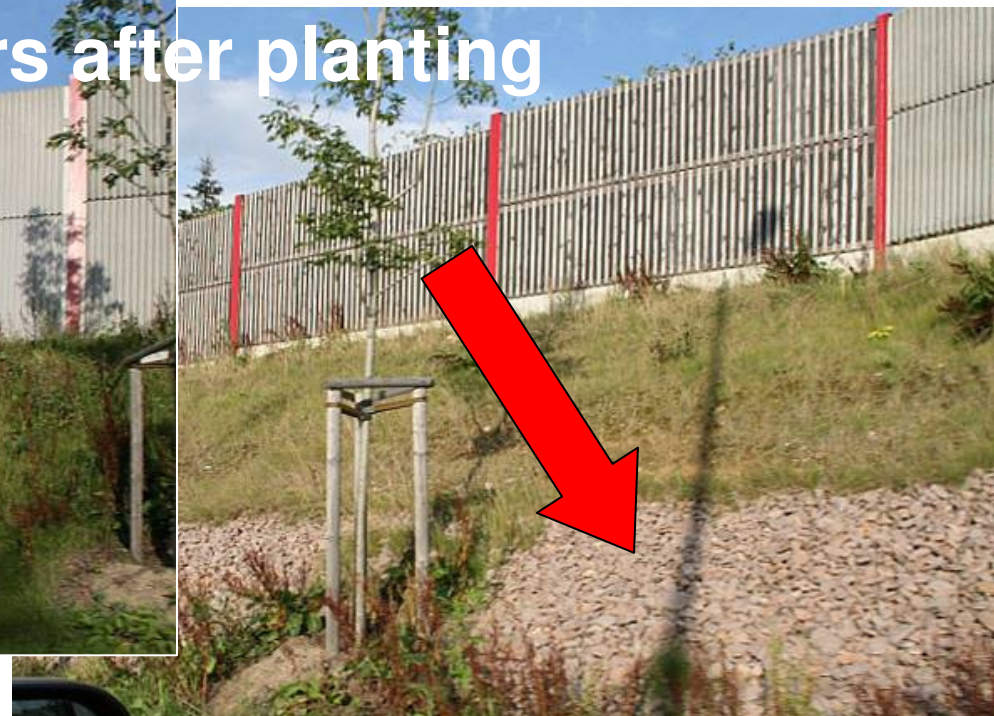
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**EMBANKMENT with coarse grained gravel
on the surface**



2 years after planting

with STFI geogrids



without STFI geogrids



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Foto: STFI e.V.

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Nature reserve

Disused open cast mine

Problems:

- *The coal stratum reaches the surface of the steep embankment*
- *Very sulfurous brown coal*
- *Spontaneous ignition and **seam fires** in summer time because of solar radiation*
- *Heavy smoke emission*
- *Area difficult to reach for fire brigades, particularly for vehicles*
- *Highly cost-intensive*

INNOVATIVE COARSE GEOGRIDS



Brown coal seam

Our solution:

**Innovative coarse geogrids
with tubes and temperature
sensors inserted
to prevent burning and to start
irrigating from the beginning of
the growing of the vegetation**

F

EXTRA COARSE WARP-KNITTING MACHINE



5 NEEDLES / 1,7 m working width



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Manufacturing KEMAFIL® ropes



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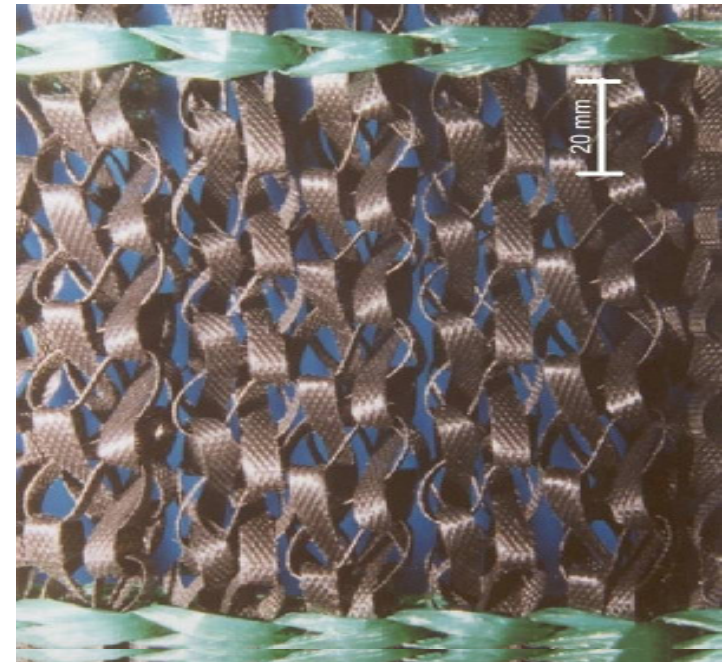
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Textile Carriers for Filtering Organisms



**~ 1 Mio. mussels/module;
filtration effect (free of
particles): 1l/mussel/day**



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Greening of Railway Tracks

Greening/Recultivation

Removable textile plant bedding system for railway trackbeds



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ausgezeichnet
mit dem
Innovationspreis
der
TECHTEXTIL 2005



Floating Islands

Floating Islands

Planting / Restoration



**Biotope on
Recultivated
Water Bodies**



Floating Islands



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**Root
development**

Textiles for Geotechnics, Articulture and Horticulture

Geotextiles for Irrigation

F

Geotextiles for Irrigation



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Innovative Machine Design

Special Needle Design



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Textilien für Landwirtschaft und Gartenbau

ca. 80 percent of the worldwide water consumption is used for artificial irrigation

STFI-development:

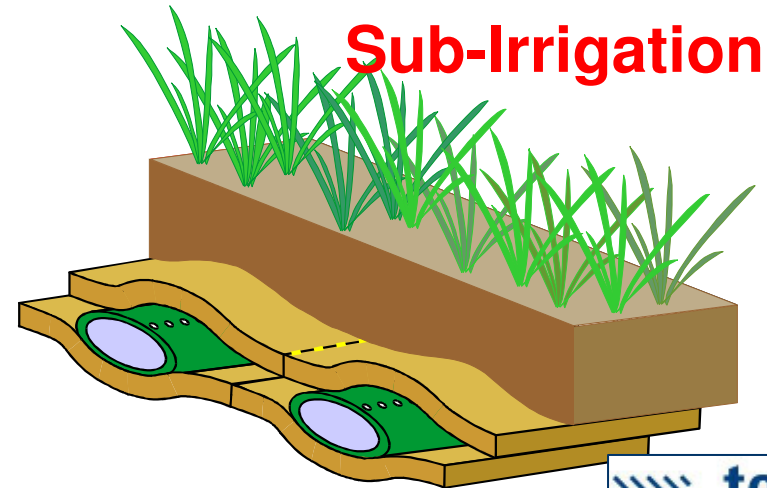
Producer

Textile Irrigation Mat
innovative technology for efficient
Sub-Irrigation of green space

Surface Irrigation means Evaporation

→ Pop-up sprinkler have a **50 % higher** water consumption

TEST IN DUBAI (UAE)



- Reduction of water consumption and evaporation
- Direct Irrigation in the root area
- Optimised dosing by means of humidity sensors and automatic irrigation systems

Installation of sub soil irrigation mats

Applicaton: large-scale irrigation in arid areas

Installing the irrigation mats



Investigation of root growth
In the testing area



1. Technical Textiles – General Aspects

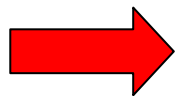
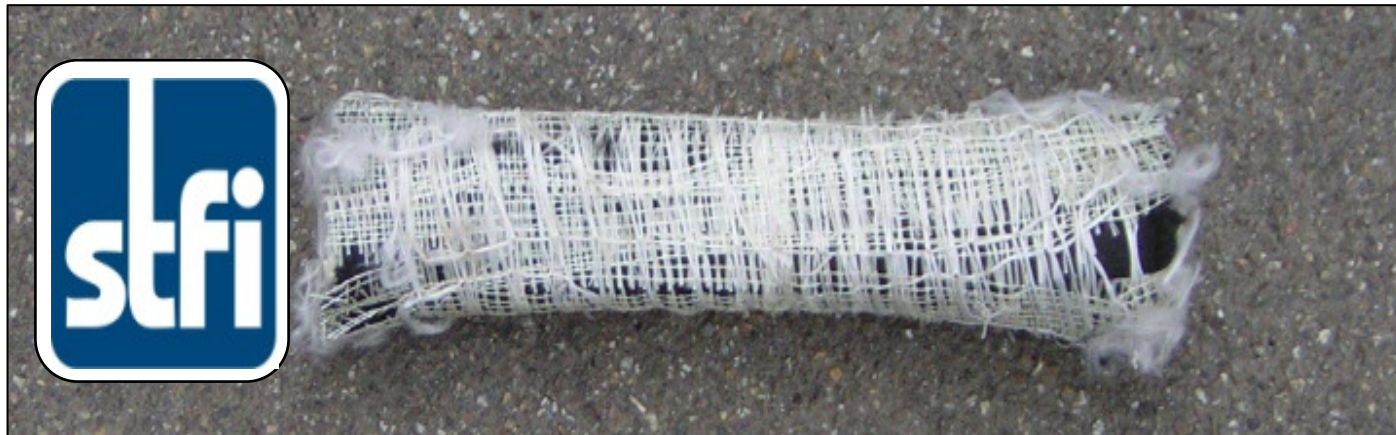
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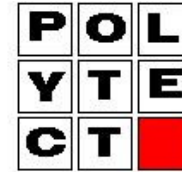
- Textile Wick Drains (vertical drains),
STFI development (RIMAX Project)



**Further Research on
Rope-like Structures**



P O L Y T E C T
Integrated Project for SMEs



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Polyfunctional Technical Textiles against Natural Hazards

EU-Project **POLYTECT**

Coordinator: D'Appollonia, Italy

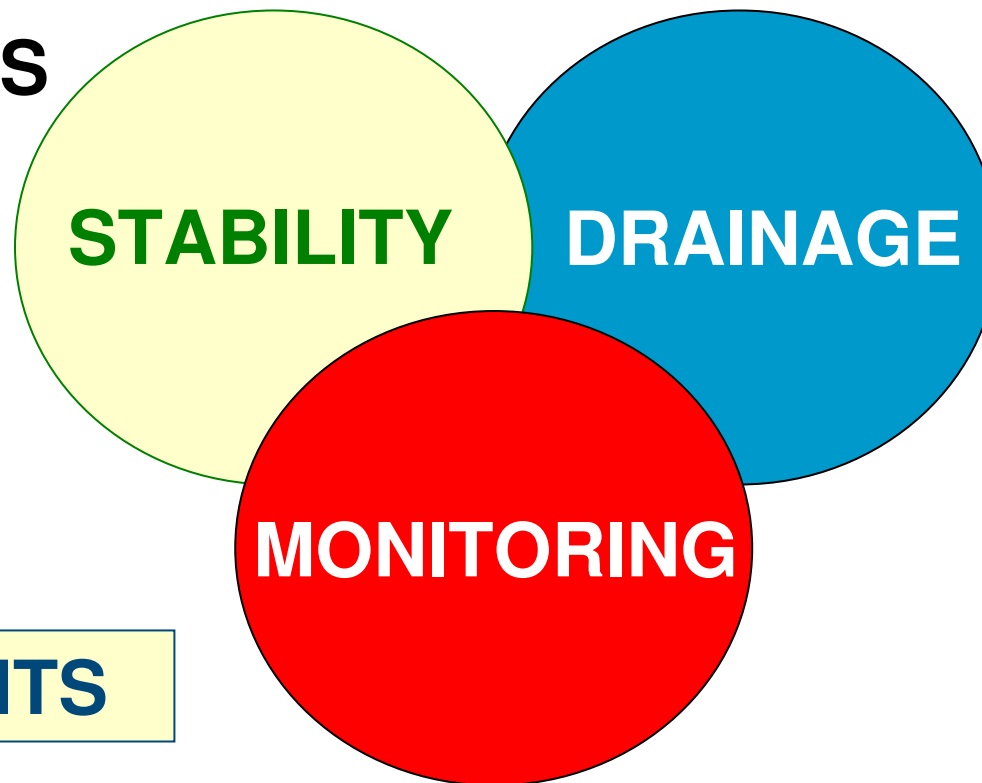
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From Work Package 5A:
3D ROPE-LIKE STRUCTURES

EMBANKMENTS



REQUIREMENTS

3D ROPE-LIKE STRUCTURES

Fibre optical sensor

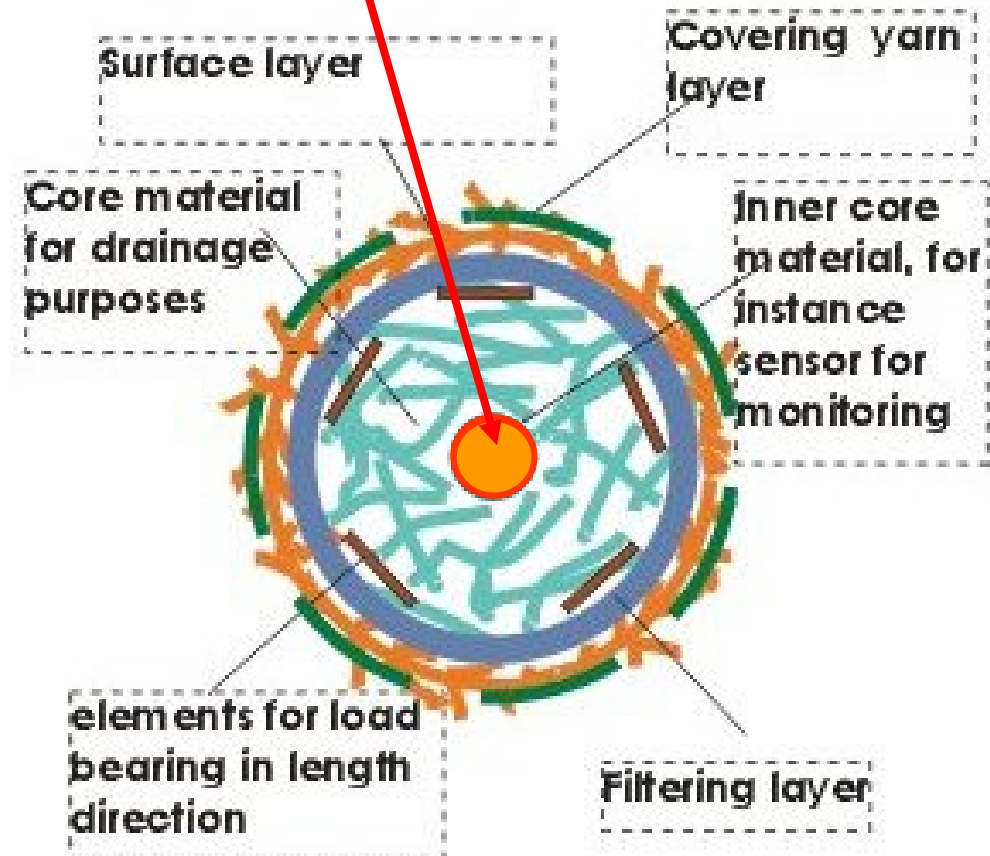
Vertical drains

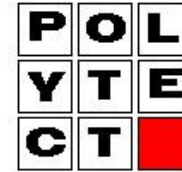
state-of-the-art



Innovation

Multifunctional rope-like structure



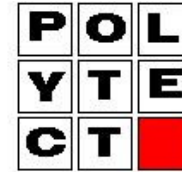


EU-Project

- Reinforced geotextile structures with fibre optical sensors integrated
- Adaption and optimisation of
 - processing technology,
 - machinery and
 - material designto guarantee functionality
- Manufacturing trials in laboratory and industrial scales



P O L Y T E C T
Integrated Project for SMEs



Test on the building site „Chemnitz, Hilbersdorfer Kurve“



U N I K A S S E L
V E R S I T Ä T

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Extreme Materials S.r.l.

Reconstruction of a railway dam

Start: Summer 2007



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Example of samples manufactured

- 3D ropes



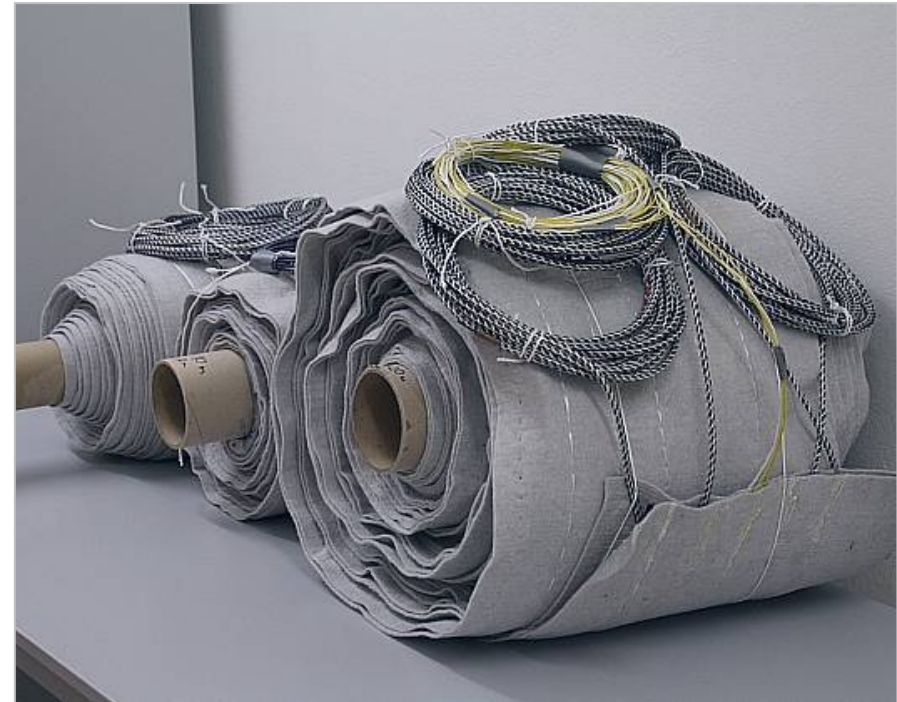
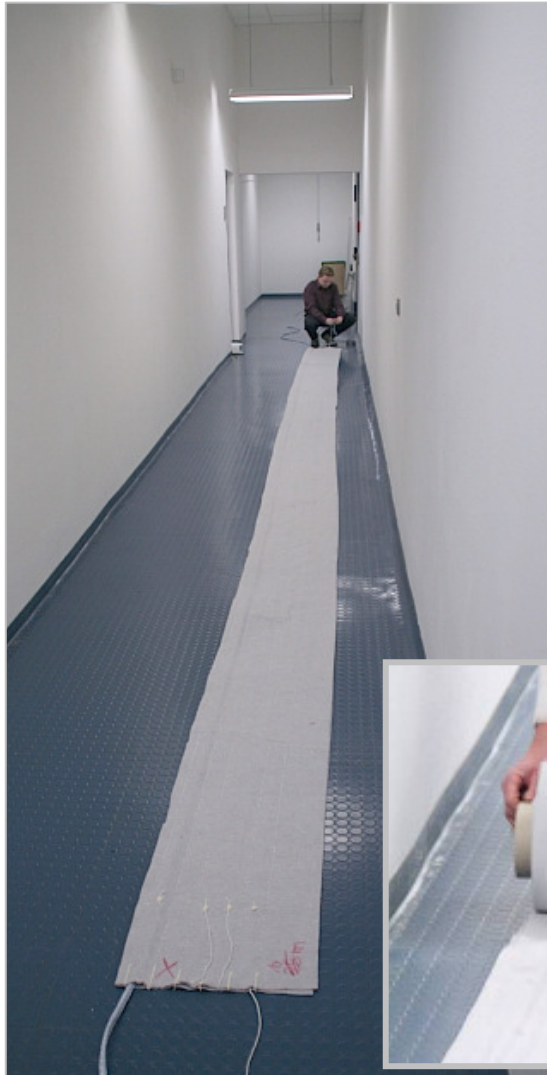
- Sheathing the sensor fibre by using the KEMAFIL® technology





Types of samples produced

3D Surface Type





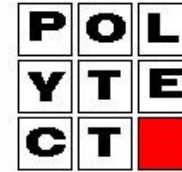
View on our testing area

Preparing the test area,
protecting sand layers





P O L Y T E C T
Integrated Project for SMEs



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Video Presentation

in situ test

Railway Dam Chemnitz, Hilbersdorfer Kurve

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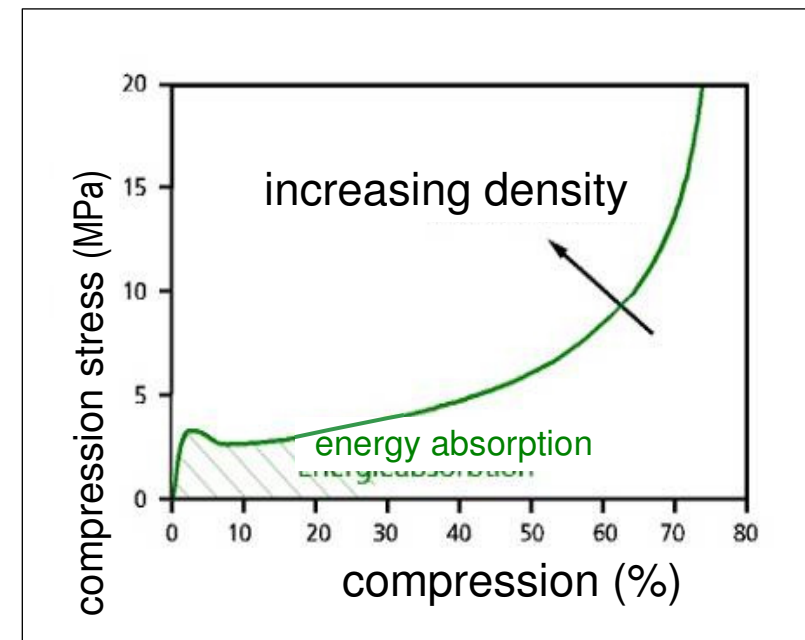
LIGHTWEIGHT DESIGN WITH ALUMINIUM FOAM

Material parameters of aluminium foam

Poisson's ratio	0,31 - 0,34
density	0,5 - 0,9 g/cm³
compression strength (0,7 g/cm ³)	approx. 15 N/mm ²
heat conductivity (0,7 g/cm ³)	approx. 20 W/m · K
material damping (0,7 g/cm ³)	approx. 4,5 · 10 ⁻³

- fulfills the fire protection requirements according to DIN 4102
- temperature resistance up to approx. 500 °C
- high energy absorption

→ technologically well controllable:
0,7 g/cm³





Benefit of aluminium foam in various fields

Lightweight



Light core in filigree hollow structures and sandwiches:

Function: structural reinforcement and spacer

Damping



High material damping parameter:

Function: conversion of oscillation energy

Energy absorption



High impact energy absorption in terms of deformation work:

Function: crash energy absorber

Joining



Increase of the volume in the production process:

Function: metallic, high-temperature resistant “adhesive”

Fire protection



Resists a standard fire of 45 to 60 minutes:

Function: fire protection element

Design



Aesthetic value of the foam structure:

Function: design element



SAB
Sächsische AufbauBank

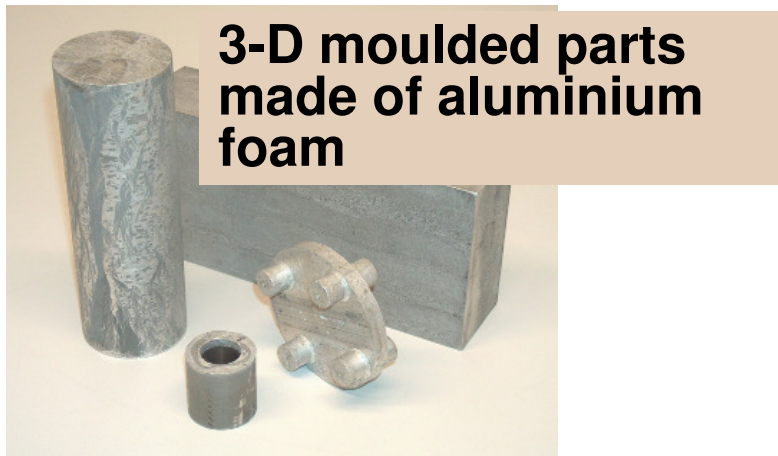


SMK
Stahl- und Metallbau Kaufmann GmbH und Co. KG

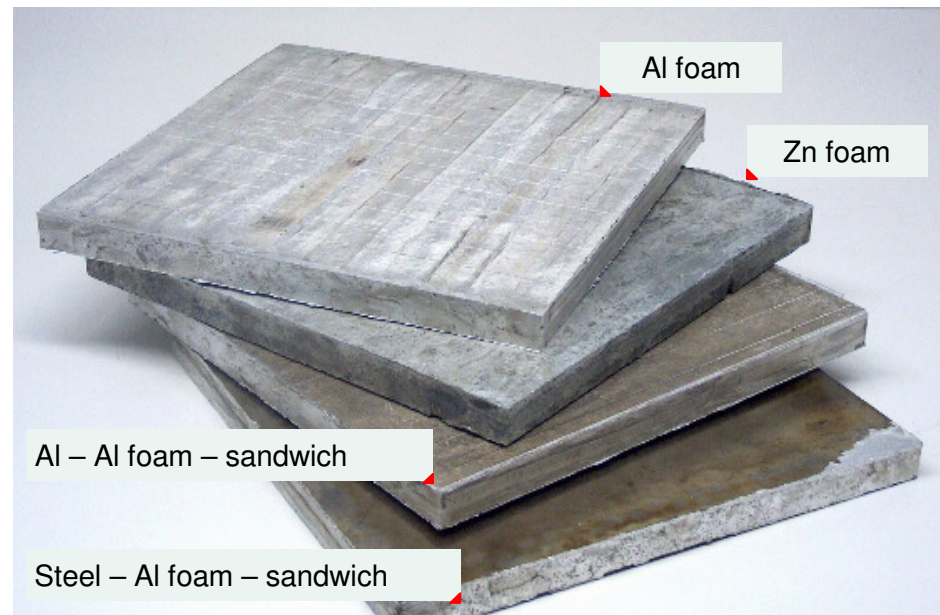


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Institut
Werkzeugmaschinen
und Umformtechnik

Typical semi-finished products



**Steel profiles
foamed in pack**



**Metal foam and sandwich plates
comprising metal foam**

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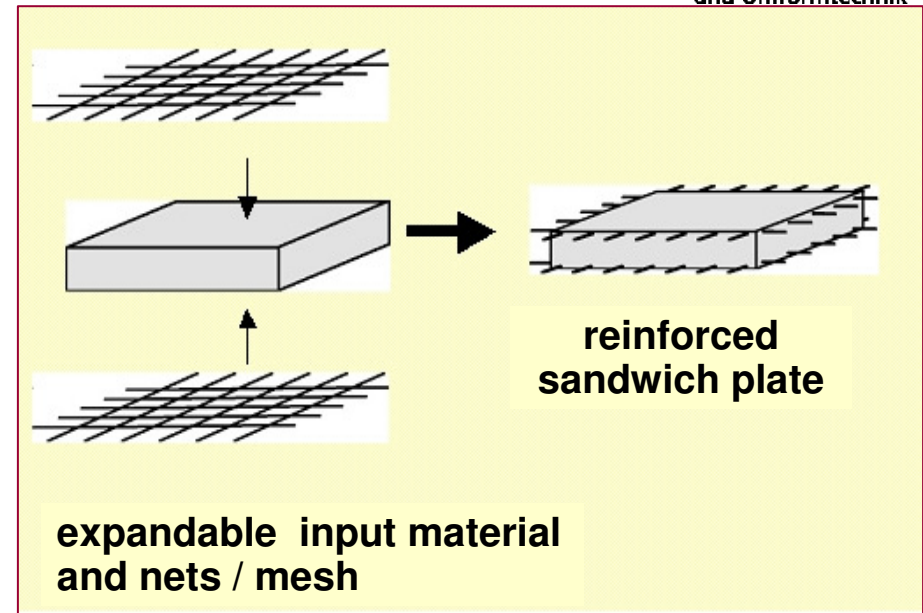


Definition of load cases for the composite design

Comparison of sandwich plates and plates reinforced by woven/knit fabrics:

Sandwich plate

- significant advantages in deadweight
- high tensile and shear strength (e.g. bonded)
- usually combination of strong surface layers and light-weight core)
- surface layers preferably stiff regarding strain, core smooth regarding shear



**The composites
can be subject to
various loads**





SAB
Sächsische AufbauBank



SMK
Stahl- und Metallbau Kaufmann GmbH und Co. KG



Fraunhofer
Institut
Werkzeugmaschinen
und Umformtechnik

Comparison:

Woven fabric

made of stainless steel

mass/area approx. **1,7 kg/m²**

($\varnothing_{\text{wire}} = 0.5 \text{ mm}$, 16 meshes/cm²,
fabric thickness 0.12 mm)

Steel sheet

of the same dimensions

approx. **9,4 kg/m²**

Fivefold !

➡ **enormous lightweight design potential,**

Condition: Absorption of the arising loads with novel
composites

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Institut
Werkzeugmaschinen
und Umformtechnik

Advantages of fabric/knit fabrics compared to solid structures (sheets)

- ➔ **Drapeability** (complex geometries educible)
- ➔ Applications with just aluminium externally, but simultaneously **supporting structures near to the surface** which can absorb forces
- ➔ **Flexibility** to respond elastically to forces (e.g. yielding of slings/nodes or of drilled materials)
- ➔ Realisation of **anisotropic properties** which allow a particular reaction (e.g. load absorption, use of various wire materials in the fabrics/knit fabrics or asymmetric design like rectangular instead of square meshes)



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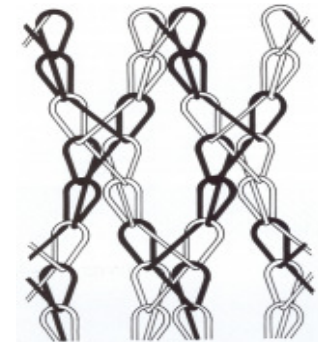
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Special features of knitted fabrics

- **Drapeability definable as required**
- **Flexibility / bending elasticity variable**
- **Strength and stress-strain-behaviour variable**
- **Net opening size as required**
- **Good dimensional stability (no sliding of the structural elements)**
- **Mechanical properties in both directions relatively independent**
- **Mono- and biaxial structures possible**
- **3D structures imaginable**





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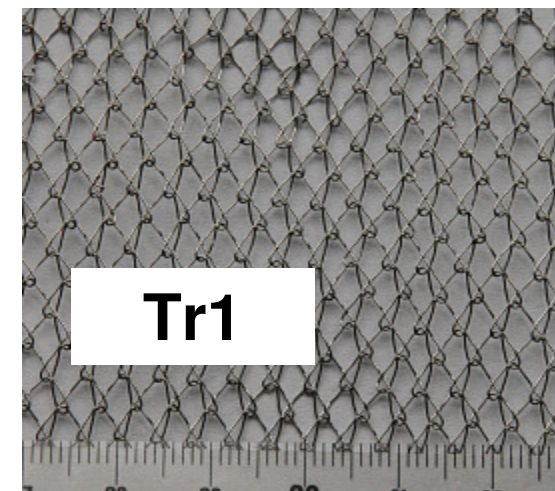
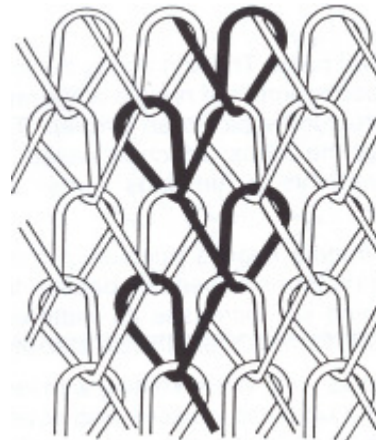
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Examples

Net of 22,5 mm aperture size
containing
loop material only



Single-face **tricot**
structure





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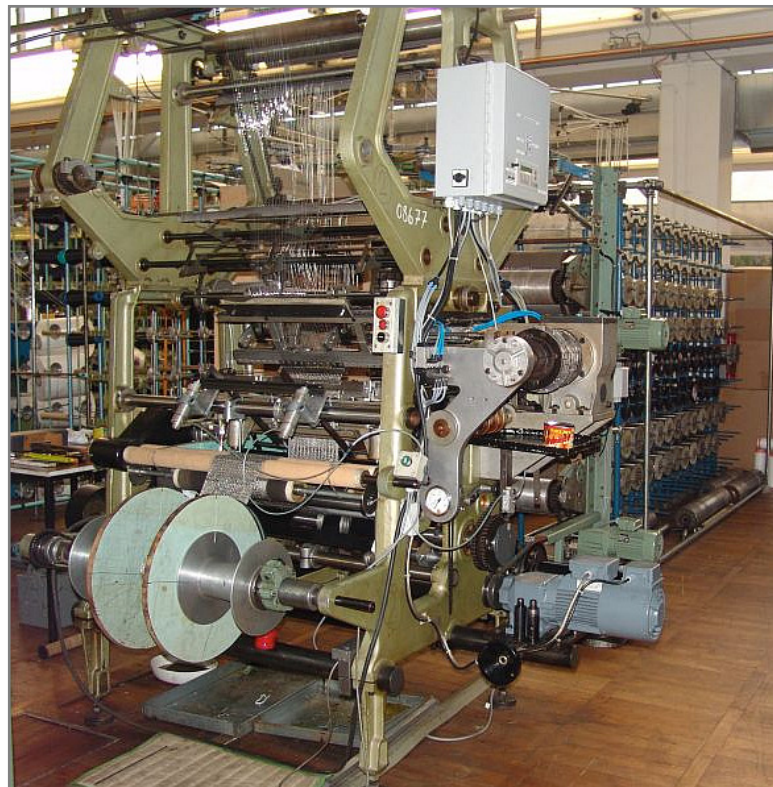
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Machinery used

Test rig



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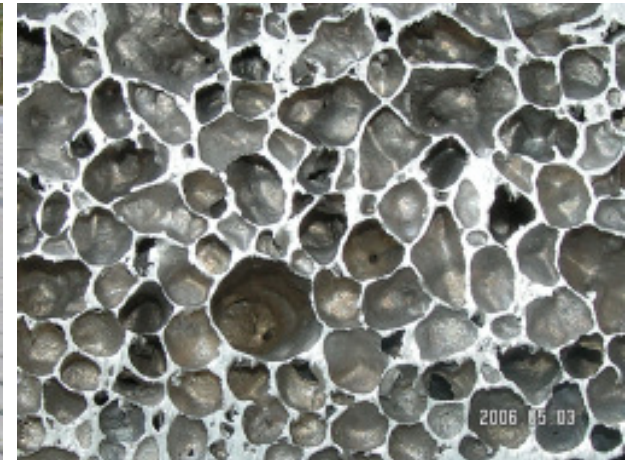
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F

Textile Reinforced Aluminium Foam



Demonstrator balcony platform



Aluminium foam



Bending specimen
of reinforced foam

Rod-steel mesh



1. Technical textiles – General Aspects

- 1.1 Classification
- 1.2 Characteristics Features
- 1.3 Production technologies, material

2. Research and Development

*Some Examples of Research Work by STFI,
Dep. Technical Textiles, Weaving and Knitting*

- 2.1 Erosion Protection and Planting of Embankments
- 2.2 Technical Textiles for Water Purification
- 2.3 Textile Plant Carriers and Irrigation Mats
- 2.4 Multifunctional Rope-like Structures
- 2.5 Textile Reinforced Aluminium Foam

2.6 Example of an International research network

International Colaboration

**German-Czech network of excellence
„Geotextiles for Restoration,
recultivation and environment”**

**Initiative of the Federal Ministry of
Education and Research (BMBF)**

to spread knowledge about Germany's diverse
science and research landscape and to find
suitable partners for research collaborations

Network of Excellence

Comparable **conditions** in post landscapes of lignite opencast mining in Germany and Bohemia

Aim:

Building up a network and application-oriented clustering of core competencies in the field of research and development together with industrial partners, universities and other institutions in the field of the application of geotextiles - crossboarder scientific dialog

Focus: Application of textiles in geotechnics, water revitalisation and management, environment, landscaping, ecology and related standards

Main activities

- **4 workshops**
1 in Germany, 3 in the Czech Republic),
- **2 field trips,**
- **several partner meetings,**
- **boots on 2 exhibitions**
Envibrno (Cz), GaLaBau 2009 (D)

➔ **Great number of contacts acquired
as a basis for future cooperation**



**Workshop in
Chomutov (Cz)**

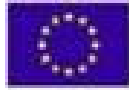
**Boot at GaLaBau
Nuremberg**



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Nanotechnologies and nanosciences, knowledge-based
multifunctional materials and new production processes and devices

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For further info and contacting us please visit the Web Page of the project:

<http://www.polytect.net>



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Die Abschlussberichte können beim STFI e. V. Chemnitz abgefordert werden.

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