

TO BE RELEASED ON JANUARY 28, 2021 - 1100h CET

HeiQ and Nylstar launch HeiQ Viroblock Permanent on Meryl Zero Microfiber Pollution High Performance Fabric

A decade long collaboration between Swiss textile innovator HeiQ and Spanish premium synthetic fiber manufacturer Nylstar, has resulted in the innovation of a revolutionary new premium antiviral and antimicrobial textile with zero pollution sustainable benefits, [Meryl® Skinlife Force powered by HeiQ Viroblock Permanent](#), [winner of ISPO Textrends Award for the Best Product](#).

With the commencement of the pandemic, two leading textile innovators HeiQ and Nylstar pooled resources developed over a decade long collaboration to create a premium synthetic fiber that was sustainable, antimicrobial and durable, in short, the optimal fusion of innovative ingredient into sustainably made materials. A record-breaking development speed of just six months resulted in the launch of HeiQ Viroblock Permanent, a new technology under the immensely successful HeiQ Viroblock technology platform. The new technology is used exclusively on Meryl® Skinlife Force, an innovative hi-tech fabric that combines the silver-ion active principle antimicrobial properties developed by HeiQ and Nylstar's hydrogen-based technology which allows the creation of yarns with a very strong molecular cohesion structure. The Hydrogen molecular structure makes Meryl® Skinlife Force a high-performance fabric in terms of moisture management and breathability, offering a natural stretch without elastane as well as excellent durability thanks to its continuous and high tenacity filaments. The robust durability of HeiQ Viroblock Permanent is achieved thanks to the silver particles being added directly into the raw polymer of the yarn thereby keeping these properties active for the lifetime of garments. Fabric samples successfully demonstrated a very strong antimicrobial efficacy with over 99.99% reduction of both gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria after 100 washes. Antiviral test is underway.

“With the launch of HeiQ Viroblock Permanent on this premium fabric that can be implemented in environments with high hygienic and sanitary requirements such as medical, hospitality and sports, HeiQ and Nylstar aim to make a strong social contribution to stemming the spread of the global pandemic and for post-pandemic use, delivering on our mission to improve lives of billions of people,” said Carlo Centonze, co-founder and CEO of HeiQ.

Sustainability and Circularity of Meryl® Skinlife Force HeiQ Viroblock Permanent

Nylstar's zero microfiber release in combination with HeiQ Viroblock Permanent technology bring the textile industry the necessary quality and touch without polluting air and water. Meryl® Skinlife Force HeiQ Viroblock Permanent hi-tech fabric is certified by STANDARD 100 OekoTex assuring the consumer that the product is free of harmful substances, and all 100% Meryl® fabrics are completely and infinitely recyclable without suffering any loss of performance, for a fully sustainable and circular economy. Meeting the most demanding antimicrobial and durability qualities for the lifetime of the garments, this premium fabric is the perfect match for discerning medical, hospitality and sports professionals who wish for durable protection not just in the time of the pandemic but well beyond into a post-pandemic future.

“Meryl® Skinlife Force powered by HeiQ Viroblock Permanent is fabricated to meet the most exacting requirements on performance and sustainability of consumers in today's day and age”, said Alfonso Cirera, Executive Chairman of Nylstar.

TO BE RELEASED ON JANUARY 28, 2021 - 1100h CET

ISPO Textrends 2021 BEST PRODUCT

Both HeiQ and Nylstar will be “exhibiting” at ISPO Munich Online from February 1st to 5th. Nylstar won the Textrends 2021 Award for the Best Product in the Base Layer Category.

The jury, composed of international experts (journalists, designers, independent professionals), has selected Meryl Sublime fabric with Skinlife Force HeiQ Viroblock Permanent technology made in a collaboration with Feinjersey as Best Product in the category of Base Layers for Fall/ Winter 2022/23.

Visit their virtual booth to learn more about these innovative technologies.



Meryl Sublime Skinlife Force winning ISPO Textrends zero pollution fabric powered by HeiQ Viroblock Permanent Technology (Image from Nylstar)

TO BE RELEASED ON JANUARY 28, 2021 - 1100h CET

About HeiQ

Founded in 2005 as a spin-off from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH) and listed on the London Stock Exchange Main Market (LSE:HEIQ), HeiQ is a leader in textile innovation creating some of the most effective, durable and high-performance textile technologies on the market today. HeiQ's mission is to improve the lives of billions of people through pioneering textiles and materials innovation. Combining three areas of expertise – scientific research, specialty materials manufacturing and consumer ingredient branding – HeiQ is the ideal innovation partner to create differentiating and sustainable textile products and capture the added value at the point of sale. With a total capacity of 35'000 tons per year HeiQ manufactures in the USA, Switzerland and Australia supplying its specialty chemical products in over 60 countries worldwide.

About Nylstar

Nylstar is a leading technological company and pioneer in the application of hydrogen technology to obtain high quality Meryl® yarns with zero microfiber pollution and natural stretch properties, together with an exceptional touch and performance.

Nylstar's hydrogen-based technology provides a complete solution for the microplastics problem in the world. Thanks to the extraordinary tenacity with its strong molecular cohesion of the high-quality Meryl® yarns, there is no microfiber release and gives the garments a long durability. Nylstar's Hydrogen technology allows creation of 100% post-consumer recyclable garments thanks to the natural stretch that completely avoids the use of elastane.

The Nylstar's continuous innovation program is to permanently engineer performance and functionality in Meryl® yarns in order to reduce use of water, energy and chemical use to move forward to a complete circular economy.

Notes to the Editor: About HeiQ Viroblock

- Winner of the prestigious Swiss Technology Award
- A platform of antimicrobial, antiviral and antibacterial technologies that stand for hygiene in textiles and materials. A reassurance of protection to the materials, taking away worries from the users concerning potential contamination of the textiles and materials by microbes and germs.
- Strong antimicrobial effect proven by ISO20743 and antiviral effect by ISO18184 tests ([view test reports online](#))
- The platform consists of various products and applications:
 - Antimicrobial functionality added to fabrics by textile finishing: HeiQ Viroblock NPJ03, HeiQ Viroblock SC
 - Antimicrobial functionality added to fabrics by specially manufactured raw material: HeiQ Viroblock Permanent
 - Antimicrobial medical filtration materials
 - Textile and surfaces protection post-treatment: , HeiQ Viroblock Hygienizer Spray, HeiQ Viroblock Textile HygienizerXPAY textile hygienizer
 - Fast moving consumer goods: HeiQ Viroblock multi-hi-tech community face masks, HeiQ Viroblock FFP2 respirators, HeiQ Viroblock medical class 1 Type IIR surgical masks
 - Functional ecosystem: HeiQ Viroblock Ecosystem
- Some of the brands that have adopted HeiQ Viroblock: Burberry, Mammut, Cornelia James, DL1961, SertaSimmons Bedding, Outdoor Research, Buff, Craghoppers, Aviro, Albini, W Verbier.
- HeiQ Viroblock NPJ03 has been applied on at least one billion face masks during the current pandemic; it was one of the first in the world to have been tested effective against SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19): 99.99% reduction in 30 minutes; instantaneous antiviral effect on Sendai virus, demonstrated within 2-5 minutes; all ingredients are listed on International Nomenclature for Cosmetic Ingredients (INCI); certified by Beta Analytics laboratories as a 72% bio-based technology.

TO BE RELEASED ON JANUARY 28, 2021 - 1100h CET

- HeiQ on media recently: HeiQ on [CNN](#), “[Good Morning America](#)” with DL1961, on [Forbes](#), [Yahoo Finance](#) and [CasaVogue](#) with Serta Simmons Bedding (SSB), world's largest mattress maker who would be the first to introduce mattresses with HeiQ Viroblock technology into North America.
- HeiQ is the most featured textile technology company on [Vogue](#) with [DL1961](#), [Malwee](#) and [Albini](#)
- On [Times International](#) with [Technical Textiles Innovation](#) and [The Apparel Times](#)
- HeiQ's contribution to the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - HeiQ has supplied HeiQ Viroblock to ca.300 customers globally since its launch and on boarded over 500 brands with this technology.
 - HeiQ Viroblock is estimated to have been applied to more than 1 billion masks worldwide.
 - From April to May, HeiQ helped the Swiss Army source 100'000 protective isolation gowns, chartering a full Swiss Airliner repurposed for transport of Personal Protective Equipment.
 - HeiQ launched disposable and washable masks featuring several of HeiQ's high performance technologies with good initial success.
 - The masks continue to be rated with 5 stars by consumers on Brack.ch. A customer who has travelled across half the globe even sent us a thank you card stating how comfortable the mask was for his 12-hour flight. What is more: 2 out of this list online of “most comfortable masks” are with the HeiQ Viroblock technology.
 - HeiQ co-sponsored 1800 masks at the VentureLab top 100 Swiss Startup Award

Notes to the editor about Nylstar face masks and winning ISPO Textrends fabric:

- Meryl Sublime fabric with Skinlife Force HeiQ Viroblock Permanent technology winner of the ISPO Textrends Best Product in the category of Base Layers for Fall/Winter 2022/23
- The fabric was made in collaboration with Feinjersey knitting mill from Austria.
- The winning fabric is fully circular with high performance. The fabric is based on Nylstar's Hydrogen technology which does not release microfibers to the air and water. The fabric is 100% post-consumer recyclable thanks to the natural stretch which provides Nylstar's Hydrogen technology that completely avoids the use of elastane. Furthermore uses zero water in the dyeing process.
- The face masks with Skinlife Force HeiQ Viroblock Permanent technology are available on www.meryl.es