

First Nano seal of approval awarded to Holmenkol

"SEALnGlide" sail coating awarded "forumnano" certificate

Frankfurt, January 26, 2008. Today the "forumnano" seal of approval was awarded for the first time. "SEALnGlide" by Holmenkol Sport-Technologies is the first product to obtain the nano certificate of "forumnano", an initiative launched by a number of companies involved in the nano technology industry. This new seal of approval is to mark inventions which contain nano technology, thereby providing enhanced value as compared with conventional products.

"The product does comply with the certificate criteria", confirms Prof. Dr. Uwe Hartman of University of Saarbrücken who was in charge of the certification. The renowned scientist, who is involved with research on nano-structure physics, chairs forumnano's scientific advisory council.

Holmenkol is committed to a responsible and sustainable use of nano technology. The "Responsible Nano Code" code of conduct defines globally applicable directives for a responsible use of nano technology. Together with the European Commission, Woodrow Wilson International Center, Asia Nano Forum and Australian Nano Business Forum, forumnano has established these guidelines under the umbrella of British Royal Society. The award of the seal of approval is based on the latest version of this code of conduct.

"With this seal, we set out to a new era of nano product certification", says Christian Römlein, Managing Director of Swabian HOLMENKOL Sport-Technologies GmbH & Co. KG. "The process ensures that independent inspectors check if SEALnGlide actually complies with our claim, i.e., more performance through true nano technology."

The coating which is mostly used in competitive sports enhances sails with a 2 - 50 nanometre thick nano structure: The surface becomes largely water and dirt repellent and the tissue is smoother and more tearproof. What is more, the coating outlasts a number of cleaning cycles.

Within the next week, more products of forumnano members are to be presented to the certification board. Details on certificates and more information for industrial and end users will be publicized shortly on www.forumnano.org.

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The forumnano initiative was launched in 2007 by medium-sized businesses, aiming at a sustainable and responsible use of nano technology. The members of the association together with British Royal Society have established the European "Responsible Nano Code" code of conduct, which provides for a responsible and transparent use of nano technology.

The key technology of the 21st century is suitable for various applications, thereby offering outstanding potential in terms of resource efficiency and sustainability. In Germany, more than 500 young, medium-sized enterprises are committed to capturing this potential for products and applications which are involved with almost any area of daily life.