

Conference Schedule **Tues, Oct 14**



BREAKFAST CONNECTIONS

8:30 am – 9:00 am | Room 1D / 1C

TABLETOP & POSTER SESSION

8:30 am – 7:00 pm | Room 1A / 1B

Welcome

9:00 am – 9:15 am | Room 1D / 1C

From Seaweed To Second Life: Carbon-Smart Materials For A Circular Future

9:15 am – 10:30 am | Room 1D / 1C

Renewable Carbon and the Circular Shift: Future-Proofing Raw Materials

Lars Börger, Ph.D., CEO, nova-Institute GmbH

Fibre-to-Fibre Recycling - Overcoming Polymerization Challenges

Jack Eaton, Chief Commercial Officer, NIRI Ltd

COFFEE & NETWORKING

10:30 am – 11:00 am | Room 1A / 1B

From Seaweed to Second Life: Carbon-Smart Materials for a Circular Future II

11:00 am – 12:00 pm | Room 1D / 1C

Applications for Bio-Material Based Fibers Sourced from Seaweed

Anuradha Gupta, Ph.D., Director - R&D, Keel Labs, Inc.

Chris Mekeel, Ph.D., CTO, Keel Labs, Inc.

Comparison of Hemp Fiber Based Spunlace Formulations to Select Traditional Spunlace Products

Trey Riddle, Ph.D., CFO, IND Hemp

LUNCH BUFFET & TABLETOP HOUR

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm | Room 7A / 7B

The New Fiber Formula: Dissolve, Degrade, And Deliver

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm | Room 1D / 1C

Nonwoven Fibre Which Enhances the Circular Economy

Sylwia Druzdz, Product Manager, AquaPak Polymers, Ltd.

Using Unique Amorphous PHA to Enhance the Processing, Performance, and Sustainability of PLA Spunbond Nonwovens

Octavius Davies, Sr. Account Manager, CJ Biomaterials, Inc.

New PLA Meltblown for Future-Ready Filtration

Kristel Beckers, Sr. Application Technician, TotalEnergies Corbion

Creating Better Nonwovens Via Biology, Technology, And Precision

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm | Room 1D / 1C

Mycelium-Based Biomaterials - A Robust Material Platform Sustainable Alternatives to Fossils

Sanjay Wahal, Ph.D., Founder & President, Decarbonization, LLC

Multicomponent Fiber: From R&D to Mainstream

Allison Hanney, Communications Director, Hills, Inc.
Timothy Robson, Business Development, Hills Inc.

Establishing the Quality of Superior Needle-Punched Nonwovens

Lothar Kaierle, VP Sales Nonwovens, American Trützschler, Inc.

2025 Rise® Innovation Award Presentations

4:00 pm – 4:30 pm | Room 1D / 1C

EsterCycle

Julia Curley, Ph.D., Founder, CEO, EsterCycle LLC

Kelsun® Fiber

Chris Mekeel, Ph.D., CTO, Keel Labs

Fentanyl Detection Wipe

Jacob Becker, Sr. Development Scientist, Rockline Industries

RISE 2025 Lightning Talks

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm | Room 1D / 1C

TABLETOP RECEPTION & POSTER SESSION

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm | Room 1A / 1B

Conference Schedule Wed, Oct 15



BREAKFAST CONNECTIONS

8:30 am – 9:00 am | Room 1D / 1C

TABLETOP & POSTER SESSION

8:30 am – 2:30 pm | Room 1A / 1B

From Atoms To Applications: Material And Process Choices For Better Outcomes

9:00 am – 10:15 am | Room 1D / 1C

Green Chemistry as the Foundation of Sustainability and the Circular Economy

John Warner, Ph.D., CEO & CTO, The Technology
Greenhouse

Invisible Invasion: The Pervasive Threat of Microplastics

Bryan Haynes, Ph.D., Sr. Technical Director, Global
Nonwovens & Corporate R&D, Kimberly-Clark
Corporation

COFFEE & NETWORKING

10:15 am – 10:30 am | Room 1A / 1B

From Deposition To Degradation: How Additives Shape Fiber Futures

10:30 am – 12:00 pm | Room 1D / 1C

Effect of Critical Process Parameters on Particle Deposition in Coform Meltblown Process

Md Nur Uddin, Graduate Student, NCSU

Behnam Pourdeyhimi, Ph.D., William A. Klopman
Distinguished Professor, and Executive Director, The
Nonwovens Institute, North Carolina State University

Disruptive Dry Powder Impregnation Solutions for Flax Fiber Intermediate Products

Sanjay Patel, Ph.D., Consultant, Fibroline SA

Ingredient Induced Fiber Degradation in Wet Wipes

Mahsa Nazem, Graduate Student, NCSU

LUNCH BUFFET & TABLETOP HOUR

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm | Room 7A / 7B

Do More With Less... Until Policy Takes The Rest

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm | Room 1D / 1C

A Commercial Outsider's View: Ever-evolving Challenge of Downgauging Nonwoven Fabrics in Disposable/Semi- durable Applications

Nick Carter, Head of Innovation, Gottlieb Binder GmbH
& Co. KG

Advances in 3D Embossing & Aperturing Technologies for High-Performance Nonwovens in Hygiene Applications

Bastian Brocks, Sales Manager - Nonwoven,
SAUERESSIG Surfaces

Nonwovens in a Shifting Trade Landscape: Navigating Tariff and Policy Risks in a Second Trump Administration

Wes Fisher, Director of Government Relations, INDIA

2025 Rise® Innovation Award Announcement

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm | Room 1D / 1C

The Nonwovens Institute Facility Tour (Optional)

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm | RSVP Required. Limited to 50
attendees.

Note:

Program subject to change. The opinions expressed at the RISE® Technology Conference 2025 are those of the speakers and not necessarily that of INDIA or its Board of Directors. Attendee badges must be worn and always displayed during event hours.

Poster Session

Tues, Oct 14 8:30 am - 7:00 pm

Wed, Oct 15 8:30 am - 2:30 pm



Accelerated Aging Studies on Filtration Efficiency of Melt blown Biopolymer Nonwovens

Ivan Moldavchuk, Ph.D., Student in Materials Science and Graduate Research Assistant, University of Georgia

Effect of Calendering on Performance Properties of Cotton/PLA Needle-Punched Nonwovens

Tarikul Islam, Ph.D., Student in Polymers and Fibers, Graduate Teaching Assistant, and Filtration Expert (CFSS), University of Georgia

Charge Characterization in Fibers

Morgan Gilbert, Ph.D., Student in Fiber and Polymer Science, North Carolina State University, and Graduate Research Assistant, The Nonwovens Institute

Understanding the Influence of Molecular Ordering on Wetting Resistance

Young Jae Kim, Ph.D., Student in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and Research Assistant, North Carolina State University

Understanding the Fundamentals of Biodegradability of Polymer Blends and Additives for Nonwoven Applications

Jose Fernandez, Ph.D., Student in Forest Biomaterials, North Carolina State University, Graduate Research Student, The Nonwovens Institute, Graduate Research Assistant, NC State Forest Biomaterials Department

Understanding and Improving Charge Retention in PLA Meltblown Nonwoven Fabric

Nora Karimian, Ph.D., Student in Fiber and Polymer Science, North Carolina State University

Fiber Degradation Evaluation and Sustainable Alternatives in Wet Wipes

Mahsa Nazem, Ph.D., Student in Fiber and Polymer Science, North Carolina State University, and Graduate Research Assistant, The Nonwovens Institute

Particle Deposition in Co-form Meltblown Process

Md Nur Uddin, Ph.D., Student in Fiber and Polymer Science, North Carolina State University, and Graduate Research Assistant, The Nonwovens Institute

Exploring Adsorbent Particulate Deposition for Functionalization of Spunbond Webs and Fibers

Darshana Malusare, Ph.D., Student in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, North Carolina State University, and Graduate Research Assistant, The Nonwovens Institute

Effect of Surface Coatings on Biodegradability and Functional Properties of Biopolymer Substrates

Anica O'Brien, Ph.D., Student in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, North Carolina State University, and Graduate Research Assistant, The Nonwovens Institute

Single Shot Polarization Imaging of Defects in Fiber Spinning

Hossam Elnaggar, Ph.D., Student in Mechanical Engineering, North Carolina State University, and Graduate Researcher, The Nonwovens Institute

Thermo-Rheological Behavior of Biopolymer Blends for Fiber Spinning

Sarvesh Nadkarni, Ph.D., Student in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, and Graduate Research Assistant, North Carolina State University

Textile Waste Valorization into Nonwovens

Olamide Badara, Ph.D., Student in Bioproducts and Biosystems, Aalto University - Finland

Spunbond and Meltblown Process with Biodegradable Polymers

Alex Gray, Graduate Student, NCSU - Wilson College of Textiles

Deborah Domingo, Graduate Student, NCSU - Wilson College of Textiles

Zach Bozann, Graduate Student, NCSU - Wilson College of Textiles

Wearable Electrophysiological Monitoring Using Recyclable and Breathable MXene-based Non-woven Electrodes

Kihyun Lee, Graduate Student, UNC-Chapel Hill

Optimization and Characterization of Selective Enzymatic Degradation in Cellulosic Blended Materials

Jeongmin Oh, Graduate Student, NCSU - Wilson College of Textiles

Controlled Biodegradation Studies of Nonwoven Textiles through Activated Vermiculite

Jess Rugeley, Graduate Student, NCSU - Wilson College of Textiles

Development of Deep Learning Based Defect Detection Framework

Mingwei Gao, Graduate Student, NCSU - Wilson College of Textiles

AI in Textile Sorting - Vision Transformers and Hybrid Architectures

Ehsan Faghieh, Graduate Student, NCSU Wilson College of Textiles

5K FIBRES (MEMBER, 1997)

Contact Person: Doug Brown, President
Phone: 920.757.9000
Email: dbrown@5kfibres.com
Website: www.5kfvibres.com

AUTEFA Solutions (MEMBER, 2015)

Contact: Firat Patburun, Sales Manager
Phone: 803.558.1450 / 803.547.9030
Email: firat.patburun@autefa.com
Website: www.autefa.com

AUTEFA Solutions supplies complete nonwoven lines, providing high-quality machines for fiber preparation, carding (incl. Airlay), crosslapping, needling, thermobonding, spunlace, and drying.

Cotton Incorporated (MEMBER, 1987)

Contact: Neil Demarse, Ph.D., Director – New Market Development
Phone: 919.637.5735
Email: NDemarse@cottoninc.com
Website: www.cottoninc.com

ELSNER ENGINEERING WORKS (MEMBER, 2013)

Contact: Alex Baxter, Technical Sales & Service
Phone: 717.630.4081 x 202
Email: abaxter@elsnereng.com
Website: https://elsnereng.com

ELSNER Engineering delivers advanced automation for nonwoven converting, winding, and handling—boosting quality, efficiency, and innovation for global manufacturers in hygiene, medical, filtration, and engineered fabrics.

Fi-Tech Inc. (MEMBER, 1987)

Contact: Joshua Sansbury, Technical Sales Engineer
Phone: 804.546.6947
Email: jsansbury@fi-tech.com
Website: www.fi-tech.com

Fi-Tech is “your global connection” to leading manufacturers of spunmelt equipment. spinnerets, spin belts, surfactants and other key components and machines for nonwoven production and converting.

Frankl Thomas (MEMBER, 2014)

Contact: Robina Hogan, Staff Engineer / Extrusion Specialist
Phone: 704.575.4333
Email: robina.hogan@frankl-thomas.com
Website: frankl-thomas.com

GLENRO INC.

Contact: Terry Redington, Sr. Sales Engineer
Phone: 470.334.4648
Email: terryr@glenro.com
Website: www.glenro.com

Glenro designs and manufactures infrared heaters and systems, hot air industrial dryers and ovens, flatbed laminating and material handling equipment and conformal dip coating machines.

IND Hemp, LLC (MEMBER, 2021)

Contact: Morgan Tweet, Chief Executive Officer
Phone: 303.887.1821
Email: morgan@indhemp.com
Website: www.indhemp.com

IND HEMP is the leading industrial hemp fiber producer, processor and material supplier in the United States – your ‘Supply’ partner in a hemp supply chain.

The Nonwovens Institute (MEMBER, 1970)

Contact: Raoul Farer, Ph.D., Executive Deputy Director
Phone: 919.515.6551
Email: rfarer@ncsu.edu
Website: thenonwovensinstitute.com

SPG Prints America, Inc.

Contact: Lilah Pelfrey, Area Sales Manager, US&C
Phone: 980.298.1599
Email: lilah.pelfrey@spgprints.com
Website: www.spgprints.com

SPG Prints supplies precision-engineered production screens for carded and hydroentangled nonwovens, delivering high-speed bonding, patterning, coating, and printing with consistent, durable performance.

Floor Plan McKimmon Center

