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# **Carbon Nanotube Active Textiles Development**

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# **Graphical Abstract**



Overall benefits of Active Textiles with CNT Hybrid Fabric.

# Abstract

Personal protective apparel design has not changed fundamentally in the past few decades and has been based on using passive fabrics. This lecture discusses Active Textiles (AT) development and the design of new personal protective apparel that can improve wearer safety and performance. AT integrate composited fabric, advanced garment manufacturing, high-capacity small batteries, miniaturized fans and controllers, flexible sensors, and multifunctional carbon nanotube (CNT) hybrid fabric [1-4] to provide increased performance and safety that cannot be achieved using conventional personal protective apparel. AT are manufactured by layering thin CNT fabric with other high-performance fabric to provide specialized properties customized for the application. Hybrid CNT fabric can incorporate nanoparticles (NPs) into the fabric during the high temperature synthesis process. CNT hybrid material is customizable to provide features that woven and nonwoven fabrics have individually offered. To provide good contact with the body, stretch in the AT apparel is provided through an auxetic architecture that increases the surface area of the fabric, provides isotropic stretch, and increases circulation of air using forced convection. CNT fabric is nonwoven and is manufactured in a continuous scalable process. AT incorporate a power source, electronics, and nonwoven CNT fabric into textile materials and



apparel. AT provide two main advantages: (1) Cooling- Protection from Environmental and Metabolic Heat; (2) Shielding- Providing flame resistance, preventing toxic gases and particles from reaching the skin, and EMI shielding. This lecture gives an overview of the design and synthesis of Carbon Nanotube Hybrid fabric and its possible future use in specific textile applications.

Keywords: Carbon Nanotube; hybrid fabric; active textiles; nanoparticles.

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## **Biography of Presenting Author**



**Mark J. Schulz** is a Professor of Mechanical and Materials Engineering at the University of Cincinnati and Co-director of UC Nanoworld Laboratories. The goal of Nanoworld is to integrate nanotech into university-wide curricula, to interest students to go to graduate school, and to invent new smart and nano materials and devices. Nanoworld collaborates with faculty members from multiple disciplines to solve problems that are intractable for one group alone. Nanoworld focuses on solving high reaching interdisciplinary problems while also teaching innovation to students. Mark teaches the course *Introduction to Smart Structures* that engages students in learning and thinking across disciplines.

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