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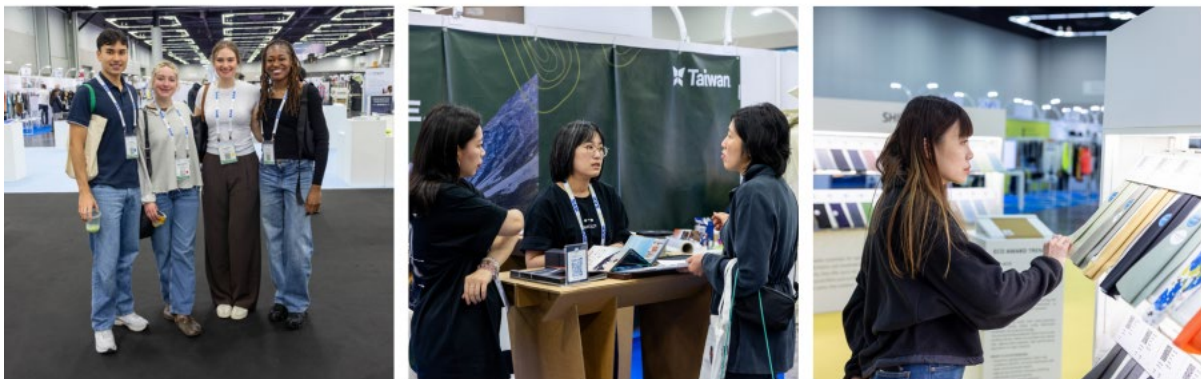
Functional Fabric Fair Spring 2026 Delivers Strong Turnout and Forward-Looking Innovation

NORWALK, CT (April 14, 2026) – Functional Fabric Fair powered by PERFORMANCE DAYS® concluded its Spring 2026 edition at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon, April 7–9. The event brought together the global performance and outdoor apparel industry to explore the latest advancements in sustainable material innovation, with a strong focus on next-generation textiles, emerging technologies and future-ready sourcing.

Over three days, the fair served as a hub for discovery, highlighting how advancements in fibers, finishes and fabric engineering are reshaping performance, functionality and end-use across apparel categories.

The event welcomed thousands of industry professionals, including apparel executives, product developers, designers, and sourcing leaders from brands such as Adidas, Alo, Amazon, Arc'teryx, Bass Pro Shops, Brooks Running, Columbia Sportswear Company, Eddie Bauer, HOKA, Lululemon, New Balance, Nike, Nordstrom, Outdoor Research, Patagonia, REI, Rhone, Tommy Bahama, Under Armour, Vuori and more.

“Functional Fabric Fair continues to be a critical platform for innovation in the performance textile space,” said Steve McCullough, Event Vice President. “At this Spring edition, we saw strong momentum in advanced material development from biobased alternatives and high-performance natural fibers to new constructions and finishes that expand what these materials can do. The focus was not just on what’s new, but how innovation is being applied in real, scalable ways.”



Innovation in Action: From Concept to Commercialization

The event opened with a Day 0 Sustainability Workshop on April 7, sponsored by Hyosung TNC, setting the stage with discussions on how innovation is accelerating change across the supply chain from regulatory compliance to material development and circular design.

“Day 0 brought together forward-thinking leaders focused on solving real challenges through innovation,” added McCullough. “It was a clear reflection of how quickly new ideas are moving from concept into practical application.”

The workshop was followed by two full days of exhibit hall sourcing and Expert Talks programming, where attendees explored how new materials and technologies from more than 300 certified sustainable suppliers who presented cutting-edge fabrics, trims and finishes for the Spring 2027/2028 seasons. Innovations on display ranged from biobased and non-petroleum materials to advanced moisture management, durability enhancements, and multifunctional fabric constructions.

“It was an incredibly valuable experience to connect directly with textile brands and gain insight into where they stand on sustainability today. Attending Day 0 and the Expert Talks added another layer, offering a deeper understanding of the evolving regulations and legislation shaping the industry. It’s an essential way to stay informed and ahead,” says Angelina McCullar, Blueprint DIY.

“It was another fantastic show for us. We had the chance to connect with both long-standing clients and new potential partners, the booth stayed busy from start to finish. Everyone we were hoping to meet made it to Portland, which made the experience especially productive. Functional Fabric Fair continues to be an important platform for us to strengthen relationships and drive new business,” said Bob Wiener, Senior Sales and Marketing Executive, Best Pacific Textiles, Ltd.

Attendees also explored a range of curated sourcing and innovation experiences across the show floor. Highlights included the AATCC Textile Test Zone with live demonstrations of testing standards, the Bodywear Collective presented by London Contour Experts and the Cotton Forum presented by Cotton Incorporated. Additional features included the Future Fabrics Expo Innovation Hub, Innovation Zone, Outdoor Recreation Archive presented by Utah State University and BEAMS, Trend Forum and Wool Forum—each offering a focused look at material advancements and design direction.

Networking & Community

Dedicated spaces across the show floor fostered connection and collaboration, including the Italian Bar, Media Lounge, Sustainability Lounge, Thermore Coffee Igloo and VIP Lounge.

Industry events further strengthened community engagement, including a well-attended Networking Happy Hour sponsored by Sorona® and the Official After-Hours Party at Metropolitan Tavern, sponsored by DURAFLEX and co-sponsored by Brookwood.

“Functional Fabric Fair continues to deliver exactly the right audience for us, ranging from high-volume retail to more premium, specialized partners. We had strong, quality conversations throughout the show and saw real momentum, especially with the launch of ODORCRUNCH 2.0, which has been a standout for us. Each time we exhibit, we’re not starting from scratch, we’re building on existing relationships and moving them forward in a meaningful way. There’s a clear through line from one show to the next, and for us, it’s a must-attend,” said Bobby Howell, Vice President, Commercial Operations, Americas at Polygiene.



Performance Forum Awards

Performance Forum Award winners for Spring 2026 were selected under the guidance of Alexa Dehmel, performance sportswear design expert and functional materials advisor, recognizing excellence in textile development across four categories:

- Performance Award – Toray Int. Europe GMBH
- Eco Award – REO ECO
- Innovation Award – Wu Luen Knitting Co., LTD
- Wool Award – Suedwolle Group

Looking Ahead

Following a successful Spring 2026 edition, Functional Fabric Fair will continue its 2026 schedule with upcoming events in New York City and a return to Portland this fall:

Summer | New York City – July 7–9, 2026 (Day 0: July 7)

Fall | Portland – October 26–28, 2026 (Day 0: Oct. 26)

For full show information, event updates, and registration, visit: www.functionalfabricfair.com

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Functional Fabric Fair Images can be found [here](#).

About Functional Fabric Fair powered by PERFORMANCE DAYS®

Functional Fabric Fair powered by PERFORMANCE DAYS® is a trade-exclusive event and platform showcasing the latest trends in textile development for the apparel industry. In addition to a curated marketplace dedicated to the responsible sourcing of high-performance functional fabrics and accessories, Functional Fabric Fair provides expert-led education, supplier recommendations, and a university program that exposes students to textile and apparel developers. [FunctionalFabricFair.com](https://www.functionalfabricfair.com)

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