



The Acteco project is an Integrated Project within the 6th framework programme of the European Union. The project aims to develop eco-efficient plasma processes for hyper functional surfaces with applications in the textile, food packaging and biomedical industry.

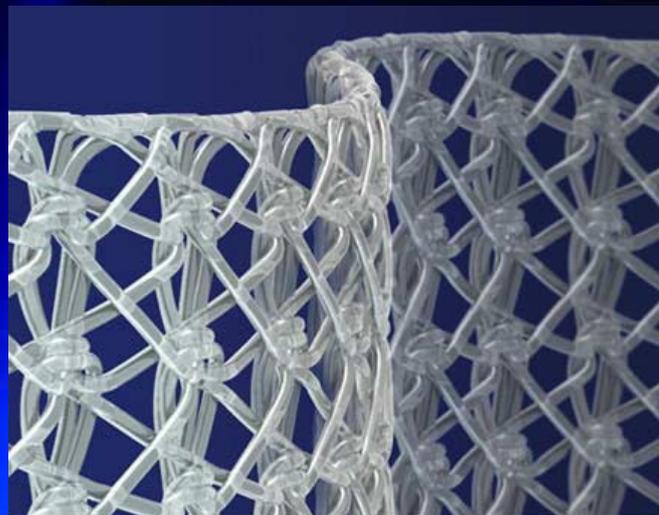
One of the partners is **Luxilon Industries NV** (Wijnegem, Antwerp, Belgium). The company is specialised in the **extrusion of monofilaments for high-tech niche markets**. Luxilon is a family owned SME with 25 employees. Luxilon has 7 extrusion lines on which more than 20 different types of polymers are extruded. The R&D division is well developed and counts five employees. The main areas where Luxilon products are used are: sports, medical and technical textiles.

In the sport division tennis strings are produced for (semi) professional players. More than 65% of the ATP top 100 players and more than 45% of the WTA top 100 players use Luxilon strings.

In the medical division Luxilon produces yarns for surgical sutures, implants and surgical mesh. These products are supplied to major Pharmaceutical companies all over the world.

In the technical textile division a whole range of polymers are used for a wide variety of applications (aviation, filtration, composites, narrow fabrics,...). Typical examples of products are: thermal bonding yarns, elastomeric yarns, fluorocarbons, ...

Within Acteco Luxilon is looking how the different plasma technologies are applicable in the monofilament extrusion technology, preferably in an in-line configuration.



The aim is to create a significant change of the surfaces of different types of polymer yarns in order to introduce new specific characteristics. Areas of interest are anti-microbial and anti-bacterial characteristics for medical yarns, to improve the compatibility of different polymers, increase the hydrophilic or hydrophobic characteristics of the yarns, etc.

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