



## Interview with Marina Toeters

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Toeters is member of the research group Smart Functional Materials at Saxion University for applied science and teaches New Production Techniques for textile & garments. She is coach in Wearable Senses at the University of Technology Eindhoven and lecturer Fashion Ecology & Technology at the University for Art and Design Utrecht

**You have been involved in several collaborations for Smart Fabrics projects - what do you see as the common denominator for innovation to move forward?**

As I see it there are at least four ingredients needed in successive stages of an innovation process. 1) Close collaboration between technicians and designers to make relevant concepts a reality. 2) An environment full of expertise and passion to create the atmosphere that we can make the world an even nicer and better place. 3) Empathy and a feeling that you can take responsibility. 4) The will to translate expertise, passion and innovations into business models to make developments available for the rest of the world.

**Where do you see smart fabrics applications trending towards to?**

After quite a few projects and commercialized products are introduced into the army, work wear, medical and sport applications there must come a moment where smart fabrics enter the world of commercialized fashion. I can't imagine it takes too long anymore as developments become prettier, mass-producible and robust. Now is the time for brands and fashion designers to incorporate the available innovations into their ready-to-wear collections.

**What are you looking forward to hearing at this year's Smart Fabrics Europe in Barcelona?**

My special interest right now is in wearable energy production research and production facilities that make advanced textile products to scale-up productions. But of course I'm always eagerly looking for the latest technical developments in this field, and also love to hear about successful (commercialized) products.

**Can you give us a few examples of design and fashion initiatives going on in Europe right now that our readers in North America and the rest of the world may not be aware of?**

The examples I name all deal with innovative fashion of textile developments:

**Smart Textile Services CRISP:** <http://crispplatform.nl/smart-textile-services>

Within the framework of the Dutch Creative Industry Scientific Program (CRISP) we are creating an open-innovation network that will support the development and commercialization of innovative Smart Textile Services. The goal of STS CRISP is to integrate existing knowledge from partners in the separate domains of textile (soft materials), interactive technology and service providers.


**Click Next Fashion / The future of fashion is innovation!** The big challenges and innovation in the Fashion and Textile industry. (June 2013, during MoBa curated by Li Edelkoort.) This one day event is set up as a matchmaking event around sustainability, smart fibers, virtual technologies and new business / marketing models. The Next Fashion program initiates this event, just as the research around Crafting Wearables. [www.clicknl.nl/nextfashion/](http://www.clicknl.nl/nextfashion/)

**Platform for Large Area Conformable Electronics by InTegration PLACE-it :** <http://www.place-it-project.eu/>

Technology driven European funded seventh framework program to create different systems (products or building blocks) with the combination of foil-, stretch- and fabric technology. During Smart Fabrics some demonstrators will be shown out of this research.

Texperium open innovation center for high-end reprocessing of textiles

The Texperium Foundation was established in order to promote the reprocessing of textile waste into value added products. The role of Texperium is to bring disposers and potential users of recycled textile materials together, to develop recycling or reprocessing technologies and to demonstrate that the textile waste can be converted into raw material for new products. Texperium has access to semi-industrial pilot lines, where tests can be conducted on a larger scale.

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