



Press Kit ISPO 2018

- #1 X-BIONIC: award-winning function, quality, and design
- #2 X-BIONIC leads the textile industry into the future
- #3 State of the Art: X-BIONIC introduces its current iconic products
- #4 x-bionic sphere: An Olympic training Centre of more than 1,000,000 square meters
- #5 20 years of X-Socks – Milestones of a legend

Press contact for the X-BIONIC, X-SOCKS & APANI brands

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Press release
28/01/2018

X-BIONIC: award-winning function, quality, and design

More than 560 prizes awarded and tests won



The direction taken by X-BIONIC is truly unique. A team of biologists, doctors, engineers, bionics specialists, and experienced athletes uses the foundations of nature to develop technologies that boost human performance. Nature has developed ways to master extreme conditions, through millions of years of evolution. X-BIONIC uses the bionic knowledge stored in nature to develop functional clothing of unrivalled innovative power. The know-how from 20 years of intense research forms the basis for numerous awards and further prizes.

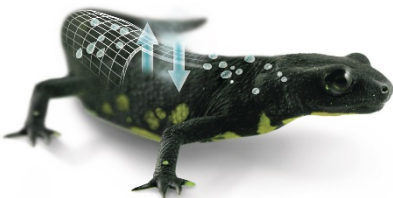
X-BIONIC has been continuously setting new standards in functional clothing since 1998. Overall, the specialists for highly functional clothing have won more than over 560 prizes and tests to date. As such, X-BIONIC is the most successful sports brand in the eyes of the expert juries of international competitions. Over the course of the last year alone, the textile experts from Wollerau in Switzerland raked in more than seven new awards.

The exceptional X-BIONIC approach also convinced the jury to honour the company with the award for innovation in technology, sports, and lifestyle. Besides the award for “Best Product of the Year” in the categories ski and bike clothing, X-BIONIC also received the Plus X Award for great quality, design, and functionality. In addition, the Swiss have been named the most innovative sportswear brand of 2017 – extending their perfect streak to nine since 2009.

The deciding factor in awarding X-BIONIC the award for Product of the Year 2017 was the X-BIONIC Symbiotic Membran – with the Elementor Ski Jacket as well as the RainSphere Shirt. The unique, windproof membrane is a prime example of the results of X-BIONIC's bionic research.

The unique skin structure of amphibians served as the example for the Symbiotic Membran. The skin is better in transporting humidity thanks to its hydrophilic properties, which only improves as the skin gets wetter. By uncovering the secrets behind this skin

structure, X-BIONIC developed an efficient system to transport sweat that protects from environmental factors such as wind and rain at the same time. With the unique Symbiotic Membran, excess sweat moisture cannot only be transported outwards in the form of water vapour, it is actually capable of pushing out entire drops of sweat.





An overview of the 2017 awards:



Most Innovative Brand 2017

The Plus X Award is the most important technology, sports, and lifestyle competition in the world. Specialist journalists and industry personalities choose the most innovative brand, with the most innovative products. And they made their decision: X-BIONIC is the global leader in innovation for 2017.



Best Product of the Year (Plus X Award)

Specialist journalists and industry personalities honour only one product per category each year as their "Best Product of the Year". In 2017, the jury was convinced by the SKI ELEMENTOR JACKET.



Best Product of the Year (Plus X Award)

With its BIKE RAINSPHERE SHIRT, X-BIONIC managed to convince specialist journalists and industry personalities in another category as well. In 2017, two X-BIONIC products managed to rake in the award for "Best Product of the Year".



High Quality, Design, Functionality, Plus X Award (Bike Race Shirt, Biking RainSphere Shirt, Bike StreamLite Jacket, Ski Elementor Jacket)

X-BIONIC won an award and was recognised for great quality, design, and functionality at the largest technology, sports, and lifestyle contest in the world, which honours producers for their leading quality.



reddot award 2017
winner

reddot Award (Running Speedevo Shirt)

Honoured for excellent design quality, innovation, functionality, ergonomics, and ecological compatibility



Design and Innovation Award (Running Speed EVO Shirt)

Awarded for:

- Lightness
- Optimal climate regulation
- Ultra-compact design



IF Design Award (X-BIONIC Biking RainSphere Shirt)

Awarded for:

- Exceptional design quality
- Processing
- Material selection
- Innovation
- Functionality and ergonomics

You can find an overview of all awards of the last 13 years online at: <https://www.x-bionic.com/de-de/company/awards>

About X-BIONIC®

X-Technology, the ideas factory for highly functional clothing, has been combining Swiss precision and traditional Italian craftsmanship since 1998, creating products for the X-BIONIC®, X-SOCKS®, and Apani® brands. In just a few years, X-BIONIC® and X-SOCKS® revolutionised the world of functional clothing. As the brand name X-BIONIC® already shows, the X-Technology® developers use their knowledge of bionics inspired by nature to develop functional clothing that improves the physical performance and well-being of athletes. Innovative technologies are used to realise this ambition. The more than 820 international patent registrations strive to release, for example, the body's own energy reserves through thermoregulation. More than 560 international prizes and tests won for innovation, product quality, functionality, and material quality substantiate this approach.

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X-BIONIC leads the textile industry into the future

The Swiss idea factory for highly functional clothing offers an exclusive insight into their new, revolutionary textile technologies at the ISPO Munich

At the ISPO Munich 2018, the expert audience is offered an exclusive insight into the future of X-BIONIC. With ThermoSyphon, Tentacle Technology, and PolarFur, the Swiss textile experts introduce visitors to three new textile innovations that will revolutionise the world of functional clothing. X-BIONIC is the international market leader in functional clothing inspired by bionics. The innovative technologies of the Swiss specialists for highly functional clothing are protected by more than 820 international patent registrations.

Moisture management 4.0

“ThermoSyphon” is a further development of the 3D BIONIC Sphere System that has enjoyed great success over the last years. The system redefines the promise to “Cool you off when you are sweating and warm you up when you are freezing”. Following X-BIONIC’s principle to “turn sweat into energy”, “ThermoSyphon” improves the performance of athletes, using the power of thermodynamics and gravity. The technology consists of a highly complex system of tunnels and channels that is integrated into the textile. These fulfil a unique double function. During active phases, they guarantee even more efficient moisture management. Sweat is dosed cleverly and lead to the correct locations to cool down the body efficiently. When resting, the textile innovation insulates the body reliably.

In the ThermoSyphon channels, sweat moisture changes from liquid to vaporous. Heavier sweat trickles downwards, where it creates a cooling film on the skin, and is collected in channels again to be fed continuously onto the evaporation surfaces. On the other hand, the pressure of the vapour pushes excess moist air upwards. Additionally, the innovative, Y-shaped structure of the ThermoSyphon channels support this process.

Smart sweat magnet

The positive effects of the highly complex X-BIONIC technologies are brought out most effectively if they are worn directly on the skin. This allows for the useful processing of sweat, and the cooling, evaporating effect is actually used by the athletes, instead of leading it away from the body unused.

Now, X-BIONIC offers a first look at the **“Tentacle Technology” at the ISPO Munich 2018**. An entirely new development in three-dimensional textile technology that offers a combination of a looser-fit cut with the performance of a tight functional shirt. This allows those people who prefer a wide cut to benefit from the comfort and



performance of a tight-fitting shirt as well. At the same time, X-BIONIC taps into a completely new, broader customer base with “Tentacle Technology”.

The technology builds on the combination of hydrophilic and hydrophobic yarns, which are integrated at those parts where people sweat the most, taking into consideration the various climate zones of the body. As an athlete moves, they are activated and caress the skin, similar to tentacles, absorbing some of the sweat. The film of moisture that remains on the skin allows for the X-BIONIC to cool itself. The tentacles transport excess sweat outwards efficiently through the mixture of hydrophilic and hydrophobic yarns. Here, the sweat evaporates, resulting in a pleasant cooling effect. The tentacles additionally separate the supporting knitted fabric and skin by a set distance, which prevents the unpleasant, clammy feeling sweaty textile.

Partial insulation

“PolarFur”, the third innovative technology X-BIONIC presents to the audience at the ISPO Munich for the first time, resembles a fur. The developers allow it to “grow” to various thicknesses on the inside of the clothing, allowing for a customisation of the **insulation** performance. In contrast to traditional “brushed” clothing, the PolarFur zones can be separated precisely from wafer-thin, knitted HeatRelease zones. This way, excess body heat can be led away without running the risk of cooling. PolarFur is particularly well-suited for low temperatures, up to mild cold conditions.

With these three innovative technologies, X-BIONIC once again asserts its role as a technology leader, with a very impressive showing of how bionic, natural elements can be integrated into highly functional clothing.

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State-of-the-art: X-BIONIC introduces its current iconic products

With its smart technologies, X-BIONIC continuously reshapes the world of functional textiles. Small wonder – a team of biologists, doctors, engineers, and bionics specialists is constantly striving to unravel new secrets of nature, which can then be integrated into highly functional textiles. Besides new, revolutionary products, the Swiss specialists also introduce their current iconic product at the ISPO 2018. Innovations such as Fennec, Thorny Devil, 3D Bionic Sphere, AirIntake, as well as the Symbiotic Membran were vital in the Swiss company's journey to become the leading producer of highly functional sports clothes and state-of-the-art today.

High tech for balmy days

As the name already implies, the Swiss specialists for highly functional clothing drew inspiration from the fennec, or desert, fox when developing their **Fennec Technology**. This animal lives and hunts under extreme heat conditions and has adapted itself optimally to these hostile conditions. Similar to the fur of the fennec fox, which shines silver in the sun, the Fennec Shirt also reflects the heat of the sun, black asphalt, and blisteringly hot house-fronts.

This effect is achieved through the use of X-BIONIC **Xitanit yarns**. The surface of the Fennec Shirt reflects heat radiation and remains cool on the inside. Additionally, Xitanit directs excess body heat outwards (e.g. generated by muscles) with its extreme conductive capacities. Additionally, circulation is initiated by the Heatpipe construction, which provides an additional cooling effect: Excess sweat advances through the ducts and is heated up and evaporated on the warm outer surface. This evaporation has a cooling effect.

A natural cooling system for athletes

The thorny devil is another survival artist of the desert. To deal with a lack of drinking water, this animal adapted over time by developing a system of microscopically small grooves on its skin. The capillary forces of this system channel water from rain, as well as fog, and lead it to the thorny devil's mouth. Inspired by this example from nature, the developers at X-BIONIC came up with **Thorny Devil Technology**. As an example, the running pants from "The Trick Technology" product line rely on the same capillary action as the thorny devil in order to guide excess sweat moisture to those muscle areas that need cooling most.



Turn sweat into energy

The sports items industry holds a deeply rooted, fundamental thought that sweat is unpleasant and needs to be removed from the skin. Therefore, traditional sports clothes strive to lead sweat away from the skin. As a result, the body cranks up its sweat production to avoid overheating. This results in a loss of energy, water, and minerals. X-BIONIC takes a different approach by supporting the natural cooling circuit of the human body. The 3D Bionic Sphere System, a core component of many X-BIONIC products, leaves behind a thin film of residual moisture on the body, which cools off through evaporation. Excess sweat is collected before it forms pearls and led to the outside of the functional piece of clothing to evaporate and provide additional cooling. With this system, the X-BIONIC Energy Accumulator Collection uses the 3D Bionic Sphere Systems to cool athletes and warm them up again during rest phases, to name just one example. This is made possible by the AirChannels on the inside, which store warm air and provide splendid insulation.

A clever protective membrane adds comfort

Contrary to typical PTFE membranes, the **X-BIONIC Symbiotic Membran** not only transports water vapour outwards but also entire drops of sweat. Amphibians serve as the example behind the functioning principle of the unique membrane. Amphibians are uniquely capable of absorbing liquids through the skin, rather than drinking these, and storing liquid in their lymph sacs. Their secret lies in the structure of their skin. By unravelling these and reproducing them using technology, a highly efficient system to transport sweat through different layers of clothing can be created. This bionic principle is seen in the Streamlite Running Vest by X-BIONIC, for example. It breaks up the surface structure of beads of sweat, absorbs the moisture, and transports it outwards, where it evaporates. There are no microscopically small holes that can clog up, as is the case with conventional PTFE membranes.

Unique cooling circuit

The **Xitanit Ski EVO Jacket** by X-BIONIC is a real iconic hit as well. Small wonder, as it features the unique **AirIntake Technology**, which is based on the breathing technique of marine predators. Most athletes are constantly moving, causing their bodies to sweat, which creates humidity and heat. In the worst case, this remains close to the body, as is the case with jackets. This creates a sweat-lodge effect that poses the risk of overheating.

Sharks use a highly efficient airflow principle when breathing: Water flows into the opened mouth of the shark as it swims forwards. The gills' lamellae direct oxygen into the blood and lead the oxygen-poor water back into the sea. The **AirIntake Technology** in the **Xitanit Ski EVO Jacket works in a similar way**: An individually adjustable opening at the chest allows cooling air to pass into the jacket, which is led to the back region through a ventilation system. The warm air, saturated with moisture, rises up and leaves the jacket at the collar through the diffusor construction: The perfect cooling circuit.

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x-bionic sphere: An Olympic training centre of more than 1,000,000 square meters

The Swiss specialist for highly functional clothing, X-BIONIC, develops the most innovative and modern sports resort of Central Europe. With a size of more than 1,000,000 square metres, the x-bionic sphere offers optimal conditions for 27 Olympic sports. The resort, located between Vienna and Bratislava, additionally boasts a hotel, restaurants, shops, as well as a wellness area, offering perfect conditions for any type of sporting event.

The x-bionic sphere is the embodiment of athletic passion, a place where people can experience and celebrate sporting successes. This support centre for top athletes is the brainchild of two pioneers who share the same passion for performance and innovation: Mario Hoffmann, the influential Slovak investor and mastermind behind the multifunctional sports resort, as well as Prof. Dr Bodo Lambertz, founder of the internationally renowned X-BIONIC, APANI, and X-SOCKS brands.

Optimal conditions for 27 Olympic sports

Professional athletes, amateur sportspeople, as well as companies from all over the world find the ideal conditions for their training camps, competitions, and presentations at the x-bionic sphere. The facilities for swimming and water sports, equestrian sports, track and field, cycling, gymnastics, motorsports, as well as team sports guarantee perfect conditions for 27 Olympic **sports**. The regeneration process is supported by a sauna, jacuzzi, salt cave, massages, a Turkish bath, as well as four different restaurants and two bars. The x-bionic sphere is perfect for meetings, events, and conferences as well, with an on-site hotel that offers 282 rooms, 12 VIP rooftop suites, and 12 different conference rooms.

The resort opened its door in 2016 and is conveniently located between Vienna (Austria) and Bratislava (Slovakia), with a design that meets the specifications of international sports associations. The athletic support centre guarantees professional conditions and as such the ideal setting to improve the performance of individual athletes and teams from all over the world. In addition, the x-bionic sphere hosts various national and international sports competitions, of which several are real highlights, such as “The Championship” – the annual middle-distance world championship event –, the “Challenge Triathlon”, the world championship in endurance riding, and the European cross-country championship. Moreover, the modern sports resort offers the perfect place to present the highly functional X-BIONIC products and smart technologies to specialist business people in person.



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20 YEARS OF X-SOCKS® MILESTONES OF A LEGEND

At first, there was a great idea.

Simply re-invent the sock.

Sports socks were mostly white.

They were made of cotton.

And they were simply called tennis socks.

22.08.1997

X-SOCKS® trademark is registered.

After long months of development work, X-SOCKS® is registered in Germany as a brand. It is one of the key ideas behind X-SOCKS®. The stabilizing x-shaped bandage that supports the ankle.



1 | Inventor of the X-SOCKS® and founder of the brand: Prof. Dr- Bodo W. Lambertz, Chairman X-Technology Swiss R&D

03.09.1997

The current trademark of the X-SOCKS® is registered for the patent: The X-CROSS® Bandage

It has been in every X-SOCKS® since and received its recognition on this day. X-SOCKS® received its patent as "Klimaregulierende Socke" (climate regulating sock) at the same time as the X-CROSS® Bandage. 414 patents and utility models will follow in the coming years. A patent is a sovereign right to a unique and entirely new invention.



2 | X-SOCKS® - more than 414 patents and utility models

1998

X-SOCKS® - First sock brand with a promising warranty.

Until then, unthinkable. A sock brand that provides a 2 year guarantee based on durability. A marriage holds an average of 14.9 years. Our guarantee for a lifetime. For nearly 20 years, we have kept our promise of guarantee.

17.09.1999

The first sock in court.

The facts: Because of a lawsuit stating that the socks do not function as they promise, the Chamber for Commercial affairs of the Ansbach Court (Germany) had to examine X-SOCKS® by experts. The result: a clear success for X-SOCKS®. A detailed report confirms the function of the X-SOCKS® technologies all along the line. The court dismissed the accusations against X-SOCKS®.

2004

X-SOCKS® - First TV appearance.

For the first time, X-SOCKS® was challenged in public.

Fit for Fun TV (VOX / Germany) wanted to examine our X-SOCKS® deeper and commissioned a former European Champion, Dr. Thomas Wessinghage, with the development of a performance comparison test for sports socks. The result couldn't have been better. 19 out of 20 athletes chose X-SOCKS® as their clear favorite from a selection of over 50 sports socks from leading manufacturers such as Nike, Rohner, Tao, Falke, etc.

This verdict was also confirmed in the laboratories. Best marks in the lab tests, carried out by the "German Institute for Textile and Process Engineering". This scientifically confirms once again, what everyone feels, who once wore X-SOCKS®: They are simply unbeatable.

August 2004

X-SOCKS® - Expands its product range: X-BIONIC®

After years of development work, another product range emerged from X-SOCKS®. Based on seamless underwear, X-BIONIC® is today the world market leader for high-tech sportswear. With over 1,500 products world-wide. Patented and unmatched. With its innovative strength, X-BIONIC® has shifted the boundaries of sports functional textiles since the beginning - year after year.



3 | Dr. Thomas Wessinghage



4 | X-BIONIC® global leaders in high technological sportswear

2004

X-SOCKS® - x-shaped packaging:

An appearance with a new face. To date, the characteristic x-shaped packaging is a clear recognition mark of every X-SOCKS®.

2005

X-SOCKS® showcases at ISPO Shanghai

X-SOCKS® has taken the plunge and presents itself for the first time to the entire Asian market.

10. -23. February 2006

First Olympic gold for X-SOCKS®

X-SOCKS® was on the winner's podium 19 times

The Norwegian team participates in the Olympic Winter Games in Turin: Great skiing is expected at international competitions.

The expectation pressure is high. X-SOCKS® offered top performance and thus won. The Norwegian team won 19 medals wearing X-SOCKS®, including 2 gold, 8 silver and 9 bronze. Year after year, more medals will follow.



5 | Norwegian Ski Alpine Team.
Conquered the podium 19 times
X-SOCKS®

2006

X-SOCKS® - iF Design Award China.

X-SOCKS® is also acknowledged throughout the Asian market. Competence developed in Switzerland, produced in Italy, X-SOCKS® is awarded the coveted IF Design Award China for exceptional design.

14.07.2008

+++ Death Valley, California, USA +++

Badwater Ultramarathon

Monday morning July 14, 2008 06:00 am local time.
Temperature: 39 °C at the start of the toughest Ultramarathon in the world. Distance: 217 km; Altitude: nearly 4.000 meters. Hot asphalt up to 80 °C. Hardest beta test of the X-SOCKS® Speed One, one of the most popular X-SOCKS® running socks. Tested by Rainer Schubert form Germany. Finisher of the Badwater Ultramarathon

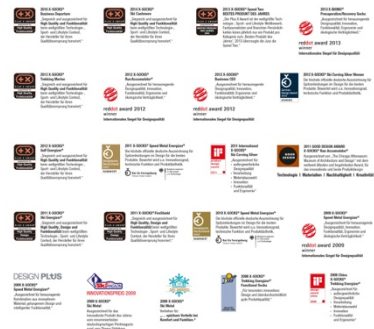


6 | Death Valley, California:
X-SOCKS® in the endurance test

2009

X-SOCKS® receives the first redDot Award

It is only the beginning of a whole series of awards for X-SOCKS®. Among these, the redDot Design Award. A number of different models will be awarded with this prize. It is one of the largest and internationally recognized design competitions: More than 11,000 participants from 61 countries compete for the highly valued quality label "red dot".



7 | X-SOCKS® internationally awarded

2009

X-SOCKS® - Business

With business socks, X-SOCKS® expands its markets.

"Invisible functions - sensible comfort" is the concept of this collection. Elegant colors, the finest materials combined with insights and functions that have proven their worth in high-performance sports.

2010

X-SOCKS® sock-in-a-sock

Two socks linked in one. An existing basic concept is redefined and repositioned under the product name SOCK-in-a-SOCK

2011

SINOFIT® receives the iF Material Award

A superior concept that convinced the jury: The anatomically shaped X-SOCKS® Sinofit® footbed with unique Silver NODOR® TerryLoop construction. Awarded for: degree of innovation, in comparison with existing materials and processes, environmental compatibility and development potential.



2011

8 | SINOFIT® was awarded for its high level of innovation

2012

X-SOCKS® 'Partialkompression®' conquers the markets

Compression in the form of fine bars is applied on the shaft and foot part. A completely new concept for compression socks is introduced to the market. The patent was filed and confirmed immediately. The predicate for a completely new invention.



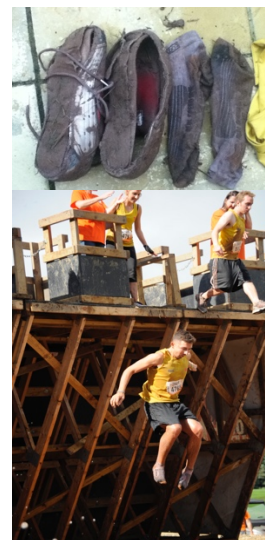
9 | Effektor®, the X-SOCKS® uniquely combined with Partialkompression®

In the following years, the X-SOCKS® product range has been continuously complemented and expanded. Worldwide, many are applying to become part of the international distribution. Countless tests by numerous athletes confirm the developments from the laboratories. X-SOCKS® is finally gaining worldwide recognition, thereby securing its pioneering position. Many highlights tell the story of the recent years, for example:

2013

X-SOCKS® Proof Test at the Tough Mudder

The legendary Tough Mudder obstacle courses: A terrain of mud and dirt with additionally built obstacles and landscaped water trenches. A 18 km hardcore obstacle course, specially designed and used by the British Special Forces. Sam Langley wore the X-SOCKS® Speed One. His shoes did not pass the torture. He contested the majority of the competition in his X-SOCKS®. "I expected holes," he says today. "It was incomprehensible. There were none. "



10 | Endurance test: Tough Mudder

2016/2017

Ski World Cup 2016 / 2017 X-SOCKS®

The season ended in Aspen / USA. After 74 races worldwide, X-SOCKS® stood victoriously on the podium more than 100 times. It was one of the most successful seasons in X-SOCKS® history.

Achieved through the Ski Alpine teams from Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Slovenia and Russia.



11 | Athletes of the Swiss Ski National team 2016/2017

After 20 years, X-SOCKS® is today the most important functional sock brand in the world.

Distributed in 41 countries. With a product variety of over 200 sport specific socks. Even in the future, the brand will not stop. X-SOCKS® is, and will always remain innovative, unique and unmatched. With its unmatched power, X-SOCKS® will have a decisive influence on the market for sport functionality socks.

X-SOCKS® - a trademark of X-Technology Swiss R & D AG / Wollerau / Switzerland

www.x-technology.com