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Wrapping monuments

The Statue of Liberty in New York and many other monuments are protected against wind and weather by a plastic film that was originally used on rocket launch pads.

Source: Berlingsk Tidende, 1999

Mole checks

A sensitive piece of x-ray equipment that was originally used to detect very weak signals in space has found a new application in the world of medicine, where it is being employed to check whether small moles on human skin are malignant.

Source: Berlingsk Tidende, 1999

From NASA with love

How has NASA technology ended up in a Danish quilt? QOD Magazine asked Kevin Cook, director at the Space Foundation in the USA.

1. What is the material used in TempraKON® quilts?

It's a unique and intelligent fabric that's able to control temperature. The technology itself was invented by NASA and commercialised by Outlast Technologies in Colorado.

2. What was the NASA technology originally used for?

The technology was actually invented for use in space suits and gloves in order to protect astronauts from the extreme temperature fluctuations they're exposed to in space.

3. What's special about Outlast® fabric?

When the technology is used in fibres, woven fabric and foam rubber; it absorbs heat from the body, stores it and then releases it when it's needed. In this way the material controls temperature, which is a

great advantage when a person is asleep, for example. Outlast® fabric also protects against overheating and reduces sweat problems effectively, even when the temperature drops.

4. How did it get from a space suit into a quilt?

Quilts of Denmark were looking for a technology that could be used to bring body temperature down to the ideal level and keep it there throughout the night. They'd read about NASA's technology and heard around the same time that Outlast Technologies in Colorado were working on commercial applications. They therefore initiated cooperation on the development of down quilts using the technology.

5. Who else uses Outlast® fabric?

It's also being used with great success in clothing production, e.g. down jackets and other outdoor wear.

6. Does NASA still use it?

Yes, we still use it on our space flights because it's able to withstand the violent fluctuations in temperature from burning sun to extreme cold that our astronauts are exposed to in space.

7. What is the Space Foundation?

The Space Foundation is one of the world's leading non-profit organisations and supports space research activities. Since 1983 our education program has touched teachers and students throughout the USA. Every year business leaders from all over the world come together to take part in our National Space Symposium, Strategic Space Symposium and other activities. Our Space Certification Program has attracted enormous international attention and recognition.

8. What sort of award is it that you've given Quilts of Denmark for their TempraKON® quilt?

Working with NASA, we've set up a Space Certification Program with the aim of creating greater understanding and awareness of the practical use of space science for a more peaceful and prosperous

world. The award recognises enterprises and products that are able to transfer aviation and space technology to the private sector; promote development and improve people's quality of life. Among other things, the award-winning enterprises are allowed to label their product with the prestigious "Certified Space Technology" mark.

9. Why did you decide to grant the certificate to Quilts of Denmark?

Because their TempraKON® products successfully exploit space technology to make life more comfortable for consumers. They improve people's sleep and therefore their quality of life.

10. Do you sleep under a TempraKON® quilt?

I hope to do so before long.

Searching for landmines

A radar that is actually used on planets and meteorites to investigate what lies beneath the surface has been adapted so that it can detect whether there are any buried landmines in an area of 500 metres.

Source: Berlingsk Tidende, 1999

Reading fingerprints

A distance sensor that can measure very small distances in space has been turned into a fingerprint reader that can protect computer programs and data.

Source: Berlingsk Tidende, 1999