

## Microfibre Consortium

### Terms and Conditions – Sustaining member

The Microfibre Consortium has been set up as a response to an industrial need for further research into the area of microfibre pollution, and the associated contributions from the textile industry during the production, use, and home laundering of garments.

### ***Joining the Microfibre Consortium***

To join the Microfibre Consortium as a sustaining member, brands are expected to pay an annual membership fee of €15,000. This will be invoiced upon the commencement of membership and renewed on an annual basis.

### ***Microfibre Consortium Advisory Board***

Sustaining members will be allocated a seat on the advisory board of the Microfibre Consortium for a 3 year term, and within this role will be expected to engage in the strategic management of the consortium. Expectations within this role will include:

- provide unbiased insights and ideas
- represent fairly their industry sector on the behalf of the consortium members
- provide counsel on issues raised by the management
- advise on the direction of the roadmap and content of projects
- provide suggestion that would improve the development and output of the consortium
- act as an ambassador for the consortium within the industry, leveraging members accordingly

### ***Projects***

Projects undertaken will be funded in full by the Consortium, and / or through research and innovation funding applied for by the Consortium management.

New projects and suggestions for direction of projects undertaken by the consortium and will be discussed during the regular consortium meetings. These ideas and suggestions will be discussed by the advisory board and advisory board members will be involved in the process of final decisions regarding the investment of funds.

Final decisions regarding investment of funds into projects or otherwise will be reached by consensus principle<sup>1</sup>, and where this is not possible, as a last resort, by vote, with each advisory board member organisation representing one vote.

All projects outputs including tools and resources will be free to use by consortium members.

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<sup>1</sup> **Consensus** is defined as, at a minimum, “no objections” or as being able to “live with” an outcome, perhaps in light of how it fits into a larger whole. One person or entity may not prevent the larger group from achieving agreement by simply objecting. When a member disagrees with a consensus proposal, he or she is expected to justify their interest-based objection and is obliged to work constructively and pro-actively to ensure that their interests are met while also allowing the proposal to realise its potential as intended by its proponents.

Proposed projects will align to the consortium roadmap.

### ***Duration and leaving the consortium***

Following initial sign up, it is expected that members will commit to a minimum of three years of consortium membership. However, under special circumstances, if the member is unable to honour this commitment, they are expected to give 3 months' notice, ahead of their next annual review.

The consortium management and board will periodically assess the need for further research and review the need for continuation of the consortium.

### ***Obligations of sustaining members***

The microfibre consortium will meet in person at both ISPO and the OutDoor show, and where necessary, an alternative regional meeting will be available. Two virtual meetings will also be held per year, making in total four meetings per year.

The consortium contact from each member organisation will be expected to attend these consortium meetings, and when this is not possible they may either send an agreed representative in their place, or join the meeting via GoToMeeting, or Skype.

Meetings are closed door and it is understood that unless otherwise stated, any data shared during these meetings is confidential, and for the understanding of the consortium only. It will be made clear which and what data can be shared publically.

Collective decisions taken during those meetings are final, and as outlined above, taken under consensus principle.

Four additional board meetings will occur per year which may happen face to face or virtually. To economise on time and effort, pre-reads will be distributed prior to these meetings. It is expected that the advisory board participate in these meetings.

### ***Obligations of the Microfibre Consortium***

During the establishment of new projects, the consortium management will endeavour to construct projects that suitably address the needs of the consortium members, but also contribute to the wider knowledge base and solution availability, and will identify the most appropriate project partner to fulfil the required task.

The consortium management will be transparent about finances and the costs of all projects undertaken as part of the work, and will discuss financials during face to face meetings.

The Microfibre Consortium will endeavour to make contact with other research groups carrying out research in the area of microfibre shedding to ensure that new projects by the consortium are complimentary, and not repetitive and contribute original knowledge to the area of microfibre shedding.

Included within the annual membership, all sustaining members can expect to receive

- 2 face to face meetings + 2 virtual meetings
- Quarterly bulletin
- Use of the Microfibre Consortium Logo
- Project Roadmap

- Infographic Tiers 2 & 3
- Cross topic collaboration
- Consortium developed resources and tools (as developed)
- Early release of consortium developed research (as developed)
- Consortium voting rights
- Access to concept solutions (as developed)
- Board membership and consortium leadership

### ***Intellectual Property***

The Microfibre Consortium management will ensure that a written agreement is made with any potential research partners around the generation of IP. This will be agreed on a case by case basis and is reflected in the terms and conditions for research members of the consortium. The IP arrangements for each project will be decided and agreed on between the consortium advisory board, and the project teams.

### ***Communications***

From time to time the Microfibre Consortium may make periodic public communications relating to the work of the consortium or individual projects. If the supplier does not wish to be named in any public communications or for their logo to be used on the website, they must make this clear upon joining the consortium.

Consortiums members and their associated brands are permitted to use press releases and public communications created by the Microfibre Consortium on the understanding that they are used in their final format, and no further changes are made before re-publication.

Consortium members and their associated brands are permitted to create their own press releases and public communications around the activities of the consortium without prior approval by the consortium, on the understanding that they represent the consortium, and the work undertaken by the consortium as factually as possible, to the best of their knowledge.

Where consortium sustaining members and their associated brands communicate publically about the consortium, it is strongly encouraged that they use the official introduction to the microfibre consortium<sup>2</sup>.

Consortium leaders will not publish or publically communicate any non-published research findings until such information has been agreed by the consortium management and/or the consortium to be non-confidential.

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<sup>2</sup> The Microfibre Consortium, managed by the European Outdoor Group, is a brand focused, collaborative approach to address, and align on the emerging need for a better understanding of microfibre pollution. The ultimate aim is developing a better understanding of microfibre shedding and to work towards concrete solutions. It presents the opportunity to align as an industry and reduces the possibility of repetition of the same research by brands, and the associated waste of time and resource. This collaborative approach allows the research to be more extensive, and to progress to levels of understanding that would be unattainable alone to answer the same fundamental questions.