



GORE-TEX Stretch Technology Keeps German Special Forces Mobile and Dry in the Harshest Conditions

Putzbrunn, (7th October 2024) - When the going gets tough, the German Special Forces are there. Rescuing and freeing citizens from captivity, hostage situations or terrorist threats are examples of their many challenging missions. As part of the Bundeswehr, they play a critical role in national risk and crisis management. Their demanding missions require customised gear, such as the new generation of GORE-TEX Stretch Defense Rain Suits. Earlier this year, 3,000 suits were delivered to this elite unit as first users. Worn under battle dress uniforms, the rain suits keep soldiers protected and comfortable in the wettest conditions. The suits are manufactured by DNS Alpha, a German clothing specialist and GORE-TEX Professional Fabrics partner.

Traditional stretch fabrics on the market offer mobility and comfort. But they often fall short when it comes to waterproofing and durability. Because Special Forces soldiers operate in the harshest conditions and require a high degree of mobility for their offensive missions, compromising on mobility and waterproofing is not an option for this elite force.

Ruggedness of a hard shell with the flexibility of stretch

GORE-TEX Professional Fabrics and DNS Alpha have produced a solution to this dilemma. The new generation of rain suits with GORE-TEX Stretch technology eliminates wrinkles and friction with the next layer, whilst the full-stretch fabric provides freedom of movement, waterproofness, and breathability. It is designed so that it is always worn as a moisture protection layer under the battle dress uniform, so that the soldier always has access to his equipment and, at the same time, has a high degree of freedom of movement.

How does the GORE-TEX material work? Unlike conventional stretch fabrics, which incorporate elastic components into the outer fabric, the new GORE-TEX Stretch

fabric technology uses a completely different approach: elastic components are sandwiched between a stretchable PTFE membrane and durable polyamide outer fabrics. The result is that the stretchability of up to 20% allows garment designs with a more tailored fit.

"Our focus was to provide a full stretch solution that combines the flexibility of stretch with the benefits of a hard-shell material," explains Oliver Opitz, product specialist for defensive garments at GORE-TEX Professional Fabrics. "It is like playing golf: only when your garment allows you to swing freely can you reach your full potential."

Stretch allows for a close fit, reducing heat stress

Equally important is low thermal stress. With heavy equipment, such as bulletproof vests, weapons and ammunition, and elevated levels of physical activity, the body can easily overheat - making breathability especially critical. Because the laminate is stretchable, air gaps are reduced. This allows for a tighter fit and reduced thermal stress.

As the global threat landscape evolves, German Special Forces will continue to engage in operations that require precise and rapid action where German nationals or interests are at risk - better protected and more mobile than ever in the most adverse conditions.

Gore revolutionized the outerwear industry with waterproof, breathable GORE-TEX Fabric more than 40 years ago and remains a leading innovator of performance apparel. Gore fabrics products provide comfort and protection in challenging environments and in everyday life, enabling wearers to safely and confidently achieve and experience more. From hiking in downpours to defense operations and fighting fires, Gore's deep understanding of consumer and industry needs drives development of products with meaningful performance advantages. gore-tex.com and goretexprofessional.com

About Gore

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