

PRESS RELEASE

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Sperian Protection has opened a new center for the research and development of protection gloves in Châlon-sur-Saône, France

Sperian Protection, a world reference leader in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), opened a new protection glove research laboratory on October 2nd in Châlon-sur-Saône (Burgundy, France). This unit, which has been created to design glove models to be sold all over the world, reflects the group's desire to make innovation the main focus of its strategic development.

A state-of-the-art laboratory for more effective customer response

The new protection glove laboratory will concentrate its research on materials and textiles in order to provide even higher standards in safety and ergonomics for users.

The laboratory will conduct high-performance fiber research to develop a new generation of gloves designed to protect against cuts and abrasions, and also to improve thermal and chemical protection. The laboratory teams' expertise gathered from working with all glove types (knitted, dipped, and cut-sewn) will allow them to integrate the use of natural fibers, leather, synthetic fibers, and polymers to create innovative products for users who are exposed to hazardous environments. The laboratory will also carry out specific developments using eco-design and environmentally-friendly materials with the goal of finding new solutions that are adapted to current user work constraints.



Finally, in addition to protection performance, the research will also be focused on ergonomics and product design. Improving comfort, dexterity, glove fit, and aesthetics are among the main criteria that Sperian will focus on to encourage wearing protection in the workplace, thus contributing to better overall safety and productivity of workers.

Brice de la Morandière, Chief Executive Officer of Sperian Protection, states, *"This new laboratory for protection gloves is part of Sperian's strategy to set itself apart, a strategy that has long been centered on developing innovation. Overall, it shows our desire to provide end customers facing all types of hazards with optimal protection solutions and better work conditions that ultimately lead to better productivity."*

The glove: An important area of development for Sperian

Currently, the Sperian protection glove range comprises hundreds of products for use in many different industries such as construction, automotive, petrochemicals, agri-food, and heavy industry.

The Group will centralize all of its protection glove research in this laboratory and will propose new test methods adapted to all international and local safety regulations. Eventually, the center will expand its collaboration to work alongside research partners and external scientists, including top ranking universities, laboratories, and external experts, in order to create a research network to further the deployment of new solutions meeting end user expectations.

The Châlon-sur-Saône site is the third Sperian location in Burgundy (France), along with the electrician's glove production unit in Autun and the Sevrey European distribution center.

A policy of continuing innovation

Sperian, who places innovation at the heart of its development strategy, is making this new research and development location a key center for its experts working in the glove sector. The Group, which saw 22% of sales in 2008 come from innovations launched in the past two years, is endeavoring to increase performance in the future.

Sperian has patented many innovations in its different businesses, that are now benchmarks in the industry. The Group is continuing its innovation efforts to develop products that will promote user respect of safety rules. The Group's in-depth knowledge of customer environments will allow it to provide innovative solutions that combine comfort, ergonomics, and aesthetics. Because these solutions are perfectly adapted to user work conditions, they will undoubtedly facilitate the progress of workplace safety.



ABOUT SPERIAN PROTECTION

The Sperian Protection Group has 5,500 employees and 30 production units operating across 5 continents. The Group oversees the design and production of its products. It offers a complete line of equipment under Sperian brands Howard Leight and Miller, and offers comprehensive solutions to protect people in the workplace: head protection (eye, hearing, respiratory), body protection (clothing, gloves, shoes), and fall protection. This state-of-the-art equipment comply with current standards while combining comfort and design for the well-being of the end user.

The Sperian Protection Group provides "head to toe" protection in all sectors of activity (industry, construction, telecommunications, medical, public utilities, public safety, petrochemicals, welding, forestry, etc.) with its international network of distribution partners.

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