



BIOTEXFUTURE Fall Forum 2025

Event Recap



On 9 October 2025, this year's BIOTEXFUTURE Fall Forum took place in Aachen, attracting 85 visitors, who enriched the day with their presence and keen interest in the innovation space and its projects.

This year's forum was entitled “From Nature to Textiles: Bio-economic Innovations for the Textile Sector”, taking participants on a journey through the five-year history of the innovation space.

Our program explored the past, present, and future of our innovation space – from its beginnings to achievements so far and prospects for the future.

In an exhibition, all project teams presented their results, offered detailed insights, and discussed potential next steps. Beyond our own work, we also provided a broader view of the current state of the bioeconomy and addressed key questions in this field today.

The first major contribution came from Prof. Ulrich Schurr of the Institute of Plant Sciences at Forschungszentrum Jülich, who presented “From Nature to Textiles – Where We Started”. His

talk addressed the sustainable bioeconomy, from global goals to regional implementation, providing the audience with a comprehensive introduction to the topic.

After a short video message from Prof. Thomas Gries, Director of the Institute of Textile Science at RWTH Aachen University, James Tarrier from adidas AG shared his experiences and discussed adidas projects within the innovation space. He then opened the “present” part of the event, showcasing the exhibition of 20 different projects.

The exhibition allowed project managers to engage in active dialogue with participants, providing detailed information and marking the beginning of a large networking session.



After the lunch break and associated networking time, Dr. Marco Schmitt, Chair of Technology and Organisation Sociology at RWTH Aachen University (STO), introduced an interactive panel discussion on ‘TransitionLab scenarios’.



The forum then moved into the future-oriented segment, examining both German and European perspectives. Prof. Stefan Schlichter from DATI Pilot – Innovation Community at the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg presented “The Future of Sustainable Textiles in Germany.” He was followed by Katarzyna Sulisz, Senior Policy Officer at the Federation of the European Sporting Goods Industry (FESI), with her presentation “A European Perspective on the Future of Textiles and the Bioeconomy.”



The day concluded with an outlook on how the BIOTEXFUTURE innovation space will continue after the end of its funded period in 2025. Dr. Akram Idrissi, from the BIOTEXFUTURE ITA Institute's continuation team, presented the results of his survey “Your Aspects for the Continuation of BIOTEXFUTURE After Public Funding”, conducted with participants at the start of the event.

This marked the end of a very enjoyable, informative, and well-attended BIOTEXFUTURE Fall Forum 2025.

