

# Nonwovens Innovation - what does the future hold?

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Expert insight from NIRI's Matthew Tipper on how the industry is evolving and responding to the changing landscape



In the build up to the [International Nonwovens Symposium](#) in Rome next month, our General Manager Pierre Wiertz caught up with one of the key speakers, Matthew Tipper, Business Director at the [Nonwovens Innovation & Research Institute](#), to discuss innovation in the nonwovens industry.

**Pierre Wiertz:** You are joining us in Rome to examine innovation and the latest technical trends in nonwovens. What do you think is the biggest single driver of change in this area?

**Matthew tipper:** I'm very excited to be coming to Rome and I'm looking forward to hearing about the latest innovations in the industry. Nonwovens are increasingly being seen as engineered fabrics and a technology platform with many opportunities for solving the problems of industry today. However, the manufacture of roll-goods requires high levels of capital investment and usually high volumes of output. At NIRI we're witnessing a current trend of adding value to nonwoven products, not through major changes to the nonwoven roll-good process but through enhancing function after fabric formation. Adjusting function at the end of the manufacturing process leads to greater flexibility through processes such as coating, plasma treatment, laminating, molecular imprinting, adding functional particles or applying topical finishes.

