

October 2023



Spiber and Komatsu Matere commence building a creative partnership

**Fields of cooperation include permeable waterproofing film and
new alternative leather**

Building a creative partnership

Spiber Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “Spiber” (Director and Representative Executive Officer: Kazuhide Sekiyama)) and Komatsu Matere Co., Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as “Komatsu Matere” (President: Hisae Sasaki)) have launched a joint business initiative to develop products using technology and knowledge held by the respective companies for the creation of a sustainable society.

Komatsu Matere, a leader in synthetic fiber high-level post-processing, will conclude an agreement in which Komatsu Matere invests in Spiber for the development of products leveraging the strengths of both companies. Spiber is the developer of “Brewed Protein™” structural protein materials, produced without using petroleum- and animal-derived materials as raw materials, which are anticipated to become a new solution to environmental issues facing the apparel industry.

Background

Spiber is engaged in the development and production of Brewed Protein™ materials, which are created through a microbial fermentation process utilizing plant-derived sugars as their primary feedstock, and has been jointly developing high-level processing solutions for these materials with Komatsu Matere since 2015. Spiber is steadily increasing the production scale of its Brewed Protein™ materials, while collaborating with Komatsu Matere to create new value by integrating their high-level post-processing technology.

Having worked together for many years, the two companies firmly believe that Brewed Protein™ materials represent a promising new material solution and may serve as a key factor in making progress towards the development of a circular society. This is due to the materials’ potential to serve as sustainable options for the next-generation, thereby becoming a compelling alternative to petroleum-derived synthetic fiber, and establishing a new business model without reliance on petroleum resources as primary raw materials.

The two companies have agreed that Komatsu Matere will invest in Spiber for the development of this product over the mid- to long-term in order to support Spiber’s business activities and strengthen their partnership.

Initiatives for sustainable development

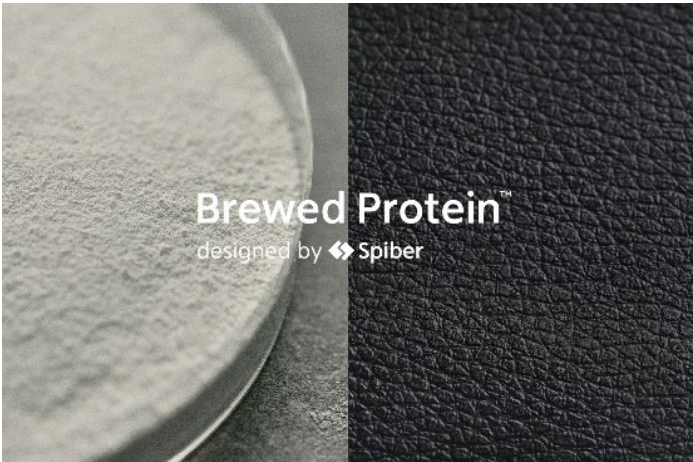
Komatsu Matere possesses proprietary technology in the dyeing and processing of permeable waterproof film and synthetic leather, and aims to develop sustainable materials by integrating Brewed Protein™ materials, which are expected to address numerous pressing environmental issues and risks facing conventional offerings such as petroleum- and animal-derived materials.

The two companies hope to develop a completely new alternative to leather that is neither synthetic nor natural leather, but is composed of structural proteins materials.

Future plans

Komatsu Matere and Spiber will advance procedures for establishing a cooperative partnership. Details of the business alliance, including the amount of investment from Komatsu Matere in Spiber, will be determined through discussions as soon as possible.

About Brewed Protein™ materials



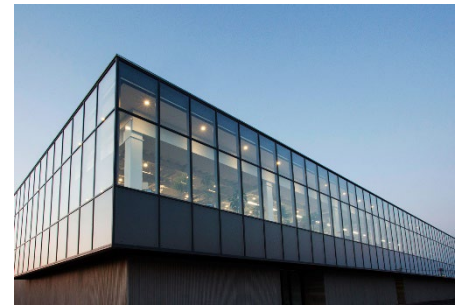
Brewed Protein™ materials are the protein fibers, films, and other types of polymer materials manufactured using Spiber’s proprietary microbial fermentation (brewing) process. Made from plant-derived sugars as primary raw ingredients, Brewed Protein™ materials offer a solution to address increasing market demand for animal-free, plastic-free alternatives to conventional materials. Spiber has

developed a proprietary technology platform that enables it to iteratively optimize the design of its materials at the molecular level. Their unique, customizable nature allows the properties and functionalities of Brewed Protein™ materials to be tailored to suit the needs of a wide range of applications across various industries, including textiles applications for the apparel industry, which is Spiber’s first primary focus.

◆ Spiber Inc. profile

Company name: Spiber Inc.
Head office address: 234-1 Mizukami, Gakukannji,
Tsuruoka, Yamagata
Founded: September 2007
Website: <https://spiber.inc/en/>

Established in September 2007, Spiber Inc. is a Japanese biotechnology startup utilizing cutting-edge synthetic biology, polymer science, and material science for the development of its novel Brewed Protein™ materials made from plant-based sugars utilizing microbial fermentation technology.



◆ Komatsu Matere Co., Ltd. profile

Company name: Komatsu Matere Co., Ltd.
Head office address: Nu-167 Hamamachi, Nomi, Ishikawa
Founded: October 1943
Website: <https://www.komatsumatere.co.jp/en/>

A synthetic fiber manufacturer with an 80-year history. Possesses technology in dyeing and processing for functional fabrics used in a wide range of fields including fashion, sportswear, interior goods, medical materials and construction materials.



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