

## MEDIA ADVISORY For Immediate Release



### At IFAI EXPO 2019, B&O chief chemist Frank Keohan to discuss next-gen repellents and finishing processes that support both performance and sustainability

*Demand for sustainability is growing exponentially in all sectors of the textile industry. Keohan's presentation details new technologies, processes and test methods that support that demand.*

(Fall River, Massachusetts, Sept. 17, 2019.....) Until recently, brands serving all sectors of the textile industry often had to sacrifice sustainability for repellent finish performance. But a new generation of repellent chemistries and processes has been engineered that improves both performance and environmental impact.

Frank Keohan, Senior Technology Manager at Bolger & O'Hearn, Inc., Specialty Chemicals, will discuss this industry breakthrough in a presentation he will deliver at IFAI Expo 2019, which takes place Oct. 2-4

Keohan's presentation, **"Using Advanced Repellent Finishes to Improve Textile Product Sustainability"** takes place Thursday, **Oct. 3 from 10 to 10:50 a.m. at the show on Level 2, Room S210 A-D** at the Orange County Convention Center, South Concourse, in Orlando, Florida, USA.

Repellent finishes add a number of beneficial properties to fabric including resistance to water, stains and abrasion. In Keohan's session, attendees will learn the basics behind repellent finishing and be introduced to new technologies that improve sustainability and performance through both the chemistries used and the finishing process.

The talk will include the following topics:

- Defining various levels of repellency;
- A review of current repellent chemistries;
- Test methods;
- How to minimize use of hazardous ingredients;
- Co-engineering textile products for both performance and sustainability.

As the Senior Technology Manager at Bolger & O'Hearn, Inc., Keohan has led the development of high performance fabric effects including repellents, odor control agents, and adhesives. He holds a BA-Chemistry from Holy Cross College, an MS-Chemistry from Virginia Tech, and an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Keohan has over 30 years of experience in polymer synthesis, applied chemistry, materials science, and textile finishing.

## **A PHOTO OF KEOHAN IS AVAILABLE.**

The [Industrial Fabrics Association International](#) (IFAI) Expo is regarded as the industrial fabric industry's flagship show for commerce, networking and knowledge.

Bolger & O'Hearn is known and respected throughout the industries it serves as a trusted partner and developer of innovative, highly-effective chemical products. A [bluesign system partner](#), B&O is also known for developing chemical products based on environmentally-compliant materials and technologies. Most of their chemistries are water-based, and Bolger & O'Hearn strives to continually improve the health, safety and environmental profiles of the chemistries they develop.

### **About Bolger & O'Hearn**

**Since its founding in 1969, Bolger and O'Hearn has been selling uniquely efficient and consistently high-quality chemicals. The company's personalized service approach has been the pillar of its success. From its traditional beginnings in the textile industry, B&O has expanded into paper coatings, non-wovens and other non-textile manufactured products, all of which find applications in a wide range of industries. Today B&O's diverse and comprehensive product line – totaling over 2,500 products – is sold and distributed globally. Committed to a zero-carbon future, B&O currently produces its products using renewable energy. The solar voltaic array on its facilities allow it to displace more than 100,000 pounds of carbon each year. To learn more, go to [bolgerohearn.com](http://bolgerohearn.com).**

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