

Press Release

**West port of Helsinki,  
the Mermet SV 3% Koolblack™ weaves his canvas in the land of the midnight sun**

The new terminal at the West Port of Helsinki in Finland, designed to streamline and speed up transfers of the growing number of passengers, is now operational.

This building, placed facing the sea and fully glazed to give pride of place to natural light, had, in use, shown to suffer from strong direct and indirect glare. A real challenge, since it was necessary to find a solution that would simultaneously have minimal impact on the architecture and total efficiency.

Successful bet for Mermet: thanks to its unequalled performance, the choice of its fabric SV 3% Koolblack™ fabric, the first indoor dark screen combining visual and thermal comfort, has once again naturally imposed itself in a country where, in summer, the sun never sets!

**An essential fight against glare**

For Finnish architecture firm Pesark, working on flow efficiency to improve the ever larger ferry rotations was just as important as providing a bright but comfortable public space. Transparency was therefore essential to satisfy the 5.4 million passengers departing for Sweden, Estonia or cruises on the Baltic Sea.

The sun however, low in the east in the morning and in the west in the afternoon, shone through the building and made it difficult to work at check-in desks.

*"Our main goal was to ensure a comfortable work environment for employees in the check-in area. But this need to reduce direct and indirect glare should not affect the architecture. The answer is based on:*

- *a sun screen solution that keeps the building's feeling of openness and maintains excellent transparency towards the outside*
- *a fabric that offers excellent glare control all year long, which is a challenge in Finland where the sun's trajectory is very different between summer and winter*
- *a discreet device and a system easy to control by the end user*
- *maintaining optimum thermal comfort for users*

*Thanks to its dark Charcoal colour (reference 3535), the SV 3% Koolblack™ fabric, a transparent heat shield, is invisible on the glazed facades seen from the outside and meets all our expectations.*

*92 sheets (2,500 mm x 3,000 mm), i.e. 800 m<sup>2</sup> were implemented as roll-up blinds with Somfy IO motors. " Maria Sillman - Studio Dekosol OY.*

**Koolblack™, a technology patented by Mermet**

By improving the solar reflection of dark fabric, Koolblack technology™ guarantees:

- Optimum indoor heat control with improved solar reflection (Rs = 29%). Thanks to the KOOLBLACK™ technology, solar reflection of dark colours is increased to levels comparable to those of light colours. A breakthrough compared to conventional dark screens which, for an equivalent fabric, achieve 5% solar reflection

- Optimum thermal comfort: 69% of solar energy rejected (gtot - 0.31 / glazing g = 0.32 and U = 1.1)

- Excellent glare control: 95% of light rays filtered (VT = 5%)

- An excellent view towards the outside and perfect integration, seen from outside, with the building facades

Finally, thanks to its large width of 310 cm, the SV 3% KOOLBLACK™ fabric can be fitted onto large bays without connection.

Bearing the Greenguard® label (indoor air quality assurance VOC), fire rated FR (USA) -NFPA 701 and BS (GB) - 5867, bacteria-resistant (more than 99% of bacteria killed - ASTM 2180), the new SV 3% Koolblack™ fabric also offers excellent durability thanks to a 10,000-cycle mechanical endurance test (class 3 NF EN 13120) and guarantees perfect flatness even in large dimension.

Always involved in innovation, Mermet is again showing the effectiveness of its solutions. Thanks to the Koolblack™ technology, dark fabrics now keep their optical and thermal performance!