



DEFAUS 18

GOKYMANDO UNDERWEAR

PITCHER

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7 November 2018



ABSTRACT

GoKymando underwear have been developed to enable good personal hygiene practices for male and female soldiers based on the key principles of convenience, practicality and simplicity. The key concept is to allow the wearer to easily change underwear without the requirement to remove boots, noting regular changes reduces the chance of sickness and discomfort associated with poor hygiene. GoKymando is manufactured from a primarily bamboo fabric which assists in the breathability and comfort of the underwear. Furthermore, studies have indicated that bamboo viscose offers much higher antimicrobial properties when compared to cotton and wool, assisting in better personal hygiene. Particular emphasis has been placed on the design of the underwear which focuses on comfort and reduction in chaffing, allowing underwear to be worn in high activity situations comfortably. The design will also allow greater ease for soldiers experiencing balance, mobility or other medical issues that cause difficulty in removing underwear.

GoKymando won third place in the Good Ideas Expo in Darwin in 2017, during which time many people shared stories of their current underwear practices. Common themes included people refusing to wear underwear at all, especially in the field, and struggling with changing underwear in unhygienic locations such as portaloos. GoKymando addresses these concerns with designs specific to both the male and female wearer. First-generation underwear are based on a basic bike short design with a back pocket enabling the underwear to be folded into themselves and reducing the likelihood of contamination. The underwear is first fastened by a push stud in the waist area followed by an open ended zip that runs up the front thigh. The brief variation uses a push stud at the waist and also latest Velcro technology instead of the zip.



PROPOSAL AND OUTCOMES

GoKymando's forward thinking design focuses on future health and hygiene for serving members in the simplest application. The current specifications have been professionally developed following months of research and adjustment in collaboration with an industrial design company known for being experts in innovation. 1 We propose that Defence considers GoKymando underwear, both bike short and brief variations, as future under garments that are general issue to all soldiers.

GoKymando currently own the copyright to this product. We propose that Defence covers initial start-up costs being approximately \$50,000 in raw materials and research and \$15,000 for personal time and labour costs so far. We would work with Defence to facilitate a BDE sized trial (approx. 1000 personnel and approx. 3-5000 pairs of underwear) of both bike short and brief variations, funded by Defence to ascertain the feasibility of introducing GoKymando as general issue. The key outcome of a successful trial would be Defence purchasing the rights to use GoKymando's design and to pay 20% royalties for its ongoing use. A core value of the GoKymando team is safe and ethical manufacturing and we would work with Defence to source manufacturers in accordance with these principles. Future development of the GoKymando concept would also be transferrable across technologies including ballistic and biodegradable underwear and through use of other innovative fabrics.