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Yale Cordage Collaborates with Squid Labs: 'Smart Ropes' at the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt Design Museum

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Yale Cordage is pleased to participate in the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum exhibition "Extreme Textiles: Designing for High Performance", on view from April 8 through October 30, 2005.

The exhibition reveals the incredible breadth of the use of textiles in contemporary applications, and intends to provide inspiration for new approaches to design. Like Yale Cordage, the exhibition at Cooper-Hewitt meshes well-established textile design techniques with remarkable advances in engineering and science, providing cutting edge examples of how versatile and dynamic textile practice is today.

A world leader in performance rope technology, Yale Cordage (www.yalecordage.com) collaborated with Squid Labs, an innovative engineering firm dedicated to developing breakthrough technologies in fields such as robotics, materials, and manufacturing (www.squid-labs.com) for the exhibition. The teams developed smart textiles for the "Rope and Sound" installation.

Yale produced a Crystalyne™ product, a rope that incorporates Vectran liquid crystal polymer, that was braided with Squid Labs' electronic fibers to form the strings of an interactive, playful musical rope harp. The end product explores the idea of smart cables or ropes that can track and self-monitor exerted stress/strain loads. The project is a wonderful example of the development of smart textiles, which are synthesized by telecommunications technologies and industrial products. Yale feels there are a variety of applications for these intelligent ropes.

Yale's collaboration with Squid Labs reflects the company's dedication to forging partnerships with organizations in the fields of industry, science and design to create revolutionary innovations in textile design and engineering.

The Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum is the only museum in the United States that is devoted exclusively to historic and contemporary design. It presents compelling perspectives on the impact of design on daily life through active educational programs, exhibitions and publications. The museum demonstrates how design shapes culture and history. www.cooperhewitt.org. For further information on the exhibition, see *Extreme Textiles: Designing for High Performance*, ed. Matilda McQuaid, Princeton Architectural Press, 2005.

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