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## **WRISTIFY: Thermal Comfort, Reimagined**

*A bracelet that allows its wearers to control their individual thermal levels through highly localized and rapid cooling or heating.*

CAMBRIDGE, MA, 11/6/13 – What if every person in your home or office could control their own body temperature without ever touching the thermostat? Wristify has developed a new wristband designed to optimize the thermal comfort of the wearer.

The Wristify prototype delivers pulsed thermal waveforms to the user's wrist, taking advantage of the nuances of human thermal perception to create a pleasant experience that may be able to influence perceived thermal comfort.

The ultimate goal is a product that is worn on the wrist and uses a combination of environmental monitors and user input to provide an optimal experience. Matt Smith, a post-doctoral researcher at MIT and a Wristify cofounder, said, "Too many people are consistently too hot or cold in everyday environments. Even two people in the same room can have very different levels of thermal comfort depending on their own preferences. Our vision is to improve the quality of life of people in moderate temperature environments through use of smart, localized heating and cooling."

It began at the beginning of this summer, when the team entered MIT's MADMEC prototyping competition. The vision for Wristify evolved through many rounds of prototyping in the months leading up to the MADMEC competition, which was made possible by seed funding provided by MADMEC sponsors. A key breakthrough came with the observation that the device was more comfortable when used in a pulsing mode: switching it on and off at controlled intervals, rather than when it was left on continuously. Working off of the positive reviews from friends and labmates, the team developed a device that let them tailor thermal profiles for optimized thermal stimulation on the wrist.

The device is intended to be completely wearable, with a weight comparable to a men's wristwatch. Wristify powers their wristband with a light-weight lithium ion battery, similar to those used in cell phones. The device's energy consumption is algorithmically controlled so that it can last a full day on a single charge.

While they are excited with their product, team members report there is still a lot of technological and product development needed before the Wristify team has a product ready for sale. They will soon begin working with design and development firms to improve the aesthetics and functionality of the next-gen prototype. They estimate they are still 1-2 years away from the first publically available product.

Wristify was awarded the first prize by the MADMEC prototyping competition for its bracelet in October 2013. "We are honored to receive such positive reviews from the judging committee, and we have been overwhelmed by the amount of feedback and interest from potential users. Going forward, we are excited to address such a pressing societal need," said David Cohen-Tanugi, a cofounder of Wristify and a Ph.D. candidate at MIT.

Wristify was developed by four members of the Materials Science & Engineering department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT): Matt Smith is postdoctoral associate, Sam Shames is an undergraduate student, and David Cohen-Tanugi and Mike Gibson are Ph.D. students.

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More information, including answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) can be found at [wristifyme.com](http://wristifyme.com).

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