

# textile network

1-2/2016

English edition



The international premium magazine for the textile chain

[www.textile-network.com](http://www.textile-network.com)

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# TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.

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# What is quality?

This short and at first glance seemingly straightforward question has been niggling me for some time. The reason is this year's series on "Quality Assurance along the Textile Chain". After three successful series: "China, a country on the move" in 2013, "The Fashion Industry in Transition" in 2014 and "The Global Textile Strategy" last year, we have decided to focus this year on the topic of quality. It soon became clear to me that the simple "Q" word is far from easy to understand. "What do you actually mean by good quality?" a colleague recently asked me, catching me somewhat off-guard. "Hmm, the best materials, the best workmanship, excellent durability." I'm not totally happy with my answer as it immediately begs the question as to what is meant by the best. To find some clarity, I do what nearly everyone else does these days. I google the word "Quality" and sure enough, I'm showered with results. I read, for example, that within the realm of total quality concepts, the term quality can extend across entire companies, as a comprehensive variation on Quality Manage-

ment. So I think to myself that this definition comes quite close to our topic. I read on and am told that quality was traditionally considered a characteristic of products and services, with customer needs receiving top priority. Today, quality also embraces the demands of staff and investors as well as legal requirements, against which the overall quality of a company is measured. Garvin's definition is interesting as it identifies five different approaches to quality. Customer-oriented quality, for instance, involves meeting all customer expectations attached to a product in compliance with the definition of quality as per ISO 9000:2005. This roughly corresponds to the comments by our interviewee Elgar Straub, Managing Director of German engineering association VDMA Garment and Leather Technology, who introduces our new series on quality (Part 1, page 33). He defines the highest quality standard as "achieving what is technically possible whilst considering the needs and wishes of our customers". Interestingly, Theodor Heuss, the first President of the Federal Republic

of Germany from 1949 to 1959, held a widely acknowledged speech before the German Association of Craftsmen in Stuttgart in 1951 with exactly the same title: "What is Quality?" He said, among other things: "Quality is fundamental to a company's survival, after all, those that persist and thrive are the ones that reject a drop in quality whereas those who falter are the ones who allow quality to slide. ... Customers tend to have exceedingly good memories." In answer to the question, "What is quality?" he concludes: "Quality is all that is respectable." And what is your understanding of this term? I'd be interested in hearing your views. Simply write to: [i.schlomski@meisenbach.de](mailto:i.schlomski@meisenbach.de)

I hope you enjoy reading this latest edition of textile network and wish you all the best for 2016!

Yours

*Das Schönl.*



Iris Schlomski,  
editor-in-chief

## AS MULTI-FACETED AS THE TEXTILE CHAIN

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 COTTON USA

## KOPPERMANN

## Technological concept for the textile process chain

Koppermann has been developing joined-up all-in-one software solutions for the clothing industry and trade for more than 20 years. This wealth of experience provides the experts of the clothing, footwear and accessory industries with efficient and sustainable support for their daily collection work: from the very first planning right up to the final visualization on the shop floor. Today, Koppermann can integrate a new dimension into its solution: Professional product photography and product visualization.

For in particular in the clothing industry, the success of a collection often stands and falls with the first-class presentation of the fashion creations toward the



Koppermann integrates a new dimension into its solution: Professional product photography and product visualization

end customer. "The constant shortening of product life cycles means that companies always have to accelerate and optimize their processes. Fast product photography which can be realized in-house without difficulty is therefore an essential factor in today's collection develop-

ment," explains Andreas Lachner, managing partner at Koppermann. Koppermann and PackshotCreator – the market leader in automated photo studio solutions – have concluded a strategic partnership to meet these industry challenges: Perfect product photography and

photo-realistic visual merchandising on the shop floor. This Franco-German cooperation now finally also includes an independent product, the "LuminaPad for Koppermann". You will find more information about on [textile-network.com](http://textile-network.com) [[www.koppermann.com](http://www.koppermann.com)]



Photos: Cotton USA

## COTTON USA

## Elegant, modern and sustainable

US cotton from socially responsible sources has broken into haute couture!

It is wrong to associate this natural fibre solely with white T-shirts, jogging bottoms and jeans! Cotton is an all-rounder and can do so much more, appearing in all areas of fashion from basics to high fashion. Top-end quality cotton from the USA ranks particularly high in the popularity stakes among designers and fashion brands looking to bring together the ideals of quality and sustainability.

During Paris Fashion Week the fashion and celebrity world were able to appreciate just how versatile, elegant and trendy fabrics and fashion from US cotton can be. The residence

of the US ambassador in Paris provided the stage for a unique fashion show, featuring the finalists of this year's Supima Young Designer Award for evening-wear. Supima denotes the finest varieties of cotton from the USA. It was the first time that the fashion show had been staged outside the US. Usually held in New York, it has grown into a key event within the American fashion world. The evening gowns featured in the design competition all had one thing in common: they were all made exclusively from US Pima cotton. For more, go to [textile-network.com](http://textile-network.com)



The haute-couture gowns from US cotton by Julia Han (right) and Kate Mc Kenna (left)

US ambassador Jane Hartley, hosting the Paris Supima/Cotton USA fashion show, surrounded by models in haute couture gowns made from the finest US cotton

[[www.cottonusa.org](http://www.cottonusa.org)]  
[[www.cottonusa.de](http://www.cottonusa.de)]





## MADE IN ITALY IN PRATO

### Pope denounces poor conditions

The Italian city of Prato has roughly 190,000 inhabitants and is considered a bastion of the textile industry. The city has a migrant population of 35,000, more than half of whom are Chinese. Most of them work in textile factories in the little Tuscan city, just 25km from Florence. Unfortunately, they are being exposed to terrible working conditions. The news that seven workers had died in a fire that had broken out in an illegal textile factory in 2013, hit the global headlines and deeply affected Pope Francis. Last October, he felt compelled to visit the

city. Speaking to the people in the cathedral square, he emphatically called upon these clandestine businesses to come clean and create humane working conditions for their staff. In recent years, illicit work and corruption have infiltrated and spread like a cancer through Prato's textile industry. The authorities are clearly struggling to control the situation, even though they are aware of the illegal sweatshops that treat their Chinese workers like "slaves". Confined in the tightest of spaces, they are forced to work around the clock, sewing

The city of Prato, situated around 25km north-west of Florence has a long tradition in the Italian textile industry. Today, it is dominated by the Chinese working in inhumane conditions.

place and the staff frequently sleep next to their sewing machines. The hygiene levels are hazardous, with insufficient sanitary facilities. The majority of production sites have no windows, located as they are in cellar rooms or disused warehouses, piled high with fabrics. Despite the fire risks, no fire safety measures are in place. Prato has already been described by the media as the "rag centre of Europe". "It's a human tragedy," Pope Francis stated during his visit, concluding, "This work is not fit for humans."

[Ingrid Sachsenmaier]

cheap, illegal garments. The clothes are sold all over Europe, and are labelled "Made in Italy". Working all hours of the day and night, the migrants are often exposed to conditions that pose a threat to human life. There are no safety measures in

## KEHLHEIM/LINZ/DYSTAR

### New melange yarn

Danufil Proshade is the name of an innovative new viscose melange yarn resulting from a development cooperation between the three industry partners Kelheim Fibres, Linz Textil and Dystar. Danufil Proshade consists of a blend of standard viscose fibres and Kelheim's speciality viscose fibre Danufil Deep Dye and is only dyed as needed at a later stage in the process. This is made possible by the particular properties of Kelheim's Danufil Deep Dye fibre: Due to its permanent cationic charge this speciality fibre has a significantly higher dye absorption capacity than stand-

ard viscose fibres. The difference in intensity and speed of the dye pick-up of the viscose fibres spun into Danufil Proshade allows a wide range of colours in melange dyeing of one and the same fibre material to be achieved. Thus, Danufil Proshade melange yarn offers clear benefits for the dyeing process: a selected range of Levafix and Remazol dyes allows a salt-free dyeing process. Due to shorter dyeing cycles it is possible to save up to 30 percent in terms of water and energy, which is a clear advantage for the environment. At the same time productivity increases – a time saving of up to 40 percent speaks for itself.

You find more information in our online magazine

[[www.kelheim-fibres.com](http://www.kelheim-fibres.com)]

[[www.linz-textil.at](http://www.linz-textil.at)]

[[www.dystar.com](http://www.dystar.com)]

Photo: Kelheim Fibres





6<sup>th</sup> Int. Exhibition for  
Technical Textiles  
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Covestro

# And then came polyurethane

**Until the early 1940s, the fashion and footwear industries were reliant on leather when producing high quality products. Availability was limited, however, and quality depended on how the animals had been reared and kept. And then polyurethane as a coating for textiles came into fashion.**

Not only did polyurethane (PU) coatings allow synthetic leathers to be produced – they had additional positive properties that opened up a far broader range of applications. Their water-repellent and moisture-permeable properties, for instance, meant that PU-coated textiles could, and can, be used in fashion for outdoor clothing, sports shoes and transfers for T-shirt printing. But they have also found their way into blackout fabrics, tarpaulins and other technical textiles.

The most important buyers of synthetic leather continue to be the fashion and footwear industries. Both are able to take advantage not only of its functionality but also of the unlimited range of design opportunities offered by PU-coated fabrics. Surface structure, elasticity, handle and drape properties, colours and visual special effects are easy to control, thanks to the material's production processes, creating the conditions necessary for the frequent collection changes that are common

in the fashion industry. This high degree of flexibility is reflected in the global use of PU-coated textiles: every year, eight billion pairs of shoes (including a billion pairs of sports shoes), two billion bags and a billion outdoor jackets and fashionable outerwear are produced from PU-coated fabrics.

Hitherto, however, manufacturers and producers have had to put up with one flaw: the production of PU coatings requires the use of the solvent dimethylformamide (DMF), which is rated in the REACH chemical classification as a 'substance of high concern'. The current production process, therefore, cannot be reconciled with the sustainability requirements of the outdoor industry and of various leading fashion brands. In 2014 Covestro, formerly known as Bayer MaterialScience and responsible for the discovery of polyurethane, closed this ecological gap with its Insqin technology. The company, which has its headquar-

ters in Leverkusen, Germany, has developed a water-based PU coating that allows a fully solvent-free production process without affecting the product's properties. This new technology is marketed through Covestro Shanghai, where the Textiles Coating division has its development centre and global management team.

The water-based PU coatings can be used both in the transfer (or reverse) coating process and for direct coating. The solvent-free transfer pro-

Expert in PU coating processes: Rolf Irnich, Director Technical Development Global Textile at Covestro



Photo: SAK

Photo: SAK



cess relies on the creation of a coating film which is then attached to the textile. As a first step, a compact polyurethane skin layer is applied to a special paper which later transfers its surface texture – that of cowhide, for example – to the fabric. Once it has dried, a second, more voluminous PU-[RI] foam coating is applied (the foam or intermediate layer). This, too, is dried and an adhesive is then applied to it which creates the bond with the textile. The adhesive can be activated in its pre-dried state by heat, and then bonded to the fabric. Alternatively, the bonding material used to attach the PU coating to the textile can also be used wet, in which case the term 'wet lamination' is used.

advertisement



To bond the two elements together, the textile is brought into contact with the PU film on its paper carrier and then pressed and dried. The carrier paper is then removed, leaving the desired surface texture behind. This transfer process is used primarily for the manufacture of PU synthetic leather for clothing and footwear uppers, says Rolf Irnich, Director, Technical Development Global Textiles at Covestro: "The reverse process will always be chosen if either the substrate will not permit direct coating (elastic materials, fleece, knitted fabrics) and/or if a particular surface texture (leather grain, textile character, high gloss) or special effect (two-colour effect, holographic effect) is being sought.

On its unique pilot  
plant, Covestro can  
adapt its water-based  
coatings to its custom-  
ers' processes



Wet lamination is preferred for footwear uppers because it provides better adhesion, but its handle is always somewhat stiffer than with dry lamination. For items of clothing, the need for adhesion is generally less demanding – the focus here is more on a softer handle. When making synthetic PU leather for clothing, therefore, dry lamination is the preferred process."

#### Coating the direct way

Unlike the reverse process, the direct coating process avoids such circuitous routes. The PU skin layer is applied direct to the textile and then dried. "This process has benefits in terms of manufacturing costs, as no adhesive layer or carrier paper is required. Typically, it is used when applying functional coatings (waterproofing, windproofing, breathable coating)," explains Irnich. "Fabrics coated using this process go into the production of outdoor clothing and protective workwear," he continues.

"The direct coating process has been further developed for the production of synthetic PU leather for clothing, belts and gloves. Here the watery PU foam is applied direct to the fabric; once it has dried, a cover layer is applied and a pattern embossed on this after a final drying." The design of a water-based polyurethane coating product is not Covestro's only innovation, however. The new product group is also supported by a special marketing concept, the voluntary Insqin Partner Manufacturing Programme. Its objective is to establish solvent-free PU-coated textiles as a strong brand with fabric manufacturers and clothing and footwear producers, bringing together responsible production operations and brands with high sustainability standards. To participate in the Insqin Partner Manufacturer Programme, the coating operation have to be audited in advance by the Veritas organisation. This independent institute established by Covestro conducts annual monitoring to ensure that the partners meet the catalogue of sustainability criteria governing the Partner Programme.

[[www.covestro.com](http://www.covestro.com)]

[Sabine Anton-Katzenbach]

In the next edition:  
Kunshan Xiefu New Material – a coating company from the Kunshan region and leading exporter of synthetic leathers.

On 20 October 2015,  
Nick Smith, Vice President  
Global Head of Global Coatings  
(Covestro) signed the first  
Insqin Partnership Agreement  
on Chinese soil with Kunshan Xiefu  
New Material



[1] + [2] The Lüneburg Adhesive Academy is available not only for research and development but also as a training and testing centre for customers

[3] Jim Owens (2nd from right), President and CEO of H.B. Fuller, officially opened the company's ultra-modern Adhesive Academy in Lüneburg on 3 September 2015



H.B. Fuller

## Let no man put asunder?

Large parts of the textile and clothing industry depend on processes for joining, attaching or bonding materials. Substrates are bonded together using adhesives or by needling, sewing, riveting or welding. The method used will determine whether these bonds are separable or inseparable: that is, whether the join can be reversed in a non-destructive manner or only through the use of force. In the above list of processes, though, there is one that can do both – adhesive technology. In the lamination process, for example, the adhesive fuses together a textile and a film or membrane inseparably. In the making-up industry, again, outer fabrics

are joined to interfacings using adhesives; this join similarly has to be irreversible. The same applies to shoe manufacture or the production of filters, since there would be no point in a sole that detached itself from the shoe or filter textiles that separated from the cartridge.

On 3 September 2015 H.B. Fuller, one of the largest adhesives specialists in the world, opened its new Technology Centre in Lüneburg. The new building houses some 200 employees, researching and developing new reversible and irreversible bonding systems for substrates. In addition, the generously proportioned building will serve as a train-

ing centre and test lab where the company's customers can carry out testing programmes under conditions representing actual practice.

### Integral to many industries

Adhesives are made not only for creating lifelong bonds. Depending on their type and composition, they can also allow for the joined surfaces to be detached again, as in the case of feminine hygiene products, for example. Carefully selected adhesives make it possible to attach pantyliners to underwear and then to remove them again. The same is true of reclosable packaging. Examples such as these illustrate the versatility of adhesives, which also play an important role in the automotive industry, in wood processing and in packaging. H.B. Fuller is one of the leading manufacturers worldwide to specialise in adhesive joints.

### An ultra-modern laboratory for basic research

The recently opened centre for technical excellence has grown up right alongside the production facility for adhesives that the company started in Lüneburg in the early 1970s. With an area of 2,300 m<sup>2</sup>, H.B. Fuller's Lüneburg Adhesive Academy may only be the second largest establishment of its kind but it is certainly the most modern. To make sure that the researchers are not confined to their laboratory enclave but can try out their inventions in real life scenarios, the Lüneburg Academy also includes halls containing machinery specific to particular industries. With this industry-specific equipment, the performance of their adhesive solutions can be tested under production conditions. For more details, visit the company's website.

[[www.hbfuller.com](http://www.hbfuller.com)]

[Sabine Anton-Katzenbach]

H.B. Fuller has been working on the development of adhesives, sealing materials and other specialist chemical products for over 125 years. In 2014, this international business with its headquarters in the US state of Minnesota had a net turnover of 2.1bn US Dollar.





Trend theme Breeze: recharging – coming up for air – seeking refuge



Trend theme Cosmopolitan – melting pot of cultures – luxury with new values



Trend theme Urban Romance – cities go green – Well-being above money



Trend theme Paradise – travelling to undiscovered worlds – desire for opulence

Carlin – Spring/Summer 2017

# Colour Flows – a new world of colour

"Colour is the essence of creativity," says Mayouri Sengchanh, CEO of Exalis, Berlin, the liaison bureau for Carlin International, Paris. The development of seasonal colour themes is becoming increasingly complex – the customary process of a colour rising, blossoming and then gradually dying off again, is being replaced by colour flows. "Everything is changing," says Sengchanh, "The season in the traditional sense no longer exists." Carlin is challenging designers to make some courageous choices whilst appealing to manufacturers to select their colours not by season but by consumer demand so that retailers can display the right colours in their shop windows. In its search for the new colour schemes, Carlin surveys, among others, every fabric producer at Premier Vision. This sheds light on their experiences and ideas which form the analytical basis for the new trends. "We don't have a magic wand," Mayouri Sengchanh continues, "Identifying colours is a long and time-consuming process." For Spring/Summer 2017, she believes in the strength of Metallics, Darks, Whites, Neutrals, Pastels and Brights, defining them as important trends in the world of colour.

**Metallics:** From a commercial point of view, gold is a must-have. Looking back, gold was once a symbol of opulence, and bling was the era of the new mil-

lionaires, wanting to show off their wealth. Since the economic crisis in 2009, the concept of luxury has been redefined: It's no longer about appearances, but about the Sein, the true being. The material takes centre stage. Luxury is an experience, luxury is time spent with family and friends. Sustainable thinking is making waves. Gold is no longer sophisticated, but preferably unadorned, authentic and unpolished with a grainy surface. It is becoming ever more sensual, more emotional. Rosé, yellow, white gold and copper experiment with contrasts.

**Darks:** Black is the main representative of the darks. This non-colour is timeless, mysterious, synonymous with the minimalism of the 90s, with texture, masculinity, futurism. The trend forecasters have announced: "Black is back!" In Summer 2017, black will appear in both matte and polished finishes. Black colours, tinted darks, ombrés and layered transparent fabrics send black down a new path towards dreamy romantic effects.

**Whites:** This non-colour has ritualistic associations and was often used symbolically. White stood for purity and minimalism, having a clean, almost clinical feel. White is now reinventing itself, it is textured and high-quality. Off-white has been given new meaning. Admiring the fashion by Peter Pilotto with its

over-sized lace, we feel a sense of tenderness, emotional comfort, cocooning. The future belongs to crafted whites, hand-crafted materials, hand-crafted knowhow all in conjunction with white, e.g. the jackets by Isabel Marant.

**Neutrals:** Neutral shades were considered boring, now they have been filled with excitement. Combined with new materials and bright elements, the neutrals are taking on new meaning. Dana Barnes Studio illustrates this most effectively. This theme celebrates the comeback of the basics and essential new colours.

**Pastels:** Pastels are associated with romance, ballerinas, and things that bring freshness and poetry into our brutal world. Pastels are becoming arty, electrifying, and reflect neo-urban poetry. Not only that but they are having a love affair with neon light.

**Brights:** In recent years, loud colours were not only used in sportswear, but played a central role in fashion and design, jazzing up clothing and making bold statements. Today, everyday products such as drinking bowls, dipped in bright colours, are experiencing a revival. The Brights are thoroughly artificial and have relinquished their purely sporty image.

[[www.exalis.de](http://www.exalis.de)]  
[Sabine Fanny Karpf]

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Interfilière

01/23/16 – 01/25/16 | Paris  
Eurovet  
[www.interfiliere.com](http://www.interfiliere.com)

### Texworld USA

01/24/16 – 01/26/16 | New York  
Messe Frankfurt, Inc.  
[www.messefrankfurt.com](http://www.messefrankfurt.com)

### ISPO Munich

01/24/16 – 01/27/16 | Munich  
Messe München GmbH  
[www.ispo.com](http://www.ispo.com)

### Colombiatex – Fachausstellung für Textilien und Textilmaschinen

01/26/16 – 01/28/16 | Medellín, Colombia  
Inexmoda  
[colombiatex.inexmoda.org.co](http://colombiatex.inexmoda.org.co)

### Pitti Immagine Filati

01/27/16 – 01/29/16 | Florence  
Pitti Immagine Srl.  
[www.pittimmagine.com](http://www.pittimmagine.com)

### Munich Fabric Start

02/02/16 – 02/04/16 | Munich  
Munich Fabric Start Exhibitions GmbH  
[www.munichfabricstart.com](http://www.munichfabricstart.com)

### TV TecStyle Visions 2016

02/04/16 – 02/06/16 | Stuttgart  
Landesmesse Stuttgart GmbH  
[www.tecstyle-visions.com](http://www.tecstyle-visions.com)

### Milano Unica – International Textile Fair

02/09/16 – 02/11/16 | Milan  
Milano Unica Secretariat  
[www.milanounica.it](http://www.milanounica.it)

### Texworld Paris

02/15/16 – 02/18/16 | Paris  
Messe Frankfurt France S.A.S.  
[www.texworld.fr.messefrankfurt.com](http://www.texworld.fr.messefrankfurt.com)

### Première Vision Accessories/Yarns/Fabrics

02/16/16 – 02/18/16 | Paris  
Première Vision Paris  
[www.premierevision.com](http://www.premierevision.com)

### Techtextil Russia

02/24/16 – 02/26/16 | Moscow  
Messe Frankfurt RUS O.O.O  
[www.techtextil.messefrankfurt.ru](http://www.techtextil.messefrankfurt.ru)

## SWITCHER

### Featherweight RDS-certified down

Switcher is one of the first clothing brands in Europe to be awarded the RDS label. This new certification confirms that the down feathers Switcher uses in its Doon collection are exclusively from animals that have been treated appropriately, ethically and with respect. The RDS quality label guarantees the complete traceability of the down, from the breeding to the final product. The new

sustainable down models from Switcher offer feathery light warmth in the stormy transition period from winter to spring. The production process for the natural lining material has multiple certifications. This is underlined by five different quality seals including Oeko Tex Standard 100. All the relevant information is detailed on the respect code sewn into the jacket. For more



information on the production phases and certifications connected to Switcher's Doon collection, go to:

[[www.respectcode.org/doon](http://www.respectcode.org/doon)]

Photos: Switcher

## LEVI STRAUSS & CO.

### Recycling initiative

Levi Strauss & Co. announced the expansion of its clothing recycling initiative to all Levi's mainline and outlet stores in the United States. The company is making it easier for consumers to recycle clothing and shoes, underscoring its commitment to sustainability by reducing the volume of waste sent to landfills and creating an infrastructure that supports a circu-

lar economy by 2020. Consumers may drop-off any brand of clean, dry clothing or shoes in the collection boxes at their local Levi's store. Any consumer who brings an item of clothing to recycle will receive a voucher for 20 percent off a single, regular-priced Levi's item in-store. While many consumers are familiar with recycling bottles, cans and paper, most still throw away clothing. Annually, Americans discard more than 28 billion pounds of unwanted clothing, shoes and other textiles. Charitable organizations and others collect roughly 15 percent of these items, while the remaining 85 percent – 24 billion pounds – end up in landfills. Find more information to this on

[[www.textile-network.com](http://www.textile-network.com)]  
[[www.levistrauss.com](http://www.levistrauss.com)]

Levi Strauss & Co. announced the expansion of its clothing recycling initiative to all Levi's mainline and outlet stores in the United States. Levi's is making it easier for consumer to recycle clothing and shoes, underscoring its commitment to sustainability



Photo: Levi Strauss



**textile** network

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## NILIT

### Nilit Innergy in the starting blocks

Even the name "Nilit Innergy" sounds charged with energy. And apparently, it actually does what it says on the tin. The Israeli yarn manufacturer Nilit Ltd. has developed and unveiled a yarn that claims to get to grips with the troublesome problem of cellulite. "Following a lengthy development phase and clinical tests", Nilit Innergy is now being brought to market – and can finally get to work. The 6.6 polyamide yarn will mainly be used in the sportswear segment. The innovative yarn improves the skin's elasticity,

whilst reducing fat mass and the skin's water content. Nilit has been involved in the sports sector for many years, offering, for example the "Shape-your-Body" products which promote "energy from inside out". The Nilit Innergy socks return the thermal energy from the feet back to the body. Nilit Breeze socks keep feet cool, a pleasant sensation when hiking and jogging. At the launch of the anti-cellulite product, Nilit Fibres announced that it has big plans for the future in the sports field.

[[www.nilit.com](http://www.nilit.com)]



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## HUMAN SOLUTIONS

## New research projects

The Human Solutions Group has launched two new research projects in which the virtual simulation of human beings will be used to gain new knowledge about body shapes and age-related changes in the human body.

## The iMorph project

Individual characteristics of body shapes in humans (morphotypes) have a decisive effect on the size & fit of clothing and the economic success of apparel companies. Today, morphotypes can only be determined by experts through visual, individual evaluation – and these evaluations cannot be reproduced. No uniform classification scheme

“Research and development are an integral part of our corporate philosophy. We want to make our ergonomics expertise available for the industry in as many segments as possible – our ongoing contribution to more and more products being tailored perfectly to the requirements of human beings.

Dr. Andreas Seidl, Executive Partner of Human Solutions



exists – we only have different approaches with varying evaluation criteria. The aim of the project is to create automated morphological classification for individuals. These classifications will be integrated into the iSize international body data portal and used for case studies. This will expand the iSize analysis functions used for the development and optimization of sizetables and for determining appropriate sizes for individuals. The size & fit of garments, for example, can be evaluated in terms of body shape and taken into account for the standard size recommendation. These findings will make a meaningful contribution to economic and market-relevant collection design in the apparel industry.

iMorph is a ZIM cooperation project with the Center for Man-

agement Research, German Institute for Textile and Fiber Research Denkendorf (DITF-MR) and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.

## The Virtual Aging project

Our bodies change with advancing age – and our abilities are reduced as a result. The objective of the research project is to develop software that will simulate age-related ability changes and individual ability limitations. The software will later be used in the virtual planning of manual work processes, e.g. in the automotive industry, and in product design based on digital human models. Biomechanical characteristics such as ranges of motion and speed will be addressed in the research project, together with sensory param-

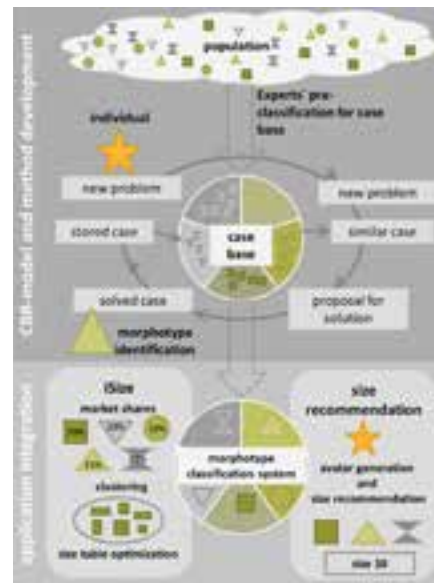
eters like visual perception. The aim of the project participants is to build software solutions that go far beyond the capabilities of existing tools. Virtual Aging is a collaborative effort of Human Solutions, imk automotive and the Chemnitz Technical University and funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, within the context of the ICT 2020. Read more online at [textile-network.com](http://textile-network.com)

[[www.human-solutions.com](http://www.human-solutions.com)]

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The aim of the iMorph project is to create automated morphological classification for individuals

## ZIM-NETZWERK DIGI4TT

## New surface technology

The ZIM-Netzwerk DIGI4TT (digital printing for functionalising technical textiles), initiated by Bayern Innovativ, assumed its activities on 1 July 2015. The objective is to develop a new and innovative surface technology – namely, digital printing for functionalising technical textiles.

Digital printing has enormous potential when it comes to endowing technical textiles with specific functions. Against the backdrop of the Industry 4.0 drive, it will play a key role in achieving digital processing chains and highly customised production. The necessity to develop pioneering new processes

in this particular segment is also being driven by ever tighter REACH regulations. At present, technological solutions for printing functions onto textiles using digital printing techniques are still some way off. The network comprises 11 partners bringing together expert knowledge from across several disci-

plines. The objective is to develop and establish such technologies and to translate them into marketable products. The sector sees great potential for such applications, among others, in the field of workwear and PPE. Read more about this topic at

[[www.textile-network.com](http://www.textile-network.com)]

[[www.digi4tt.de](http://www.digi4tt.de)]



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Anlass ist der mtex+ –

**Nachwuchspreis 2016**

mit Thema „Metamorphosis“

Preis-Verleihung am 31. Mai 2016 zur Eröffnung  
der mtex+ 2016 in der Messe Chemnitz

## Worum geht's?

Immer noch wissen viel zu Wenige, was mit Technischen Textilien heute so alles gemacht wird und gemacht werden kann. Technische Textilien haben wahnsinnig viele einzigartige Funktionalitäten und daher wollen wir Sie dazu motivieren, dieses weite, hochinteressante und spannende Feld selbst zu erkunden: Lassen Sie Ihren „Produktideen“ freien Lauf.

## Wie funktioniert's?

Namhafte Hersteller von Technischen Textilien stellen aus ihrem Produktangebot Materialien zur Verfügung. Nach Ihrer Anmeldung erhalten Sie alle notwendigen Informationen und schon kann es für Sie losgehen.

Einsendeschluss: 29. April 2016

## Interessiert?

Dann kontaktieren Sie uns per E-Mail oder telefonisch für nähere Details:

a.menzel@meisenbach.de oder +49 951 861-117

Weitere Infos unter: [www.textile-network.de](http://www.textile-network.de)

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This dress was produced on the Allegro (below)

## Digital print

# The market is growing

**Of all the growing markets for digital print, the textile sector is proving to be among the fastest and, within that segment, direct-to-garment production is rapidly expanding in popularity. The trend for personalisation on apparel has led to significant take-up for systems that appeal to print-on-demand businesses, screen-printing and embroidery shops.**

As such, direct-to-garment printing now represents a significant portion of the printed textiles market, with \$ 165bn of sales being achieved during 2014 using digital technology. Although print devices have been in evidence for some years, the increase in popularity of digitally decorated garments has risen significantly now that stable, reliable and versatile devices using ink-jet technology have become available. These machines cater admirably for one-offs and short runs and are even available as an additional station for a screen-printing carousel or oval, thus bringing users the best of both worlds with mixed processes output onto the same garment. Accelerated times from desktop to finished garment are now among the key drivers for generating new opportunities for businesses who want to offer the fast turnarounds demanded by today's end customers. These can be consumers as well

as brands wanting to trial new designs and offer limited editions without incurring high set-up costs and waste. To address requirements, typical direct-to-garment print devices have now been developed to work in 24/7 production environments. These are complemented by start-up units that provide a cost-effective alternative to screen-printing or, at the lowest production level, heat transfer methods.

Typically, in the direct-to-garment segment, it is possible to invest in a low-end dye sublimation print device that can handle some applications, although these are limited in choice of material. However, for businesses wanting to extend beyond the restrictions of polyesters and mixes that have to be used with this type of ink, pigmented dyes offer far greater versatility. These enable virtually any material to be printed, with no pre- or post-treatment,



Oliver Lüdtkke, Marketing Director at Kornit Digital Europe

and result in an eco-friendly solution and end product that matches many of the standards preferred today, including Oeko-Tex 100 and GOTS certification and approval. Traditionally most printed garments, as well as roll textiles used for home furnishings and décor, have been generated using the screen process; tailored for higher volumes, it also involves the use of chemicals, plus lengthy set-up and changeover times including post-print wash-down. Waste levels also tend to be high, and pollution at large print operations is becoming a growing problem because of the high amounts of water and energy required during post production. This principle also applies when reactive and acid dyes are used in digital printing machines as jobs also re-



Kornit Breeze is the entry-level model. Kornit Avalanche is ideal for more demanding jobs. Kornit Storm is the "workhorse"







The dress could also be produced on the Avalanche Hexa for large format printing

up and existing print companies looking for additional revenue streams. The market for personalised garments is also huge and is set to increase as trends for customisation are set by consumers as well as by brands that want to run limited edition merchandise.

For Kornit Digital, the company's foresight into the future of direct-to-garment printing has resulted in a family of machines that caters for small companies through mid-sized to large organisations that want to reap all the benefits that are available with digitally produced apparel. For businesses wanting to add direct-to-garment printing to their production capabilities, the choices available are becoming more diverse as technologies continue to be developed for this exciting and thriving market arena. But the key questions to consider prior to making the first step include ease of use, return on investment, versatility across all fabrics, environmental factors, colour fidelity and ink formulation and, of course, a manufacturer that understands the past, the present and the future of this fast-growing segment. To read more about the solutions from Kornit Digital visit textile-network's online magazine.

[[www.textile-network.com](http://www.textile-network.com)]

[[www.kornit.com](http://www.kornit.com)]

[Oliver Lütcke]

quire significant pre- and post-treatment, including steaming and washing, as part of the finishing process.

Today's direct-to-garment printers offer a range of options, but the use of a pigmented ink brings additional benefits as well as the ability to use one type of dye for virtually all materials. These advantages mean that a business can run one machine or a series of units and know that the ink is suitable for all apparel being printed, making it easy to maintain an uninterrupted workflow. The NeoPigment process developed by Kornit Digital and incorporated into all of the company's devices also simplifies printing onto dark garments and the inclusion of white ink as part of the design. It is also clean and odour-free, generating vivid well-saturated results across all fabrics. Certainly digital textile technology requires consistent and strong colours that stand the test of time, with apparel typically being subjected to the rigours of everyday life. Not only should the finished garments be scuff and scratch resistant, they must also be able to handle the demands of regular washing while maintaining a good "hand" or feel that is pleasant to the touch. Kornit Digital's direct-to-garment systems

are renowned for its NeoPigment process because it meets all of these criteria, with the company also applying the same principles within its high-speed industrial 1.8m fabric system, the Kornit Allegro.

Because of the relative simplicity of being able to produce high quality garments straight from the desktop, direct-to-garment technology has opened up new revenue streams for companies that want to work within a market segment where just-in-time ordering and stocking is simple. Demonstrating the true versatility of print-on-demand, this type of apparel printing, in conjunction with Kornit's NeoPigment process, continues to extend the opportunities for start-

Textiles produced on the Avalanche attracted the crowds at Kornit Digital's stand at ITMA 2015 in Milan





# IVGT

IVGT

## Board extended from 2016

Following on from a resolution carried by the Board and approved by the Members' Meeting, Michael Pöhlig has been appointed Managing Director of the IVGT, the German textile industry association, assuming his new position on 1 January 2016.

A respected textile engineer, Michael Pöhlig has more than 20 years' experience in the textile industry. From 2005 to 2010, he was Managing Director of the German Textile Finishing Industry Association TVI-Verband and from 2010 Deputy Managing Director of the IVGT. Besides his role as Managing Director, he will continue to oversee the Technology + Environment division as a nationally recognised expert.

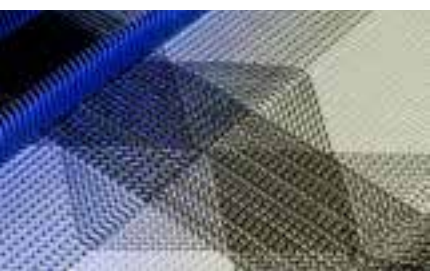
Dr. Klaus-Jürgen Kraatz remains Managing Director of the IVGT and will continue with his special responsibilities particularly in the fields of law and Europe. Moreover, Dr. Kraatz is still head of the Association of German Worsted Yarn Spinners and the German Wool Federation.

The IVGT is Germany's biggest textile industry association. It reflects the interests of around 170 member companies from the fields of textile raw materials, finishing, yarns, fabrics as well as technical textiles. In doing so, it represents more than 60 percent

### IVGT announcements for 2016

2 February	Research & Standardisation Working Group Meeting in Memmingen
3 February	Technical Textiles Working Group Meeting in Memmingen
16 March	Tape & Braiding Sectional Meeting in Düsseldorf
20 April	Worsted Yarns Technical Committee Meeting in Geretsried
12 September	Textile Grinding and Polishing Discs Sectional Meeting in Frankfurt
6 to 8 October	Tape & Braiding Sectional Meeting in Lustenau/Dornbirn
9+10 November	IVGT Members' Meeting

of the German textile industry generating a combined turnover of more than 6.6bn Euro. The IVGT is headquartered in Frankfurt am Main. Other reports on the IVGT's activities in the fourth quarter of 2015 are available in our online magazine [textile-network.com](http://textile-network.com).  
[[www.ivgt.de](http://www.ivgt.de)]



Multiaxial textile with localised carbon reinforcement in the ground warp, the weft and the multiaxial zone

ITV DENKENDORF

### Multiaxial textiles for lightweight construction

ITV Denkendorf is using Open Reed Weave Technology (ORW) to develop high load-bearing reinforcement textiles with up to four axes! Read more on

[[www.textile-network.de](http://www.textile-network.de)]

### 13TH SYMPOSIUM TEXTILE FILTERS

#### Focused on Textile Filters

The future revision of "Technische Anleitung zur Reinhaltung der Luft" will effect on the field of filtration. Therefore, the next symposium Textile Filters dedicates its keynote to this topic to introduce the filtration experts to this. Furthermore, central focusses of the conference will be high-performance textile filter media for dry or wet filtration as well as filtration processes and applications. Likewise innovations in testing and standardisation as well as mathematical modeling and simulation will be subjects of the symposium. Once again the goal is to intensify cooperation between research, development and industry to support the transfer of results into production and application of in-

novative filter media. Experts in the field of filtration will discuss on latest developments, current trends and market conditions from theoretical and practical perspective. The 13th Symposium Textile Filters is organised by Sächsisches Textil-

forschungsinstitut e. V. and takes place from March 8th to 9th in 2016 in the hotel "Chemnitz Hof" in the centre of Chemnitz.

Registration and further information:

[[www.stfi.de/textile-filter](http://www.stfi.de/textile-filter)]



Photo: Chemnitzer Wirtschaftsförderung

The 13th Symposium Textile Filters takes place in Chemnitz, the „City of Modernity“



The Dart Diamonds tiles from the Textiles SL series from Vorwerk, have received distinctions for new, creative designs



## HEIMTEXTIL 2016

**Digital Print segment continues to grow**

Heimtextil, the international trade fair for home and contract textiles which ran in Frankfurt from 12 to 15 January 2016, posted a climb in the number of exhibitors and rented space from the digital textile printing field for the fourth time running. 19 companies were featured in Hall 4.0, up from 16 in 2015. They included names such as Durst, Epson, Hewlett-Packard, Kornit, Mimaki, MS Printing Solutions, Reg-

giani and Xeikon. Heimtextil welcomed several newcomers to the event from the digital printing field such as Fotoba International and J-Treck 3 from Italy as well as Pigment Inc. from Australia. Located next to the digital printing exhibitors, the new "print IT digital" café provided a pleasant backdrop for business talks. Please read more in our online-magazine [textile-network.de](http://textile-network.de)

[[www.heimtextil.de](http://www.heimtextil.de)]

## VORWERK

**German Design Award for Textiles SL**

The "Textiles SL" carpet tile collection has been awarded a Special Mention in the German Design Awards 2016 in the "Building and Elements" category. The collection includes the free-form tiles by Werner Aisslinger, two models by designer Hadi Teherani as well as tile formats. The modular design of the carpet tile elements makes it possible to create completely new designs and colour worlds. Moreover, Vor-

werk recently received the "Sustainable Producer" Silver Award from German consumer group Verbraucher-Initiative e.V. This interest group carries out regular checks on companies to ensure they are living up to their environmental and social responsibilities. Vorwerk scored particularly well in the categories Business Operation, Supply Chain and Promoting Sustainable Consumption.

[[www.vorwerk-teppich.de](http://www.vorwerk-teppich.de)]

Motifs for the Teppich & Du campaign



Photo: Teppich & Du

## TEPPICH &amp; DU

**Carpets – modern, healthy and attractive**

In recent years, fitted carpets have looked on as their market share has crumbled away. The German Carpet & You Initiative (Teppich & Du) has set its sights on reversing this trend by drawing attention to the benefits of textile floor coverings.

Enjoying the support of trade and industry, Teppich & Du started work back in 2013, promoting fitted carpets as a modern, healthy and decorative

feature of interior design. So far, more than 1,500 specialist retailers and interior designers have registered with the initiative's online store locator. In addition, Teppich & Du has accumulated more than 21,000 Likes on Facebook, providing its friends with regular new content. Extensive advertising materials with five new motifs are offered in mixed packs including either all ten posters or

freely selectable flyers. Successful industrial companies, such as Vorwerk, are encouraging their competitors to get involved in the initiative.

The campaign will continue throughout 2016, when communication and marketing activities will be stepped up. Special efforts will be made to target architects and building contractors as well as institutions such as universities,

schools and health-care providers.

"In this context, we are collaborating very closely with the gui-lab in areas such as allergies, respirable dust and acoustics. This is where fitted carpets offer unbeatable benefits," says Manfred Birkenstock, the brains behind Teppich & Du and Chairman of the Copa buying group. "We want to eradicate fixed misconceptions and undermine them with the latest research findings," states Dr. Andreas Winkens, Director of the gui-lab. This will be achieved through information leaflets, accompanying press reports and a series of interviews.

The close cooperation with the guilds of interior designers, painters and decorators and other specialised trades will likewise be intensified. Companies will soon be able to present their most beautiful carpet projects in a digital shop window on the Teppich & Du website, thus promoting their business and, of course, the product itself.

[[www.teppich-und-du.eu](http://www.teppich-und-du.eu)]



Photos: Gore-Tex

C-Knit by Gore-Tex

## Quality can never be cheap

Against the backdrop of the International Mountain Summit (IMS), Gore-Tex invited the specialist press to Brixen, in South Tyrol, Italy, to put the latest C-Knit technology through its paces, having only just been unveiled in late summer 2015.

Blue skies, fresh mountain air, the first snow of the year in Brixen. This was the perfect setting for putting the latest Gore-Tex technology through its paces. At least for those who were testing it. Although the brand-new material was not exposed to extreme conditions, Gore-Tex certainly delivers on its C-Knit promise: "Guaranteed to keep you dry".

The new laminate is said to be quieter and softer, without

compromising on resilience. It forms the interface between the tried-and-trusted "Pro" technology for hard-core alpine athletes who depend on having durable clothing and the "Active" technology for fast-pace hikers and alpine runners requiring textiles that are lightweight and breathable. Comfort levels in particular are said to have been improved.

### Gore-Tex washing tips

In an interview with textile network, product developer Christian Mayer provides some washing instructions for Gore-Tex products. "Simply machine wash at 40 degrees. Do not use fabric softeners. Use a liquid detergent if possible. Hang up to dry. As soon as the garment is dry, tumble dry at 50 to 60 degrees for 20 minutes. This will ensure that the impregnated fibres stand upright again and the water simply rolls off."

"C-Knit is the laminate for the masses," says Christian Mayer. The 44-year-old is a product developer with Gore-Tex and an expert in the field of alpine sports. "It's for people who just love being in the great outdoors and have a passion for hiking." C-Knit's most important feature is its every-day versatility. At the same time, it is extremely robust. Does this make it suitable for a two-week trekking tour with a 15kg pack on your back? It certainly does! C-Knit comprises three layers: a carefully selected outer material, the tried-and-trusted membrane, that is both water- and windproof and an innovative inner lining. An enhanced laminating process combines all three layers, whilst the inner lining in particular provides the new, improved properties of the C-Knit products: 10 percent less weight and 15 percent more breathable than its comparable predecessors. Thanks to a new circular knitting process patented by the Gore-Tex brand, ultra-thin, ring-shaped polyamide fibres can be processed and laminated onto interlayers. The effect is similar to that of women's stockings which are lightweight, offer a certain degree of stretch and thus high levels of comfort. Layers worn beneath, irrespective of the material they are made from, slide over the inner lining far more easily. Of course,

Gore-Tex promises that the products made with the new laminate are absolutely wind- and waterproof. More specifically, C-Knit matches other three-ply laminates from Gore-Tex, boasting a water column of 28,000 millimetres. However, even Christian Mayer knows that this value can never be achieved out in the field. "The obtainable maximum is a water column of perhaps 18,000 millimetres per cm<sup>2</sup>. The fact remains, however, that the material is waterproof."

Back to Brixen. 800 metres altitude. The hike was by no means dangerous, but it certainly was strenuous. All in all, the new Gore-Tex technology is good, lightweight, in no way restricting and affords reliable protection against the wind and weather. However, it comes at a price: a jacket containing the C-Knit laminate costs upwards of 400 Euro.

[[www.gore-tex.com](http://www.gore-tex.com)]

[Uli Spinrath]







Playful decorative buttons with new electroplating by Union Knopf

Trends in fabrics and trimmings, Spring/Summer 2017

# Emotionally charged

**The call for new perspectives in fashion is getting louder. Traditional influences are being lost. Uncertainties are challenging industry and fashion design alike. Trends for Summer 2017 tell of urban utility wear, romanticism, cultural sampling and sheer enjoyment.**

The German textile and clothing industry managed to finish 2015 with sales up by 1.5 percent. At least, the Textile+Fashion Confederation is sticking by this forecast and asserts, in its Economic Report of November 2015, that "the industry is still on a growth trend." Developments in the textile and clothing sector, however, continue to show a varied picture. In September, whilst the textile sector recorded year-to-date sales growth of 2.7 percent, the clothing sector has suffered a contraction of 1.0 percent, following a very weak month. The key issue here is business with Russia. By contrast, textile exports were up by 2.2 percent for the year up to September. Martin Dolleschel, Managing Director and shareholder of Bielefeld-based trimmings specialists Union Knopf, stated: "Our sales to Italy are strengthening. (...) The UK and Scandinavia are becoming increasingly important." Looking back over the incoming orders for Autumn/Winter 2016/2017, the German

button and accessory specialist Knopf & Knopf, based in Schemmerhofen (southwest Germany) reports: "We are broadly satisfied with the order situation."

## Timeless, ageless

Moving on to the Spring/Summer 2017 season, the Dutch forecast magazine *Textil View* wrote of the prevailing mood: "We are looking for something more permanent than

the purely seasonal." The headline for fabric trends is "Wear your beliefs". Trend commentator Anne Marie Commandeur recently gave a presentation to the think tank at the private AMD Fashion & Design Academy in Düsseldorf, to which she gave the title "Design with a mission". Discussions on fashion design are running at top speed. "Ageless" is the headline of the next Munich Fabric Start event (2 to 4 Febru- ►

Decorative trimmings are becoming vastly more important – not only at Kahage-Butonia Group

Buttons attract attention for their size and shape alone. Seen at Kahage-Butonia Group





[1]



[2]



[3]

► ary 2016). Creative Director Jo Baumgartner says the clothing industry must ask itself some pressing questions, not least with regard to demographic change. What happens when 13-year-olds are wearing the same as 60-year-olds? What would the collections have to look like? Little by little, society is moving on from traditional distinctions based on age and sex. In addition to the dimension of eternal youth, Baumgartner places three key words at the centre of the new fashion season: value, timelessness and plenty of emotion.

### Mind Design

Meditation meets technology and function. Plain and simple unisex robes and garments have a spiritual feel, whereas home and sportswear is urban and ageless. Lightness and a subtle high-tech aspiration are ubiquitous. Munich Fabric Start captures this with its 'Robotic Instinct' theme. Delicate, diaphanous fabrics have a techno appeal and convey a sense of nakedness and sexiness, as do slit designs. Alongside these, timelessness and value predominate. Prints are monochrome and either large format or extremely detailed. Shapes and structures are minimalistic, denim is dark and clean. White buttons with the look and feel of porcelain (Knopf & Knopf) are attached threadlessly to a pale, chalky colour palette. Finely embossed metal buttons imitate the outer fabrics. Moirés and changeants shimmer gently. Matte/gloss contrasts, reflective surfaces and transparent finishes continue to be important. High-gloss polishes are to be found in the collections along-

side natural and matte wood- and stone-look visual effects (Union Knopf). Patinised, coloured and brushed metals and metal effects leave a strong impression on the season. Striking are filigree metallic fasteners, fine metal chains for fixing onto garments (Bodo Jagdberg – Germany) and lasered decorative badges. YKK Stocko Fasteners are showing zinc die-cast logo badges with cut-out effects. Even inscriptions with breakaways can be attached without difficulty. Graphic weaves, perforations, lattice and honeycomb images lend a gentle rectilinearity that has an influence even on the typography of the labels. Not only point, diamond and waffle structures are in evidence but also, as from Dutch firm EE Labelpack, a totally reduced graphic design that sometimes amounts to nothing more than an orange right-angle to accentuate light and mostly plain designs. Trimmings from the field of sport – such as the eyelets for drawcords from YKK Stocko Fasteners – are a major theme. Much white is to be found, alongside beige, pale grey and pale blue. Grey-blue, grey-brown and rose quartz provide accents. Gold and silver.

### Garden of Eden

Here big-city farmers, flower enthusiasts and nature-lovers meet as spiritual brothers and sisters, united in their dreams of a world at peace. A breath of romanticism, 1970s flair, the charm of handicraft and the factory waft over the fabrics and trimmings. Clay-coloured jacquards meet decorative stitching and embroidery using thick woollen or cotton yarns, for example, in the works

[1] 'Cool Romance' is the promise of new electroplating by Union Knopf

[2] Bodo Jagdberg renders a washed or pastel look on buttons and decorative trimmings

[3] Cool elegance, right down to the label. Seen at EE Labelpack

[4] Reduced styles right up to XXL size, interpreted by YKK Stocko Fasteners for menswear in gunmetal and black rubber

of Gunold, German specialists in fancy yarns. Fine pleats and delicate laces spread a romantic flair that has its origins in the Victorian Age. A taste of adventure comes from abstract prints of landscapes or craters, seen from a bird's eye perspective. Alongside these, delicate floral designs enliven the colourful weaves and prints.

They are complemented with buttons and fasteners from natural-look and recycled materials in wood, cork and bone. The Kahage-Butonia Group, too, is now showing buttons made from recycled cotton. The surfaces of the trimmings are textured, natural and eroded, often in washed, bleached and pale pastels (Bodo Jagdberg). 'Tip of the season' is light imitation nappa, not least because it is easy to laser. Stenger by Bodo Jagdberg has playful suede trouser tags in its programme but also takes the luxury approach with knitted straps interwoven with gold, and filigree

The glistening foil yarn 'Glitter', by Gunold







crocheted tags on gold chains. Colours follow the 'Solar Venture' theme of Munich Fabric Start: natural tones, greyish beige, pale copper, skin tones, yellow- to blue-tinged red tones. In addition, metallic tones such as Golden Olive, Ice Gold and Vintage Copper can also be found.

#### Be your festival

Here there is fun and entertainment in a continuous loop of reggae parties, urban festivals and internet trips. Everything is light, freedom-loving, summery and from time to time technically exaggerated. Naive, almost comic-like print motifs come together with glitter yarns, fringed straps, batik denim and tie-dye denim. The print motifs are highly magnified, layered, intricate or digitally exaggerated. Diagonal block stripes are evident. Trend themes such as 'digital pop' (Bodo Jagdberg) or 'electric motion' (Knopf & Knopf) lead the way. Pop-art print and new

wave influences are discharged in iridescent chrome lacquers and metallised trimmings. Labels are inspired by painting and art; printed canvas labels are further accentuated with a wooden button (Paul Miller by EE Labelpack). Individuality is the keyword. Yarns are even to be found in self-design – at Gunold, for instance. Raffia-like fabrics are as at home here as pure linen or fringed fils coupés. For hot bikini tops, bejewelled spaghetti straps are available, from the German producer Topp Textil, for example, where summery satin or chiffon frilly straps are also featured in intense colours such as warm red, yellow, blue and green tones. Bleached denims are complemented with buttons, rivets and decorations in light vintage hammered metals (YKK Stocko Fasteners), and for menswear in black, matte enamelling, gunmetal and antique copper.

[Regine Hövelmann]



White shades are a major theme. Seen at Union Knopf

## The die-cast metal button

These days, die-cast metal buttons are predominantly made from zinc alloys, and less frequently from aluminium. Tin is too expensive, whilst lead is too heavy. The metals are delivered in the same packaging units as for industrial smelting purposes. The die-cast process is a chipless forming procedure (hot or cold) and includes casting, forging, rolling, punching and cutting. This also involves plastic forming which exploits the material's ductility. Die-cast metal buttons are solid and look like coins. The molten metals or alloys are injected under high pressure into water-cooled steel moulds. Thanks to the great precision and clean surfaces produced, die-cast buttons require hardly any further processing. Surface treatments include gold and silver plating, copper plating and anodisation. Buttons for traditional dress are electro-plated with antique silver, aged brass and tin. In die-casting, a melting temperature of 385°C is required. The casting temperature is somewhere between 400°C and 430°C; the mould generally has a temperature of 180°C.

Products made from fine zinc alloys are resistant to bending and wear and tear, and are suitable for machining (easy lubricating). Protection from corrosion can be achieved through electro-plating and a copper, nickel and chromium coating.

Die-cast buttons are metal through and through. With the exception of aluminium, these buttons are relatively heavy. It, therefore, follows that they fall heavily. When their flipside is scratched or filed, the base material becomes visible. Die-cast buttons are light-fast, and withstand ironing and dry cleaning. They are mainly used for traditional costume and other outerwear. It is important to ensure that the edges and holes do not contain any burrs as they will cut through any threads. When sewing these buttons onto garments, a strong thread should always be used. Where the metal is exposed to normal oxidation levels, the surface colours are likely to disappear gradually over time.

[[www.knopfundknopf.de](http://www.knopfundknopf.de)]

In Part 4 "All you need to know about buttons" appearing in our next issue, we will shed light on buttons made from polyester.

Photo: Knopf und Knopf





Photos: TV Tecstyle Vision

## 9TH TV TECSTYLE VISIONS 2016

### Corporate fashion and textile finishing

In its role as a leading European trade fair, TV Tecstyle Visions has earned itself a firm place in the corporate fashion and textile finishing industry. Scheduled to run from 4 to 6 February 2016, the fair in Halls 4 and 6 of Stuttgart's exhibition centre will give visitors the chance to gain important insights into current trends, as well as sustainable business models. The event expects to welcome more

than 12,000 trade buyers and 260 manufacturers and trading companies dealing in textiles, machinery and materials for the textile decoration sector. TV TecStyle Visions now takes place as part of the EXPO 4.0 trade show quartet, uniting four trade fairs in the realm of visual communication and haptic advertising. The events are all independent platforms with different target groups. Besides

TV Tecstyle Visions for textile manufacturers and finishers, the quartet also includes wetec which revolves around the world of advertising technology, digital printing, digital signage and illuminated advertising; the remaining two members are Give a Days for promotional products and POS Masters for marketing, design and technology at the point of sale. This collaboration means that visitors to TV Tecstyle Visions also have the opportunity to look beyond their field and find out more about other aspects of communication.

A large number of companies at TV Tecstyle Visions is involved in textile finishing, such as screen printing, digital textile printing, transfer printing, embroidery, rhinestone application technologies, flocking and laser engraving. The manufacturers of textiles and printing fabrics, promotional clothing, workwear and textile accesso-

ries likewise account for a large proportion of the exhibitors, whilst service companies are represented. The programme also includes a printing workshop as well as an appearance by screen printing expert and popular speaker, Charlie Taublieb at the screen-printing forum dubbed "Charlie's Corner". Whilst appreciating a screen-printing demonstration, visitors to Hall 4 can also experience the many facets of digital textile printing. As part of the Digital Printing Street, various industry players will show the process of textile inkjet printing from the creation of the artwork, colour management and printing to cutting and further processing. The main highlights on show can be found at [textile-network.de](http://textile-network.de). A comprehensive review of the fair will be featured in our next issue.

[[www.tecstyle-visions.com](http://www.tecstyle-visions.com)]

[Birgit Jussen]

#### The "Style at Work Discovery Tour"

Corporate fashion and workwear must come in attractive colours and with high levels of comfort and easy-care properties! This segment is assuming an increasingly important role in both trade and industry, with individualised finishing rounding off a company's corporate identity. On the "Style at Work Discovery Tour", visitors can make direct contact with workwear specialists to find out more about the fabrics, collections and creative options available in workwear. The exhibitor response to this platform is extremely positive, with many clothing manufacturers and trading firms taking part, such as Hakro Activewear, Lomestar, Carson Workwear, Dickies, Daiber, Snap Sportswear, Promodoro Fashion, Premier Clothing and Arem Italia.



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UNIQUE COLLECTIONS

# Czech Republic becomes a partner country

The re-formulated trade fair is expecting a high level of international attendance/Focus on technical textiles for all industries from 31 May to 2 June 2016/Programme includes 15th Chemnitz Technical Textiles Convention and a special exhibition on health industry textiles.

The Czech Republic has become a partner country in mtex+, the 6th International Trade Fair for Technical Textiles, which takes place between 31 May and 2 June 2016 in Chemnitz, Germany. This was agreed recently at a meeting in Prague between the Czech Textile Federation Atok, the Federation of the North-East German Textile and Clothing Industry (vti), the Czech Techtext network Clutex and trade fair organiser Messe Chemnitz.

"The Czech Republic has a highly developed textile and clothing industry and internationally renowned textile research institutions," explains Michael Kynast, who heads the trade fair, "but it does not have its own trade fair for technical textiles. Atok and Clutex have recognised the benefits of our exhibition site, located close to the border. The two associations will make mtex+ even more widely known in the Czech Republic and will be organising a regional cluster meeting in Chemnitz during the fair. We are expecting large numbers of exhibitors and trade visitors from across the border."

Michael Kynast, who heads up the trade fair, also described as



A friendly atmosphere dominated the recent visit from a delegation from mtex+ and vti to their Atok and Clutex partners in the Czech Republic. The photo shows (left to right) Petr Moravec, from Silk & Progress, Brnenec; vti board chairman Friedmar Götz; Jan Hermansky, from Svitap, Svitavy; vti managing director Bertram Höfer and Michael Kynast, head of the Chemnitz trade fair

"promising" the talks he has had in the past week with Russian and Turkish textile companies. The delegation from Turkey was visiting the textile and clothing sector in Saxony at the invitation of the premier of Saxony, Stanislaw Tillich; the businessmen expressed great interest in mtex+. The Chemnitz fair is also expecting trade visitors from Poland. In February 2016, a delegation from mtex+ and vti will be travelling to Poland to introduce the re-formulated trade fair to Polish manufacturers of technical textiles and to the local textile federation. The activities of the 'enterprise europe network', which operates across the EU,

also do justice to the international character of mtex+. A few days ago, IHK Chemnitz and its international partners started approaching small and medium-sized businesses from south-east Europe and Turkey to participate in B2B meetings that would take place during the 6th mtex+ fair.

"Chemnitz is recognised as the textile capital of Germany," says Bertram Höfer, managing director of the vti. "It lies at the heart of the ultra-modern textile and research region of Saxony-Thuringia. Technical textiles and textile bonding materials are conquering an ever larger number of fields of application. At our trade fair, with its compact space and capacity for forging intensive personal contacts, decision makers, development engineers and lateral thinkers from all industries can really get their money's worth." He continues: "As part of a special exhibition, our Federation will be presenting a current networking project on the sub-

ject of functional textiles for clinics, care, rehabilitation and wellness institutions. Other agencies that will be presenting the results of their work at mtex+ include the largest German textile research network, Futuretex, which is managed by the Sächsische Textilforschungsinstitut (Saxony Textile Research Institute) in Chemnitz, and the Smart-Tex network which operates out of Thuringia."

In contrast to previous mtex trade fairs, which were restricted specifically to mobile textiles, this mtex+ will be devoted for the first time to the entire breadth of technical textiles, their development, manufacture and application. Under the headline "Discover hightextiles+functions", it is positioned as the discovery fair for product development, process optimisation, networking and knowledge transfer. Further information on the new direction and general offering is available on our website.

[[www.mtex-chemnitz.de](http://www.mtex-chemnitz.de)]

[Stefan Möbius]

## 6th mtex+ Student Prize

Manufacturers of technical textiles can make use of creative input from the ranks of the next generation in the textile, clothing and design industries: For the first time, the 6th mtex+ and specialist magazine "textile network", published by Meisenbach, are awarding the 'mtex+ Student Prize' for students from relevant universities. For further details visit our website.



Representatives of the research and development network highstick plus, covering the embroidery industry of the Vogtland, will be attending mtex+ to demonstrate how optical fibres with diameters of up to 18 millimetres can be integrated into various materials by means of embroidery technology



Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics

# Change is coming

**The global sourcing market is on the move. An era in which China was seen as the erstwhile guaranteed source of low production costs and reliable quality is coming to a close. And yet the Chinese market has enormous sales potential. The extent of this potential was impressively demonstrated at this autumn's Intertextile Shanghai, which succeeded in breaking in advance all records for exhibitor numbers.**

The relative weakness of the euro, political uncertainty and the growing demands of corporate social responsibility are stirring up the procurement market, as the newly published 12th edition of the 'Kurt Salmon Sourcing Reference Study' shows. Every two years, this study analyses in detail current developments in textile and clothing procurement in the 46 most important purchasing countries of the world. It indicates that companies are more compelled than ever to seek out new sourcing alternatives.

China's share of the European procurement market has fallen, according to the study, from 40 percent to a current figure of 32 percent, driven by ever-increasing wage costs and a strong yuan. Countermeasures instigated by the Chinese government have been unable to halt this trend. It is affecting central China as well, where the production cost index has risen more strongly in percentage

terms than on the coast, due partly to lower productivity in the central regions. China is no longer, and will never again be, a low-wage economy.

Thanks to enormous demand in the domestic market, this did not negatively affect Intertextile – quite the contrary, in fact. Moreover, having moved last March to the new National Exhibition and Convention Centre, the exhibition space's dimensions are truly vast. More than 4,600 exhibitors from 29 countries presented their latest collections in ten halls, occupying a total area of 228,000 square metres. The number of visitors, however, fell from about 71,300 in the previous year to 66,200, although the previous event had taken place over four days. "Our aim", explained Wendy Wem, Senior General Manager of Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd, "is to make significant improvements to the structure of the trade fair, providing exhibitors

with opportunities for knowledge transfer in both directions. At the same time, we aim to allow buyers to source products more efficiently across the entire product portfolio of fabrics and accessories, fibres and yarns, at all different levels of quality and price range. Everyone should be able to find the right products for them."

## Uncertain order levels

And yet according to some Chinese exhibitors, the order levels are uncertain in many textile business- ►

“ I see a brand new Chinese generation that is seeking to distinguish itself utterly from the past in fashion terms. Modern, cool and chic are the magic words. It makes you think that China is aiming to be the fashion hotspot of the world.

Claudio Bellodi, Managing Director of Italian accessories manufacturer Simona B.



► es across China, a situation that they say is threatening to get worse, with dramatic effects on the entire Chinese textile industry. C.Y. Cheung, CEO of Chinese denim producer Panther Textiles Holding Co Ltd, describes the situation thus: "China's economic development is having a major negative effect on the general situation regarding orders, and the European crisis has also caused orders to dwindle. In China itself, the increase in wage and raw materials costs has led to structural changes. In order to keep prices relatively stable, companies are obliged to seek out ever cheaper raw materials." The sales focus for the collection that his company was presenting, he said, therefore lay with the domestic market. The key to the success of the Chinese textile industry, in his view, lies in its innovative strength, which needs to be improved. The aforementioned study demonstrates, using denim as an example, that the cost advantage of the Far East over areas around Europe's borders is gradually melting away. In the last two years, for example, China has lost 7 percent of the total denim sourcing volume to countries with lower production costs – principally to Bangladesh, Pakistan and Cambodia, but also to Turkey, Tunisia and Poland.

### Europe once again of major significance

Europe continues to be very significant to China; the demand among Chinese buyers for high quality products goes from strength to strength. "Chinese buyers are looking for European styles," explains Diane Parrot, Sales Manager of John Kaldor UK. Filippo Picchi, CEO at Picchi Spa, confirms this: "We are experiencing strongly increased demand from China." It is for this reason that more and more European producers are entering China, either with their own production or in co-operation with Chinese companies. And while Chinese producers continue to limp so badly behind in terms of their innovative power, this phenomenon is unlikely to change very quickly.

Both of the international halls bore the imprint of a European element, with a Premium Wool Zone and with the Europe Salon, which in-

” As regards the textiles that are in demand, Chinese tastes in terms of look and style are very different from those of the western world. Whereas in the West there is a preference for a softer feel to denim, the Chinese still prefer the original, non-flexible denim with a highly fancy touch.

C.Y. Cheung, CEO of Chinese denim producer Panther Textiles Holding Co Ltd

cluded national pavilions representing Germany, Portugal, the UK, Turkey and (for the first time) France. This was the eighth time that Milano Unica had taken place in China; it focused on 'high-quality made in Italy' and for the first time ever presented seven yarn producers.

The eight domestic halls accounted for the larger proportion by far of Intertextile Shanghai, with Chinese exhibitors divided into diverse product groups such as ladieswear, functional wear, sportswear, swimwear, suits and shirts.

### High demand for sustainability

In the 'All About Sustainability' zone, there was much discussion about the potential of the Chinese textile industry. Ma Ton, of Ecocert, spoke to many domestic businesses. "They need our certification mechanism," she explained, "in order to be able to survive in the international market. And although the Chinese textile industry has lost some of its clout, I remain optimistic about the future and in particular about the use of natural products in the textile industry."

The 'All About Sustainability' zone was complemented by a series of presentations organised for the Planet Textile Conference, with sessions led by experts from Europe, the USA and Asia.

There are, it is true, signs of change in China's textile industry, though it remains to be seen just how the Chinese market will change. What is certain is that it is already undergoing that process of adjustment; the Chinese textile companies that can benefit from this will be those that are able to embrace change and react flexibly to the market, despite the crisis. After all, hidden within any crisis there are always opportunities to be found.

[Heike Frömbgen]

Fair impressions



The 44th Filo in Milan saw around 40 percent of visitors come from abroad, with many making the trip from Japan. The 1st Filo in Shanghai last October was likewise crowned with success.

#### 44TH FILO

### "Pensare futuro" – think the future

The 44th edition of yarn trade fair Filo took place in Milan in late September/early October 2015 very much under the banner of the World Expo. Surprising to all was the high number of Japanese buyers who certainly lightened the mood among the 74 exhibitors. Among the participating companies were players such as German Fein-Elast, and Um-spinnwerk from Zeulenroda-Triebes, as well as several Austrian names (Borckenstein from Neudau, Linz Textil from Linz) and Swiss firms (Hermann Bühler from Winterthur, Nef + Co and Spoerry 1866 from Flums).

For the first time ever, the latest yarn trends and corresponding accessories were shown in the courtyard of the "Palazzo delle Stelline" and thus in the open air. This was an innovation that was down to the Expo, but one that will never be repeated, despite benefitting from the beautiful autumnal weather. Most certainly to be repeated, on the other hand, is Filo's appearance in the Chinese harbour city of Shanghai from 13 to 15 October in the "National Exhibition and Convention Center" in cooperation with Milano Unica. In total, seven Italian companies – Davifil, Fil-

atura C4, Filatura Pettinata Luisa 1966, Ghezzi, Monvania, Ongetta, Servizi e Seta – presented their yarn collections in Shanghai. Filo sees itself as a fair that provides a specific offering of yarn manufacturers to the processing industry, placing professionalism and high quality above everything else. This stance is leading to a climb in exhibitors, the lion's share of whom are from Italy, whilst also attracting more visitors. High-quality yarns are in greater demand than ever. The slogan "Pensare futuro – think the future" of the autumn edition of Filo in Milan allowed the



Photos: Ingrid Sachsenmaier

participating yarn manufacturers, who rank among the best in their discipline, to express more than the fact that they are just "thinking about the future." Indeed, they are shaping it and firmly believe that high-quality yarns have a sustainable future. The 45th edition of Filo is scheduled to run on 2 and 3 March 2016, Palazzo delle Stelline, Milano.

[[www.filo.it](http://www.filo.it)]

[Ingrid Sachsenmaier]

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14TH MAREDIMODA

## Swimming to victory



Photos: Mare di Moda

The entrance to Mare di Moda faces the sea. All minds were focused on business in the exhibition hall behind it (right)

Long gone are the days when swim- and beachwear were merely seasonal articles. Nowadays, holiday destinations are booked all-year round, with beach holidays in the sun right at the top of the list. In Cannes, which hosted the 14th Mare di Moda in November 2015, the traces of the devastating floods that had hit the Côte d'Azur just four weeks earlier, were still clearly visible. The internet connections remained shaky at the venue "Palais des Festivals", with many of the hotels also without online access. Television reception was similarly poor. Dehumidifiers and blocked pathways marred the otherwise beautiful and sophisticated ambiance of the trade fair. Even so, these blips were not enough to undermine the success of this event. 2,870 visitors wended their way to the fair, a pleasing, and perhaps surprising four percent climb

on the previous year! Buyers from Russia and Turkey, however, were rather reserved or decided not to make the journey at all. "The word crisis, that was on everyone's lips last year, wasn't heard at all; it was completely absent from people's vocabulary," said a delighted Marco Borioli, commenting on the "enthusiastic mood" at the three-day event. An upbeat attitude prevailed among the 96 exhibitors. Thomas Merkel, Managing Partner of Innorex Merkel & Rau, based in Frankenberg, Germany, was exhibiting for the sixth time and noted: "East European customers have stayed away this year, most probably due to the poor economic climate there." He continued that he would like to have more Italian customers. He was, however, generally pleased with the levels of interest shown in his nine trend collections, designed in-house at

Innotex for Spring/Summer 2017; the creative mind behind the collections is designer Carolyn Schreyer, who introduced herself in person to the customers in Cannes, having created her first designs for the company. In Russia, the ailing economy has caused a sharp slide in sales for Italian luxury swimwear, with Russian brands creaming off more domestic demand. This development was felt at Mare di Moda which attracted only a handful of Russian buyers. Irrespective of this change, Mare di Moda has long since established itself as a trade fair showcasing European-made collections. The event benefits greatly from the exhibitors' commitment to high-quality fabrics which rise above the crowd of cheap mass-produced goods. This is appreciated, above all, by buyers from Italy, France, Spain, the UK and also Germany, which constitut-

ed the biggest buyer group at the Palais des Festivals. Not surprisingly, President Marco Borioli was delighted with the outcome of this event. For more on the latest trends, visit our online magazine or go to

[[www.maredimoda.com](http://www.maredimoda.com)]

[Ingrid Sachsenmaier]







17th ITMA

# Crisis? What crisis?

Every four years, the International Textile Machinery Exhibition ITMA takes place at an alternating venue in Europe; in November 2015 it fell to Milan to host the event, which proved to be a record-breaking exhibition in more ways than one. More than 1,691 exhibitors from 46 countries revealed tried-and-trusted machinery and a wealth of innovations to a truly international audience.

Established in 1951, this trade fair for textile and apparel machinery has evolved into a showcase of international renown, attracting visitors from the fields of spinning, weaving, warp and weft knitting and finishing as well as experts from the apparel industry. They all regard ITMA as an absolute must-see event. Seizing the opportunity of having ITMA on home soil, the Italian association of textile machinery manufacturers, Acimit, organised a press conference featuring a fashion show. President Raffaella Carabelli painted a positive picture, one characterised by climbing order levels, with increases posted both at home and on foreign markets. For 2015, Italy's textile machinery producers anticipated sales in the region of 2.5bn Euro, with 2.1bn Euro of this total expected to be generated through exports. No fewer than 123,000 buyers from 147 countries wended their way to the eight-day event in Rho, which filled eleven halls and covered a total area of 108,000 square metres. This represents a new record in the 64-year history of this international fair, corresponding to an impressive 20 percent leap.

The host country Italy had the largest contingent of 453 exhibitors, followed by Germany in second place with 238 firms, then China boasting 184 companies and India with 158. In terms of the exhibition area, Germany likewise ranked second behind Italy and in front of Switzerland and Spain.

There was almost general consensus as the fair drew to a close that ITMA 2015 had been a resounding success. The word "crisis" could no longer be heard anywhere, and the mood was upbeat and optimistic. The five biggest sectors at ITMA were "dyeing and finishing" which occupied 23 percent of the space and accounted for 303 exhibitors; "spinning" which absorbed 14 percent of the space with 290 exhibitors; "weaving" with 12 percent of the total area and 179 exhibitors; "knitting and hosiery" with 13 percent of the space and 128 exhibitors and last but not least "printing" which took up 10 percent of the exhibition area filled by 113 exhibitors. The Italian brand Orizio, based in Gussago near Brescia is known worldwide for the production of large diameter single knit, double

[1] The exhibition centre in Milan has a striking roof design

[2] Visitors to Müller Frick's stand were also impressed by the knitting machines from Comez

[3] Tonello won over the jury with its sustainable ideas. The reward: Two ITMA Awards!

knit mechanical and electronic circular knitting machines. "At ITMA, Orizio launched the JPP/LC 30" diameter, 50 gauge, 90 feed machine specially for the European market and single jersey production," explains Francesca Benedetti, Sales & Marketing at Orizio. Shima Seiki from Japan celebrated during the fair the 20th anniversary of its Whole-Garment knitting technology which was first introduced at ITMA in Milan back in 1995. One of the flagship machines in this sense is the Mach2XS, shown at ITMA 2015. It features 4 needle-beds and is considered ideal for knitwear in all needles. Mach2XS is designed with the world's first application of Shima Seiki's patented spring-type sinkers on a 4-needle-bed machine, per- ►



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textile-network.de features an abundance of other innovations on show at ITMA 2015 as well as the latest news about this major international event!

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► mitting the knitting of complex high-quality fabrics. Jeanologia from Valencia in Spain has been very successful with technology that takes air from the atmosphere and transforms it into nano-bubbles. These bubbles consume minimum amounts of water. They are then applied to the surface of jeans, for example, in an optimal and efficient way. "Water is over, air is the future" claims Jeanologia's slogan. Consuming less water is also the philosophy of the Italian company Tonello s.r.l., situated in

Sarcedo in the north of Italy. The family-owned company won two awards at ITMA for a new system that consumes less water and recycles any used water. Sustainability was a very important topic at ITMA 2015. Levi Strauss & Co., USA, was presented with the first ITMA Sustainable Innovation Award, the two other finalists are Berto Industria Tessile from Italy and Gebrüder Otto from Germany. Using the No-Stone garment washing technology from Tonello, Levi's

[1] Archroma likewise offered several sustainable solutions

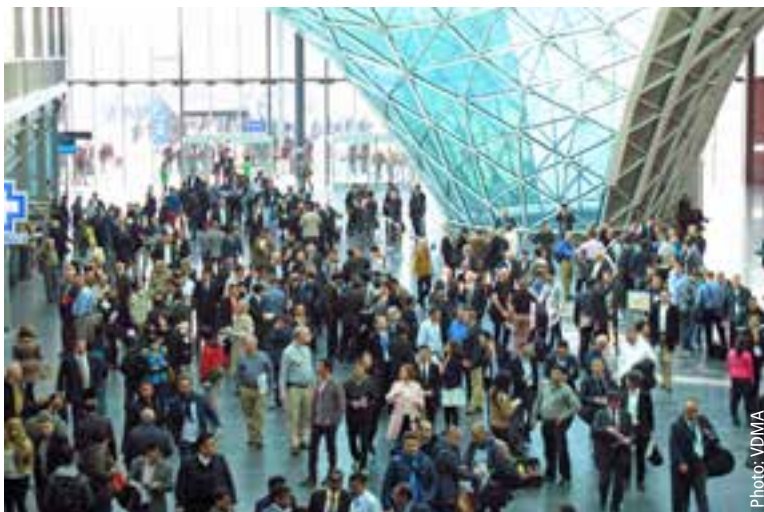
[2] Mayer & Cie. had an excellent year in 2015, producing and selling more machines than in any year in the last decade

[3] Avalanche Hexa from Kornit lives up to the expectations of the fashion and sportswear industry

has started preliminary development work at its facility in Plock, Poland. Tonello's technology has provided Levi Strauss with an important initial step towards solving an industrial challenge in denim finishing – the use of pumice stones which have environmental, economic and mechanical disadvantages. ITMA 2019 will take place from 20 to 26 June at the Fira de Barcelona Gran Via exhibition centre.

[[www.itma.com](http://www.itma.com)]

[Ingrid Sachsenmaier]



German engineering association VDMA Textile Machinery asked its members whether ITMA had been a success for their businesses. Read more online at [textile-network.com](http://textile-network.com)

tion". The visitor structure reflects that customers are more globally distributed again and the dependence on individual markets is decreasing. The comeback of many markets with a longstanding textile tradition is a positive sign for the years to come. "For us, especially visitors from Bangladesh, India, Mexico, Pakistan and Turkey showed high demand", said Heinrich Trützschler, member of the board of VDMA Textile Machinery and Managing Partner of Trützschler. Arno Gärtner, CEO, Karl Mayer Textilmaschinenfabrik added: "This year's ITMA exceeded all our expectations. We were very happy to welcome many international customers."

[[www.machines-for-textiles.com](http://www.machines-for-textiles.com)]

## VDMA

### Top marks for ITMA 2015

VDMA member companies are extremely satisfied with ITMA 2015 in Milan. 96 percent stated that both the quantity and the quality of visitors to their booths were good to very good. 87 percent evaluate the prospects for post exhibition business to be good to very good. These are the main results of a VDMA survey to which 53 exhibiting member companies responded. According to the VDMA survey, energy and material efficiency were the topics to

which customers showed the highest interest. Asked about energy efficiency 72 percent of the responding VDMA members said that it was a topic of high to very high interest for the customers. Material efficiency ranked number two in the list: 63 percent of the member companies evaluate it to be of high to very high interest for customers. VDMA and Blue Competence members fulfilled ITMA's performance promise "Master the Art of Sustainable Innova-

Booth Karl Mayer, ITMA 2015





Quality assurance along the textile chain

## Quality – what is it?

German machine technologies live up to the highest quality standards. But what exactly does quality mean and how important is it in the eyes of German engineering association VDMA? We spoke to Elgar Straub, Managing Director of VDMA Garment and Leather Technology.

**Textile Network:** Mr Straub, German mechanical engineering technologies meet the highest quality standards, but what does that actually mean?

**Elgar Straub:** We see it as achieving what is technically possible whilst considering the needs and wishes of our customers. In doing so, we naturally have to observe all legal requirements and the standards specified by the customer.

**Textile Network:** German sewing technology enjoys an excellent international reputation. Is any of it actually “Made in Germany”?

**Elgar Straub:** Yes, absolutely! Just think of names such as Strobel, Maier-Unitas, Frankl & Kirchner and Groz-Beckert. Companies like Dürkopp Adler and Pfaff also manufacture German sewing technologies. It's not so much who owns the company that counts, what's important is that the companies are steered from Germany, and that the technology is developed as well as produced here. This is certainly the case for all the firms I've just mentioned.

**Textile Network:** What in your view does perfect quality assurance look like along the textile chain?

**Elgar Straub:** Well, that varies from customer to customer. Perfect quality assurance very much depends on the technology used, but also on the customer's own quality assurance procedures.

**Textile Network:** To what extent does machine technology influence product quality?

**Elgar Straub:** Irrespective of any studies, it is quite clear that the machine technology has a substantial influence on the product quality. Nowadays, we generally have online access to the majority of machines, giving us the power to determine how the products are made.

**Textile Network:** Quality is held in high esteem within the industry – but do consumers take note of differences in quality? What is your impression?

**Elgar Straub:** We believe that quality has become more important again in recent years. Consumer knowledge about quality has improved, as has the image of quality in apparel production. One example is traceability from the fabrics and chemicals used right the way back to cotton production. The social aspects of clothing manufacturing have become more important for consumers. Even countries like Bangladesh are giving this factor greater priority.



Photo: VDMA

Elgar Straub, Managing Director of VDMA Garment and Leather Technology

**Textile Network:** Buzzwords such as digitalisation and networking are currently on everyone's lips. What expectations do you associate with the term Industry 4.0?

**Elgar Straub:** Primarily, we expect further improvements in quality. Industry 4.0 is all about enhancing flexibility in production to pave the way for top quality even in small production runs.

**Textile Network:** If you had one wish in the quality department, what would it be?

**Elgar Straub:** I'd like to see more high-quality products at retail.

Mr Straub, many thanks for talking to us.

The questions were asked by Iris Schlomski on behalf of textile network.

Part 2 of this year's series appears in our next issue: Quality and Öko-Tex, how do they fit?

German exports sewing and garment machines\*

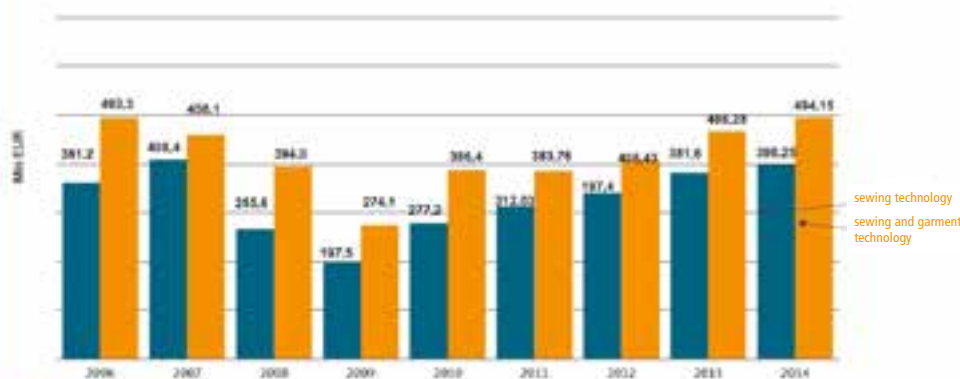


Photo: VDMA



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## What are the targets?

For some time now, textile network has been the official organ of the Federation IFWS/IFKT. In an interview with textile network, Bernd Meyers, member of the Board of the Swiss National Section talks about the purpose of the Federation and its visions for the future.

**Textile Network:** Mr Meyer, what exactly is the IFWS/IFKT?

**Berndt Meyer:** The IFKT International Federation of Knitting Technologists was established in 1956. It brings together trainees and practitioners from textile companies and research institutes, as well as teaching staff and students from colleges, universities and universities of applied science, thus offering a valuable platform for exchanging ideas and sharing knowledge. Going by the name of the IFKT International Federation of Knitting Technologists, it currently operates in 19 countries across two continents.

**Textile Network:** The Federation turns 60 in 2016...

**Berndt Meyer:** Yes, and despite the huge fundamental changes within the political, social and economic arena that the Federation has witnessed since its foundation, the cooperation across former and current borders has remained strong. During the Cold War, for example, cooperation still existed across the Iron Curtain but was intensified once the borders finally crumbled.



Photo: privat

Bernd Meyer has been a member of the IFKT since 1982, treasurer since 2005 and member of the overall board for the Swiss National Section since 2012. Throughout his long career he has shown great commitment to the textile industry and his expertise often called upon

**Textile Network:** What visions does the Federation have for the New Year?

**Berndt Meyer:** As ever, our main aim will be to focus on organising conferences, international congresses, visits and tours of interesting businesses and institutions with a view to disseminating knowledge about textiles and applications, whilst showing participants how to involve themselves in the creation of new products.

**Textile Network:** What benefits does the international nature of the Federation have for its members?

**Berndt Meyer:** We foster strong links between members for example by staging meetings at international trade fairs. Our international structure enables us to deal with current challenges more effectively.

**Textile Network:** Why should young talent from the textile field join the IFKT?

**Berndt Meyer:** Membership to the IFKT gives young people – before and during their training – the chance to participate in our expert events at a low cost. It enables them to ask questions about the fascinating world of textiles in a relaxed and casual setting. This opens up new opportunities to them to grow into and help shape the Federation's international network throughout their careers.

**Textile Network:** What activities are in the pipeline for 2016 and beyond?

**Berndt Meyer:** The Swiss and Austrian National Sections are joining forces to organise the Annual General Meeting and Conference in Spring 2016. This will be followed in June by the 48th international IFKT Congress in Mönchengladbach, which is being organised and staged this time by the German National Section. The Annual General Meeting and Conference of the German National Section is due to run in September 2016. In late autumn, the Swiss National Section is holding an event with a surprise programme to mark the '60th anniversary of the IFKT'.

Mr Meyer, many thanks for talking to us!

The questions were asked by Iris Schlömski on behalf of textile network. To read the unabridged interview go to [textile-network.com](http://textile-network.com)

### IFKT Swiss National Section – Annual end-of-year meeting 2015

On 4 December 2015 members of the Swiss and Austrian National Sections held an end-of-year meeting featuring two interesting site visits. The participants met at Traxler AG, in Bichelsee (CH). Company owner, Mr Rolf Traxler, outlined the century-old history of what is currently Switzerland's only remaining flat knitting business. The second half of the visit was spent at the Spinning Mill Museum in Neuthal. The premises of a disused textile business now accommodate a complete spinning mill boasting machines from every decade of the past century. The participants found the event extremely rewarding. The day was brought to a pleasant close over dinner and informal conversations.

For a more detailed report, go to [textile-network.com](http://textile-network.com)





INTERTEK, MEYER & MEYER, WKS

## A new approach

Intertek, a leading supplier of quality and safety solutions for a diversity of industries across the globe, logistics company Meyer & Meyer and textiles and apparel service company WKS are joining forces to cooperate more closely. By combining their services, the new partners will be able to cater to the entire textile supply chain. Meyer & Meyer and WKS will cover the logistics fields of transportation, customs, warehousing, picking and packing and distribution, ensuring that independent spot checks are carried out in their own logistics centres. Intertek will complement these processes with its portfolio of global services for compliance with social and environmental aspects in manufacturing countries. The company also provides training and qualifications for agents both in countries of provenance and target markets as well as quality controls, random sampling systems (AQL) and a variety of recognised physical and chemical laboratory tests. By collaborating in this way, all three companies are responding to the dynamically changing demands of their customers in the textile and apparel industry in terms of sourcing and quality assurance systems. For more background information visit [textile-network.de](http://textile-network.de)

[[www.intertek.de](http://www.intertek.de)]



LOGWIN

## More services in Poland

The logistics service provider Logwin has extended its sales office in Krakow. Logwin operational employees have also been based there since July, organising global air and sea freight transports for companies in the region. Increasing transport volumes, particularly in the area of exports, and Logwin's good client base prompted the company to optimise the services it offers its customers locally. The logistics specialist manages sea freight imports and exports primarily via the ports



Logwin has extended its sales office in Krakow and is now organising global air and sea freight transport from this site

## Poland – strong economy

Poland is seen as the model of economic success among the countries of Central Europe. Since the 1990s its economy has grown at an almost uninterrupted pace – even the euro crisis barely had an effect on Poland. Annual GDP growth of between 3.5 and 4 percent is forecast over the medium term. The reasons for the good economic situation are a large internal market with growing domestic demand, well-educated and highly motivated workers, a stable political environment, support through EU funding and special economic zones offering investors favourable conditions. The country's most important trading partner is Germany, accounting for over 26 percent of the country's exports and over 27 percent of its imports. Furthermore, many large German companies have their own production sites in Poland and ship from there internationally.

of Gdansk, Gdynia and Hamburg. The office in Krakow is connected with the entire world via the Logwin network, and the smooth operations of the global standardised IT system provide a high level of process transparency.

Krakow is an important, rapidly growing economic centre thanks to its central geographical location and well-educated population. The city in the south of Poland is also taking

on increasing importance for the logistics sector. Investment in infrastructure and special funding packages are creating incentives for many foreign companies to establish operations there. "In recent years we have built up close relationships with companies in the Krakow area and accompanied their growth," explains Bartosz Hruszka, Branch Manager in Krakow.

[[www.logwin-logistics.com](http://www.logwin-logistics.com)]



## Praxisnah > in Richtung Zukunft!

In der Fakultät Engineering im Studiengang „Textil- und Bekleidungstechnologie“ ist ab dem Sommersemester 2016 folgende Stelle zu besetzen:

### W2-Professur „Konstruktion, CAD und Produktentwicklung von Bekleidung und anderen textilen Produkten“

Gesucht wird eine Persönlichkeit, die in den oben genannten Bereichen langjährige Erfahrungen vorweisen kann. Es sollte die Bereitschaft bestehen, die Bereiche 3D-CAD, Simulation, Materialbeschaffung und digitale Prozessketten in der Textil- und Bekleidungstechnik auszubauen. Führungs- und Forschungserfahrung sind erwünscht.



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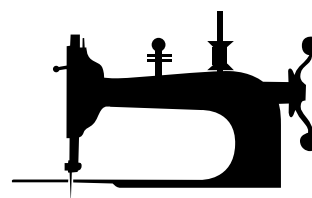
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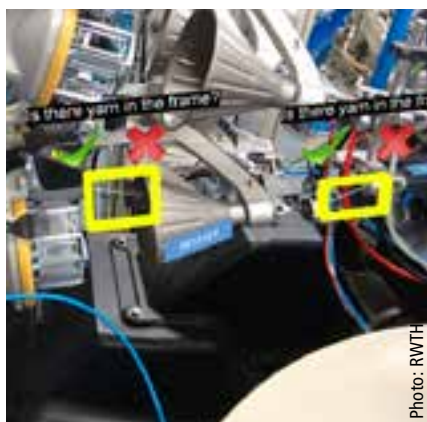
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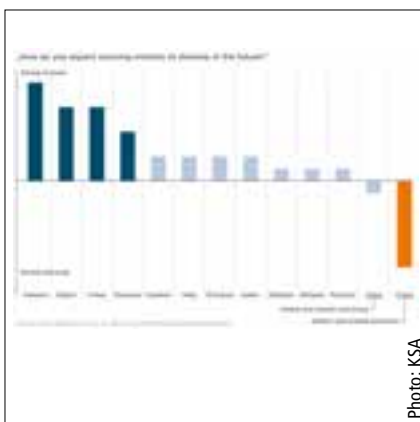
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The next issue of **textile**network will be published  
on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and these are some of our topics:



### Research: Weaving loom 4.0.

Textile production poses significant challenges for staff across all levels. New human-to-machine interfaces are assuming the role of assistance systems, providing older employees with the support they need to master new technologies and to guarantee that the knowledge of experienced staff is passed on to younger members. Technical support is helping staff to improve their knowledge and their ability to take a flexible approach to solving production problems. We report about a prototype for Augmented Reality (AR) assistance for weaving loom operators.



### Sourcing: the search for alternatives

The share of sourcing volumes from China to Europe has dwindled from a high of over 40 percent to just 32 percent today, a trend driven by rising wage costs and the strength of the Yuan. The cost benefits of the Far East over countries closer to Europe are slowly but surely melting away. Countries whose clothing exports are growing include Cambodia and Myanmar. The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the 'Kurt Salmon Global Sourcing Reference Study' sheds lights on current developments in textile and apparel sourcing in the world's 46 most important sourcing nations.



### Textile printing: the future is digital

In recent years, Miroglio Textile, one of Europe's biggest fabric printers, has been pressing on with its in-house restructuring, whilst setting new parameters in many areas and investing millions. The company, established in Alba, believes it is now on track to embrace the future, having set its sights on completing the full switch to digital printing in less than two years. The company in Castagnolo delle Lanze is confident that this can be achieved. In future, he sees scope for "printing on demand" and "printing via the internet" opening the doorway to B-to-C business.



### USA: Buhler Quality Yarns

Buhler Quality Yarns is a key supplier to the knitting trade in the Western Hemisphere. A division of Swiss-based Buhler, Jefferson, Ga. opened in 1996. Buhler has about 32,000 spindles and produces around 3,700 tonnes of yarn annually. The Georgia-based plant specialises in yarns made from Supima extra-long staple cotton, MicroModal Edelweiss and Micro Tencel, along with various blends. The company is considered to be the leading producer of fine-count yarns in the U.S. In the past, Buhler could count on long programme orders. It now faces a short order situation.



## 30 YEARS OF VDMD

### Anniversary celebrated in style

The VDMD, Association of German Fashion and Textile Designers, showed its innovative and creative side when hosting its 30th anniversary event on

12 November 2015. With more than 250 guests from industry, design, politics and the trade, this special occasion was celebrated in the Atrium of Deutsche Bank in Berlin. The team led by President René Lang, Vice-Presidents Iris Andre, Susan Wrschka and Suzana Wouda, and branch team Mara Michel, Regine Blättler and Gerd Ritzau succeeded in producing a fabulous and memorable event. VDMD's design ambassador and high-fashion designer Thomas Rath emphasised the importance of

promoting young talent, stressing that Germany can only sustain itself as a centre of fashion and culture if it takes its young people by the hand. This was impressively borne out by the Fashion Show and the big Show by VDMD label designers Heidi Beck, Verena Ebner von Eschenbach, Bernhard Hohmann, Caroline Klein, Ursula Laudien, Arosha Rosenberger, Petros S., Michael Spitzbarth, Angela Thiel-Entacher, with Renate Wohlfart and Christiane Wirth. In response, Christiane Arp, editor-in-chief of Vogue stated: ".....

If, here in Germany, the appreciation and support for fashion designed in Germany grows, the international awareness of German fashion will likewise improve. The VDMD is a strong network synonymous with powerful lobbying – in our role as a strong partner and promoter of Germany's fashion and textile designers, we're looking forward to working hand in hand as we move into the future together." Read our in-depth report on the anniversary event at [textile-network.com](http://textile-network.com)

[[www.vdmd.de](http://www.vdmd.de)]



Berlin-Impressions

Photos: Manfred Behrens



## EXHIBITION

### On bare skin

An interesting, cultural and historical excursion into the world of underwear is on show at the "Haus der Geschichte" museum in Stuttgart until 3rd of April 2016. The exhibition features items from Schiesser and Wilhelm Benger Söhne through

the ages. The exposition explores what three centuries of textiles tell us about societal trends, fashions and technical inventions of the day. What secrets does underwear reveal about the period in which they were created? The early bra, the classical fine-rib vest, red lacy lingerie? The show spotlights what we have been wearing next to our skin since 1875 and the impact intimate clothing has had on cinema and advertising. In the olden days, itchy underwear was deemed desirable to improve circulation and perfusion of the skin. After going into administration in 2009, Schiesser's administrator loaned a collection of more than 5,000 samples of underwear going back 135 years to the "Haus der Geschichte". This made it possible to preserve the underwear archive which is now at the heart of the exhibition.

#### Fun fact: Did you know that...

- ... in the early 20th century men used to wear pink vests?
- ... Swabian swimsuits from Wilhelm Benger Söhne were named after Ribana, the famous German film character Winnetou's girlfriend?
- ... football legend Uwe Seeler featured in adverts for Schiesser in 1970?
- ... swimsuits were still made of wool in the 1930s?



Photo: Haus der Geschichte

Schiesser, headquartered in Raddolfzell, Germany, used to be a central part of what was once a booming knitting industry. As visitors go round this worthwhile, educational and well assembled exhibition, they are likely to have several epiphanies. Stressing the historical significance of underwear, Museum Director Dr. Thomas Schnabel, states: "The textiles and clothing industry in Baden, Württemberg and Hohenzollern shaped the country's economic development for more than 100 years." It was not un-

til the 1950s that the mechanical engineering and automotive industries worked their way to the top.

Divided into five chapters, the exhibition retraces the history of underwear since the beginning of its industrial production in Württemberg und Baden. Featuring an interesting fringe programme, "Auf nackter Haut" ("On bare skin") runs in Stuttgart until 3rd of April 2016. An extensive catalogue has appeared alongside the exhibition.

[[www.hdgbw.de](http://www.hdgbw.de)]



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The brothers Wright take their first flight with an motorised aircraft.

**29th January 1886 › Motor vehicle**

Carl Benz applies a patent for his motor vehicle No. 1.



**10th March 1876 › Phone**

Alexander Graham Bell made the first phone call with his employee Watson.



**24th January 1876 › Sinkers**

Ernst Liebers starts with the industrial production of accessories for knitting machines.



**12th November 2015 › nano**

Michael Starke and Thomas Liebers introduce at ITMA / Milano **nano** for the first time.

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