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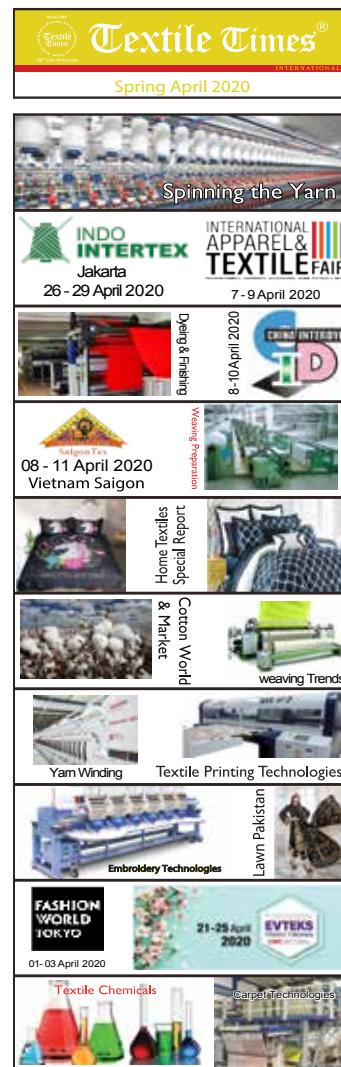
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Title Story



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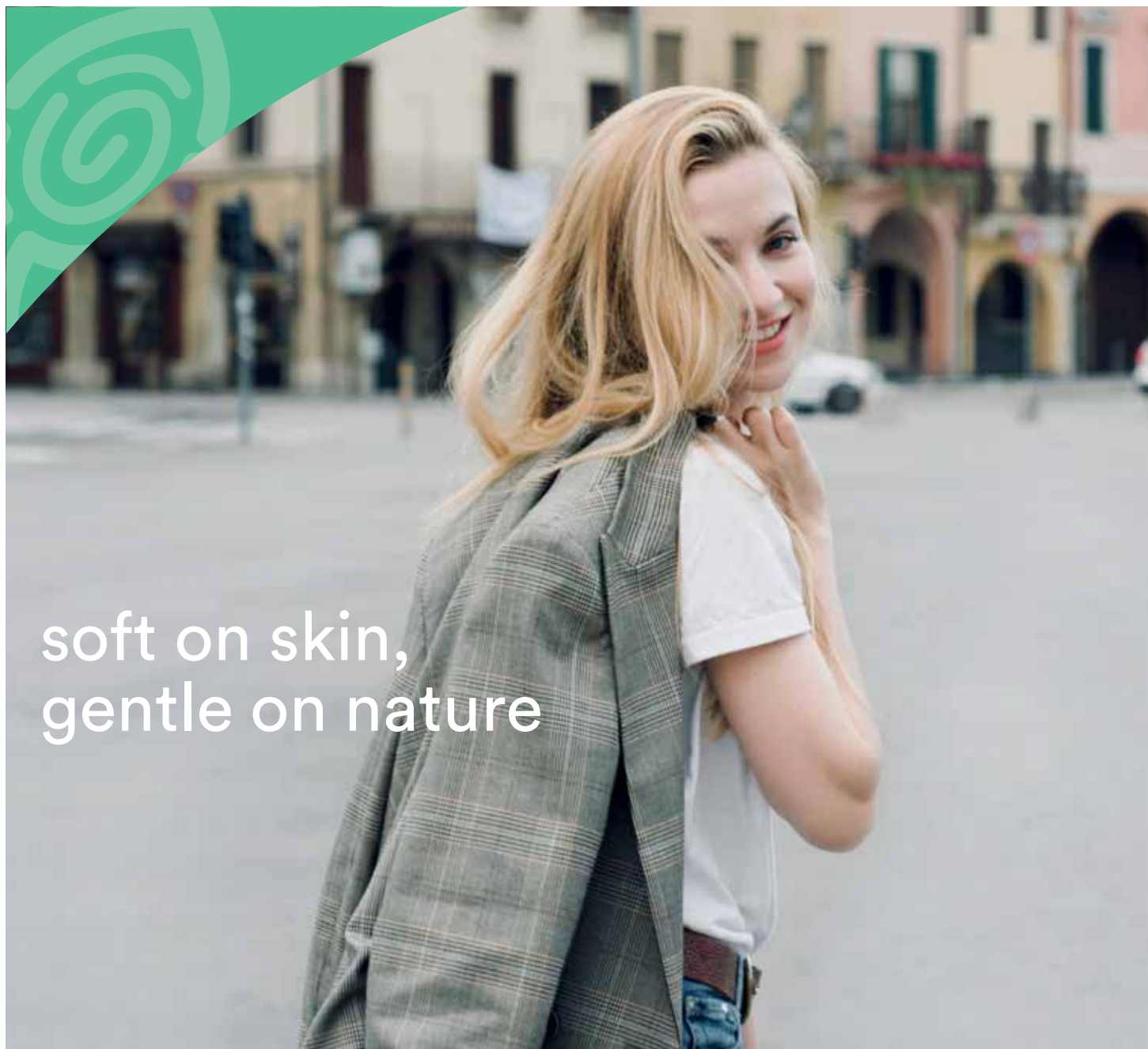
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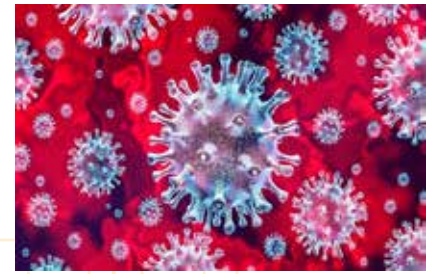
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editorial

Dear Readers,

The Coronacrisis is on everyone's mind. The virus will have a long-lasting effect on our lives. How long? How strong? These are questions no one can answer for the moment. Together, ITMF and IAF are launching a project to convey filtered information to their members with specific relevance to the industries.

Nobody knows how long the COVID-19 epidemic will last. If it does not become less contagious with the arrival of spring weather in the northern hemisphere, nervous populations around the world may have to wait until a vaccine is developed and rolled out. Another major variable is the effectiveness of public-health authorities, which are significantly less competent in many countries than they are in China.

In any case, factory closures and production suspensions are already disrupting global supply chains. Producers are taking steps to reduce their exposure to long-distance vulnerabilities. So far, at least, financial commentators have focused on cost calculations for particular sectors: automakers worried about shortages of parts; textile makers deprived of fabric; luxury-goods retailers starved of customers; and the tourism sector, where cruise ships, in particular, have become hotbeds of contagion.

Production disruptions would largely affect household goods, hi-tech goods and textile industries where China plays a core role in the global supply chain. Production disruptions in these industries would have an adverse effect on the global supply chain as companies would struggle to find alternative suppliers.

- Coronavirus forcing temporary factory closures, layoffs.
- Low-paid workers especially vulnerable to economic slowdown.
- Southeast Asian factories reliant on China, supply chains hit.
- Readymade garments are a mainstay of Bangladesh's economy, contributing almost 16% of national output and about \$34 billion worth of exports in the last fiscal year ending in June 2019.
- The corona virus outbreak is likely to be a nightmare for Italy's \$100 billion-plus fashion industry, says Carlo Capasa, the head of the National Chamber of Italian Fashion.
- Trump Sidelines Watchdog Tapped to Chair \$2.2 Trillion Corona virus Economic Rescue Package Oversight Board.
- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has included Pakistan in the list of 20 economies across the world that have been affected the most after China suffered slowdown because of novel corona virus.
- The affected value chain for Pakistan is textiles and apparel which amounts to \$44 million from a two per cent reduction of China exports in intermediate inputs.

- The most affected countries and regions are: the European Union followed by the United States, Taiwan, United Kingdom, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, Mexico, Switzerland, Malaysia and Thailand.
- Massive job losses and GDP cuts in store as H&M and other brands halt orders.

The trouble began in February with fabric supply shortages as the virus hit China's \$250 billion textile sector. But just as China restarted production -- giving garment factories hope of getting operations back on track -- demand collapsed as lockdowns around the globe forced retailers to shut their doors and populations to prioritize staples.

The crisis is hitting as the industry was already facing the prospect of globalization going into reverse as consumer concerns grow over labor standards and Western fashion brands consider relying more on shorter supply chains closer to home.

"How many companies do you think can survive long with zero cash flow? Even the most successful airlines in the world have announced they may go bankrupt without government assistance. That's what we are facing."

- Coronavirus Pushes the entire Textile and Fashion Industry to a Corner.
- EURATEX, the voice of the European textile and clothing industry, with its members shows that 80 per cent of companies are already laying off workers; and more than half of them expect a drop in sales and production by over 50 per cent, creating serious financial constraints. 1 out of 4 is considering closing down the company.
- Recent Eurostat data show that the European textile and clothing manufacturing went through a difficult year in 2019, despite good retail sales and export performances. Data for 2019 show an economic slowdown in Europe, with manufacturing remaining under pressure from Brexit and trade frictions. Figures for the textile and clothing (T&C) industry are in line with that general situation: employment declined with over 2 per cent, and the EU27 turnover evolution turned negative for the first time since 2012-2013 with a -2 per cent setback for textiles, and a -1.3 per cent for clothing, compared to 2018.

WASEEM J. KHAN
Editor in Chief

Global Textile & Clothing News



Pakistan's Rs 100-bn package to support industrial sector

Pakistan has offered up to Rs 100 billion in packages to the industrial sector to support companies during the crisis resulting from the COVID- 19 pandemic, according to adviser to prime minister for commerce and textile Abdul Razak Dawood, who recently said the government would offer incentives to the priority industrial sub-sectors for revival.

The government wanted to resolve the liquidity issue of industrial sector and drawback of local taxes and levies (DLTL) payments, pending since 2009, would be made, Dawood said. The government would also release a Technology Upgradation Fund amount worth Rs 30 billion to the industrial sector to help it come out of the current crisis, a news agency quoted the advisor as saying. A total of Rs 47 billion would be paid to the textiles sector in

the next 100 days to support the major exports sector, he said. The commerce ministry has also prepared a list of industries that could be reopened in the current situation, he added.

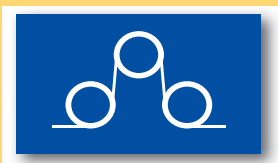
Gerber & Hardwire join hands to expand PPE production

Gerber has partnered with Hardwire, a manufacturer of protective armour, to produce face shields for medical professionals



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and first responders fighting COVID-19. With Gerber's agile and quick response, Hardwire is adding two new cutting machines and software to their existing multi-ply cutting systems, to produce tens of thousands of face shields per day.

"Within 24 hours of our first discussion with the Hardwire team, we had launched the production of the new machines. We have a dedicated team organised to rapidly respond to requests to expand PPE production at existing PPE manufacturers as well as convert apparel and other manufacturers to PPE production with the technology, support and services

they need," Mohit Uberoi, CEO of Gerber said in a press release.

"Without Gerber machines in our factory, there is no way we could have made multiple Face Shield PPE prototypes, fielded versions in the ICUs of two hospitals, optimised the design using comments from doctors and nurses, and scaled to more than 7,000 units per day in production in under a week. As we continue to increase toward 100,000 units per day to protect our front line nurses, doctors, caregivers, and first responders, Gerber will be central to our efforts. I have never felt more blessed by digital technology, a machine, and a company that works," George

Tunis, CEO of Hardwire said.

In order to maximise production, Hardwire is relying on the Gerber experts to successfully install two new Gerber Paragon multi-ply cutting solutions with CutWorks and added CutWorks to its existing machines in just a matter of weeks. Gerber's unmatched expertise and knowledgeable application specialists helped Hardwire optimise their workflow. Gerber's partnership with Hardwire will be ongoing as the manufacturer continues to produce face shields for those that need them.

Gerber has created a PPE task force to help companies increase their production or transition into



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producing PPE by sharing best practices, offering support, and providing resources such as pattern data, cut files, markers, and tech packs for masks, technical suits, gowns and caps as well as sign and graphics templates such as labels.

For the last two decades, Hardwire has manufactured armour systems for military, law enforcement, municipalities, private business, consumers, and school systems. The Maryland-based manufacturer is known for solving some of the most challenging military and defence problems having developed, tested, and fielded armour to protect against a variety of threats, ranging from small arms to improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to underbody blast.

Tukatech offers CAD solutions to make protective equipment

With the COVID-19 outbreak, Tukatech, an influential fashion technology, is providing its cloud-based CAD solutions to leading manufacturers making Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The companies continue to offer custom patterns and marker making services with dedicated staff to assist 24 hours/7 days a week all while working from home.

Many partners from the US, Italy, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and many other countries around the globe have manufactured over five million units of PPE supplies for their local communities.



“We are inspired by the apparel manufacturers who are pivoting their business to produce medical products. Tukatech is here to help by providing patterns for sewn medical products like face masks, hospital gowns, shoe covers, coveralls, blankets, or any other equipment that could help medical professionals in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic,” Chris Walia, chief operating officer of Tukatech said in a press release.

Many manufacturers are now in the front lines working with local hospitals, doctors, nurses and other essential service providers.

“Great to see that your offers to the volunteers and small things by each one could help the community in a big way, medical clothes and equipment has become the most important items in this prevailing situation and hope all who have big hearts will contribute with which ever possible ways to the uprising demands, your initiative

is greatly appreciated and will lead the manufacturing industry to help the need,” Nuwan Bandara, director of global – technical and systems of Indochine said.

At the request of the California Fashion Association (CFA), Ilse Metchek, founder of CFA and Tukatech are providing California apparel businesses with CAD cloud solutions including training and support at no cost to both customers and those using a competitor’s solution. Tukatech has loaned hundreds of temporary CAD licenses to colleges and universities around the globe so that while schools’ shut down, students can continue to work remotely and to learn pattern making, grading and marker making.

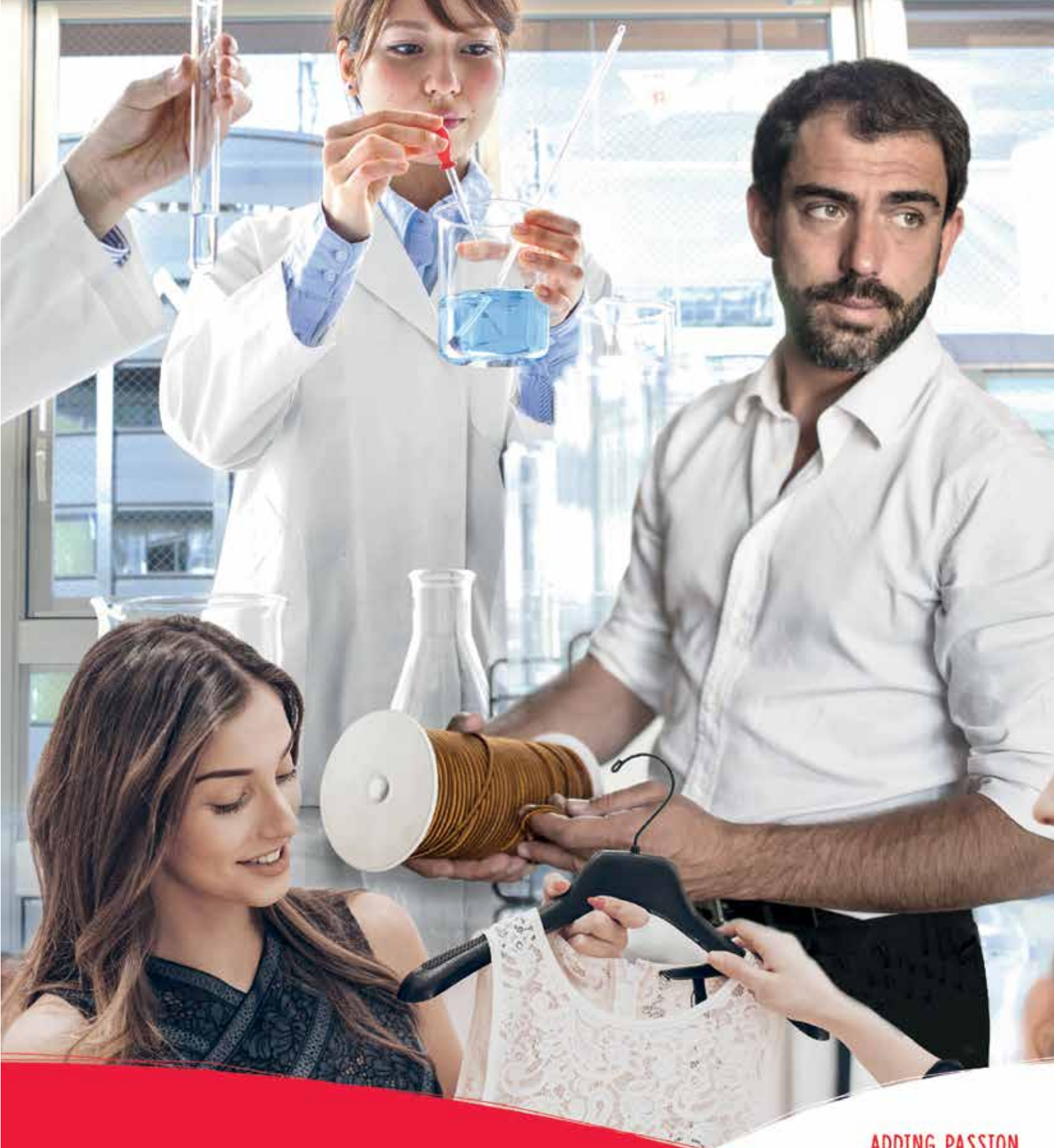
COVID-19 disrupting polyester yarn production in China

Costs of raw material for polyester



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have started moderating due to outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in China. This is impacting demand and production of polyester yarn in China, and thereby disrupting its supply chain. The current situation, along with abolition of anti-dumping duty on PTA, is likely to boost polyester yarn exports from India.

“Disruption in production of polyester yarn in China is likely to provide greater export opportunities to Indian polyester manufacturers. A quick assessment from credit

rating companies indicates that operating profits of polyester yarn manufacturers are set to rise by 15-20 per cent next fiscal because of a 150-200 basis points’ (bps) spurt in operating margins stemming from lower raw material prices, healthy demand for polyester and higher blending in garments and other products,” Madhu Sudhan Bhageria, CMD, Filatex India Ltd, told Fibre2Fashion.

India imported \$46.652 million of polyester yarn from China in 2018, which slightly decreased to \$45.728 million in 2019,

according to data from TexPro. On the other hand, India’s polyester yarn exports to China stood at \$2.878 million in 2018, and \$3.237 million in 2019.

Speaking about the benefit accrued due to the abolition of anti-dumping duty on purified terephthalic acid (PTA), a key raw material for synthetic textiles, in Union Budget 2020-21, Bhageria said, “The abolition of anti-dumping duty has changed the landscape of synthetic textile manufacturers. Indian textile industry has been stagnating



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despite slowdown in China. Reduction in PTA prices in India has created a level playing field for Indian manufacturers of polyester yarn, fibre and clothing.

The benefit of this reduction in import cost is being passed on to end users, which will help the country to enhance its global competitiveness, boost exports and enable domestic manufacturers to compete with cheaper imports.”

The UK finally leaving the European Union will also benefit Indian exporters, according to Shubhasis Sur, AGM-sales & marketing, Kusters Calico Machinery Pvt Ltd. «India is expected to be a preferred market

for sourcing of apparel products for buyers from the US, the UK, Europe and Canada as trade with China had been affected due to the novel coronavirus epidemic.

Besides, the UK’s exit from the EU would also give an edge to India. However, low cost non-branded garment trade in rural Bengal is a major victim since traders are fully dependent on import of Chinese goods. Chemical and dyestuff intermediate industry is also feeling the heat for shortage of raw materials.”

Japan offers ¥500-mn equipment grant to NTU, Faisalabad

Japan has extended a grant assistance worth ¥500 million in the form of equipment to the National Textile University (NTU) in Faisalabad under its Economic and Social Development Programme. Economic affairs secretary Syed Pervaiz Abbas and Japanese ambassador to Pakistan Matsuda Kuninori signed the grant-related documents in Islamabad last week.

Abbas said the assistance focuses on the needs of the country’s textile industry, which needs to upgrade its supply chain, improve productivity and maximise value-addition to survive.



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The Japanese ambassador committed continued support to Pakistan from his country to maximise the South Asian nation's potential in areas with comparative advantage like the textile sector, according to Pakistani media reports.

EU approves another GSP+ status for Pakistan till 2022

The European Union (EU) has approved Pakistan for another generalised scheme of preferences plus (GSP+) status till 2022, which implies the latter can export goods to Europe without application of regular duties. Adviser to prime minister for commerce, industry and investment Abdul Razak Dawood announced the development in a tweet last week. The decision had been under consideration since the third biennial assessment of GSP+ was published on February 10. Pakistan first received the GSP+ status in 2014. "This would strengthen our resolve to continue to improve the social and economic conditions of our people. I urge the business community to diversify their exports to capitalise on this opportunity to the optimum," Dawood wrote.

The assessment underscores 27 conventions for international trade, including steps about climate change and improved vigilance against crime and narcotics. Compliance with these steps ensures that countries enjoy

the GSP+ benefits. According to the EU report, Pakistan did well on the 27 international conventions. Since 2014, Pakistan's exports to the EU have soared by 65 per cent, from €4.538 billion in 2013 to €7.492 billion in 2019. The sectors to avail the most benefit out of the tariff concessions were textile and garments. For Pakistan, the EU's GSP+ status means full removal of tariffs on over 66 per cent of product categories for exports to the EU.

Pak govt advisor calls for strategy to tackle virus impact

Advisor to Pakistani prime minister on finance and revenue Abdul Hafeez Shaikh recently

stressed the need to evolve a national strategy with joint efforts of federal and provincial governments and other institutions to cover up the losses due to the COVID-19 outbreak. He vowed to take special measures to maintain the progress made in macro economic indicators.

The pandemic may result in negative growth for the country's exports sector, Pakistani media reports quoted him as saying. The government wants to offer incentive packages to stabilise the economy and small and medium enterprises, he said.

Assuring that the country's economy has not been badly hit by the pandemic, he said the



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government has informed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) about new measures being taken for traders and exporters who suffered losses due to the outbreak. The government has also approached Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, which have agreed to provide support on easy terms and conditions, he added.

WRAP's £1.5-mn grant fund to support textiles projects

The Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP), a UK-

registered charity organisation, is offering £1.5 million in grants to support projects that provide innovative ways for textile waste to be recycled or re-used, keeping it out of landfill or incineration so that it remains a valuable resource.

The money is part of the department for environment, food and rural affairs' £18 million Resource Action Fund, set up to support key priority policy areas.

WRAP works with governments, businesses and citizens to create a world in which we source and use resources sustainably.

The grants, of between £20,000 and £170,000, are available to organisations of any size, both commercial and not-for-profit. The money is for capital expenditure only; either for equipment or technologies (excluding software and apps) that enable recycling or re-use of clothing or linen waste textiles.

Each project will require match funding: 10 per cent from not-for-profit and 50 per cent from commercial organisations. Successful projects will need to demonstrate

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‘innovation beyond normal practice’ and will be assessed against a number of criteria, WRAP said in a press release.

Increased textiles collection and reprocessing is required in the United Kingdom to help deliver the Resource and Waste Strategy (R&WS) and the Circular Economy Package (CEP) objectives. Existing markets for recycled textiles are small scale and traditional, with little innovation or growth potential.

To meet the requirement for separate collections of textiles by 2025, new processes and markets need to be found, to avoid separately collected items simply being discarded. In addition, feedback from the textiles recycling sector suggests that export markets may diminish over time as other countries increase their exports of used textiles.

The aim of this grant fund is to address the need for increased capacity, sorting, handling, and reprocessing textiles from municipal sources, WRAP added.

Sciessent’s antimicrobial being used in N95 masks

FDA-cleared N95 respirator masks, the type most in-demand in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, are now being produced using Agion antimicrobial (AM) by Sciessent, a US-based provider of antimicrobial (AM) solutions

based on naturally occurring elements. Over 3 million such masks have already been delivered to healthcare facilities worldwide. The Nexera SpectraShield surgical respirator was cleared by NIOSH and received an updated 510(k) from the Food and Drug Administration in 2015 with approved claims to inactivate viruses by 99.99 per cent in five minutes and kill 99.99 per cent of bacteria in one hour. It has also been cleared in Canada and the European Union.

“Following the viral outbreaks of the early 2000s, Sciessent engaged with university researchers, industry partners and government organisations to investigate the ability of Agion to inactivate viruses,” said Paul Ford, CEO, Sciessent.

“Once Agion AM’s anti-viral efficacy was proven, Sciessent worked with Foss Performance Materials to develop a polyester fibre, named Fossshield, with Agion AM embedded into the FPM fibre itself. The FPM media was then manufactured into N95 respirator masks sold by Nexera Medical.” The Nexera mask is constructed from two layers of FPM nonwoven textile with a filtration membrane between them. Agion AM is in the FPM nonwoven textile in both the inner and outer surface of the Nexera mask.

“We chose the Agion AM solution first and foremost for its

efficacy, which when combined with FPM’s nonwoven design expertise, results in a mask sold by Nexera Medical and others that provides extraordinary protection to those on the front lines of virus response,” said Steve Polston, president, Nonwovens for Foss Performance Materials.

“In addition, Sciessent leveraged their deep bench of expertise in the medical device market to provide support to FPMs throughout product development and the FDA approval process, which proved key to Nexera receiving approvals.”

The Agion antimicrobial is presently registered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as a preservative and bacteriostatic agent for use in treated articles.

The Agion antimicrobial is also used in medical devices under the Food and Drug Administration. Those medical device claims are based on safety and efficacy testing and are limited to those approved by FDA.



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WTO members discuss use of virtual platforms during COVID-19 lockdown

At a virtual meeting of all WTO members on 17 April, over 50 delegation heads took the floor to exchange views on the use of online discussions and written procedures to continue WTO work and decision-making during the COVID-19 lockdown. Director-General Roberto Azevêdo also used the informal session to urge

members to submit information about pandemic-related trade measures to the WTO Secretariat's ongoing monitoring exercise.

Performance Days April show cancelled due to COVID-19

Design & Development, event organiser of the Performance Days trade fair for functional fabrics

and materials, has cancelled the April event in Germany. There will not be a postponement of the functional fabrics and materials trade fair to a later date in the first half of the year, with the protection of visitors and exhibitors being the priority.

Instead, the fair is working flat



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out to create digital alternatives to ensure that customers, and the entire sports and textile industry can still be informed about the latest fabric trends and innovations in terms of function, fashion and sustainability for the summer 2022 season

Although the current ban on events in Germany does not include the fair date, the fair organisers wish to emphasise that the health of exhibitors and visitors remains the top priority.

Additionally, with travel bans and many restrictive measures in place to avoid the spread of the virus, holding Performance Days in April 2020 would not be justifiable towards the globally based customers also from an economic perspective. After extensive monitoring of the COVID-19 virus pandemic and conscientious consideration of alternatives, such as postponing the fair to a later date in the summer, and in close exchange with exhibitors and attendees, the fair team has now decided, with a heavy heart, to cancel the fair for what would have been the kick-off of the fabrics for the summer 2022 season, according to a press release on the show.

“The safety and health of our visitors and exhibitors is given

our top priority. Even though the current event ban in Bavaria only applies until April 19, 2020, we would like to help in curtailing the spread of the corona virus beyond that date. In view of the current uncertain situation, in which new short-term decisions have to be taken to protect the health of everyone, we believe it makes sense not to postpone the event to a later date either, but to send a clear signal that we are acting far-sightedly and responsibly by cancelling the trade fair for the summer 2022 kick-off,” general manager Marco Weichert of the show said.

Nevertheless, in order to keep the industry informed on the latest trends of exhibitors, all departments are currently working flat out on digital solutions. As around 1000 new fabrics and ingredients from exhibitors for summer 2022 have been made available to the fair headquarters, it is planned to present these trends in digital form in the next few weeks.

“We treasure the good, close, and intensive contact with our exhibitors dearly, some of whom have been working together with us since the fair was founded ten years ago. Such close partnerships are faced with challenges in adverse times. We will be working

hard to prepare the presentation of exhibitor trends in virtual form in order to inform the industry, and to support our partners”, Lisa Lechner, senior project manager of the show said.

Messe Frankfurt announces changes to its postponed Intertextile Shanghai and Yarn Expo fairs

Originally scheduled to take place in March, Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics – Spring Edition, Yarn Expo Spring and Intertextile Shanghai Home Textiles – Spring Edition were postponed over concerns surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak. Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics and Yarn Expo will now merge with Intertextile Shenzhen Apparel Fabrics and the debut Yarn Expo Shenzhen, which will be held from 15 – 17 July 2020, with exhibitors of the Shanghai fairs given the option to participate in the Shenzhen editions instead.

Exhibitors of Intertextile Shanghai Home Textiles – Spring Edition have the option to partake in the Autumn Edition instead, which will be held from 24 – 26 August 2020.

Ms Wendy Wen, Senior General Manager of Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd, said: “Since the announcement of the postponement, it was



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always our intention to hold the Shanghai editions of each fair this year. However, it is with regret that this is no longer logistically possible due to the worldwide spread of the virus.

Given the importance of these fairs to the global textile sector, and our desire to support the industry's efforts to return to normal as quickly as possible, we will now offer a platform for our exhibitors to present their spring / summer 2021, as well as autumn / winter 2021-22, collections at

Intertextile Shenzhen instead.

2020 marks the first edition of the newly rebranded Intertextile Shenzhen Apparel Fabrics (formerly Intertextile Pavilion Shenzhen), as well as the debut edition of Yarn Expo in Shenzhen. The fairs will take place in the brand-new Shenzhen World Exhibition and Convention Center.

“This replication of the successful Shanghai model in Shenzhen for the first time in 2020, provides us with the perfect platform to integrate the offerings of Intertextile Shanghai,” Ms Wen continued.

“Shenzhen is the fashion capital of China. Many established and up-and-coming fashion brands are

based there, while the city is also in close proximity to a number of textile manufacturing clusters in surrounding provinces, and the sourcing offices of many global brands in Hong Kong. We will announce more details of what will be on offer for exhibitors and buyers at Intertextile Shenzhen in due course.”

Intertextile Shenzhen Apparel Fabrics

Intertextile Shenzhen Apparel Fabrics will take place from 15 – 17 July, with an estimated 2,000+ exhibitors (2019: 1,065 exhibitors) expected to join a space of 60,000 sqm. In addition to being held with the first Shenzhen edition of Yarn Expo, CHIC and PH Value will also take place concurrently.

Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics – Autumn Edition and Yarn Expo Autumn

The Autumn Editions will take place from 23 – 25 September at the National Exhibition and Convention Center in Shanghai. In 2019, the Autumn Edition of Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics saw 4,422 exhibitors from 33 countries and regions, along with 89,662 trade buyers from 120 countries and regions. Yarn Expo Autumn 2019 welcomed 543 exhibitors from 14 countries and regions, and 19,155 trade buyers

from 93 countries and regions. The fairs will be held concurrently with CHIC and PH Value.

Intertextile Shanghai Home Textiles – Autumn Edition

The Autumn Edition is Asia's leading international business platform for the home and contract textiles sector. The 2019 edition featured 1,147 exhibitors from 27 countries and regions, and 35,390 trade buyers from 117 countries and regions. The Autumn Edition of this fair is due to take place from 24 – 26 August 2020. Intertextile Shenzhen Apparel Fabrics and Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics are co-organised by Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd; the Sub-Council of Textile Industry, CCPIT; and the China Textile Information Centre.

The co-organisers of Yarn Expo Shenzhen and Yarn Expo Autumn are Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd and the Sub-Council of Textile Industry, CCPIT. Intertextile Shanghai Home Textiles is co-organised by Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd; the Sub-Council of Textile Industry, CCPIT; and the China Home Textile Association (CHTA).

Exhibitors or visitors with any queries about the textile fairs should email textile@hongkong.messefrankfurt.com.



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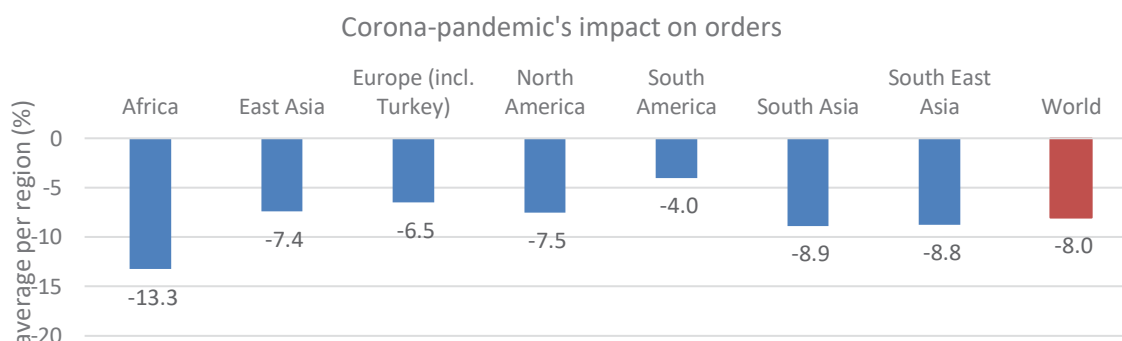
ITMF PRESS RELEASE I

ITMF-Survey about the impact of the Corona-pandemic on the global textile industry Between March 13-25, 2020, ITMF has conducted a survey among ITMF Members about the impact the Corona-pandemic had on the global textile value chain, especially on current orders and expected turnover in 2020. In total 34 companies from around the world participated in addition to two national textile associations with several hundred participants.

The results show that on average companies in all regions of the world suffered significant numbers of cancellations and/or postponements. On world average, current orders dropped by -8.0%. The decrease in orders ranges from -4.0% in South America to -13.3% in Africa.

Worldwide, expected turnover 2020 vs. 2019 is down by -10.5%

The results show that on average companies in all regions are expecting their turnovers in 2020 to be significantly lower than in 2019. On world average, the turnover in 2020 is expected to be -10.5% lower than in 2019. While in North America the expected plunge will be on average -7.5%, companies in Europe are expecting a drop of -17.5%. It is important to note that two factors played an important role in the survey that are also interconnected with each other. These are geography and time. Those companies and country organisations that had replied early (between March 13-16) and reported about additional orders were not (yet) directly or indirectly effected by the Corona-pandemic. With other words,



Source: ITMF Survey (March 13-25, 2020)

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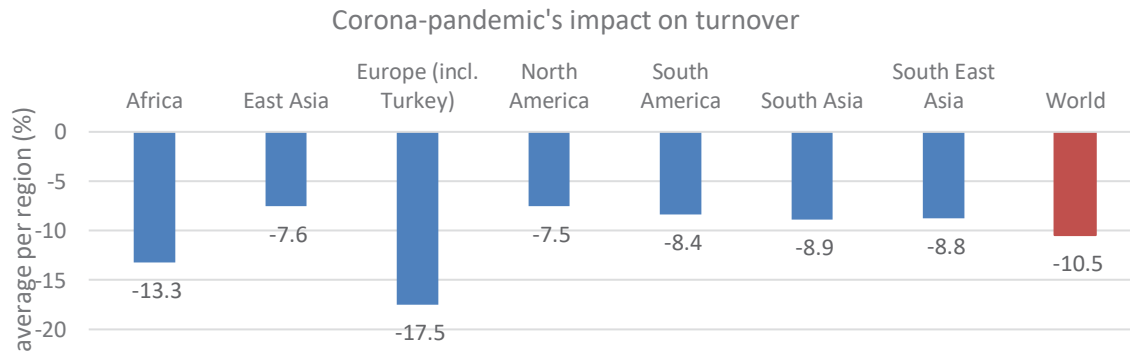
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Source: ITMF Survey (March 13-25, 2020)

these companies and organisations were neither affected by a Corona-epidemic in their own country, nor were their customers (mainly in Europe and North America). The later replies were received (from March 17 onwards), the more negative were the answers across all regions. It can be assumed that the fact that after March 16 more and more governments in Europe and North America introduced almost daily new regulations that were restricting public and business life (e.g. closing of kindergartens, schools, universities, shops, bars, cinemas, museums, sport facilities, ski resorts, borders, etc.) was crucial. With all these restrictions in place 'offline' consumption of textiles and apparel in retail shops, departments stores, outlets stores, etc. dropped dramatically. This seems to have led brands and retailers across the board to cancel and/or postpone orders significantly.

On the question of the main challenges companies are facing, companies around

the world highlighted the following.

- safety and health of the workers and staff; disrupted supply chains, especially in connection with supplies from China;
- lack or delay in supply in the apparel industry;
- lack of demand or the fear that demand will drop significantly;
- lack of liquidity.

With regard to opportunities, companies also mentioned:

- streamlining their internal processes during the crisis will make them emerge stronger;
- companies producing fibres, yarns, fabrics and end-products with health care and protection function will see new opportunities.

The results of the second survey for the period March 28 until April 3 on the impact of the Corona-pandemic on the global textile industry will be released on April 6.

ITMF PRESS RELEASE II

2nd ITMF-Survey about the Impact of the Corona-Pandemic on the Global Textile Industry

Between March 28-April 6, 2020, ITMF has conducted a second survey among ITMF Members and affiliated companies and associations about the impact the Corona-pandemic on the global textile value chain, especially on current orders and expected turnover in 2020. In total 700 companies from around the world participated.

Worldwide, current orders are down by -31% on average

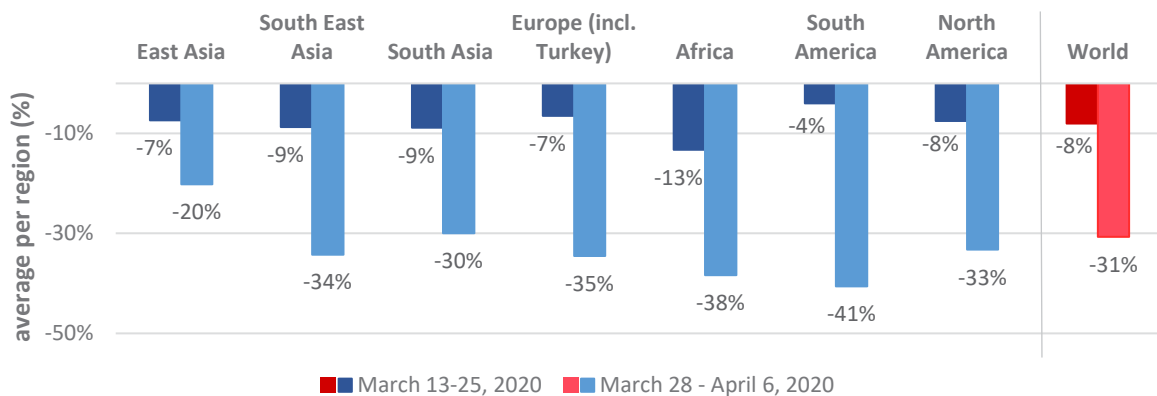
The results show that companies in all regions of the world suffered significant numbers of cancellations and/or postponements of orders. Globally,

current orders dropped by -31% on average. The severity of the decrease ranges from -20.0% in East Asia to -41% in South America.

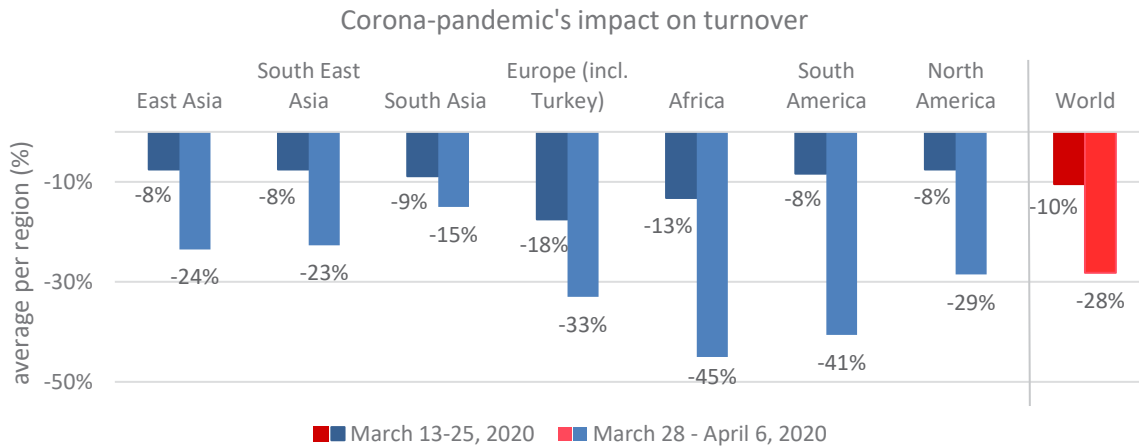
Worldwide, expected turnover 2020 vs. 2019 is down by -28% on average

The results show that companies in all regions of the world are expecting their turnovers in 2020 to be significantly lower than in 2019. On world average, the turnover in 2020 is expected to be -28% lower than in 2019. While in South Asia the expected turnover will fall by -15%, companies in Africa are expecting a drop of -45%.

Only three weeks ago, some regions were not fully affected by the Corona-pandemic. The new numbers on orders



Source: ITMF Survey (March 28-April 6, 2020)



Source: ITMF Survey (March 13-25, 2020)

and turnover reveal the dramatic extent this demand shock has on the textile industry around the world.

The uncertainty about the duration of the crisis weighs heavily on the industry.

Challenges: Lack of demand and liquidity – Opportunities: Medical textile products

Companies around the world highlighted the following main challenges:

- lack of current demand and/or fear that future demand will drop

significantly

- lack of liquidity

They mentioned the following main opportunities:

- companies producing fibres, yarns, fabrics and end-products with health care and protection functions will see new opportunities.

The results of the 3rd ITMF Corona-Survey about the impact of the Corona-pandemic on the global textile industry will be released on April 23rd, 2020.



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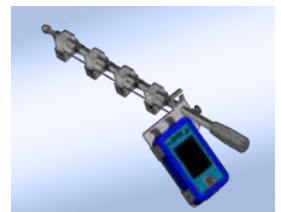
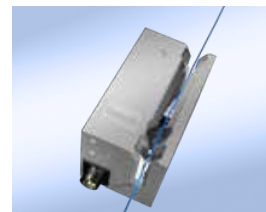
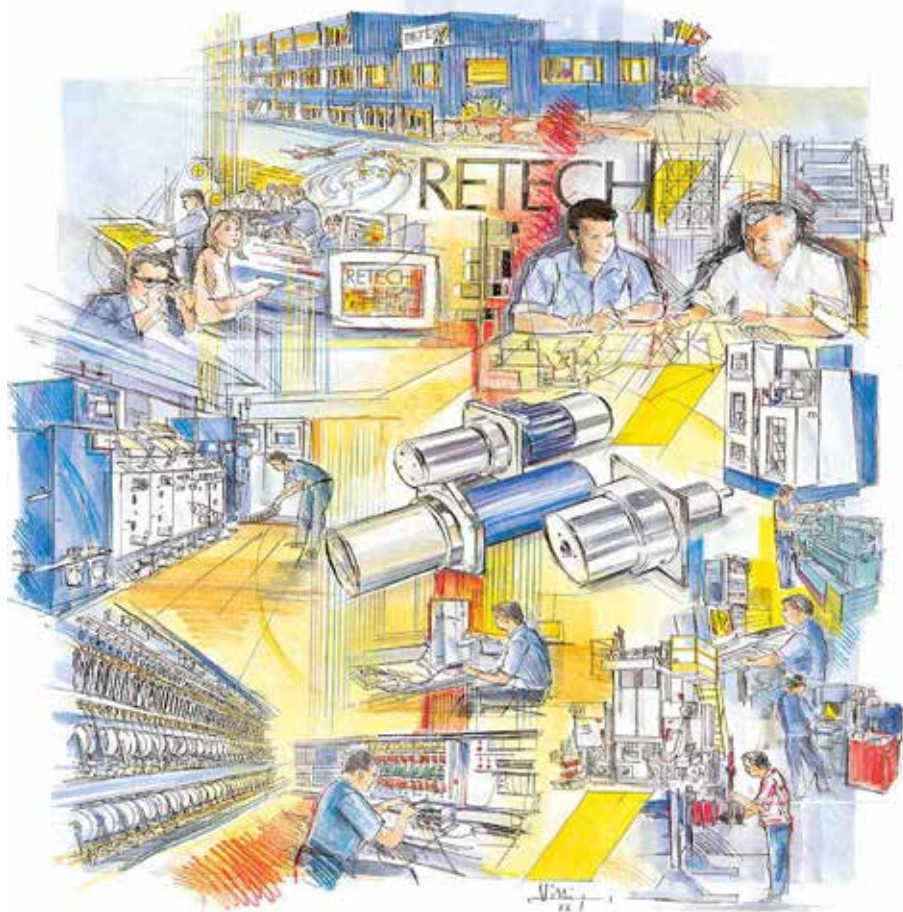
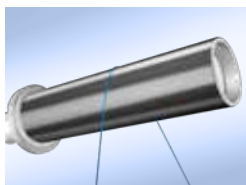
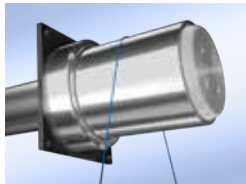
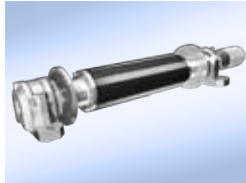
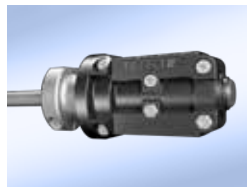
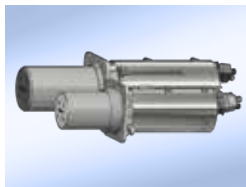
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Lenzing suspends 2020 guidance due to COVID-19 crisis

As a result of global COVID-19 crisis, Lenzing expects a negative impact on its textile sales volume. The potential impact cannot yet be estimated as it strongly depends on duration of crisis as well as its further effects on global economy & textile markets. Thus, Lenzing has suspended its result forecast for 2020 as it expects it to be below level of 2019.

In order to mitigate a potentially stronger than expected decline in earnings, Lenzing has already started to implement cost saving measures across its sites globally.

The Lenzing Group stands for ecologically responsible production of specialty fibres made from the renewable raw material wood. As an innovation leader, Lenzing is a partner of global textile and nonwoven manufacturers and drives many new technological developments.

The Lenzing Group's high-quality fibers form the basis for a variety of textile applications ranging from elegant ladies clothing to versatile denims and high-performance sports clothing. Due to their consistent high quality, their biodegradability

and compostability Lenzing fibres are also highly suitable for hygiene products and agricultural applications.

The business model of the Lenzing Group goes far beyond that of a traditional fibre producer. Together with its customers and partners, Lenzing develops innovative products along the value chain, creating added value for consumers. The Lenzing Group strives for the efficient utilization and processing of all raw materials and offers solutions to help redirect the textile sector towards a closed-loop economy.



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Indorama gets Thailand's sustainability-linked ninja loan

Indorama Ventures, a global chemical producer, has successfully completed Thailand's first ever cross-border sustainability-linked ninja loan. The company, which is headquartered in Bangkok, Thailand, is one of the world's leading petrochemicals producers, with a global manufacturing footprint across Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, and Americas.

The syndicated loan of \$255 million with five year bullet maturity, comprises of 16 Japan based banks and institutions is structured with linkage with the sustainability performance of Indorama Ventures and have a mechanism to adjust to lower interest rate based on the company's

ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) score, according to a press release by the company.

Mizuho bank, one of the largest banks from Japan, is the arranger of this syndicated cross-border sustainability-linked ninja loan. The loan proceeds will be primarily used for refinancing and will not increase the overall debt.

"We are proud to be the first Thai company to obtain this sustainability-linked ninja loan. Following Thailand's first ever green loan funded by Mizuho bank last year, we believe that our sustainability performance and PET recycling initiatives have been recognised. The company's financial strategy focuses on

diversification of the funding base with access to different financial markets, extending maturity profile, and optimising cost of financing. The sustainability-linked ninja loan has favourable financing terms and will help lower overall borrowing costs," Sanjay Ahuja, chief financial officer at Indorama Ventures said.

"I would like to thank Mizuho and all 16 banks and financial institutions who have come together to offer this sustainability-linked ninja loan. Indorama Ventures is committed to continuously developing itself to improve our value for all stakeholders over the long run," Ahuja said.



Reifenhäuser converts own meltblown lines, seeks face mask manufacturers

The German machinery and plant manufacturer Reifenhäuser Reicofil has temporarily converted two of its test plants due to the corona pandemic. The lines installed in the nonwovens technology centre, which are otherwise exclusively used for

research and development as well as customer trials, have been producing meltblown material for the production of urgently needed face masks for one week. This is the company's response to the current emergency in the supply of medical protective material.

Dr. Bernd Kunze, CEO of Reifenhäuser Reicofil, explains the decision: "We have considered what contribution we can make in this crisis. This is of course mainly the fast delivery of meltblown lines to build up additional capacities. We have drastically reduced our



delivery times here. But we also wanted to provide support at shorter notice. Until the currently lacking capacities are built up, we are therefore stepping in with the test plants in our pilot plant station. Not using this capacity now would be irresponsible in our view."

Until further notice, the meltblown lines will be operated in 4-shift operation 24/7. The daily output is sufficient for up to one million face masks. Trial operations will be almost completely suspended during this period. For Michael Maas, who is responsible for the

test plant, this is not a problem. "Due to the corona pandemic, the customer visits and tests that were actually planned have increasingly been cancelled, so that plant capacities and personnel capacities have been freed up anyway. Switching the plant from test to



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production operation therefore makes double sense,” Mr Maas says.

The meltblown material from the nonwoven technology centre is already sold out for the next five weeks. As no German or European producer for further processing could be found so far, the nonwoven fabric is going to a Vietnamese manufacturer of face

masks. However, Reifenhäuser continues to look for opportunities to strengthen local supply during this crisis. The company is in close contact with associations, authorities and other companies.

Dr. Kunze explains that material for other medical protective clothing could also be produced at short notice. “We assume that protective suits, hoods, etc. will

also become scarce. We are happy to offer our help here as well. One of our pilot lines can produce the corresponding material, an SMS nonwoven, in the highest quality at short notice. In the medium term, however, we should also expand the real production capacities in Germany or Europe with new plants here as well,” he says.

Anglo Recycling to deliver nonwoven mats for growing herbs

Anglo Recycling Technology is on course to deliver about a million of its special nonwoven mats for hydroponically growing herbs to a major customer in Middle East this year. The Growfelt-branded products arose from discovery by Anglo Recycling's owner Simon Macaulay that the retail supplier of salads, Vitacress, used nonwoven felts on which to grow its cress.

“I drove down to see the company's production manager, Chris Moncrieff, and discovered they were indeed growing cress on felts, but they were made from virgin materials and he liked the idea of maybe using a blend of virgin fibre offcuts of cotton, wool and polypropylene,” said Macaulay. “That's how Growfelt was born. For the first six years we supplied exclusively to Vitacress

and in return they helped us to bring our factory up to food grade standard and to set in place a testing regime for Salmonella E-Coli coliforms and listeria.”

In recent years, however, Anglo Recycling, which is based in Whitworth, near Rochdale in the UK, has significantly broadened its customer base. It now offers a core of three growing media products to meet the differing needs of customers across Europe, the Middle East and the Far East, whether for retail presentation and appearance or for water holding.

“As we continue to expand our customer base, we are constantly being set new challenges,” said the company's managing director Andy Hall. “A customer in the Philippines, for example, wanted a mat 10mm thick, since the ambient temperature in that region demands increased water availability for growing herbs.



Our customer in the Middle East is meanwhile seeing the demand for fresh salads increasing significantly and is expanding so rapidly orders have grown from 360,000 pads for all of 2017 to this latest order at the start of 2020 for a million."

"We're also undertaking trials to find a fully biodegradable product that meets micro and growth challenges but also allows customers to reduce their landfill costs," added Macaulay. "It's not proving easy, but we're sure we'll solve it. There's already a pretty

convincing sustainable argument, with our Growfelt pads allowing herbs for salads to be grown and sourced locally, rather than being flown in from the other side of the world."

Covid-19 spikes demand for surgical & face masks



The continuing novel coronavirus (Covid-19) scare the world over has resulted in high demand for surgical and face masks. There is also a steep rise in the price of the masks, along with a spike in raw material prices. Manufacturing companies are now working round the clock to cater to the rising demand for disposable masks in India and the world.

Seeing the huge demand-supply gap, many manufacturing units are investing in setting up additional machineries in their factories for producing masks from nonwoven fabric.

"Demand is too high; our workers are working day in day out to meet the demand. With our current manufacturing capacity, we can produce 2,40,000 masks every alternate day. We are also working on increasing our capacity by setting up another manufacturing machine, and with the installation of new unit we will be able to produce 3,60,000 masks every alternate day and hopefully we can contribute somewhat to fulfil demand in such a situation," a Delhi-based manufacturer, who supplies to the international market, told Fibre2Fashion on condition of anonymity.

Krunal Patel, MD of DNP Enterprise, an Ahmedabad-based surgical products manufacturer who exports to places like Singapore and Malaysia, said: "Right now we are not able to meet the demand of surgical masks, as we don't have that large-scale capacity to manufacture it. At present time, we are focused to supply to our routine customers. We have pending orders for next 8-11 months."

"We are not taking any further orders for face masks, as we are running out of supply for the same. Everyday there are several queries and requirements from clients across India. We are receiving bulk orders for masks, but we are not getting any supply from our manufacturers to cater to the demand," lamented a spokesperson from disposable face masks trader Arctelic Inc.

"Today morning we received supply of 100 masks, and within couple of hours all were sold. Even the prices have gone up for the same," said a medical shop owner in Ahmedabad.



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Reifenhäuser converts own meltblown lines, seeks face mask manufacturers



Valmet and Fabio Perini have entered into an industrial internet ecosystem partnership to strengthen collaboration in the tissue industry. This will allow tissue producers to work efficiently, and to exchange knowledge and resources for the benefit of their customers. Fabio Perini is specialised in the production of machinery, lines, and integrated systems.

The partnership combines Valmet's comprehensive tissue

making technology and process optimisation know-how with Fabio Perini's strong expertise in complete solutions for converting and packaging machines as well as in the converting process and technology. The two companies' solid expertise combined with data from tissue mills and converting plants will provide a new dimension to tissue mill optimisation, according to Valmet.

The collaboration aims at providing an unbroken chain of

production data from the tissue machine to the converting line and utilising artificial intelligence-driven applications in the tissue production process to make the converting operations downstream more efficient. This will bring significant mill-level quality and efficiency improvements for tissue producers and converters.

"Starting from customer needs, Valmet and Fabio Perini are now taking the first steps to develop solutions where innovation



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goes beyond company borders, covering both tissue production and converting processes. Through collaboration with our common customers we can provide new digital solutions and services to help move tissue mills' performance forward," Jari Almi, vice president, industrial internet, Valmet said. "We believe an open innovation model is a key concept

through which companies within tissue business can create different partnerships to make their innovation process more efficient, as well as exchange knowledge and resources. By combining the strengths of our companies, we can facilitate broad innovation and fast adaptation, enable new business and service models and help improve the profitability of

companies in the tissue business," Oswaldo Cruz Junior, CEO of Körber's business area tissue said.

Both Valmet and Fabio Perini have a long history in offering measurement and optimisation applications for tissue production. These reliable measurements have provided proven results for their customers.

PyroTex specialty flame fibre available for private use



The high-tech fibre, PyroTex, has come up with a new fibre multifunctional blanket that is not only flame-resistant, but also a well-designed accessory for living, car, outdoor and leisure. PyroTex, which has been used in areas that require fire resistance like in aircrafts, work clothing or in filtration can now be used in home and outdoor textiles.

PyroTex offers safest and most skin-friendly way to protect from flames with textiles.

"Thanks to its unique inherent properties, our fibre can do much more than protect against fire. PyroTex is soft and warm. In addition, it is permanently antibacterial without any chemical additives. It was an

obvious step that manufacturers of lifestyle products would also like to use the fibre, especially since it is certified in accordance with Standard 100 by Oeko-Tex. It just makes sense to combine security and comfort in the area of home textiles," Robert Jarausch, managing director of PyroTex Industries GmbH, Hamburg, said in a press release.

"There are sales opportunities for our fibres especially where there are special and very complex requirements," Jarausch added. Giving the example of public transport he said "In the event of a fire, the risk of suffocation from flue gases is often greater than the risk of injury from fire. Because PyroTex does not develop toxic fumes, it is used for the covers of aircraft seats and the fire blockers underneath."

"In sum, the properties of

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the PyroTex fibre cannot be compared to any of the flame-resistant fibres available to date,” Jaraus said in the release. The new multifunctional blankets, for example, have been awarded the M1 certificate. PyroTex Industries GmbH is active in five continents.

Over the next few years, the management plans to increasingly address manufacturers of consumer products in addition to the technical areas. “Approaching the topic of security from the fibre and thinking inherently: This is where we see the future.

The multifunctional blanket made by our customer ‘Ask the Fox’ will not only be found in private households, but also in hotels or on cruise ships - and in many cars,” the company said in the press release.

U.S. Textile and Nonwoven Associations Urge Government to Deem Manufacturing Facilities “Essential”

WASHINGTON DC—U.S. textile and nonwoven associations issued a joint statement today urging federal, state and local governments to deem textile and nonwoven manufacturing facilities as “essential” when drafting “Shelter in Place” orders in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Our associations recognize the serious challenges our elected officials, health administrators and others are facing when issuing orders to protect communities across the country and we understand the necessity for leaders to enforce a ‘Shelter in Place’ order or quarantine orders. Our members make a broad range of inputs and finished products used in an array of personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical nonwoven/textile supplies, including surgical gowns, face masks, antibacterial wipes, lab coats, blood pressure cuffs, cotton swabs and hazmat

suits. These items are vital to the government’s effort to ramp up emergency production of these critical supplies.

If workers who produce these goods are not granted an “essential” exemption from “Shelter in Place” and other quarantine orders to go to their manufacturing and distribution facilities, it will cause major disruptions in the availability of these goods. This will create significant hardship to healthcare providers and consumers across the country who depend on steady and stable supplies of these critical items.

We are asking the administration and state and local authorities to provide greater certainty and clarity for our companies and employees and ask for a clear exclusion of our manufacturing operations from “Shelter in Place” orders as the textile and nonwoven products that we make in the U.S. play an essential role in

mitigating the shortages of critical supplies. Such a designation will help us avoid disruptions of vital goods and services during this challenging time.

About NCTO

NCTO is a Washington, DC-based trade association that represents domestic textile manufacturers, including artificial and synthetic filament and fiber producers.

- U.S. employment in the textile supply chain was 594,147 in 2018.
- The value of shipments for U.S. textiles and apparel was \$76.8 billion in 2018.
- U.S. exports of fiber, textiles and apparel were \$30.1 billion in 2018.
- Capital expenditures for textile and apparel production totaled \$2.0 billion in 2017, the last year for which data is available.



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About INDA

INDA, the Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry, serves hundreds of member companies in the nonwovens/engineered fabrics industry in global commerce. Since 1968, INDA events have helped members connect, learn, innovate, and develop their businesses. INDA educational courses, market data, test methods, consultancy,

and issue advocacy help members succeed by providing them the information they need to better plan and execute their business strategies. For more information, visit inda.org, or download the INDA mobile app for immediate updates.

About IFAI

The Industrial Fabrics Association International is a member-owned,

member-driven trade association representing the global industrial fabrics industry since 1912. IFAI invests more than \$8 million each year to advance the industry and support member companies. IFAI provides members with relevant information, sourcing solutions and networking opportunities to sustain and grow their businesses. www.ifai.com

Lanxess making composites from recycled polycarbonate



Lanxess subsidiary Bond-Laminates is developing continuous-fibre-reinforced thermoplastic composites with recycled polycarbonate. Half of the matrix for the new products is recyclates, produced during recycling of reusable polycarbonate water bottles.

These products will be used in laptop covers and housings for smartphones, tablets, e-books, and cellphones.

“Our primary target application for these products includes laptop covers and housings for smartphones, tablets, e-books,

and cellphones,” said Dr. Dirk Bonefeld, head of Marketing and Sales, Consumer Electronics, Sports and Industry at Bond-Laminates.

With this latest innovation, Lanxess is responding to strong demand in the IT and



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communication technology industry for sustainable material solutions. Bonefeld added: “With these new composites, we are also offering this industry a robust, lightweight, and easy-to-process alternative to energy-intensive magnesium die-casting.” With a share of around one third of global consumption, the IT and communication technology industry – along with the household appliance and electrical and electronics industry – is the biggest buyer of polycarbonate.

The new product range is derived from Tepex dynalite, which is used in the mass production of high-strength structural components. The first, already in series production used material variant comprises a core made from glass-fibre fabric and top layers made from carbon continuous-fibre fabric. A second material type, which is about to be used in the series production of laptop covers,

contains not only a matrix made from recycled polycarbonate, but also a randomly oriented fibre core made from carbon-fibre recyclate. Bonefeld said, “Both of these developments involving recycled materials exhibit outstanding mechanical properties.

At 530 megapascals and 45 gigapascals, for example, the flexural strength and stiffness are at least as good as any new product already on the market. The processing characteristics are also identical.” Both products also exhibit high flame resistance and have passed the UL 94 flame-retardant test from US testing institute Underwriters Laboratories.

Large, reusable water bottles are manufactured using high-purity and high-transparency polycarbonate that is approved for use in products that come into contact with food. “Our recycled materials also benefit from this

outstanding characteristics profile. The high degree of transparency is perfect for producing visible components, for example, with the highly regular arrangement of the continuous fibres making for a highly aesthetic decorative element,” said Bonefeld. “This is why we can easily imagine these new product types being used for decorative structural components in sporting goods or automotive components. In fact, we have received more and more inquiries from the sporting goods industry about recycled materials.”

Bond-Laminates is working to add additional sustainable fibre-reinforced composites to its material portfolio. Focus is on the use of recycled material from other post-industrial or post-consumer waste to manufacture the Tepex thermoplastic matrix. “We are also continuing to develop bio-based fibre and matrix systems and fully recycled carbon fibres.”

Demand for linen & turnover kits to gather pace: Fact. MR

Global linen and turnover kits market is projected to see a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5 per cent between 2019 and 2029 and surpass \$1.9 billion by 2029 end, adding 1.6 times more value compared to 2019, says a recent report by Fact. MR. Rising surgeries will bolster sales of these products, creating a

value opportunity of \$770 million during the period.

Hospitals account for over three-fourths of linen and turnover kits sales worldwide.

Despite losing significant market share by 2029, non-sterile linen and turnover kits are forecast

to account for almost two-thirds of the total incremental dollar opportunity created in the market during assessment period. However, demand for sterile kits is foreseen to grow at a higher CAGR.

The market for these products in East Asia is set to gain 214 basis



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points (BPS) with expenditures on surgical gadgets increasing at a significant rate, says a press release from the Ireland-headquartered market intelligence company citing the report.

Europe remained the frontrunner in this market last year, accounting for around a third of revenue share.

Higher per capita spending on healthcare will support the region's growth. Players in this market are engaged in lateral integration for deeper market penetration and capturing a larger consumer base. Majority of players are signing up group purchasing contracts for such products. The advantageous factors associated with group

purchasing such as buying power, negotiating power, lower processing costs, among others, have resulted in collaboration of members to develop long-term innovations that improve the way care is delivered to patients across the globe.

NCC opens additional lab of advanced composite facility

The UK's National Composites Centre has completed the latest phase of the most advanced composite manufacturing facility. Part laboratory, part factory, the additional venue is the result of a two-year, £36.7 million research

and development programme to use new digital technologies. It has the machines to reduce wing-build time from one week to one day.

Demand for composites is

growing as manufacturers seek to make products lighter, stronger and more durable. The global market is predicted to be worth \$105.8 billion in 2020 and growing at 6.5 per cent per year. The National Composites



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Centre, based in Bristol and part of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult, works to ensure that Britain is at the forefront of this fast-growing sector.

Aerospace is a significant driver of demand, with operators looking to replace ageing aircraft fleets with the latest, most fuel-efficient models. Using current, labour intensive techniques, manufacturers can only make six pairs of wings per month.

The market requires 100. Meeting this need means radically rethinking how wings are made - which is exactly what the National Composites Centre has done. For the past two years, a team comprising engineers, researchers, software architects, roboticists and textile experts have explored how digital technologies can make composites easier to design for, as well as quicker and cheaper to make. A key goal was to demonstrate that they could

be a viable, mass-producible alternative to traditional metallic parts. The results of this research, shown publicly for the first time on February 28, are 10 ground-breaking new machines which redefine the 'state of the art' for composite manufacturing.

Launching this new phase, Richard Oldfield, chief executive said: "With the most advanced manufacturing facility in Europe, we truly have an unrivalled world



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class capability. The investment in 10 new world-leading composites capabilities will enable us to develop the wings and engines for the aircraft of the future, work on technologies that will define the way we produce and store energy and transform the way we build infrastructure.”

The new facility has two huge industrial robots that automate the wing production process. Weighing 45 tonnes and 24 tonnes respectively, the robots measure, cut, lift and place pieces of carbon fibre fabric (plies) with millimetric accuracy.

They can also lay 5 metres wide strips of composite material, up to 20 metres long, in one precise movement. This could cut the number of fabric components required drastically to just 150, and reduces wing-build time from

one week to one day. This has the potential to revolutionise aircraft production.

Other technologies include a giant circular Braider, the largest of its kind in Europe, which automatically weaves up to 288 individual strands of high strength carbon fibre to create hollow 3D shapes (or geometries), for products such as pipes or aircraft propellers.

The Overmoulder, meanwhile, shows how composite components can be mass-produced at rate. This would enable carmakers, for example, to use more of the technology in mainstream vehicles, making them lighter and more durable. These are key considerations given the long-term shift towards electrification and, beyond that, new models of shared ownership where cars will

be expected to do vast mileages.

The NCC has also rethought how completed composite parts are tested for quality control. This is currently a slow and expensive process, typically involving the destruction of the part being examined.

In response, NCC engineers have commissioned two, three metre high robots that work in unison, either side of the component, to beam ultrasound down high-pressure water jets. The system then measures the time taken for sound to travel through the part, alerting operators to any anomalies.

The iCAP Programme was funded by the Aerospace Technology Institute, the Local Enterprise Partnership and High Value Manufacturing Catapult.



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ANDRITZ has developed a high-speed converting line for the production of face Masks

GRAZ, APRIL 9, 2020. ANDRITZ Diatec, part of international technology Group ANDRITZ, has developed a fully automatic, high-speed face mask converting line for the production of disposable face masks. In the first configuration, this new converting line will be able to produce masks for surgical/medical applications; other mask types – like N95/FFP2 – are currently being evaluated.

The new ANDRITZ D-Tech Face Mask line produces and laminates three or more layers of fabrics



(spunbond, meltblown, thermo-bonded nonwovens and others) and ensures highest quality and hygiene standards. It comprises unwinding and guiding units for nonwoven webs, cutting and positioning devices for the metal nose bar, an edge welding and cutting unit, a 90° rotation process, as well as positioning and welding of the ear loop elastics.

The line has a speed of up to 110 m/min and is able to produce up to 750,000 face masks per day. There are also different packaging options available: products can be packed in bags by an automatic flow wrapping machine or in cardboard boxes by an automatic cartoner.

ANDRITZ Diatec is one of the globally leading specialists for converting machines for the production of hygiene end products: diapers for children and adults, feminine hygiene, underpads, absorbent pads for the food industry, and now also face masks.



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POY process now even more energy-efficient

Remscheid, April 9, 2020 – following several years of development with partner Siemens, Oerlikon Barmag kicked off serial production of its new drive unit for POY systems at the beginning of the year. The new component makes stands out above all with regards to energy efficiency. The requirements-specific design of the compact inverter unit ensures functional optimization of the winder's control functions. And the new component is used in conjunction with a performance-optimized chuck motor. This means that energy savings of up to 3% can be achieved for the take-up. "In the case of a 1,000-position system, this represents a saving of around 120,000 euros a year, depending on the relevant local energy costs. The many years of collaborating with our partner Siemens means that

we are always state-of-the-art in terms of control technology. With our e-save-certified solutions, we are consistently able to offer our clientèle sustainable technology for the efficient manufacture of yarns", states Arnulf Sauer, responsible for winder technology at Oerlikon Barmag.

Further customer benefits include a significant reduction in cables and cable trays. The reduced number of switching cabinets also saves space. Following intensive field tests at two well-known customers last year, the compact inverter unit was finally released for serial manufacture at the beginning of 2020. There are plans to deliver several thousand positions with the new component this year.

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RoTac³ tangling unit with comprehensive modifications

Neumünster, March 19, 2020 – major technological changes to Oerlikon Neumag's RoTac³ tangling unit produce even more efficient BCF yarn tangling. On the one hand, the tangling nozzle has been flow-optimized, allowing the air pressure to be lowered by approximately 10 percent compared to its predecessor, while maintaining the same knot strength. Furthermore, the nozzle bearing arrangements have been improved. Consequently, either higher speeds or nozzle rings with greater numbers of holes can be used, generating more knots in the yarn.

Even at high production speeds, tangling knots can be set considerably more evenly with the RoTac³ than in the case of other conventional tangling units. Frequent tangling dropouts are now a thing of the past. This ensures better yarn quality and has a positive impact on further processing. The result: the carpet has a visibly more even appearance.

Stable and efficient yarn production is hugely important to yarn manufacturers. Not only does the evenness of the tangling knots make the investment interesting, so too does the energy efficiency of the

RoTac³. The tangling unit requires up to 50 percent less energy for generating compressed air. Against the background of rising energy prices, this represents an excellent prerequisite for optimizing production costs.

Oerlikon Neumag has been able to secure various retrofit contracts since the launch of the RoTac³ in 2015. And new systems are predominantly equipped with RoTac³. The RoTac³ is included in the standard scope of delivery for the newer BCF S8 system. The tangling unit is available as an option both for the single-end Sytec One system and the three-end S+ and it can also be retrofitted on request.



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Rieter discontinues assembly at the Winterthur location

Rieter will discontinue the assembly of machines at Winterthur, due to structural changes in the market situation. The consultation process with employee representatives was completed on March 11, 2020. After discussion and detailed examination of the submitted proposals, the discontinuation

of assembly and the associated reduction of 87 jobs was confirmed.

The final position was communicated to the employee representatives and the Office for Economy and Labour of the Canton of Zurich. Rieter's employees were informed of the result. The decision will be

implemented gradually during 2020. Rieter has a comprehensive social plan. The focus is on the reintegration of affected employees with the support of the Regional Employment Centre (RAV) as well as a job centre and the avoidance of hardship cases. The company intends to reduce the headcount by means



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of workforce turnover and early retirement, however some layoffs will be unavoidable, according to a press release by Rieter.

Polygenta makes yarns with Oerlikon spinning system

Indian yarn manufacturer Polygenta, specialised in sustainable recycling yarns, recently commenced production of recycled polyester FDY yarns at its facilities in Nashik. The yarn is produced using a combination of Perpetual's patented chemical recycling technology and

Oerlikon Barmag's direct spinning system equipped with the 32-end WINGS concept. The spinning plant was commissioned by Oerlikon Textile India technologists in close collaboration with the process experts at Oerlikon Barmag, with various FDY products currently being developed. The yarn produced caters to the requirements of premium-segment clients demanding high quality, cost effective sustainable solutions, according to an Oerlikon press release.

As one of the world's first companies, Polygenta has, since 2014, been producing 100 per cent recycled POY and DTY from post-consumer PET using the patented chemical recycling process developed by Perpetual. Perpetual's process reduces CO2 impact by more than 66 per cent compared to virgin PET. The yarn is spun using Oerlikon Barmag systems and equipment. As a result, Polygenta is able to produce a wide range of DTY and FDY yarns that comply with the Global Recycled Standard (GRS).



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PRODYE installation begins in China

KARL MEYER indigo dyeing machine offers Hingtex yet more variety and quality

The KARL MAYER success story has now reached China, thanks to the PRODYE indigo dyeing machine. The efficient warp preparation equipment for denim production is already a worldwide commercial success, and spring 2020 will see the commissioning of the first machine in China.

The premiere model has been ordered by H.W. Textiles Co., Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hingtex Holdings Limited. A fully integrated

manufacturer based in Hong Kong, Hingtex is one of the world's most important producers of denim. Key to the company's success is its continual provision of a product portfolio bursting with quality, variety and uniqueness, particularly since it entered into partnership with Kurabo Industries Ltd. Hingtex's strategic alliance with the Japanese textiles company was originally established in 2013 as a joint venture. "To differentiate yourself from your competitors, you need to be innovative and proactive, especially in today's highly competitive and fast

changing market," says Director Stephen Tung.

To ensure that his company can get new developments moving quickly and offer a diverse range of products, the prudent owner has opted for the PRODYE-S from KARL MAYER to expand its warp preparation capacity. The slasher dyeing machine has been configured especially for this application. "PRODYE-S is fitted with a large number of set screws for customising the dyeing process. It allows us to make decisive expansions to our product range and produce items that cannot be copied", explains

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melco

EMT16plus



Modular Multi-Head Embroidery Machine

In 2003 Melco introduced the principle of modular production to the embroidery world and stopped to produce conventional multi-head embroidery machines. This was the result of Melco's quest to offer its customers the most productive, flexible and easy-to-use embroidery equipment. To this day, this switch to the modular system has proven extremely successful and there are a lot of very good reasons for it.

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Director Stephen Tung. The versatile indigo dyeing machine is suitable for many different kinds of yarn, such as TENCEL™, modal, and core-spun.

PRODYE boasts many additional features that set it apart from the competition. These include a darker indigo shade of up to 5%, lower water consumption and waste yarn, plus double productivity for the production of lightweight denim.

KARL MAYER uses its expertise to help its clients unlock this huge potential.

About Hingtex:

Hingtex was founded in 1981 in Hong Kong, and has been listed on the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited since July 2018 (Hong Kong Stock Code: 1968). The group specialises in the design, manufacturing and sale of denim fabrics for the mid to high-end market segment. Its business activity focuses on the American market; with over 30 clothing brands and more than 120 clients in the USA, Hingtex values its close business relationships. The manufacturer is known for its extensive experience in the production of a wide range of denim fabrics, with the manufacturing of stretch denim blends a particular area of expertise. In addition to this, the group's clients value its product designs and development capabilities. When it comes to implementing designs, Hingtex

relies on sustainable materials. Its production capabilities installed in Zhongshan, Guangdong Province include machines for warp preparation, weaving, dyeing and finishing.

Making day-to-day warp knitting easier

Innovations in spare parts and tools for KARL MAYER machines

KARL MAYER continuously develops not only its machines, but also well thought-out solutions to make operating them simpler and more efficient. In addition, the manufacturer continues to expand its WEBSHOP SPARE PARTS step by step.

Contact cap for needle bars

One of the latest tools is the Needle Slot Protector, which is a small but highly effective component. It unfolds when the working width deviates from the machine width. As a cap-like element with flat u-profile, the Needle Slot Protector is placed on the needle-free section of the needle bar and fixed with the needle bar cover, which protects the covered section from damage and contamination.

The practical cover also contributes to the dimensional stability of the bar. The Needle Slot Protector is one inch wide, is made from lightweight plastic, and is easy to grip thanks to its rough surface. It is currently only available for some HKS

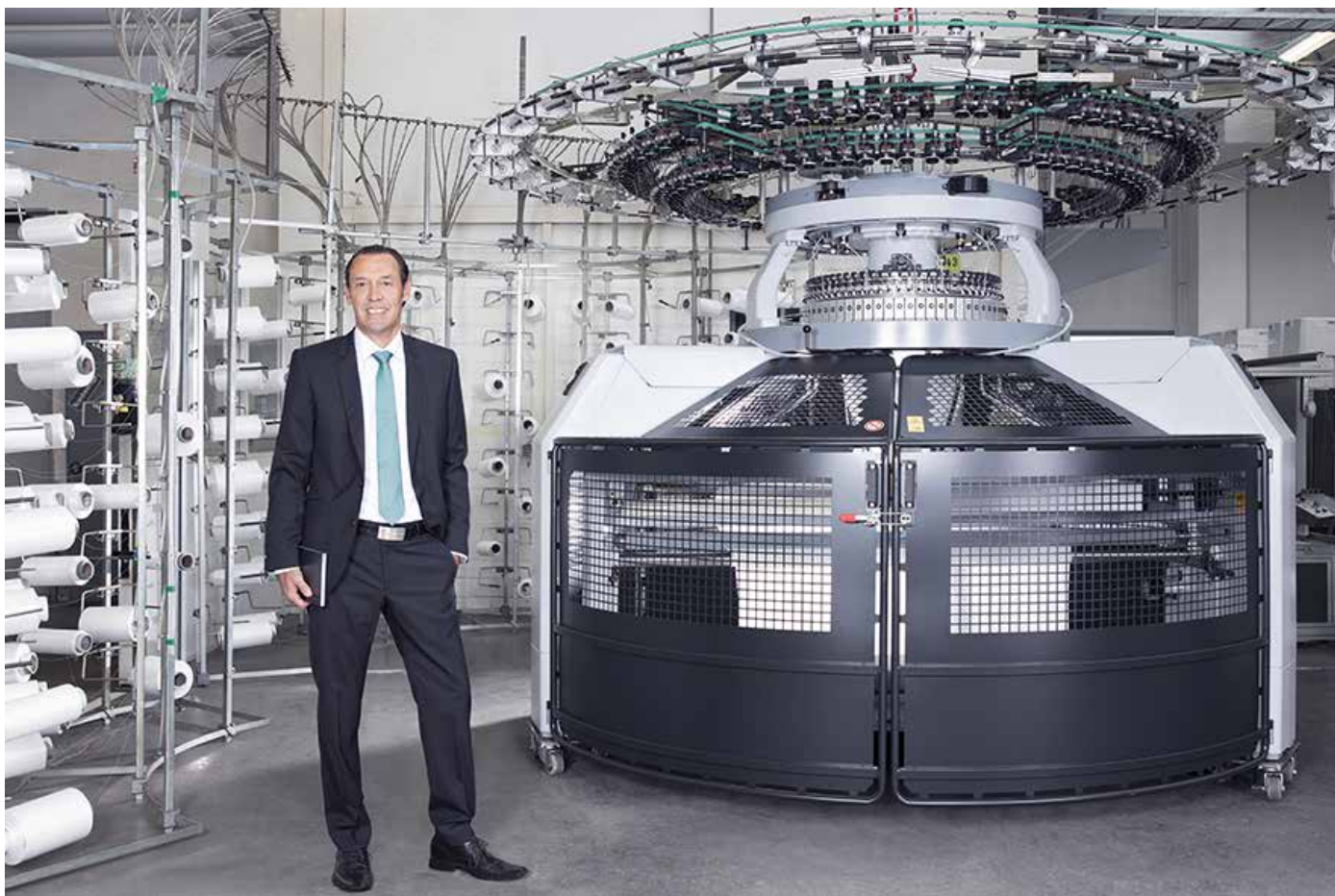
models; versions for other series will follow. It is easy to order directly from KARL MAYER's WEBSHOP SPARE PARTS or by using the k.maintenance app and scan-to-order function.

Segmented 2" guide unit

Another innovation ensures shorter resetting times with minimum material waste when loading the ground guide bars of warp knitting machines. For fast changeover, 2" variants are used instead of 1" guide units, which can be separated into two halves using 1" segmentation. If a guide needle is defective, it is not necessary to replace the entire unit, as is the case with standard 2" versions. It is sufficient to simply separate the 1" part from the damaged area and replace it separately. The practical 2" plastic guide unit with sophisticated 1" segmentation was launched at the ITMA 2019 in Barcelona. Since then, customer interest has been growing worldwide. Numerous machines have already been equipped with the new 2" guide units, and series machines with the units included will be delivered in the near future. There are also plans to expand the fineness variants. The segmented 2" guide units are available for certain types of guide needles in gauges E 18 to a maximum of E 36.

Extended product range on WEBSHOP SPARE PARTS

KARL MAYER has made its WEBSHOP SPARE PARTS



at its headquarters even more attractive, and has therefore expanded its range of spare parts for warp knitting machines – over 6,000 parts can now be ordered directly via the digital ordering portal. The extended selection also includes selected articles for the RACOP and COPCENTRA series machines.

The latest webshop upgrade also introduced additional product categories to simplify product searches within the catalogue. For example, under the “Knitting elements” heading, the Tools, Knitting elements and Threading-in comb/Yarn separating comb

categories have been added, and the “Mechanical parts” heading has been extended to include the following categories: Bearing, Spring, Joint Rod socket, Knockover plate and Screws/Nuts/Washers.

Zund UK awarded BAE Systems Chairman's Award

Zünd, the multi-functional cutting solution provider, has announced that it has been awarded a BAE Systems 2019 Chairman's Award for its unique cutting system designed to process military aerospace components. The Chairman's Awards recognises excellence in the successful

exploitation of innovative ideas, delivery of outstanding support to the customer.

The awards allow BAE Systems to acknowledge the efforts and achievements of its employees, partners and customers in delivering benchmark performance.

During a year-long research project starting mid-2017, Zünd supplied a G3 M-2500 digital cutter with a specially developed tool for removing debris from glass fibre components for BAE Systems' production. The tool, which removes small holes from the cut components, typically



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ranging in diameter from 8-25mm, makes the handling of parts much easier and thus improves the productivity of the machine, whilst also making for a cleaner environment around the machine.

The solution was developed to extract waste materials from the flatbed cutter without any intervention from an operator to keep the production environment tidy. It also reduced machine downtime for cleaning and made better use of the operator time.

With the addition of a specially-developed software plug-in, the hole removal system connected seamlessly with the Zünd-supplied nesting software allowing the system to know exactly where the holes were to be removed, whilst ensuring the waste was collected in the most efficient order to keep production times as low as possible.

A 3D print module was produced to test the principle during the early stages of the project, with an aluminium module being custom-made for production. The complete system was installed at BAE Systems' Samlesbury site in 2018.

"We are very pleased with the prestigious recognition gained for the cutting system we installed at BAE Systems. It was fantastic to be given the opportunity by BAE Systems and we're proud of the success this project has brought to their production environment,"

Nicki Kay, managing director at Zund UK, said in a press release. "Our Chairman's Awards scheme is designed to celebrate the ideas big and small which help us continually improve operational excellence across our business, and I am delighted Zund UK has been recognised for its work with our team. The changes made as a result of this work have reduced the cost and time it takes to manufacture these components and drives up quality, which are all the things our Chairman's Awards scheme seeks to celebrate," Matt Williamson, production director, US Programmes, BAE Systems, said.

Trade fair preparations with a question mark Mayer & Cie. plans to exhibit three machines at ITM

Albstadt, Germany, 09 April 2020 – This year's ITM textile machinery fair is scheduled for 14 to 18 July in Istanbul. It was postponed due to the spread of the coronavirus and the July dates are by no means certain, but Mayer & Cie. (MCT) is still going ahead with preparations for a trade fair that for the German circular knitting machine manufacturer is almost as important as the ITMA, albeit on a smaller scale.

Three machines are to be on show: the D4 2.2 II, the OV 3.2 QCe and the Relanit 3.2 HS. The two Double Jersey machines target the strong demand for rib and interlock structures, while the

Relanit is a traditional favourite with Turkish customers.

Preparations optimal, outlook uncertain

"Turkey is one of the markets where demand for our products is strongest, which makes the ITM so important for us," says regional sales manager Stefan Bühler. "Even though, as matters stand, we don't yet know whether or quite when the trade fair will take place we are, of course, preparing for it to the best of our ability."

Together with its local agency Mayer Mümessillik, which for decades has represented Mayer & Cie. successfully on the Bosphorus, the company has gained a leading position in the Turkish market for circular knitting machines. Orders may have declined in the lean period for the entire textile machinery market from mid-2018 onward, but when business picked up again at the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020 Turkish customers were keen to invest and their orders gave the order books a distinct boost.

"In addition," Bühler says, "we benefited from the desire for shorter supply chains that the spread of the coronavirus triggered. That effect has since petered out, of course." Both in Central Europe and in Turkey the number of people who have caught the coronavirus is on the increase, public and economic life is severely restricted and readiness

Good Times Better Times
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to invest is minimal.

Perfect-fit portfolio of knitting machines

“In principle we see a trend toward Double Jersey machines in Turkey,” says regional sales manager Bühler, “and the choice of machines we plan to exhibit at the trade fair is geared to that trend.” Exhibit No. 1, the D4 2.2 II, is a tried and tested model used by customers to manufacture eight-lock and rib structures. Knitters are appreciative of the machine’s productivity and reliability, especially in elastomer plating. The D4 2.2 II, which knits very fine gauges (up to E40), also makes spacer fabrics. The finished materials are used in fashion and sportswear.

The second exhibit, an OV 3.2 QCe, is similar to the D4 2.2 II in its range of uses and its popularity. It too produces eight-lock and interlock structures and spacers as well as gauges as fine as E40. Its special feature is the Quick Change easy system, which makes changing cylinder and dial quick and easy. The OV 3.2 QCe is also available in an industrial and a giant frame.

The Relanit 3.2 HS, the third ITM machine, “is an old acquaintance

among knitters, both globally and in Turkey” Stefan Bühler says of the relative technology machine. Capable of up to 50 rpm on a 30-inch model, it is known in the market for being extremely reliable, delivering good results even with highly fluctuating yarn qualities. At this year’s ITM, the Relanit 3.2 HS is to be presented to trade visitors with the Mayer Cleaning System (MCS). A current of air flows between the needle and sinker channels and the tongue bearing. Less fluff is deposited as a result, leading to an up to two and a half times longer needle service life, depending on the yarn used. Needle oil consumption is reduced by up to a third too.

With their portfolio of machines Mayer & Cie. and Mayer Mümessillik feel well positioned for the ITM even if a further postponement proves necessary. Stefan Bühler sounds a positive note, saying that “we hope the measures to contain the spread of Covid-19 are effective and we will gradually be able to return to normal working conditions. We look forward to being able to present our portfolio to our customers once the crisis is over.”

About Mayer & Cie.

Mayer & Cie. (MCT) is a leading international manufacturer of circular knitting machines. The company offers the entire range of machines required for making modern textiles. Fabrics for home textiles, sportswear, nightwear and swimwear, seat covers, underwear and technical uses are made on MCT knitting machines. Furthermore, Mayer & Cie. regularly develops new approaches underlining its leadership in technology.

Since 2019, Mayer & Cie. has augmented its portfolio by braiding machines which produce sheathings for hydraulic tubes used in aviation, automotive industry as well as in further, very specific fields of applications.

Founded in 1905, Mayer & Cie. generated sales of EUR 90 million in 2019 with about 400 employees worldwide, according to preliminary figures. In addition to its headquarters in Albstadt, Germany, where around 300 people work, and subsidiaries in China and the Czech Republic, sales partners for circular knitting and braiding machines in around 80 countries represent Mayer & Cie.

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Textile Testing | Objects of Textile Testing | Different Types of Textile Testing | Fiber Test/Yarn Test/Fabric Test

Testing:

The process to determine the properties of different kinds of substance is called testing. Testing is an important segment of the textile industry. We can easily detect the faults of machinery and materials during test of textiles. Besides, textile testing needs to assure compliance with changing governmental safety regulations and to meet increasing consumer demand for high-quality textiles and apparel.

Types of Testing:

1. Routine process testing
2. Quality record testing

Objects of Testing:

1. Research
2. Selection of raw material
3. Process control
4. Product control
5. Process development
6. Product development
7. Specification test

Factors affecting test result:

1. Atmospheric conditions during test.
2. Method of test.
3. Testing instruments used.
4. The efficiency of technicians etc.

The necessary Test of different

Textiles:

Fiber Test:

1. Identification of fiber
2. Grading
3. Fiber length
4. Strength and elongation ;tensile properties
5. Fineness or linear density test
6. Maturity test
7. Trash, neps test etc.

Yarn Test:

1. Yarn count or linear density
2. Twist per unit length
3. Strength and elongation i.e. tensile properties
4. Appearance

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| 5. Evenness and regularity | 3. Thickness | 9. Thermal properties |
| 6. Hairiness | 4. Number of ends and picks per unit length | 10. Stiffness, handle, drape |
| | 5. The count of yarn used | 11. Crease resistance and recovery |
| | 6. Fabric weight per unit length | 12. Abrasion |
| | 7. Design and construction of the cloth | 13. Pilling |
| | 8. Air permeability | 14. Shrinkage |
| | | 15. Water absorbency or resistance etc. |

Fabric Test:

1. Strength and elongation test i.e. tensile properties
2. Width

Antibacterial Textile Testing – Prove That Your Product Kills Bugs by Mimi Leong

Demand in the market for quality textiles that meet consumers' demands for comfort and freshness has been increasing. Antibacterial performance depends on its ability to inhibit the growth of bacteria.

The finishes that are often added to fabrics and textiles need to be tested for efficacy by challenging them with various bacterial strains. Swatches of the treated test articles are compared to the

untreated ones and are qualitatively assessed for antibacterial activity using AATCC Method 147. Samples showing activity are then evaluated quantitatively using AATCC Method 100.

This is done by inoculating the swatches with organisms, incubating them, and shaking them in a neutralizing solution. A calculation of the reduction of the bacterial population is then made.

Pacific BioLabs is experienced in this type of testing using a wide range of textiles. Testing can also take place in non-fabric materials using a modified method. We are able to answer any questions that you may have regarding antibacterial textile testing and can help you choose the best approach for your sample.

PROTECTIVE FACE MASK TESTING

according to EN 14683:2019 and ASTM F2100:2019

Following the Worldwide Coronavirus crisis and market demand for protective face masks testing, Mesdan developed a Protective Mask Testing kit according to EN 14683:2019

and ASTM F2100:2019, both referring to the differential pressure measurement. The Mask Testing Kit can be supplied as an option along a new Mesdan's AIR TRONIC - Air Permeability Tester or installed on an existing unit.



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New Head of Textile Technology at USTER



Textile industry expert Oswald Baldischwieler will focus on value-added services for customers

Uster, Switzerland, 9th April 2020: Uster Technologies is pleased to announce that Oswald Baldischwieler starts his new position as Head of the Textile Technology Department and member of the Executive Committee in April.

Baldischwieler is an experienced textile technologist and manager. His entire career has been dedicated to the development and promotion of the textile industry, in a number of senior roles. After working as Mill Manager for the German textile producer Lauffenmühle and

as Technical Director and Chief Operating Officer at spinning mill Hermann Bühler, Baldischwieler joined Uster Technologies in 2017.

As Product Manager for In-line Process Control, he has been responsible for a large part of the USTER portfolio. "The past three years have been a great opportunity for me to get to know Uster Technologies as a company, to become familiar with the systems and solutions and to appreciate the immense know-how and service capacities," Baldischwieler says.

Customer services and support

For USTER, value-added services are a fundamental part of the company philosophy: "The job is not complete just by developing great innovative products. We need to make sure that our customers learn how to use them effectively and efficiently every day," he says.

Uster Technologies offers a wide range of textile services and support to its customers and partners. These include the USTER®STATISTICS global benchmarks, laboratory testing services, and textile training and consulting programs. A worldwide team of more than 50 textile technologists, together with more than 200 service engineers, is taking care of 4,500 customers in 75 countries – working at customer sites or in USTER laboratories – conducting training, carrying out tests and providing application know-how.

"For USTER, it is a great pleasure and a unique opportunity, to work together with someone as experienced as Oswald Baldischwieler as Head of Textile Technology," says Thomas Nasiou, Chief Executive Officer of Uster Technologies. "Our Textile Technology is a core element of USTER – it is where all our textile know-how comes from and where our customers receive the special support they appreciate."



MMT®

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Carpet weaving ALPHA 500 UNIVERSAL

The ALPHA 500 UNIVERSAL carpet weaving machine has been developed for customers that produce a wide variety of carpet qualities, with different carpet sizes up to 5.3 m weaving width.

This weaving machine is Stäubli's answer to today's market requirements such as rapid design changes and sophisticated weave structures. With a wide array of standard features, it delivers very high flexibility in terms of application and patterning.

Advantages

- Up to 92 colour combinations can be realized on an 8 frame machine due to the possible double and triple point technique.
- Depending on the reed density up to 16 colours are possible.

- High densities and carpets with up to 2 mio. points/sqm can be produced.
- Up to 33,792 pile threads by combining four Jacquard machines on the top
- The system offers exceptional operational reliability

ALPHA 500 XHDC

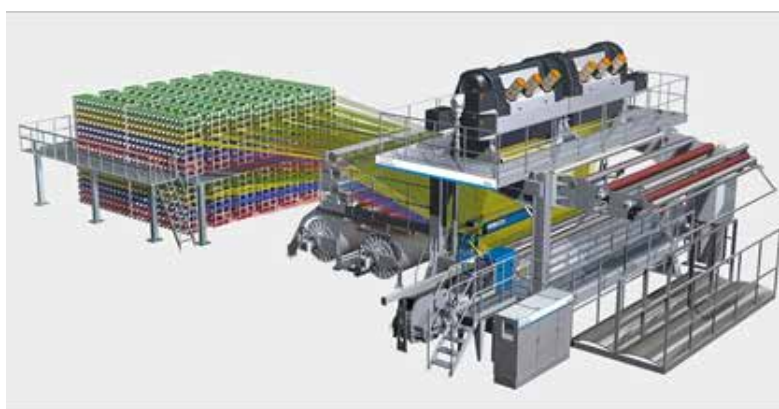
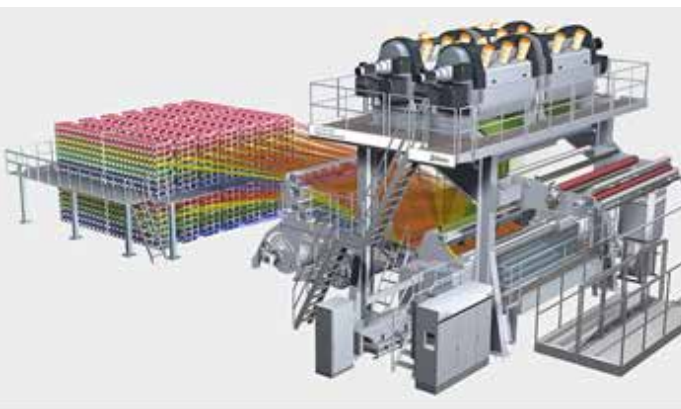
The ALPHA 500 XHDC is the ideal machine for weavers who want to enthrall their customers with carpets that boast high density, a perfect surface, and extraordinary designs. The machinery equipment supports weaving carpets showing reed densities up to 1,400 reed dents/m and a density per sqm of up to 4 million points.

Thanks to the option of creating specific weave structures, weavers can create machine woven

carpets that seem to be hand knotted. The achieved quality of this appearance convinces even carpet experts.

Advantages

- Very high reed densities are possible (up to 1,400 reed/m)
- Densities of up to 4 million points per m² can be woven
- The carpets show very clear designs without mixed contours
- Weavers can create extraordinary designs
- The carpet surface becomes very clear and perfectly aligned
- The exceptional operational reliability supports a continued weaving process



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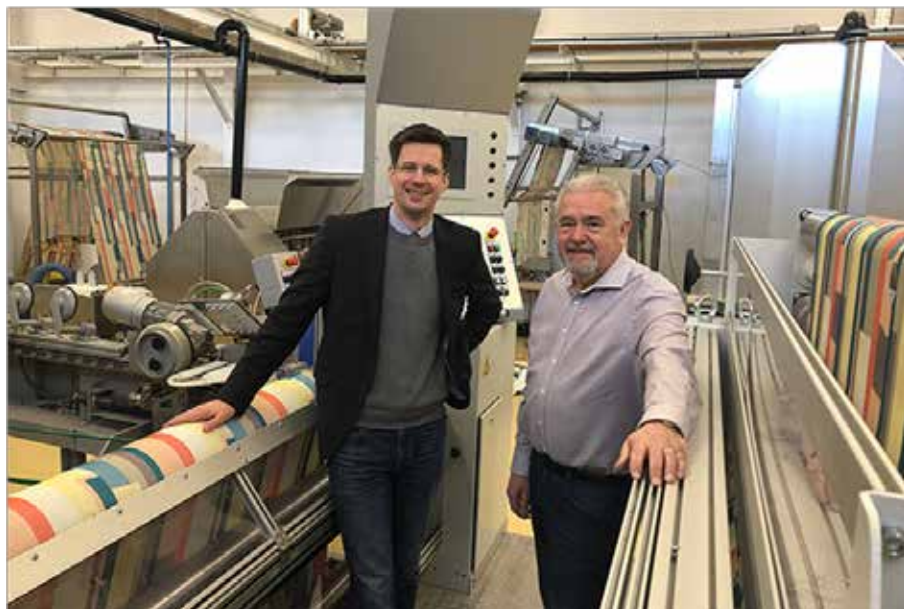


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Beyond world class

DAVID NIEPER partners with BRÜCKNER Textile Technologies



Thomas Wiederer, BRÜCKNER Sales Manager (left) and Kevin Harris, responsible Project Manager from DAVID NIEPER Ltd. (right)

DAVID NIEPER a British fashion house designing and manufacturing luxury women's clothing, knitwear and nightwear in Derbyshire/ UK for almost 60 years has installed a state of the art dye-house with the latest BRÜCKNER finishing technology. DAVID NIEPER Ltd. is a family owned fashion house founded in 1961. The company designs and manufacturers its entire women's fashion collections in Alfreton, Derbyshire/ UK, including both knitting and sewing operations, as well as catalogue printing for its mailorder operations throughout Europe. Superior product quality and customer satisfaction are the key factors for their long lasting

success and in order to improve quality further and secure just in time production DAVID NIEPER has decided to introduce dyeing, finishing and printing processes for fabrics. For this, the company acquired a new production site for the installation of a complete new dyeing and finishing and digital printing facility.

BRÜCKNER Textile Technologies/ Germany supported this approach from the very beginning – as a first step, development trials have been conducted with DAVID NIEPER's project team in the showroom at BRÜCKNER's Headquarter in Leonberg near Stuttgart/ Germany to deter-

mine together the most suitable machine layout for an excellent preparation for printing process in combination with an extraordinary fabric handle. Key factors to overcome these requirements are a very gentle fabric tension system to avoid any excessive fabric tension during production, followed by a soft, but efficient, compacting process as last step to achieve a unique fabric handle.

The installed 3-bay BRÜCKNER stenter frame is especially designed for running small production lots, but due to the unique BRÜCKNER feature of alternating heating source arrangement every 1.5m, still 6 independent temperature zones can be adjusted according to the individual requirements of each fabric. Furthermore, the 3-bay BRÜCKNER stenter is equipped with newly developed, completely lubrication free vertical chain, which is reducing maintenance efforts, cost and products wastage. After the stenter treatment, the fabrics will be brought to a brand new inkjet printing department, containing the latest digital printers for brilliant images and unmatched colour depth. After the printing process, as a last step, the fabrics will be compacted on a BRÜCKNER rubber belt/ felt belt compacting range. As the only system avail-



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able on the market, this machine offers the possibility to handle stable woven fabrics but in the same way also knitted fabrics containing very sensitive fibres such as fine cotton, viscose, Lyocell and silk blended with elastane. The felt belt calender, following the rubber belt compacting unit, gives the fabrics an unrivaled appearance and helps the fabric to drape beautifully and have a luxurious

feel to satisfy the demands of DAVID NIEPER's challenging customers. BRÜCKNER thanks DAVID NIEPER for this challenging project!

Christopher Nieper OBE, Chief Executive DAVID NIEPER Ltd. says: "This is an exciting opportunity for our business. Working in partnership with BRÜCKNER means that we are able to harness

new technology which will make DAVID NIEPER the first fashion manufacturer in the UK to digitally print onto cotton jersey. The digital print factory is the latest and largest investment our company has made in sustainable production. We challenged BRÜCKNER to provide us with a system that would offer superb quality, while upholding our commitment to sustainable textile production."

Industrial-scale testing for new PPE finishes

These finishing chemicals have naturally already been thoroughly tested in laboratories and their effectiveness verified at laboratory or pilot scale. However, they are new to many manufacturers of textiles and nonwovens now preparing to use them on an industrial level.

"We know that in this current, unprecedented situation, many of our customers are rapidly preparing to transition from their usual manufacturing programmes to the production of PPE items," says Klaus Heinrichs, vice-president at Monforts. "Some, such as Trident and Welspun in India, which both operate a number of our machinery ranges, have already embarked on new PPE production programmes.

"We have experts on hand at our operational Advanced Technol-

ogy Centre (ATC) here in Germany, to help any of our customers to rapidly transition to new finishing techniques and treatments they may not be familiar with, and to run trials on their behalf, should they require this assistance."

The three lines at the ATC situated at the Monforts HQ in Mönchengladbach, are of a true industrial scale and trialling new products on them goes beyond lab or pilot plant testing to rapidly identify any problems that might occur once full production is underway.

Since its opening in 2013, over €3 million has been invested in equipment at the Monforts ATC, which over an area of 1,200 square metres houses two full finishing lines, engineered to accommodate an extremely diverse range of processes and based around the

industry-leading Montexstenter, in addition to a Thermex range for the continuous dyeing and the newly developed process of yarn dyeing. Recent expansions have included the installation of the latest MonfortsMontex®Coat coating system, with which it is possible to operate in seven different application modes in a single machine.

The Monfortsteleservice team is also fully available as normal to help customers via remote service on trouble shooting issues.

"We congratulate those customers who are doing all within their power to combat this pandemic that is having such a devastating impact globally," Mr Heinrichs concludes. "We are here to support them in any way we can and put our services and know-how at their disposal."



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Coronavirus: Hands transmit infection. More protection in public spaces

The coronavirus has made us more acutely aware of our hands as transmitters of illnesses. What we can learn now is also valid for the time period after the risk of coronavirus, which is hopefully just around the corner.

Mucous membranes, i.e. our eyes, nose and mouth, are entry portals for viruses and bacteria into our bodies and our hands are the transmitters. This is applicable far

beyond just COVID-19 because such transmissions occur in a wide variety of situations: Greeting others via handshake or touching surfaces with high contact frequency are prime examples.

Other high-contact surfaces include railings, handrails, light switches or soap dispensers in public areas in addition to bus and train handrails or the handles of shopping trolleys in

shopping centers, just to name a few. Responsible planners, especially those responsible for public spaces such as hospitals, retirement homes, schools or hotels, therefore use products equipped with the Sanitized® hygiene function. This product has been proven to prevent the growth of microbes on plastic surfaces. The antimicrobial effect of silver is a proven solution.



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OEKO-TEX®: no certification fee for face masks

Zurich, April 20, 2020 - With immediate effect, the OEKO-TEX® Association will waive the license fee for STANDARD 100 certification of mouth and nose masks.

With the current demand and expert recommendations to wear mouth and nose coverings in public, OEKO-TEX® wants to support continued safety of the population. "We need to stay together in this extraordinary situation: now and for our future," said General Secretary Georg Dieners. "The crisis challenges

many manufacturers who are confronted with a logistically difficult task."

This industry support follows the process modifications for certificate renewals during the Corona pandemic. This adjustment offers an important service for producers of face masks while ensuring continued sustainability and public safety from harmful substances during the corona crisis.

Oeko-Tex reducing process for certificate renewal

With regard to the current situation and the COVID-19 outbreak, Oeko-Tex is adapting its processes

for renewing certificates and reducing the effort for production facilities. Renewals of certificates and new applications should continue to be carried out as far as possible. The production processes of retailers and companies should not be interrupted.

Renewal of the Ecopassport, STeP, Leather Standard, and Standard 100 certificates are possible for existing and known certificate owners and is currently handled by the relevant institutes without any submission of samples. These have to be submitted by the certificate owner within the next three months and will be checked by the institutes. If no samples are submitted within this period, the certificate is



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cancelled and becomes invalid. This service can only be offered to existing production facilities, as the Oeko-Tex association has confidence in them and their products. The certificates' validity date is set to the date of the original expiry including three additional months, the company said in a media statement.

In the interest of the Oeko-Tex association, retailers are not affected in their manufacturing processes. The labels are not identified as invalid during the controls. Regions that are vastly affected by the virus will suspend all tests until further notice.

Their work may resume when the extraordinary situation has calmed down. New certifications and applications are still possible, if a sample is presented and has

been checked by the institute according to the usual criteria.

The Oeko-Tex association also tries to keep any imminent risk as low as possible and operates in the fullest conscience. Their actions are based on solidarity and communion. Institutes that are currently not able to carry out laboratory tests are supported by partner institutes of the Oeko-Tex association. This is a great advantage for the entire organisation: retailers do not have to sacrifice performance and service.

Domo Chemicals to open nylon plant in Zhejiang, China

Domo Chemicals, a leading producer of high-quality

engineering materials for a diverse range of markets, has announced plans for a new state-of-the-art plant in Zhejiang, China. The new plant will be capable of producing 50,000 tons of sustainable and innovative engineered nylon compounds each year. The company will invest €12 million in the plant.

The company signed a new factory project through cloud contract with PingHu DuShan port economic development district on February 20, 2020. Production is expected to commence in the fourth quarter of this year.

The new plant will have more than 11,500 square metres floor space. The company plans to install multiple production lines at the first stage of development, which



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would offer an estimated capacity of 25,000 tons/year. There will be enough additional space available to cope with future demand requirements. The move is in line with the company's global growth strategy with a strong focus on the Asia Pacific (APAC) region, according to Domo Chemicals.

The new plant will be located in the convenient transportation port area of DuShan Pinghu city, Zhejiang province, which is in close proximity to Shanghai and facing the East China Sea. The modern factory will integrate R&D, production, and sales. It will mainly develop and produce modified engineering plastics such as nylon 6, nylon 6.6 and high temperature nylon (HTN). These products meet the rising market demand for modified materials for the automotive, electronics, and consumer industries.

Domo will implement measures that exceed the requirements for environmental protection for the equipment, processes, and technologies used at the new plant. The company will be investing in new air and water treatment technologies, and in the reduction of water and energy consumption.

The contract, which was signed remotely during the ongoing coronavirus situation, demonstrates Domo's long term commitment to the Chinese economy and the resilience of local Chinese colleagues and partners. The company has strictly

complied with the government's protection requirements at all times and diligently checked on the wellbeing of the work personnel.

Baarle to head Lanxess high performance materials unit

Lanxess, a Germany-based leading specialty chemicals company, has announced that Frederique van Baarle will take over as head of the high performance materials business unit with effect from June 1, 2020, succeeding Michael Zobel. The business unit's portfolio mainly comprises high-performance plastics for the automotive and electronics industries.

The Dutch native Baarle is currently heading the global procurement and logistics group function. Zobel will take over as head of the Lanxess subsidiary Saltigo on June 1, 2020.

"In Baarle we have been able to recruit an experienced and successful manager to head our high-performance plastics business. As a long-standing marketing and sales manager at high performance materials, she knows the business inside out," Hubert Fink, member of Lanxess' board of management, said in a press release.

Baarle began her professional career in the chemical industry at the Dutch company Royal DSM in the year 2000 after studying international marketing, obtaining an MBA and graduating at the



French business school Insead. At DSM, she held a number of internal management roles. Baarle joined Lanxess in 2011 and assumed various management positions in sales and marketing in the high performance elastomers business unit (now Arlanxeo) and the high performance materials business unit. Since December 2018, Baarle has been heading the company's global purchasing department.

Hexcel Corporation net sales increases 8% in FY19

Hexcel Corporation, a leading advanced composites company, posted 0.6 per cent growth in net sales to \$564.3 million in Q4 FY19 compared to same quarter last year. The quarter ended on December 31, 2019. For the full year, net sales rose 8 per cent to \$2,356 million. Free cash flow for Hexcel in FY19 increased 21 per cent to \$287 million compared to FY18.



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In Q4, commercial aerospace sales decreased 1.5 per cent to \$379.8 million compared to same period last year. Company reported that lower sales to legacy narrowbody programmes without offsetting growth in the Boeing 737 Max, and the A380 cessation caused the downside, partially mitigated by higher sales related to the Boeing 787 and 777X programmes.

Sales to “other commercial aerospace,” which include regional and business aircraft, increased over 20 per cent in constant currency in fourth quarter. The business jet category was the largest growth contributor of the various size classes in this market, as reported.

Space & defense sales increased 18 per cent to \$115.3 million in

Q4.

Total Industrial sales decreased 11.2 per cent to \$69.2 million in Q4. Company reported that the wind energy sales (the largest submarket in industrial), which had increased substantially throughout the year, posted a softer fourth quarter with some inventory alignment towards the end of 2019.

Selling, general and administrative expenses in Q4 FY19 were higher than the prior year period, reflecting the acquisition of ARC Technologies. R&T costs were lower as a result of timing related to qualification costs. Adjusted operating income in Q4 was \$97.4 million or 17.3 per cent of sales, compared to \$103.5 million or 18.4 per cent of sales, in 2018.

For the full year, commercial aerospace sales increased 4.8 per cent to \$1,597.7 million. Growth was driven by higher narrowbody build rates and the transition away from legacy platforms to the latest generation platforms with higher shipset values, and growth in the Airbus A350 and Boeing 787 programmes. Sales to “other commercial aerospace,” increased approximately 13 per cent in 2019, driven by higher business jet sales.

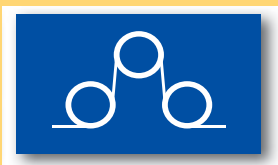
Space & defense sales increased 20.2 per cent to \$444.7 million in FY19 compared to FY18.

Total Industrial sales for the year increased 6.5 per cent to \$313.3 million compared to 2018. The launch of a number of new wind turbine platforms utilising the latest



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generation Hexcel composites led to an increase in wind energy sales of approximately 25 per cent in constant currency compared to 2018.

Selling, general and administrative expenses for the year were approximately 11 per cent higher in constant currency than the prior year to support growth including Arc technologies. Research and technology expenses for the year increased approximately 3 per cent in constant currency compared to 2018, reflecting continued investment in innovative composite products and processes to support customers and next-generation applications. Adjusted operating income for 2019 was \$425.2 million, or 18 per cent of sales, compared to \$378.9 million, or 17.3 per cent of sales, in 2018.

In January 2020, Woodward and Hexcel Corporation announced a definitive agreement to combine in an all-stock merger of equals to create a premier integrated systems provider serving the aerospace and industrial sectors. The combined company will be named Woodward Hexcel.

For upcoming fiscal 2020, Hexcel reported that the fundamentals of their business are positive, despite the headwinds from the Boeing 737 MAX. Company continues to see the strong trend of secular penetration for composites onto modern aircraft and consider themselves well-positioned to win significant market share on new programmes. For Boeing

737 MAX, company's intent is to continue working very closely with Boeing and all of their 737 Max programme customers to meet their demand needs. The company has forecasted flat-to-low-single-digit revenue growth for 2020.

Milliken & Company honoured by Ethisphere Institute

Milliken & Company, a materials science expert and specialty chemical, has been honoured by the Ethisphere Institute, as one of the World's Most Ethical Companies. Ethisphere Institute is a global leader in defining and advancing the standards of ethical business practices. The esteemed designation honours companies with purpose-driven strategies.

Milliken & Company is one of eight industrial manufacturers to receive the designation in 2020. The company is also celebrating its 14th year among the World's Most Ethical Companies. Notably,

the company is one of only seven companies to receive this honour for 14 consecutive years-every year since the award was first introduced.

"At Milliken, we constantly raise the bar on the ethical business practices that guide our day-to-day operations and our long-term vision," Halsey Cook, president and CEO of Milliken & Company, said in a press release. "Doing the right thing is as important to us as reaching our goals."

Over the past year, Milliken challenged itself to think bigger about what a relevant sustainable enterprise is in today's world and embarked on aggressive sustainability goals-covering people, planet and products-to achieve by 2025. The company recently joined the UN Global Compact, signed a CEO pledge of inclusivity and has heavily invested in energy projects to reduce its greenhouse gas



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emissions. Milliken views its robust ethics and compliance programme as key to fostering trust among key stakeholders and advancing Milliken's purpose to positively impact the world.

"For 14 years, Milliken consistently demonstrates the power of values-based business ideals in action," Ethisphere Institute CEO, Timothy Erblach said. "Whether it is by developing leading innovations that positively impact the world or by thoughtfully engaging with its communities to spark real change, Milliken embodies a holistic ethical mindset throughout its organisation."

Ethisphere's annual practice of tracking how the stock prices of publicly traded honourees compare to the Large Cap Index found that listed 2020 World's Most Ethical Companies outperformed the large cap sector over five years by 13.5 per cent, confirming that ethics is a competitive differentiator.

Grounded in Ethisphere's proprietary ethics quotient, the World's Most Ethical Companies assessment process includes more than 200 questions on culture, environmental and social practices, ethics and compliance activities, governance, diversity and initiatives to support a strong

value chain. The process serves as an operating framework to capture and codify the leading practices of organisations across industries and around the globe. Best practices and insights from the 2020 honourees will be released in a report and webcast in March and April of this year.

All companies that participate in the assessment process receive an analytical scorecard providing them a holistic assessment of where their programmes stand against the demanding standards of leading companies.

SANITIZED AG aids measures to promote hygiene management during the coronavirus pandemic: Antiviral properties of Sanitized® products on synthetics validated

Burgdorf/CH, 16 April 2020: Tests conducted by independent laboratories have now confirmed that a treatment with Sanitized® T 99-19 and Sanitized® T 11-15 reduces the viral load on PES textiles by up to 99%.

Swiss company SANITIZED AG celebrates validation from impartial labs that Sanitized® T 99-19 and Sanitized® T 11-15 are also effective against viruses (in accordance with ISO 18184:2019).

Tests were performed using a feline coronavirus with structures and mechanisms reminiscent of SARS-Cov2. Patented technology featuring an ammonium silicate compound is employed in Sanitized® T 99-19 and Sanitized® T 11-15 utilizes tried and tested silver technology.

These additives are the perfect tool for an antiviral and antibacterial treatment of face masks, protective professional

medical clothing, bed linens, or mattresses. The formulation of both products remains completely untouched, thus ensuring that it will continue to offer outstanding protection against bacteria.

Before a final product's antiviral properties can be publicly promoted, viral tests must be performed in specialized laboratories. Compliance with local legal regulations is essential here. SANITIZED AG explicitly



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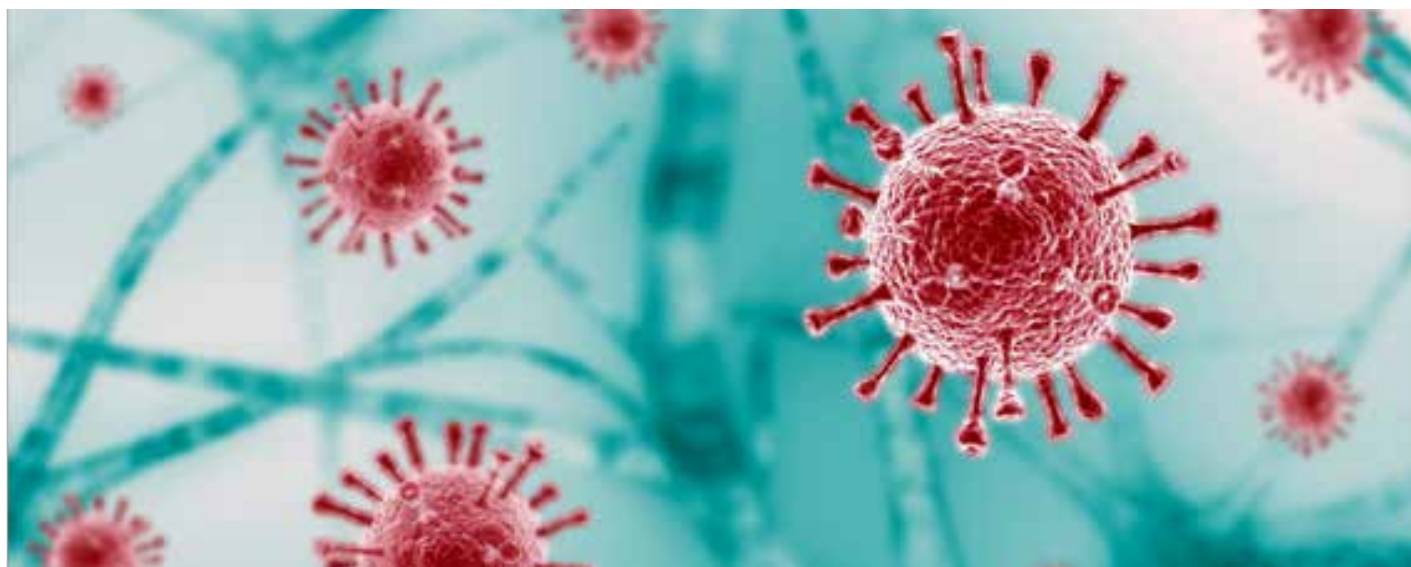


points out that this is standard procedure and has composed a preliminary Guide for Treating PPE (personal protective equipment) with biocide products.

SANITIZED AG has been supporting the work of hygienists in hospitals, doctor's offices, nursing and care facilities for many years with its antimicrobial - and now also antiviral - additives used to enhance the functionality of textiles and polymers. The reduction of bacteria and viruses is a feasible way to help stem the spread of infections including MRSA.

Swiss antimicrobial expertise since 1935.

SANITIZED AG is the leading worldwide producer of antimicrobial hygiene function and material protection for textiles and plastics. For over 80 years, the company has been undertaking pioneering work in this field and has become an established specialist in comprehensive hygiene concepts. In addition to effective products, the range of services also includes advice on marketing and technical issues, diverse testing services, as well as a well-founded brand and license concept. SANITIZED AG only uses scientifically researched antimicrobial active ingredients that have undergone strictest risk assessments for people and the environment in internationally recognized procedures



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Home textiles industry rallies against COVID-19

More suppliers pivot production, aid the medical community

New York – Masks, medical-grade gowns and other personal protective equipment (PPE) are in high demand, and more home textiles companies are responding.

The number of industry players pivoting their operations to produce these and other related goods and donate funds and products toward efforts to curb COVID-19's spread continues to grow. Natco Home is the second major home textiles company – with Mohawk Home – to partner with Fabric Source International to make medical-grade gowns for

working medical professionals. At its Dalton, Ga.-based facility, the company's "sewing machines normally used to serge area rugs have been converted so they can now be used to sew the fabric to make the gowns," explained SVP Mark Ferullo.

These items are being distributed to local hospitals as well as Atlanta's Emory University Hospital. Allied Home's basic bedding factory in Los Angeles is now producing a new allergen barrier cotton face mask. Designed with two layers of allergen blocking and

233-count cotton, the reusable masks add a protective layer from dust and other airborne irritants. Allied has initiated a special give back program; for every mask purchased, it will donate one to a facility in need.

Upstairs dorm décor designer LeighDeux has adjusted operations with its partner mill in North Carolina to make masks that are not medical grade but designed with a pocket to accommodate a medical-grade mask in the center, founder Leigh Goodwyn explained to HTT. "I am donating 100% of the profits



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to the First Responders Children's Foundation," she said. "Masks have been very difficult to get, but ours ship within three to five days of order."

Also available for sale on its website, LeighDeux's masks are priced at \$12 each and come in the four colorways of its popular Tanzania animal print pattern as well as the whimsical Lips design and the Indigo Shibori print."

Since launching the mask line via social media on April 3rd, LeighDeux has sold 4,100+ masks and generated more than \$50,000 in sales. "And orders continue to roll in by the hour."

Several major fabric design houses are also participating in the effort. Tulsa, OK-based Fabricut is

making masks in house as well as providing fabric to Wesley Hall Furniture – the latter of which has recruited a dedicated crew to make several hundred N95 mask covers for use by the medical staffs at various hospitals in New York, Michigan and California.

Fabricut's samples department team – typically busy making memos, showroom sample displays and other product sampling – recently shifted its focus to mask production. They've come up with two versions, both entirely made of fabric – a reversible style made of Fabricut fabric; and a medical-grade style (solid-colored in blue or pink) made from fabric provided by local medical centers.

Zoffany, home to brands Morris & Co. and Harlequin, among others – is providing fabric to various workrooms and designers making masks. These include: Primo Interiors and Tres Joli Drapery Workroom, both in Illinois; and Meghan De Maria in Connecticut.

Additionally, Pollack Fabrics has also donated fabric for masks. LinenMe is including a free linen mask in all orders. Lithuania-based luxury linens house LinenMe is not selling masks. But, as founder Inga Lukauskiene explained to customers in a special email about the business's operations amid COVID-19, her company will include a free all-linen face mask to each order placed "during these stormy times."

She added: "We are not selling



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Flaire' Pakistan is a brand owned by AHZ Enterprises (Private) Limited, The Company is committed to promotion of Natural Fibers, Fusing, Hessian, Cotton and other natural fibers to develop sustainable, Green, Eco friendly, Home Textiles for you and your family.

The product range is wide from yarn to fabrics to products whether they may be used for home textiles or for architectural and interior design. The intrinsic natural qualities of the fabric include insulative, health benefit as in seating material and naturally non itchy and return they contribute to the Green Building concept by way of innovation, a better indoor environmental quality and energy saving.

AHZ Enterprises is the only Company in Pakistan which is working on the 3R concept of reduce, reuse and recycle. The merging of two natural fibers having different intrinsic qualities to generate a new fabric with sustainable solutions in terms of technical textiles is a landmark achievement by AHZ. This has been achieved after years of research with the assistance of multinational companies which ensures a handmade fabric that meets World's standards of quality, acceptability and finesse.

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them and they are not available on our online shop. And be aware, they don't replace the medical masks. But as we've been advised by the experts, they are definitely better than nothing in protecting others – especially if you have a cough or sneeze. They are reusable if you wash them at 90 degrees and iron.”

Sears stores temporarily shuttered

Hoffman Estates, Ill. – Sears stores went dark over the weekend in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Transformco, parent company of Sears and

Kmart, closed all Sears stores effective April 4 at end of day. They will remain closed through at least April 30. Sears.com, distribution centers and customer care will remain open to fulfill online orders. Sears Home Services will continue to repair essential appliances. In addition, the company has furloughed the majority of its Sears employees at headquarters and other corporate locations along with store associates. Kmart stores and Kmart Pharmacy locations will remain open to provide essential products and services except where required to close by law or government order,

Mohawk Home turns bath rug facility into medical gown maker

Donates first 1,000 to local hospitals Mohawk Home and FSI are now producing 1,000 gowns daily. Calhoun, Ga. Mohawk Home's bath rug facility in Antioch, Ga. is up and running with a new purpose. Via a new partnership with fellow local company. Fabric Sources International (FSI), the rug giant is shifting its operations at the site to produce medical isolation gowns and protective face shields to meet the needs of healthcare providers at area medical facilities amid the

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COVID-19 pandemic. Mohawk Home was already working on trying to source more medical masks when SVP of operations Bart Hill received a call from his friend, FSI owner and president Chris Simuro. FSI, based in Dalton, Ga., buys, sells, converts, laminates and coats various fabrics and substrates. “We have millions and millions of square yard of spunbond nonwovens – which looks like a dental bib, and we sell that material to other industries,” he explained. “But it’s not medical grade.” Looking to come to the aid of area medical facilities in need of personal protective equipment (PPE) – which includes medical-grade gowns, face shields and masks, Simuro and his team began experimenting with FSI’s spunbond nonwovens to make them suitable for medical use. “Since we laminate films and peel-and-stick [applications] for other industries, we came up with a prototype material where we laminated a thin film to a spunbond material that in essence makes it barrier proof.”

A physician working in the emergency room of a local hospital said it would work, Simuro recalled, “but our prototype needed more work. It was a little crude because we can’t really cut and sew, not cost efficiently. That’s when I called Bart and asked him if he could leverage his cut & sew capabilities to work with us on this.”

Mohawk Home “jumped on

the opportunity,” Simuro said. Production got started last week with a two-person manufacturing staff. “We made 10 gowns the first day, then went up to 30 and by last Friday we were up to 40,” he said. “Then over the weekend we reset the line and by Monday when we came back we were able to grow to about 200 gowns in one day.”

Now with an expended manufacturing staff on site, Mohawk Home and FSI are now producing 1,000 gowns daily – and that number is expected to double or triple soon, Simuro said. Face shields for hospital and medical facility workers will be added to production soon. “Every day, more hospitals call us with orders,” Hill said. “This is not a moneymaker for us. We just want to help our people keep working in this tough environment and help our community any way we can.” Simuro said the first 1,000 medical gowns were donated; going forward FSI and Mohawk home are providing the PPEs at a

minimal charge, “to just be able to cover our costs.”

Dollar General plans aggressive store expansion

Goodlettsville, Tenn. – Continued momentum from strong sales in the fourth quarter is reinforcing Dollar General’s brick-and-mortar expansion strategy for this year. The company reiterated its 2020 plans to adopt about 2,600 real estate projects – including 1,000 new store openings, 1,500 mature store remodels and 80 store relocations.

“Our value-and-convenience proposition continues to resonate with both new and existing customers, and our unique real estate footprint remains a competitive advantage,” cited CEO Todd Vasos. Fourth quarter net income jumped 10.8% to \$535.4 million, or \$2.10 per diluted share, from \$483.2 million, or \$1.84 per diluted share, a year ago. Net sales for the three



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months, ended Jan. 31, increased 7.6% to \$7.2 billion from \$6.6 billion, driven by positive sales contributions from new stores and growth in same-store sales but modestly offset by the impact of store closures.

Same-store sales gained 3.2%, aided by increases in both customer traffic and average transaction amount as well as growth in the home, seasonal, consumables apparel categories.

“We are very pleased with our fourth quarter results, capping off a strong year of performance across the company,” Vasos added. “Our full-year results were highlighted by double-digit diluted EPS growth, as well as our 30th consecutive year of same-store sales growth. During the fourth quarter, we delivered a healthy 3.2% increase in same-store sales, as well as strong margin performance. In addition, we executed well across many fronts, including our operating priorities and strategic initiatives.”

Results for fiscal 2019 included:

- A 2% net income increase to \$1.7 billion, or \$6.64 per diluted share, from \$1.6 billion, or \$5.97 per diluted share
- An 8.3% net sales increase to \$27.8 billion from \$25.6 billion in 2018, driven by positive sales contributions from new stores and growth in same-store sales, modestly

offset by the impact of store closures

- A 3.9% same-store sales gain from growth in both average transaction amount and customer traffic as well as gains in the home, seasonal, consumables and apparel categories

Looking ahead, the company shared its outlook for Fiscal 2020, which calls for:

- Net sales growth of 7.5% to 8.0%
- Same-store sales growth of 2.5% to 3.0%
- Diluted EPS growth of approximately 11.5%
- Capital expenditures in the range of \$925 million to \$975 million, including those related to investments in the Company’s strategic initiatives

That said, Dollar General cited expected macro impacts to its future business, namely tariffs on Chinese imports and the COVID-19 coronavirus.

On the former, the company noted its diluted EPS growth guidance considers the anticipated impact of previously implemented tariff rates on certain products imported from China. “The guidance does not contemplate any additional increases in tariff rates, any expansion of additional products subject to tariffs, or any

tariff-related impacts to broader consumer spending,” the company noted.

Regarding the latter, the company continued, the supply chain disruptions experienced to date as a result of the coronavirus outbreak are not expected to materially impact Dollar General’s Fiscal 2020 results. In the meantime, the company continues to monitor the evolving situation, caveating “there is no guarantee that this outbreak will not have a more significant impact on its business.”

Stage Stores seeks vendors’ aid in dodging bankruptcy

Houston, Texas – Stage Stores Inc. is counting on leeway from vendors to help it avert a bankruptcy filing.

As reported today by Reuters, CEO Michael Glazer and chief merchandising officer Thorsten Weber sent an email Monday to vendors, noting: “We will require concessions from you, our vendor partners. We would not be reaching out to you today if these concession requests were not vital to keeping our company out of Chapter 11.”

Since March 27, the off-price chain – which includes the nameplates Gordmans and Bealls – has had all of its 738 stores closed temporarily (393 of which closed earlier in compliance with state and local regulations) due to COVID-19.

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Modular Multi-Head Embroidery Machine

In 2003 Melco introduced the principle of modular production to the embroidery world and stopped to produce conventional multi-head embroidery machines. This was the result of Melco's quest to offer its customers the most productive, flexible and easy-to-use embroidery equipment. To this day, this switch to the modular system has proven extremely successful and there are a lot of very good reasons for it.

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The Denim Window launches interview series via Instagram Live

Amsterdam-based showroom The Denim Window has launched a series of live Instagram streams twice a week featuring key players in the denim industry.

The idea behind 'The Denim Window Spritz' is to keep the denim community in contact and up-to-date during a time when stores are closed across the globe due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Beginning 31 March and streaming

twice a week at 06:00pm CET on Tuesdays and Thursdays, each episode will see The Denim Window founder Silvia Rancani speaking with leading players in the denim industry. Each guest will be able to talk about their business, collections and product innovations, as well as about their personal life and how they are dealing with the current global situation. Viewers can follow along on Instagram @thedenimwindow

and ask questions in real time.

The next guest on the show, which will go live on Thursday 2 April, will be Amy Leverton from trend forecasters Denim Dudes.

"The idea was born to allow all our denim friends in our community to stay in touch - to get information and updated conditions from all over the world and even to get to know each other better from a personal point of view," said

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Rancani.

“We are also working in upgrading and implementing our website. Soon the new collection concepts of The Denim Window companies will be available on a new section of The Denim Window website and from there you will be guided to get an appointment for online presentation live directly with the company you are interested.”

True Religion files for Chapter 11 amid economic struggle

True Religion filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in a Delaware court this week. The denim brand attributed its financial struggle to store closures caused by the pandemic, on top of existing liquidity constraints. This is the second time in less than three years that True Religion has filed for Chapter 11.

True Religion has also furloughed all nonessential employees. In its bankruptcy filings, the LA-

based company said it has just over 1,000 employees, 92 percent of which are now furloughed. It has between 100 and 500 million dollars in liabilities.

The brand's CEO Michael Buckley said in a statement that it will continue to run its e-commerce business just as it has been, until stores can re-open.

Kingpins to host virtual trade fair in place of cancelled Amsterdam show

Denim trade fair Kingpins has announced it is to stage an online show in April after its scheduled Amsterdam fair was cancelled earlier this month due to the coronavirus.

Kingpins24 will take place on the same dates - between 22 and 23 April - and will feature a live stream of panels, interviews, and exhibitor content such as line presentations and sustainability updates, as well as on-demand

content from Kingpins' industry partners.

The event's organisers said it is an “attempt to bring the jeans industry together even when we are forced to be apart.”

Founder of Kingpins Andrew Olah said in a statement: “We, as a whole, are resilient, resourceful and optimistic. When one door closes another opens. We believe Kingpins24 can give our global industry a chance to connect and share information. We have no other desire but to be a conduit for the denim world during these difficult times, where most of us, including me, are at home far away from our normal world.”

To access the content, people can visit Kingpins' website which will then direct them to a free livestream on Kingpins24.

Kingpins will also be screening its popular Denim Dudes presentation on key AW21 denim trends several times per day with screening times to be announced. The price of admission for each trend presentation will be 35 dollars.

The show will go live at 09:00 CET on 22 April and end at midnight on 23 April.

Hiut Denim Co. partners with Candiani to launch biodegradable stretch jeans

Welsh denim brand Hiut Denim Co. has teamed up with Italian denim mill Candiani to launch



its first micro-plastic free, biodegradable stretch jeans.

The limited collection, which will see only 100 pairs produced worldwide, comes in Hiut Denim Co signature styles: Men's Slim R, a sophisticated tapered style and Women's Neil Mom style, a high-waisted, slim-fitting, tapered jean.

The Hiut Denim x Candiani collection taps Candiani's patented, plant-based Coreva Stretch Technology created using organic cotton wrapped around a natural rubber core, replacing synthetic and petrol-based elastomers.

Co-founder of Hiut Denim Co. David Hieatt said in a statement: "We see discarded plastic bottles everywhere and it is not good. Eventually, the problem will become so bad that something will have to be done about it and that's why we put our mission question on the outside of our building:

'How can we be lower impact today than we were yesterday?'

"We need to find a better way fast and that is why it is such an honour to be working with the pioneers at Candiani on this world first. Let's hope micro-plastic free jeans are here to stay."

Alberto Candiani, owner of the Candiani family mill, said: "In a world where resources are diminishing and landfills are overflowing with discarded garments, it's our duty to look for renewable resources, in addition to biodegradable and compostable materials. Denim has to take the lead as the indigo flag of this revolution, and we are thrilled to be working alongside Hiut Denim Co. to share our innovation and beliefs with the wider fashion industry."

IAF Urges Solidarity in Apparel Supply Chain

In the face of the Covid-19/ Coronavirus crisis, the

International Apparel Federation (IAF) calls on the apparel supply chain and its stakeholders to enact sufficient supply chain solidarity. As stores close around the globe and orders stop, loss of income throughout the supply chain is unavoidable. No buyer can be expected to sacrifice its own existence or the jobs of its employees to save its suppliers. But collaboratively searching for ways to reduce the damage to suppliers is not only an urgent need, but feasible.

Solidarity in the face of this crisis means collaborating with industry members to bridge the income gap for workers and the demand gap for business. Operating with the objective of moving as much of the pain upstream in the supply chain will create breaches of trust that will be difficult to repair when we emerge from this crisis, IAF stated. "Choices made now will be scrutinized later", IAF secretary general Matthijs Crietee said today.

The Covid-19/Corona crisis is an unprecedented shock to this supply chain creating a dramatic domino effect of revenue losses. In Germany, offline fashion retail's sales in the first three weeks of March dropped by 42% compared to the same period the year before, and in Bangladesh orders cancelled in the past few days already represent a value of over 2 billion euros. Representing predominantly small and medium sized apparel



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brands, apparel manufacturers and their associations, and global suppliers to the industry in nearly 50 countries, the IAF represents directly and indirectly hundreds of thousands of companies. The apparel and textile industries are made up of the world's longest and most globally dispersed supply chains, employing tens of millions of workers in total. "Each individual company will have to determine what line of buying behaviour it does not want to cross if it can in any way avoid it", Crietee said. It is IAF's view that the global normative framework that has become

available in the form of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and translated into the practice of the apparel and footwear industries by the OECD's Due Diligence Guidance can help make companies make these choices. "In the past few years, we have seen strong and public commitments from leading brands and retailers for responsible purchasing practices in the supply chain in line with recommendations from OECD due diligence guidance. This climate is the most important and public test of those commitments." Supply chain solidarity is crucial

but not sufficient in the light of this crisis. International solidarity is needed from governments and citizens to help financially support the tens of millions of workers that make our clothing.

So in addition to calling on the industry to enact supply chain solidarity, the IAF is urgently asking the appropriate multilateral organisations and the financial support of national governments to step in to quickly make an industry-wide support plan for the most vulnerable parts of the global apparel and textile industries.



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COVID-19 pandemic: Kingpins to debut online denim event

Kingpins show organisers will debut Kingpins24, a 2-day online denim conference to bring global denim industry together. Kingpins24 will feature live stream of exhibitor content as well as panels, interviews, casual conversations plus on-demand content from Kingpins' industry partners & friends. It will go live on April 22 and wrap up at midnight of April 23. The denim industry, like all international business, has been heavily disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. But the denim community still needs to connect to share ideas, information and inspiration for the Fall/Winter 2021 season.

"We, as a whole, are resilient, resourceful and optimistic," said Andrew Olah, founder of Kingpins Show. "When one door closes another opens. We believe Kingpins24 can give our global industry a chance to connect and share information. We have no other desire but to be a conduit for the denim world during these difficult times, where most of us, including me, are at home far away from our normal world." Olah will act as the host of Kingpins24 and will enlist a cast of industry players to help him.

Kingpins24 will not take the place of a Kingpins trade show. Instead, Kingpins organisers will distill the content, energy and point of view that make Kingpins shows



unique and bring that same mind frame and approach to an online event. The goal is for attendees to have an understanding of the denim supply chain's offerings for the F/W 2021 season and much, much more.

The Kingpins show is an invitation-only, boutique denim sourcing show featuring a highly-edited selection of vendors that include denim and sportswear fabric mills from the US, Japan, China, India, Italy, Turkey, Egypt, Pakistan,

Thailand, Spain and Mexico; wash houses; full package manufacturers; trim providers; and makers of technology, wash chemicals and business solutions. Kingpins, which launched in 2004, produces biannual shows in New York and Amsterdam, as well as annual shows in Hong Kong and China.

Over 40 apparel factories in Bangladesh resume production

More than 40 readymade garment (RMG) factories in Bangladesh's Savar, Gazipur and Narayanganj resumed operations on April 5 to finish work orders despite repeated pleas from the government and the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) to extend the shutdown of RMG units till April 11. A ten-day shutdown ended on April 4.

More than 30 factories reportedly resumed operations in Ulail, Ashulia, Jamgora, Jirabo and Kathgara areas of Savar. Many workers left for their respective hometowns last month, but were made to come back to work by owners or risk losing their jobs. Many came back having to pay two or three times the typical transportation cost, according to

Bangla media reports. In Gazipur, at least eight apparel factories resumed production on April 5. They also said management did not take appropriate measures such as masks or hand sanitizers for their workers. They risk getting infected with the novel coronavirus as many rejoined work. But some factories, which had earlier announced they would reopen on April 5, remained closed after BGMEA's appeal.

Primark criticised over supplier wages offer

DHAKA - Fast fashion giant Primark has been criticised over its offer to pay the wages of the garment workers set to lose out over

the multi-million dollar orders it has cancelled in Bangladesh over the COVID-19 pandemic. Mark Anner, director of the Centre for Global Workers' Rights, part of Penn State University, said he was pleased that Primark had made a u-turn from its original position of refusing to pay anything for the orders it had scrapped or put on hold.

However, he said that offering to pay the wages of the affected garment workers was only around 10 to 15 per cent of the money they 'owed' supplier factories, many of whom could go out of business because of the lost income.

WPI inflation for clothing up 0.1% in March 2020

India's annual rate of inflation, based on monthly wholesale price index (WPI), for March 2020, stood at 1.00 per cent over March 2019. The index for textiles declined by 0.1 per cent while for apparel it increased by 0.1 per cent in March, according to the provisional data released by the Office of the Economic Adviser, ministry of commerce and industry.

The official WPI for all commodities (Base: 2011-12 = 100) for the month of March 2020 declined by 0.9 per cent to 122.1 from the previous month's level of 122.2, the data showed.



The index for manufactured products (weight 64.23 per cent) for March 2020 remained unchanged at its previous month level of 118.7. The index for 'Manufacture of Wearing Apparel' sub-group rose by 0.1 per cent to 138.0 from 137.8 for the previous month due to higher price of woven apparel, except fur apparel (1 per cent). However, the price of knitted and crocheted apparel declined 1 per cent.

The index for 'Manufacture of Textiles' sub-group declined by 0.1 per cent to 116.6 from 116.7 for the previous month due to lower price of knitted and crocheted fabrics (1 per cent). However, the price of viscose yarn (2 per cent) moved up.

The index for primary articles (weight 22.62 per cent) declined by 2.5 per cent to 139.5 from 143.1 for the previous month. The index for fuel and power (weight 13.15 per cent) also declined by 3.1 per cent to 100.7 from 103.9 for the previous month. While prices of ATF, naphtha, HSD, kerosene, petrol, furnace oil, and LPG decreased, price of petroleum coke moved up. Meanwhile, the all-India consumer price index (CPI) on base 2012=100 stood at 5.91 (provisional) in March 2020 compared to 6.58 (final) in February 2020 and 2.86 in March 2019, according to the Central Statistics Office, ministry of statistics and programme implementation.

Orders worth \$3.15 bn cancelled so far: BGMEA

Foreign buyers have so far cancelled orders worth \$3.15 billion in the wake of the novel coronavirus crisis, according to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), which recently said 1,134 factories have reported that 975.2 million pieces of readymade garments (RMG) worth \$3.15 billion have either been cancelled or held up.

These cancellations will affect nearly 2.25 million RMG workers, it said.

"We're facing a dire situation. All the buyers from different places, countries, and continents are suspending the orders," BGMEA president Rubana Huq said in a video message. BGMEA and the Bangladesh

Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) announced closure of all factories until April 25 in a joint statement recently, urging factory authorities to inform respective trade bodies if any factory office remains open for disbursing wages and other payments during the period.

COVID 19 Hits Jeans Export From China To EU, Plunges By 40% In Jan'20 YOY

Although China is gradually coming back on track, however, the last few months weren't good for the business. The globe has been witnessing a lockdown everywhere but it all started from China, either it's COVID 19 or the lockdown. Factories were closed in many of the parts of China to limit the outbreak, the business was hit badly and so was the production. According to the latest export data, we've learnt



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that the jeans export from China to the EU fell by 40% in January 2020 compared to the export figures in January 2019.

Denim Masks Display Creativity

Amidst the Coronavirus pandemic and a rising shortage of PPE like masks, people have now started creating the home made mask from different fabric. We have

come across some innovative designs and patterns which people are using specially with denim. No wonder all the problems are a source of opportunity and creativity. The masks have been created with scrap denim, pieces and clothing. These masks are circulated all over the world for the protection of one and all. Some of them are even available in retail

Please follow this link for the same. During this time, denim masks are stealing the attention in the fashion world. We brought some of the pieces below with the profile of the people who created them. One question arises.

Will the creativity in masks turn into a new product category for apparel? We feel yes and will



explore this in our next article. In the meantime, enjoy the designers' creations below. We have tried, as far as possible, to give Instagram names of people creating these masks.

Jeanologia uses ozone-based G2 technology for sanitisation

Jeanologia has repurposed its ozone-based G2 technology, which it uses for the sustainable treatment of jeans into an innovative method

for sanitisation and disinfecting face protection masks. Jeanologia is a leader in sustainable and efficient finishing technologies for textile, coding, packaging, and other industrial applications, headquartered in Spain.

Making its technology the last link in the production chain for certain sanitary equipment, before being delivered to the hospitals. Considered an essential business by the Spanish government during the COVID-19 crisis, the company is making a great effort, working together with other technology centres and universities in coordination with the government, and acting altruistically, Jeanologia said in a press release.

“For more than 15 years we have been applying it in the textile industry to make the industry more sustainable. That’s why with the current situation, where sanitization is primary in combatting the virus, we have challenged ourselves to transform our G2 technology within the timeframe of only one week,” Enrique Silla, Jeanologia’s founder said. “For the sanitisation process, we take the face protection masks to be disinfected and put them into a hermetically sealed chamber, Sanitizingbox, subjecting them to a determined quantity of ozone. Through advanced oxidation, bacteria is eliminated and the material is disinfected. Ozone is the strongest antimicrobial disinfectant and strongest oxidant in nature. Once it has been used, it is treated and returned clean to the atmosphere having been converted into oxygen,” Silla said.

The G2 technology transformed into the Sanitizingbox, becomes the key link for sanitisation and is capable of disinfecting 15,000 masks a day. The disinfection protocol is certified by the Valencian government’s health authorities and complies with international health and safety specifications.

Wrangler expansion in China halted by coronavirus outbreak

The novel coronavirus outbreak has put on hold Wrangler’s big plan this year to start selling the 73-year-old denim brand in China. Scott Baxter, chief executive officer of Kontoor Brands, which owns Wrangler and Lee, recently told a news agency that the launch is now scheduled for the fall, though its earlier target for launch there was February or March. Lee is already China’s biggest

denim brand. The uncertainty surrounding tariffs had complicated issues last year. Kontoor, which reported quarterly earnings recently, did not include the potential impact from the outbreak in its full-year outlook, but the company said in a press release that it is ‘carefully monitoring’ the situation. China now accounts for about 7 per cent of the retailer’s annual global revenue. Wrangler’s planned rollout included events for consumers and shows to highlight the brand. That is not happening now, Baxter said, but Kontoor is still working to build brand awareness through digital and social media advertising.

Some positive signs have been witnessed in the Kontoor Brands’ China stores recently. Over the last week, half of them have reopened.



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As'habi Textile, Private Limited Company, has transformed into a powerful competitor in the field of Home Textile since 1993, with an annual production capacity of 60 million meters. This family owned business aims to bring together a fusion of experiences of both the old and new generations. Our state-of-the-art computerized technology is directed at modernizing production and quality control processes. Our advanced systems improve product quality and increase production efficiency. Lead by a team of experienced directors and backed by young and dynamic individuals, we believe in promoting the business with progressive results.

Establishing a successful business relation with renowned retailers has been a part of our business strategy at As'habi Textile. We maintain a rewarding association with leading retailers in USA and Europe.

Furthermore As'habi Textile continuously strives to develop market leading merchandise by focusing on excellent product quality, working with cutting edge plant, machinery and developing value added products for retailers with a "passionate attitude for excellence"



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Closing of the acquisition of BHKW +Energie Group

Jenbach/Ravensburg, April 2nd, 2020 - INNIO announces that the acquisition of BHKW + Energie Holding GmbH has been approved by competition authorities. The transaction was closed on April 1st, 2020. The acquisition by INNIO was first announced January 13th, 2020. BHKW + Energie Holding GmbH has three affiliates: Energas BHKW GmbH, EPS BHKW GmbH and EPS Rental GmbH.

These companies boast a service portfolio that includes scheduling, construction, maintenance and sales of cogeneration plants (CHP) and gas engines in the 50 to 9,500 kWel power range. Additional services include rental of mobile CHP containers, supplying genuine spare parts, overhauling gas engines and analyzing as well as optimizing existing assets. For many years, Energas BHKW GmbH has been a

certified sales and service partner for INNIO's Jenbacher engines in Germany. Around one and a half years ago, EPS BHKW GmbH and EPS Rental GmbH, which operates in northern Germany, were added to the group. Through this acquisition well established service locations are added to the INNIO direct service network: Ravensburg, Beesten, Kulmbach, Magdeburg, Rostock, Lübeck and Wilhelmshaven. Together, the



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Group's companies service more than 1,500 CHP modules with an output of over 1,200 MWel.

Carlos Lange, President and CEO of INNIO, said: "The acquisition of the BHKW + Energie Group will significantly strengthen INNIO's service network in Germany. Energas and EPS have established an excellent reputation. This strong position will now be further expanded together."

In addition to managing directors Joachim Maier, Andreas Hülising

and Peter Mertel, the previous owners of BHKW + Energie Holding GmbH were Swiss Energie 360 Grad AG. All three managing directors will remain with the Group and, with their expertise, ensure continuity in the management of the company.

About INNIO

INNIO is a leading solutions provider of gas engines, power equipment, a digital platform and related services for power generation and gas compression at or near the point of use. With our

Jenbacher and Waukesha product brands, INNIO pushes beyond the possible and looks boldly toward tomorrow. The diverse portfolio of dependable, economical and sustainable industrial gas engines with 200 kW to 10 MW of power meets the needs of a wide range of industries around the world. INNIO provides support for more than 50,000 gas engines delivered worldwide throughout their entire life cycle. Backed by a network of service providers in more than 100 countries, INNIO can respond immediately to local service needs

Caterpillar Foundation Commits \$8.5 Million to Global COVID-19 Response Efforts

Caterpillar Foundation's investment to support a variety of efforts in local communities around the world where the needs are greatest.

DEERFIELD, Ill. – As the events surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic continue to evolve rapidly, the Caterpillar Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Caterpillar Inc. (NYSE: CAT), announced it is committing \$8.5 million to support global communities, including underserved populations, who are affected by the virus. The Foundation's investment will support nonprofit organizations who are working to help prevent, detect and respond to the pandemic; providing resources to hospitals, medical staff

and patients; addressing food insecurity; and enabling online STEM and coding education for youth impacted by school closures. "These investments are an important expression of our company's values," said Jim Umpleby, Caterpillar Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. "As we all work together to fight the pandemic, the Foundation's resources will provide essential support in communities around the world."

The Caterpillar Foundation is also expanding its existing U.S. Matching Gifts Program to provide a 2:1 match on employee and retiree donations made to eligible nonprofits beginning March 16 through May 1, 2020, per the program conditions that

can be found at: caterpillar.com/matching-gifts.

"The Caterpillar Foundation is focused on building more sustainable and resilient communities, helping them emerge stronger together during this unprecedented time," said Asha Varghese, Caterpillar Foundation president. "Our employees and retirees give so generously, and we are proud to amplify their gifts and support our many nonprofit partners working tirelessly to keep our communities safe and prosperous." The Foundation's \$8.5 million investment is being distributed among a number of organizations and COVID-19 funds around the world, including:



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- United Nations Foundation / World Health Organization Solidarity Response Fund;
- King Baudouin Foundation Fund for Italy;
- Global Foodbanking Network Global Fund;
- Feeding America Response Fund;
- Boys & Girls Clubs of

America; and

- Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund.

Earlier this year, the Foundation made a \$250,000 donation to the China Women's Development Foundation to provide healthcare facilities with critical medical protective materials in China's Hubei province, where the outbreak initially occurred. In

addition to these organizations, the Foundation is collaborating with our global facilities to support local nonprofits contributing to the COVID-19 response efforts.

The Caterpillar Foundation is also a member of the American Red Cross Annual Disaster Giving Program (ADGP). This program provides a funding base that allows the Red Cross to respond immediately to the needs of



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individuals and families impacted by disasters in the United States and around the world. Through our ADGP support, the American Red Cross is able to help people prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters around the world in partnership with international Red Cross societies, including assisting the International Federation of Red Cross as it coordinates a global response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

About Caterpillar

Since 1925, Caterpillar Inc. has been helping our customers build a better world – making sustainable progress possible and driving positive change on every continent. With 2019 sales and revenues of \$53.8 billion, Caterpillar is the world's leading manufacturer of construction and mining equipment, diesel and natural gas engines, industrial gas turbines and diesel-electric locomotives. Services offered throughout the product life cycle, cutting-edge technology and decades of product expertise set Caterpillar apart, providing exceptional value to help our customers succeed. The company principally operates through three primary segments – Construction Industries, Resource Industries and Energy & Transportation – and provides financing and related services through its Financial Products segment.

About Caterpillar Foundation

Founded in 1952, Caterpillar's

philanthropic organization, the Caterpillar Foundation, has contributed more than \$740 million to help make sustainable progress possible around the world by building resilient communities that thrive in a rapidly changing world. To learn more about the global impact of the Caterpillar Foundation, visit caterpillar.com/foundation. To connect with us on social media, visit caterpillar.com/social-media.

Humidity Equals Productivity at VMT Spinning

VMT Spinning Company has recently installed a JetSpray humidification system from Condair in its post winding section, at its state-of-the-art cotton production facility in Baddi, India, to maintain yarn quality and strength. The JetSpray humidifier was supplied and installed by Condair's Indian representative, Regent Machine and Servicing, and is capable of delivering around 250 litres of moisture per hour to maintain the ideal air humidity. VMT is part of the well-known Vardhman Group and maintains the highest production standards at its Baddi factory to meet the demanding needs of its mainly Japanese and European customers. Gurpreet Singh, Unit Head at VMT, comments, "The JetSpray has proved highly suitable for our requirements. It consistently maintains the required relative humidity in the area and has very hygienic operation. It is a sealed

system with no circulation of water, so there is no scope for growth of micro-organisms. It is also user friendly and practically maintenance-free. Mr Singh continues, "The humidifier is also excellent as an in-room top up system to supplement existing air washers fitted in air handling units. During the hot, dry summer season, the humidifier further benefits us by reducing the temperature in the area, creating a more pleasant and productive environment for staff." The JetSpray humidifier consists of rows of stainless steel nozzles, mounted high in the area to be humidified, which combine compressed air and water to produce very fine aerosols. The use of compressed air atomises the water so it evaporates very rapidly and guarantees drip-free humidification. As moisture is introduced across an area from many points of injection, the humidity level is very consistent and evenly spread throughout the room. This helps avoid high and low levels that some singular spot humidifiers can cause in a production area. Automatic flush and drain cycles ensure water cannot remain in the system to stagnate and combats microbial growth. Optional UV sterilisation or silver ion dosing offer additional hygiene safeguards for total peace-of-mind. The JetSpray humidifier uses standard plumbing fittings so is easy to install in busy industrial environments and the nozzles have a self-cleaning mechanism that minimises maintenance. A tiny pin pushes through the nozzle's



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spray orifice whenever the system stops operating to prevent blockages affecting performance. The innovative design makes the nozzles so robust in operation that

they carry a 10-year warranty.

VMT Spinning Company at Baddi was formed in 1993 when Vardhman entered into a joint

venture with M/S Marubeni Corporation and Toho Rayon Co Ltd of Japan.

Descon Wins Heat Exchangers Order by PEG



Descon Engineering FZE Hamriyah has won an order for Heat Exchangers by PEG for a project located in Iraq.

PEG is a diverse energy efficiency, engineering, environmental, and management consulting firm operating principally in the Eastern and Central United States. PEG specializes in building energy performance, green building program compliance, building diagnostics, environmental and code compliance, thermal performance, HVAC design and operation, and construction defect.

Descon Engineering FZE is manufacturer of Process Equipment, Boilers & Steel Structure located in Hamriyah Free Zone, Sharjah, UAE. It designs, fabricates and supplies pressure vessels, columns, heat exchangers, steam transformers, tanks, furnaces, flares, combustion chambers, incinerators, reaction furnaces, waste heat recovery boilers, direct fired boilers, Non-Pressure parts of boilers, pre-engineered skids & skid modules.

Descon Launches Sanidol (Sanitizer/Disinfectant)

In these extremely testing and crucial times, while we are battling the global pandemic of COVID19 and we face a shortage of sanitizers/disinfectants, Descon Oxychem Limited has decided to launch Sanidol (sanitizer/disinfectant). This Hydrogen Peroxide based product was previously available only for bulk purchases by industries. However, given the critical situation, Descon has made immediate arrangements to ensure the product's availability for purchase to anyone in need in 30 liters packaging (Hydrogen Peroxide is listed for use against Covid-19 both by Centre for Disease Control (CDC) & Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – USA)

The below brochure gives details on the description, usage and precautions associated with the product.



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High-efficiency compact powerhouses

High-performance TG-series refrigeration dryers from Kaeser not only impress with their latent heat storage system, future-proof use of climate-friendly R-513A refrigerant and relatively small footprint – they now also benefit from a new exhaust air system, which elevates these high performers to an entirely new level of cost efficiency when it comes to compressed air treatment.

Designed for large-scale industrial operations, these compact powerhouses are capable of delivering flow rates of up to 98 m³/min and ensure stable pressure dew points, even under the most challenging conditions – all whilst guaranteeing maximum reliability and minimal life-cycle costs.

When installed in a location that is less than ideal, energy consumption can increase due to a build-up of heat inside the dryer. The frequency-controlled radial fan fitted to new TG-series dryers is designed to allow the dryer to be connected directly to a facility's central exhaust air ducting – making this potential issue a thing of the past. Furthermore, thanks to space-saving component layout, the new units are smaller than their predecessors, meaning operators save on space as well as operating costs.



Kaeser Kompressoren takes the health and well-being of its employees with the utmost seriousness and has implemented extensive preventive measures effective immediately and also moving forward. Employees who have a laptop and for whom remote working makes sense are to perform their work for Kaeser from home. Thanks to modern data transmission technology, worldwide networking of the company and numerous high-performance software programs, this can be reasonably implemented and enables employees to carry out their work almost as effectively as if they were in the office. Maximum hygiene and safety are ensured, wherever possible, on the company premises. Production operations continue to run smoothly at present, as does administration. Thomas Kaeser: "Health is our most valuable asset and must be protected. Kaeser Kompressoren has always been known for its measured approach in dealing with challenges and for the ability to find the most appropriate and well-founded solution. The same applies in this case. With solidarity, respect for all others and determined discipline, we will be able to overcome this extraordinary challenge together."



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Nonwovens unlimited

Spot-on solutions from just one source



Needlepunch



Spunlace



Finishing for Spunbond



Wetlaid

Find out more at ITMA Asia,
October 15-19, hall 2, booth A24

Multiple options – single source. With top-notch expertise and experience from ANDRITZ, you benefit from a virtually unlimited portfolio of nonwovens production technologies. Whether you

need wetlaid, finishing equipment for spunbond, spunlace, or needle-punch – we respond with spot-on solutions. From forming to finishing, we have the answer. Take advantage of the

ANDRITZ global presence and service centers for efficient support. Excellent service expertise ensures high uptime and productivity. Stay ahead. Team up with ANDRITZ.





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