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**Exploring the Vibrant Textile and Fashion Industry in Africa**

In this insightful interview, we sit down with Makram Boughattas, a prominent textile expert with extensive knowledge of the industry in Morocco and Tunisia. Mr. Boughattas shares his expertise on various aspects of the textile and fashion sectors in North Africa and beyond. From the unique qualities of Moroccan textiles to the challenges and...

**German Textile Machinery Giants to Showcase Innovation in India**

The VDMA Textile Machinery Association is set to facilitate a high-profile delegation visit by 13 renowned textile machinery manufacturers to India from December 4 to December 8, 2023. This visit, supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action and expertly organized by SBS Systems for...

**Textile Machinery in China: Italian Machinery Manufacturers on Display at ITMA ASIA + CITME**

A total of 59 Italian machinery manufacturers will be exhibiting at the upcoming ITMA ASIA+CITME 2022, to be held from November 19 to 23 in Shanghai, as the event had been postponed for a year in the wake of the Covid19 pandemic. Of these 59 manufacturers, 26 will be presenting ...
Denim House sustainability and success in the textile and denim sector

In this exclusive interview, we have the privilege of speaking with Mr. ZARRAD Mounir, the Commercial and Marketing Director of Denim House, ...
Dilo Group’s Latest Innovations, Sustainability, and Recycling

Interview with Mr. Johann Philipp Oskar Dilo

Dilo Group stands as a global leader in the textile machinery industry, driven by its unwavering commitment to cutting-edge technical expertise, continuous research, and the development of innovative technologies. At the recent Itma Milan exhibition, Dilo once again showcased its capabilities to a diverse global audience, captivating industry professionals with its innovations. During an engaging conversation with Kohan Textile Journal, Mr. J. P. Dilo, the company’s General Manager, shared insightful perspectives:

"Let us know about Dilo’s latest technologies and machinery"

Dilo has launched on the occasion of ITMA 2023 our latest development “MicroPunch”, an intensive needling technology for the sector of lightweights from fine fibers used in many areas including wipes and medical applications which currently are manufactured using the water entangling technology.

This technology is very successful for wipes of ca. 40 g/m² for viscose and polyester fiber blends. The consumption of energy, electricity, and gas for water entangling is extremely high, the water
consumption considerable, and fiber material is hard to recycle.

Aspects that have led to our development of the intensive needling technology “MicroPunch” where the pure mechanical process of consolidation and staple fiber web formation may save up to 75% of energy (electricity and gas) as well as avoid water consumption and make it easy to recycle edge trim.

Additionally, Dilo has developed a web-forming concept to provide the possibility to place additional fiber mass across the width and length of a needled carrier which results in a defined and controlled placement of fiber in a 3D “mountain/valley” structure. This is very helpful for molded needled felts used as car interior linings as for example for the floor, rear parcel shelf, trunk liner, and door panels.

The molding process of a substrate of even fiber mass distribution and thickness is negatively affected by the molding process which causes strain and stress concentrations.

Those areas can be pre-determined and loaded with additional fibers in order to pre-compensate strain and stress locations. As a result, the total weight of those car parts can be reduced considerably which saves fuel or electric energy in the car.
This 3D-lofter concept as a special additive manufacturing concept can be reversed in that not mountains of fibers are added on an even substrate, but rather uneven areas for example in the flock mat which feed cards or aerodynamic web forming machines can be made much more regular by providing fiber mass to areas of lower weight.

This reversed application of the 3D-lofter concept we call “Isofeed” can contribute to reductions of the CV-value of weight distribution by approximately up to 4% depending on other circumstances.

“Recycling Opportunity”
What are your thoughts on textile recycling opportunities, and could you share more about Dilo Textile’s recycling equipment and solutions?
Additionally, Dilo has started partnerships with Dell’Orco & Villani, a specialist for tearing equipment, in Italy as well as TechnoPlants, a specialist for aerodynamic web forming, in order to provide the complete range of machinery and plants for recycling garment waste through a mechanical process consisting of controlled tearing, baling, web forming, needling and finishing including end-of-line equipment. Therefore, Dilo is now completely prepared to provide complete solutions for the recycling of textile waste.

“Sustainability”
What is Dilo Group’s sus-
tainability policy and efforts in textile manufacturing worldwide?

As outlined above “MicroPunch” intensive needling for energy and water savings, “3D-Lofter” and “Isofeed” to offer savings in fiber material consumption as well as our recycling lines include naturally a very important contribution to sustainability and savings of the resources energy, water and fiber material.

“ITMA Hannover”

The next ITMA is planned to be organized in Hannover-Germany. How do you evaluate it?

After ITMA in Munich 2007, the venues in Barcelona and Milan offered attractive locations to organize ITMAs in Spain and Italy during the last 16 years. Those exhibitions were successful for exhibitors and visitors.

Hannover in Germany has always been a location to provide a large space and professional organization to host many different exhibitions. The last ITMA was carried out in Hannover in 1991 and has proven to be a successful event at that time. I have no doubt that this can be repeated in 2027.
Loyalty, Friendship - and 10,000 Carding Machines

Back in 2001, the Trützschler Group created its first wholly-owned subsidiary in China. Now, the team at Trützschler Textile Machinery (Shanghai) Co., Ltd. (TTMS) is celebrating a big landmark – delivering its 10,000th carding machine!

TTMS is located within the Qingpu Industrial Park in Shanghai. When it was first set up, it operated on a site covering around 6,000 square meters. Today, the company’s activities have grown to cover more than 40,000 square meters. The TTMS team has also grown from around a dozen people to almost 450 employees. Together, these colleagues are capable of producing and assembling the entire range of spinning preparation machinery, from the blow room through to carding machines, draw frames and spare parts. TTMS also provides card clothing and after-sales services.

**Special guests for a special event**
The entire team welcomed special guests for a grand ceremony to mark this milestone achievement. The 10,000th carding machine was officially handed over to representatives from the world’s largest producer of cellulose yarn, Suzhou Zhenlun Textile Co., Ltd. As Trützschler’s largest
customer in the Chinese spinning industry, Suzhou Zhenlun has purchased more than 600 cards since the relationship began in 2007.

The distinguished attendees at this commemorative ceremony included a delegation from Suzhou Zhenlun alongside representatives from key partner K&E Co., Ltd and leading industry media network China Yarn, as well as a group from Dongsan University. By bringing together such prestigious TTMS partners, the event gained an atmosphere of excitement and shared celebration. The esteemed guests jointly participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony as a symbol of close cooperation and friendship. All TTMS employees and guests received a special gift as a token of appreciation.

More than a number

“I’d like to express sincere appreciation to our loyal customer, Suzhou Zhenlun, for the delivery of our 10,000th card,” said Harald Schoepp, Managing Director of Trützschler China. “Everybody at TTMS is honored to deliver this momentous card to such a deeply important partner for our business. We are truly grateful for the trust and recognition that the team at Suzhou Zhenlun has shown our products since our shared journey began in 2007. Our business partnership is now a close friendship with a heart-to-heart connection.
The delivery of our 10,000th carding machine is more than just a milestone or a number. It is a powerful symbol of the enduring strength of the trust, cooperation and friendship that exists between our companies.”

**Looking ahead to 20,000**

“Our company has completed 37 production lines and over 600 carding machines so far, which is way beyond anything we could have imagined,” said Mr. Shen Yaohua, Vice Chairman of Suzhou Zhenlun Textile Co., Ltd. “We want to thank the Trützschler team for their outstanding work. We value the quality of Trützschler’s products – and so do the downstream customers who purchase our yarn. Trützschler has helped create perfect products for us and our customers. I hope and believe that we will have the opportunity to purchase the 20,000th carding machine from TTMS too. Perhaps we can even achieve it in a shorter time frame of 10 years instead the 20 years it took to reach 10,000.”

**A positive path ahead**

This special event in Shanghai was celebrated in a spirit of close collaboration – and with a strong sense of optimism. Representatives from TTMS and its partners from across the Chinese textiles industry expressed a positive outlook for the future of this dynamic and growing market. Together, we are now striving to push beyond this important milestone and keep forward on the path to shared success in the years ahead.
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Empowering Turkey’s Carpet Industry:
The Journey of Carpet and Flooring Expo

In an exclusive interview with İlhan Ersözülü, CEO of Tüyap Fuarlar Yapım A.Ş., we delve into the remarkable journey and vision behind the Carpet and Flooring Expo (CFE). This dynamic initiative, born out of collaboration with esteemed organizations such as the Istanbul Carpet Exporters’ Association (IHİB) and the Southeastern Anatolia Exporters’ Association (GAHİB), aims to catapult Turkey, a global hub of carpet production, into the epicentre of the carpet industry.

Turkey, renowned for its production prowess and innovative designs in the carpet sector, is poised not only to be an industry pioneer but also a major player in international markets. CFE emerges as a pivotal platform to empower the Turkish carpet industry in its quest for global recognition, market expansion, and increased exports.

Tüyap Fuarcılık’s Journey to Organize the Carpet and Flooring Expo
As Tüyap, we set out in cooperation with the Istanbul
Carpet Exporters’ Association (IHİB) and the Southeastern Anatolia Exporters’ Association (GAHİB) to turn Turkey, which is the heart of the world’s carpet production, into the fair center of the carpet industry.

The Turkish carpet industry, beside pioneering the global carpet industry with its production capabilities and designs, will also be a key actor in international markets and also a prominent hub of trade fairs. This fair will support the Turkish carpet industry in its quest to reach its well-earned place in the world and increase its market share as well as the number of exporters.

In addition, we aim to become the world’s number 1 fair in its field within 5 years by equipping large, medium and small-scale carpet producers in Turkey with the necessary means. Turkey’s leading carpet producers from various cities, including Gaziantep, Istanbul, Uşak, Manisa and Izmir, will be participating in the fair. Our fair will make a significant contribution to tourism revenues by both displaying the true strength of the Turkish carpet industry and attracting thousands of foreign visitors to Istanbul.

**A Glance into Tüyap’s Other Events and Fairs**

We will be, on a national level, participating in the Warsaw International Home Textile and Decoration Fair, which will be held on 7-10 November 2023.

The Warsaw Home Textile Fair, which will be exhibiting upholstery, decorative fabrics, curtains, tulle and accessories, bed-
room, bathroom and kitchen home textile products, dowry and carpet products, is a key event gathering professionals from the home textile and furniture industries.

During the fair, the participants will have the opportunity to exchange views and share their experiences with companies and experts in their respective industries, while also having the chance to do business with European buyers.

Additionally, in the field of textile, we organize the IGM and ITM Fairs every other year in cooperation with the International Istanbul Yarn Fair and Teknik Fuarcılık.

**Turkey’s Dominance in the Global Carpet Market: A USD 17 Billion Success Story**

Turkey holds a 17 percent share in the global carpet market which is valued at USD 17 billion. Thanks to its high production and import capacities, Turkey is well-positioned in the machine-made and hand-made carpet industry.

During the first half of 2023, the industry earned USD 1 billion 280 million 888 thousand in revenues by exporting 291 million 373 thousand square meters of carpet. Our carpet producers have demonstrated a successful performance on a global level by exporting their products to 185 countries. Gaziantep, a city which boasts a very high number of participants in CFE, is the leading city with the largest share in carpet exports in Turkey with a share that reached USD 856 million 30 thousand.

**Iran Joins the International Carpet Fair**

We are trying to allocate the exhibition area to all of the countries that want to participate in the fair. Iran, a valuable country that has a proven track record in global carpet production, is one of the countries participat-
Every country taking part in our fair enriches our event. As CFE, we are proud to contribute to the growth of the carpet industry by ensuring participants from 17 countries.

Istanbul: The Strategic Hub for the Global Carpet and Flooring Fair

By organizing this fair in Istanbul, which is by itself a unique city with its prominent location in the global trade routes, rich history and natural beauties, we aim to turn Istanbul into the leading city of global carpet markets that shapes the trends in the carpet and flooring industries. Thanks to the fair, Istanbul will become the international gathering place of the carpet industry. Carpet manufacturers in Turkey and around the world will, from now on, showcase their products in Istanbul.

Carpet and Flooring Expo in Numbers

We expect more than 350 companies from Turkey and abroad to participate in the fair. The fair will take place in 8 halls spanning a total area of 100 thousand square meters. We are expecting participants from 17 countries, including Iran, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Russia, Jordan, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Libya, and Kuwait.

Marketing Strategies and Expectations for the Carpet and Flooring Expo

We expect a high number of visitors, especially from America, Europe, North Africa and Scandinavia. We anticipate that more than 20 thousand professional business people from 52 countries will visit the fair this year. Additionally, we believe that the fair will increase carpet exports from Turkey by 20-25 percent. We have ongoing effective marketing campaigns both in Turkey and abroad.

In addition to our collaboration with sectoral press and media, we also advertise on billboards and publish web ads and carry out international promotional activities regarding our fair. We have a wide range of active promotion and marketing activities, especially in Europe, America, the MENA region and sub-Saharan countries.

CFE offers industry players an ideal opportunity to increase interest in their products and create an even stronger influence on visitors’ choices. The Carpet and Flooring Expo, which aims to be the number 1 fair of the Turkish carpet industry in the world, will be open to visitors at Istanbul Expo Center between 5-8 December.
The Intertex Tunisia exhibition took place from October 19 to 21, 2023, at the Sousse Exhibition Center in Tunisia, and it welcomed over 170 companies. Among the exhibitors, Turkey, China, and India had the most prominent presence.

This fair, held in Tunisia, serves as a significant event in North Africa, contributing to the expansion of the textile industry on the continent.

On the sidelines of the exhibition, Mr. Serhan Pul, CEO of the company organizing the event, stated in an interview with Kohan Textile Journal: “Tunisia’s textile industry has become an attractive market for international companies like us, whose priority is to increase trade volume and make continuous investments in Tunisia. After a thorough market assessment, we concluded that Tunisia enjoys better business relations with other countries and exhibits a stronger work ethic compared to other African nations. This led us to organize Intertex Tunisia and successfully launch the first edition in 2018. The event, which started as a boutique version with the participation of reputable international companies, has gained momentum each year, attracting more participants.”
Tunisia, with a population of around 14 million people, ranks among the countries in Africa with a well-established textile industry, alongside nations like Egypt, Morocco, and Algeria.

Mr. Bahadir Ozer, Sales Manager of the Intertex Tunisia Exhibition, shared insights with the Kohan Textile Journal, saying, “The African continent holds significant potential in the textile and clothing industry, and with new investments, it is evolving into a new hub for the global textile industry. Africa boasts a labor force with competitive wages, and the textile industry presents a viable solution to address unemployment issues in the region. Textile and clothing exhibitions in Africa have the potential to ensure sustainable growth for African countries, although more attention should be given to infrastructure development across the continent.”

Key Highlights of Tunisia’s Textile and Clothing Industry:
- Over 2,100 active textile and clothing companies with ten or more employees, generating approximately 200,000 job opportunities.
- 83% of these companies engage in exporting some or all of their products.
- 1,124 companies and factories operate with 100% foreign capital or in collaboration with predominantly European stakeholders.
- The annual revenue from textile product exports amounts to 4,000 million Tunisian dinars.
- More than 170 million Tunisian dinars are invested in this industry annually.

Tunisia’s textile and clothing sector shines as a prominent industry in the country, playing a vital role in the Tunisian economy. After agriculture, the textile industry stands as a significant contributor, representing 22% of Tunisia’s exports. Additionally, within the industrial sector, 42% of total job creation can be attributed to the textile industry.
The 29th Irantex Exhibition: Challenges, Prospects, and the Road Ahead for Iran’s Textile Industry

The 29th Irantex exhibition, recognized as the largest textile exhibition in Iran, recently came to a close, leaving an array of questions, challenges, and opportunities in its wake. In this comprehensive analysis, we delve into the various facets that defined this year’s exhibition and explore the broader context that influences Iran’s textile industry.

We examine the declining quality of Irantex over the years, the economic obstacles faced by Iran, the challenges foreign companies encounter when doing business with the country, the low presence of foreign visitors, and the high costs for foreign exhibitors. By addressing these issues, we aim to shed light on the potential of Iran’s textile industry, which, despite its current hurdles, boasts significant cultural and historical value.

Irantex: A Brief Overview
Irantex has long held the distinction of being Iran’s most prominent textile exhibition. Each year, it offers a platform for local and international textile industry players to showcase their products and innovations. This exhibition has been a central meeting point for textile professionals, fostering knowledge exchange, and facilitating business opportunities. However, the challenges it has faced recently require a closer examination to understand the current state of Iran’s textile industry.

Quality Decline: A Cause for Concern
One recurring theme in the discussions surrounding Iran-
tex is the gradual decline in the quality of the exhibition itself. Observers have noted that over the years, Irantex has faced challenges in maintaining its standards and relevance in the textile industry. There is a growing consensus that the quality of the event has diminished each year.

**Economic Hurdles in Iran: The Bigger Picture**

Irantex’s decline is not an isolated phenomenon. It is reflective of the broader economic and political landscape in Iran. The country has been grappling with severe economic challenges that have a direct impact on all industries, including textiles. Several factors contribute to these economic challenges:

1. **Comprehensive Economic Sanctions**
   - Iran has been facing comprehensive economic sanctions imposed by the international community. These sanctions have had a profound impact on the country’s economy, making it increasingly difficult for businesses to operate, particularly in international trade.

2. **Inflation**
   - High inflation rates have eroded the purchasing power of the Iranian population, causing a reduction in domestic consumption. Businesses, including those in the textile industry, have had to navigate the complexities of managing their operations amidst rampant inflation.

3. **Political Instability**
   - Political instability within Iran has added to the challenges facing the textile industry. It has created an environment of uncertainty that hampers long-term planning and investments.

The cumulative impact of these economic challenges has been felt by businesses across various sectors. For the textile industry, these challenges have led to a reduced presence of European machinery companies at Irantex. This, in turn, has an impact on the overall quality and appeal of the exhibition.

The Irantex 2023 exhibition saw the participation of over 250 companies, both Iranian and international. Out of these, 170 were of Iranian origin, while the remaining exhibitors hailed from China, Turkey, and India. The event unfolded across an expansive space spanning more than 18,000 square meters.

Furthermore, during this exhibition, 15 educational workshops and two specialized conferences were conducted. These sessions featured the valuable presence of experts and university professors, fostering a platform for the exchange of knowledge and experiences.
Foreign Companies’ Payment Challenges
One of the most significant obstacles foreign companies face when engaging with Iran is the restriction on international bank transfers. These financial constraints complicate trade relationships, posing substantial risks and challenges. As a result, even non-European and American companies, although geographically closer to Iran, are hesitant to engage in high-risk transactions.

1. Risky Trade
   - The lack of conventional banking channels means that transactions with Iranian partners must be conducted in cash or through exchange centers established between the two countries. This situation exposes foreign businesses to various risks and uncertainties.

2. Tariffs on Textile Goods
   - Iran has also imposed heavy tariffs on specific textile goods, including yarn. These tariffs make cross-border trade through customs an unviable option. Consequently, some textile goods are imported into Iran through informal, often illicit, means by yarn and cloth smugglers.

   For instance, Turkey, a neighboring country with a substantial market in Iran, is represented at Irantex with only around ten companies. This is a fraction of the potential business that could be established, considering the strong presence of Turkish companies in textile exhibitions worldwide. The Turkish government provides substantial subsidies, further strengthening its textile industry’s global footprint. Similar dynamics are observed in India and China.

Low Presence of Foreign Visitors
While the challenges faced by foreign companies operating in Iran are apparent, there is another side to the equation—the low presence of foreign visitors at Irantex. Several factors contribute to this phenomenon.

1. Security Concerns
   - Iran’s geopolitical situation has led to security concerns that deter foreign visitors. Traveling to Iran is perceived as a risky endeavor.

2. Visa Difficulties
   - Obtaining a visa for countries like the United States
becomes challenging for individuals with a history of travel to Iran. This negatively affects businessmen who require a visa to enter the United States.

3. High Visa Costs
   - In some cases, business travelers use disposable passports, incurring substantial expenses. Turkish companies, for example, use this method to engage with both Iran and the United States. This approach, while practical for some, comes with its own set of complications and expenses.

Furthermore, the organizers of Irantex face limitations in terms of government support for inviting trade delegations of buyers. They lack the funds necessary to facilitate this. Consequently, foreign visitors’ low presence at the exhibition has resulted in limited opportunities for Iranian textile manufacturers to access international markets.

Irantex and Heavy Costs for Foreign Exhibitors
The cost of renting exhibition space at Irantex is notably high. The exhibition site is government-owned, and the prices charged for renting space begin at $250. These prices represent a considerable markup compared to international exhibition standards. This is a significant deterrent for foreign exhibitors looking to participate in the event.

Conclusion: The Road Ahead for Iran’s Textile Industry
In conclusion, the challenges faced by Irantex and the broader textile industry in Iran are multifaceted. However, they also present opportunities for improvement. Iran’s textile industry boasts significant potential, grounded in its rich cultural and historical heritage. To harness this potential and achieve a stronger position in global markets, addressing the existing problems is imperative.

Economic sanctions, political instability, and inflation have presented formidable obstacles for businesses in Iran. To overcome these hurdles, the government needs to adopt policies that promote economic stability and foster an environment conducive to international trade. Additionally, measures to streamline and reduce the costs of doing business, such as high exhibition space rentals, are essential to attract foreign exhibitors and visitors.

The textile industry in Iran has the potential to compete on a global scale in terms of quality and diversity of products. However, for Iranian textile manufacturers to realize their full potential, it is essential to address these challenges. A sustainable and thriving textile industry not only benefits Iran’s economy but also preserves its cultural and historical significance in the global textile landscape.
Global Fashion Jeans Manufacturer, Denimville, Unlocks Synergies with the Adoption of Coats Digital’s GSDCost, Complementing FastReactPlan and VisionPLM

Denimville is accelerating its digital adoption further with GSDCost, a strategic addition to FastReactPlan and VisionPLM, to increase productivity, improve costs and reduce its Standard Minute Values (SMVs) by up to 7 percent.

Coats Digital is pleased to announce that leading global jeans and sportswear manufacturer, Denimville, is expanding Coats Digital’s ecosystem of industry-leading digital tools with the adoption of GSDCost, to optimise its production efficiencies, improve costs and standardise its cost-to-make processes. Denimville is on target to improve its method-time-cost efficiencies by between 4% and 7%, depending on the garment, following its rigorous GSDCost training with Coats Digital’s experts during the first phase of the solution roll out.

Headquartered in Guatemala City, Denimville specialises in the manufacture of high-quality fashion jeans for premier global brands and retailers, such
as Abercrombie, Hollister, Loft, Chicos and Maurices.

The company employs 1300 people and produces over 35 million pieces a year. Denimville specialises in unique dry and wet processes and offers customers the highest quality jeans, based on innovative production processes, meticulous attention to detail and the finest, most durable materials.

Edwin Cifuentes, Engineering Manager, Denimville, said: “We are living in an increasingly globalised world and to future-proof our production processes effectively, we need to consistently improve our systems on an on-going basis to ensure our company is ready to meet the demands of customers and consumers in the long term. Coats Digital’s team has helped us to successfully re-engineer our company with the implementation of FastReactPlan and VisionPLM. With the addition of GSDCost, we will not only benefit from integration synergies but a seamless data exchange will boost operational excellence.

GSDCost will enable us to maximise production efficiencies, by enabling us to deploy accurate, scientific methods across our production operations so that we can optimise sewing methods, streamline line balancing, reduce costs and introduce realistic performance targets for machine operators, while ensuring fair wages.
The team at Denimville has worked tirelessly for the last three months to gain its GSDCost certification, and we are very excited to be putting this world-leading tool to good use in both our planning department and on the factory floor, to ensure we continue to retain our competitive edge. We are grateful to Coats Digital’s Project Manager, Georgina Vazquez, for her efforts, dedication and support in making the GSDCost implementation and training programme such a huge success.

Georgina Vazquez, Project Manager, Coats Digital, commented: “We are absolutely delighted to be continuing our strong partnership with Central America’s premier denim manufacturer, Denimville. By adopting GSDCost, the team will be able to establish accurate SMVs, improve operational standards and optimise production methods. Denimville’s CEO, Daniel Hernandez, was quick to recognise the value of GSDCost early on in our discussions, and he consequently wanted his team GSDCost certified as quickly as possible. Denimville remains committed to investing in and adopting innovative and robust fashion technology solutions and we look forward to working closely with them to ensure the company remains a beacon of industry best practice for years to come. Based on our initial projections, we anticipate SMV improvements of between 4% to 7%, within a year.”

Coats Digital’s GSDCost method analysis and pre-determined times solution is widely acknowledged as the de-facto international standard across the sewn products industry. The solution supports a more collaborative, transparent and sustainable supply chain, in which brands and manufacturers establish and optimise ‘International Standard Time Benchmarks’ using standard motion codes and pre-determined times. This use of a common language and standards supports accurate cost prediction, fact-based negotiation, and a more efficient garment manufacturing process, while concurrently delivering on CSR commitments.
Thai Acrylic Fibre Co., Ltd. (TAF), one of the world’s largest acrylic fibre producers, is excited to announce its participation in the upcoming Textile Exchange Conference 2023 at Booth 145. Set to take place from October 23 to October 27 at the O2 InterContinental in Greenwich, London.

The Textile Exchange Conference brings together industry leaders, innovators, and experts from across the fashion, textile, and apparel industry, serving as a premier global platform to collaboratively explore challenges and solutions to overcome the climate crisis.

At the conference, TAF will be showcasing their latest innovation – Regel™ – recycled acrylic fibre. With its impressive MSI (Material Sustainability Index) scores, and outstanding LCA (Life Cycle Assessment) credentials, Regel™ is setting new standards for sustainability within the textile industry.

Regel™, recycled acrylic fibre, has been developed with a strong focus on sustainability that offers a practical solution for a variety of textile applications. Its MSI scores and LCA demonstrate the reduced environmental impact throughout its life cycle and its potential to contribute to a supply chain, marking a significant step in the industry towards more eco-friendly textile production. Regel™ also retains the warmth, comfort, vibrant shades, and durability for which acrylic fibers are renowned through innovative “Regel technology”.

“We view our participation in the Textile Exchange Conference 2023 as an opportunity to strengthen our partnerships, exchange ideas and learn from other industry leaders who share our vision of a more sustainable future. We also believe that Regel™ sustainability features benefit both manufacturers and consumers by addressing the growing demand for eco-conscious products. We do look forward to engaging with industry peers, sharing insights to learn more about Regel™ and our broader sustainability initiatives,” says Tuhin Kulshreshtha, Head of Marketing, TAF.
Exploring the Vibrant Textile and Fashion Industry in Africa

Interview with Makram Boughattas

Unraveling the Threads of Morocco's Textile Industry

Mr. Makram Boughattas
Textile Expert in Morocco & Tunisia

In this insightful interview, we sit down with Makram Boughattas, a prominent textile expert with extensive knowledge of the industry in Morocco and Tunisia. Mr. Boughattas shares his expertise on various aspects of the textile and fashion sectors in North Africa and beyond. From the unique qualities of Moroccan textiles to the challenges and potential of the African textile industry, this interview provides valuable insights for industry professionals and enthusiasts alike.

Explore Morocco’s Textile Industry:
Learn about the distinctive features that make Morocco’s textile and fashion sector unique.

The textile and clothing industry in Morocco is an activity with strong potential. It occupies a strategic place in the national processing industry both in terms of jobs and exports and in terms of the socio-economic balance of the country. The remarkable performance in terms of growth rate has enabled the textile-clothing sector to position itself today as:

- The leading job provider with an average annual growth rate over the last 10 years of 7.3% against 4.1% for other industries;
- The leading exporter and provider of foreign currency with 11.5% against 9.2%
The leading investor in the economy with 10.6% against 7.3%

The first business creator: 4.8% against 3.7% for the other industries.

Despite the difficulties encountered in recent years, in particular, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the textile and clothing sector achieved a turnover of around 3 billion Euros as the ninth-largest provider of apparel to Europe (2022).

Morocco is a privileged partner of major international groups, such as Inditex, owner of the Zara brand, which has set up their production units in the kingdom. The main markets for Moroccan products are Spain and France.

Morocco is aiming to develop a more ecological, sustainable textile sector that can satisfy the demands of customers who are becoming more concerned with environmental issues.

The Moroccan Association of Textile and Garment Industries (AMITH) designed a new vision called “DAYEM Morocco” which provides a blueprint for the industry’s development with a focus on diversification and sustainability, strengthening the value chain and improving Moroccan textile and garment companies’ competitiveness.

Despite a thriving textile sector, Morocco still imports 85% of raw materials required for the industry hence the importance of strengthening Morocco’s position on the value chain by moving from subcontracting to the production of products 100% made in Morocco and enjoying competitiveness on the world market.

Assessing North Africa’s Textile and Fashion Industry: Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the textile
and fashion sector in North Africa.

Advantages

• Strategic position as the closest African country to the EU and to the US
• Highly qualified and well-trained workforce with dedicated training centres & schools
• Competitive minimum wage.
• Important working time (48 hours/week).
• Good flexibility for small and medium orders
• Short lead time
• Strong adaptation to deadlines of Prototyping/Fast fashion/Reorder.
• A good environment for investment (logistic costs, the technology of information and communication, administrative procedures and customs ...).
• A dedicated Textile Technology Parks and Industrial Zones
• Significant incentives for investments
• Strict respect of environmental and social ethic regulation.
• Compliance with major standards for products and systems and environment standards such as Oekotex, Ecolabel, ISO 14001, ISO 9001, SA 8000, ...
• Favorable Trade Agreements (with EU, US, Arab nations, African nations ...)

Potential Niches:

• World-famous brands of jeans are made in Tunisia & Morocco.
• Knitted tops (seamless) with large added value and sportswear with a high degree of performance.
• Mid and high-quality lingerie products using innovative fabrics, delicate laces and microfibers...
• High technological Workwear and Protective clothes (firefighters and surgeons suites).
• Technical and functional Textiles (airbags, sails, medical, ...)

Challenges:

• The North African textile industry needs to diversify its products and move beyond its main current markets and look instead at export opportunities in, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Scandinavia and sub-Saharan Africa
• New investments particularly in the upstream sectors (spinning, weaving, technical textiles)
• Development of innovation and research to ensure added value products.
• Migration of companies from
sub-contracting to co-contracting and manufacturer of finished product
- Local market manufacturers should be encouraged and protected against grey market and massive low-cost importation
- The government should protect the domestic market from Asian and Turkish products by increasing import taxes
- The North African governments should grant an export bonus (like the practices of certain countries in the region: Turkey, Egypt, etc.) while renegotiating advantageous trade agreements (rules of origin)
- Encourage public-private partnerships: The government can collaborate with private players in the textile sector to develop common strategies, share investment costs in large-scale projects and benefit from complementary expertise
- Reduce the energy bill of upstream textile companies and their carbon footprint (need to connect to the green energy circuit)

Unleashing Africa’s Textile Industry Potential: Exploring avenues for the growth and development of the textile sector across the continent.

The fashion and textile industry is the second largest sector after agriculture in Africa, having an estimated market value of $31 billion in 2020 and growing every year.

Despite the diversity of the African textile market, cotton seems to be the most consistent material in the country. 6 countries produce cotton under the label “Cotton Made by Africa,” which is one of the largest job producers, employing over 450,000 Africans in the cotton industry.

Additionally, South Africa has become involved in technical textiles by supplying hemp to aeronautics companies. Countries like Ethiopia are also starting to win over textile factories that employ locals and help companies trying to escape rising wages in countries like China. Companies like H&M have opened factories in Africa because their wages are lower and the population can support the necessary workers.

To develop its textile market, Africa needs its cotton as a majority (more than 95%) of cotton production is exported outside Africa while North African countries (heavy importers of cotton) are importing their cotton from outside Africa.

Challenges:
- Cotton-producing countries must limit the export of cotton and retain at least 25% of their production
- Connecting North Africa & Sub-Saharan Africa
- Huge Potential based on complementarily between North and Sub-Saharan in the Value Chain of the TC sector
- Development of new potential niches such as Technical textiles (work wear for oil companies..)
- Transfer of Know-How be-
between North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa

- Access to the US market by using the AGOA convention for North Africa manufacturer
- Access to intra-African market by eliminating barriers to trade through the AfCFTA agreement (The African Continental Free Trade Area)
- Access to the African market through the COMESA agreement (the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa)
- Repositioning on the EU market (increase market share).
- Increase the investment by Joint venture

**Discovering Moroccan Traditional Attire: A closer look at the unique and culturally rich clothing traditions in Morocco.**

Moroccan clothing is full of rich traditions and many of the clothes worn by locals are an integral part of the culture and Moroccan identity:

- **The KAFTAN** Historically, it was the ceremonial dress of judges.
  Kaftans are usually ornate and decorative, with beautiful braiding, beads, and sequins sewn onto luxurious fabrics, it is made from various materials, including wool and cotton, but the fanciest kaftans are made from fine silk or luscious velvet.

- **The DJELLABA:** may be found in other North African countries as well as, but it is still one of the most commonly worn items of clothing by Moroccans. It can be worn by both men and women. The djellaba is a long and loose type of robe that is often worn over the top of other clothes. It has long sleeves and a pointed hood. The hood helps to provide shade in the sun and keeps people warm in the cold.

- **The GANDORA:** is similar to a djellaba, with the major differences being that it has shorter sleeves and does not have a hood. It can be worn by people of both sexes and comes in various colours.

- **The TACKCHITA:** is the most formal and beautiful ladies’ garment. It is not an item for everyday wear but is reserved for special occasions such as weddings. As with fancy kaftans, the Tackchita often has stunning designs and details. A two-piece item of clothing, it has an under-dress and an over-dress.

- **The ABAYA** is a standard item in almost every Moroccan woman’s wardrobe. An overlayer, it is worn on top of
other clothes to hide the lady’s figure when she’s out. A long and loose item that is rather similar to a cloak, it covers the entire body save for the head, feet, and hands.

- **The TAHRUYT** is a large embroidered scarf-cum-head-dress that is often worn by Berber ladies, especially those that live in more remote mountain areas. It is comprised of two pieces of cloth, usually dark in color that have been stitched together and adorned with colourful and intricately embroidered details.

- **The TARBOUCHE** is a rigid hat with a tassel and it rather resembles the lower part of a cone. It is worn by some men in Morocco and is also part of some official uniforms.

- **The TAGUIA** is another type of male headwear; it is similar to the Jewish kippah, a short and rounded skullcap. It is a symbol of religious devotion for Muslims. Most commonly white, it can, however, be found in an array of colors.

- **The BALGHA** also known as the babouche, the balgha is a traditional type of shoe in Morocco. Soft and slipper-like, the leather footwear can be worn both inside and outdoors. (It’s still normal, though, to take shoes off when walking on carpets in a home.)

- **The DARAA**: is the main Tuareg man dress living in the Sahara desert in the south of Morocco, it is a wide tunic open on both sides, has a breach in the chest with a pocket.

- **The CHEICH**: It is a kind of scarf wearied on heads and around necks to protect against sun and sand.

- **The MALHFA**: It is traditional Moroccan Tuareg women’s dress.

- **The traditional BERBER clothes:** dress set, women’s men babouche and the cha-chi ya

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**Evaluating Second-Hand Clothing Business in Africa:**

Examining the pros and cons through the lens of an African sourcing expert.

It is called by many environmentalists: the poisoned gift.

With 34% of total world exports, sub-Saharan Africa is the number one destination for used clothing on a global scale. The sector generates several million jobs on the continent, all along its value chain. African second-hand clothing imports recorded a 28.84% increase in 2021 to $1.84 billion.

The increasing production of fast fashion apparel has led to increasing amounts of second-hand clothing being ex-
ported to African countries.

The second-hand clothing industry has emerged as a major sector in Africa’s economy as it creates jobs involving handling, alterations, refinements, and distribution of second-hand clothes helping increase consumer purchasing power and generating important tax revenue for African countries.

Domestically produced clothes are mostly expensive and low-quality while second-hand clothing imported from Western countries fulfills the demand of the African people by providing them with affordable, trendy, and good-quality clothes.

Furthermore, second-hand clothing has also promoted the work of businesses in the fashion industry, who repurpose and up-cycle second-hand clothes to produce new products of higher value.

But the second-hand clothing market also has a darker side: many of these clothes, especially those of poor quality, are not resold and end up in open dumps.

Big brands are dumping millions of tons of used clothing and textiles of such poor quality that they are immediately sent to dump sites polluting the environment, posing health risks, and contributing to the climate crisis.

Furthermore, the increased import of second-hand clothing has resulted in reduced demand for domestic clothing, an issue that hinders the recovery of the African textile industry.

Many African countries are indeed bound by international agreements (AGOA) like in 2016 when Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda tried to increase tariffs on American second-hand clothes, but they were called to order by Washington, under pressure from the second-hand lobby, a market which weighs several billion dollars in the world.

While the textile industry represents 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions, the urgency is above all to consume less. $460 billion worth of usable clothes are thrown away every year, according to the United Nations Environment Program.

My recommendation is the invest in the recycling industries and we can impose to each country exporting used clothes to pay (or participate) a symbolic amount for the benefit of companies that offer recycling in Africa.

Unlocking the Global Appeal of African Textile Designs: Understanding the factors driving the rising demand
for African textile trends worldwide.

Through AGOA (American Growth and Opportunity Act), the United States has opened its market to African products, with textiles taking the lion’s share where it offers sub-Saharan garment exporters to the US market duty-free access which is great leverage on ineligible members such as Asian countries, reducing production costs, which gives the US market a better option for African textile products such as baby clothes, grey fabrics, spun cotton yarn, wool, gin cotton, etc.

The route taken by many African countries to advance their economies through policy reforms, and structural adjustments such as employing appropriate technology, sensitization, government partnerships, inter-continental trade agreements, value chain addition, and infrastructure development has greatly attracted a lot of Foreign Direct Investments in the last 10 years giving the textile industry a bonus since it has been put under targets by investors as a lucrative sector due to low costs of production, cheap labor, adequate raw materials and so on.

This progress gives textile players from the African continent a firm ground to overcome the bottlenecks that have been hindering the sector’s progress and to compete favorably with other players especially Asian countries, China in particular which has become a global threat in the textile industry.

The African fashion industry has started to expand due to growing interest in Africa’s cultural traditions, including its vibrant hues and colourful fabrics, such as wax and printed dyed cotton, and the high quality of craftsmanship in African cultures.

The industry and its designers, both on the continent and abroad, are capitalizing on this situation, with Africa-inspired designs now regularly shown on the catwalks in fashion shows in Paris, London and Milan. Additionally, demand for African fashion is likely to be further boosted by the continent’s growing urban middle class, opening up the perspective of sustainable growth for the African fashion industry.

Demand for African textiles and clothing is growing globally and African designs are increasingly recognized as truly fashionable and iconic pieces. International fashion houses are increasingly incorporating African influences into their latest collections.

There's a strong tradition of craftsmanship and textile heritage and an emerging cadre of designers...
and entrepreneurs in the fashion space, coupled with a lack of penetration by foreign clothing brands.

The African designs are promoted all over the world by many style icons who are from the same ethnicity or who support the community. The culture of the country is represented and celebrated through these clothing lines promoted all over the fashion industry. African designs are required by designers all over the world because of the value they hold in the market.

African Fabric Designs have been the talk of the town for ages because of the creativity and authenticity the designs hold, attracting consumers of all ages and ethnicities and trendsetters.

African fabric is unique and has a high selling point because of its abstract beauty and aesthetics. Many artists use their traditional values and teachings while creating such designs, which makes these designs eagerly followed.

Examples of traditional and authentic fabric & designs:
- Hand-dyed batik prints which are produced in Ghana
- African Wax Prints is an extremely traditional wing of African fabric design
- African sun prints are created from dyes and other leaves that leave great colors on the fabric
- KENTE is one of the most popular types of fabric that is used to make shawls or similar products
- KHASA, strip-woven woollen textiles made by the nomadic Fulani people.
- ADIRE, a kind of indigo resist-dyeing perfected by Yoruba women in southwestern Nigeria; and in Igboland (the southeastern part of the country),
- AKWETE, a hand-woven textile often made from combinations of cotton, sisal and raffia.

Additional Insights for EMEA Readers:
«AFRICA CAN DRESS AFRICA», it is the textile industry that will radically change Africa. As an expert in sourcing, I highly recommend to textile professionals or those interested in the sector or in African fashion, to visit the professional textile & fashion shows organized in Africa. There are plenty of opportunities and creativities

The above example of African shows:
- MAROC IN MODE (Morocco)
- DESTINATION AFRICA (Egypt)
- INTERTEX TUNISIA (Tunisia)
- TEXSTYLE EXPO (Algeria)
- SITA, Salon International du Textile Africain (Ivory Coast)
- SIMOA, Salon international de la mode africaine (Ivory Coast)
- ALL FASHION SOURCING (South Africa)
- ASFW, Africa Sourcing Fashion Week (Ethiopia)
- SWAHILI FW (Tanzania)
- EATLW, East Africa Textile and Leather Week (Kenya)
Italian Textile Machinery Companies at Upcoming TITAS TAIPEI 2023

A delegation of Italian textile machinery companies will attend the 2023 edition of TITAS TAIPEI, which will be held in Taipei, Taiwan, from October 17 to 19, 2023. Taiwan is a very promising market for the Italian textile machinery industry, especially in the innovative sectors of technical textiles and nonwovens.

In 2022, Italian exports to the Asian country exceeded the value of 17 million euros, and in the period January-June 2023, the value has already reached 7 million euros. The attention for the Taiwanese market has led ACIMIT, the Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers, and Italian Trade Agency to set up a pavilion at the upcoming edition of TITAS TAIPEI.

Six Italian textile machinery manufacturers, all ACIMIT member companies, will exhibit in the pavilion: Ferraro, Danitech, Lgl, Ms Italy, Reggiani, Unitech.

At the upcoming TITAS TAIPEI, therefore, visitors will be introduced to Italian technology, once again a key player in the textile production process. ACIMIT (Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers) represents an industrial sector that comprises roughly 300 manufacturers (employing around 13,000 people), which produce machinery for a turnover worth of around 2.7 billion euro, of which 86% are exported. Creativity, sustainable technology, reliability and quality are the hallmarks that have made Italian textile machinery worldwide leaders.
German Textile Machinery Giants to Showcase Innovation in India

The VDMA Textile Machinery Association is set to facilitate a high-profile delegation visit by 13 renowned textile machinery manufacturers to India from December 4 to December 8, 2023. This visit, supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action and expertly organized by SBS Systems for Business Solutions in collaboration with VDMA India, will feature technology showcase events in Ahmedabad on December 5 and in Coimbatore on December 7, 2023.

Decision-makers and experts within India’s textile and nonwovens industry will have the opportunity to explore and adopt the latest textile machinery solutions aimed at enhancing the sustainability and efficiency of their textile businesses and products. These innovations span the entire value chain, encompassing spinning, knitting, weaving, nonwovens, dyeing, and finishing processes, as highlighted in a press release by the association.

The delegation comprises 13 distinguished VDMA member companies and their Indian partners. The participating companies include Andritz, Baldwin, Erhardt+Leimer, Groz-Beckert, Karl Mayer, Korting, Pleva, Saurer, Sedo Tree-
point, Setex, Trützschler Group, Trützschler Nonwovens, and Weko.

VDMA, representing over 3,600 German and European mechanical and plant engineering companies, stands out for its innovation, export orientation, and support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). With over 3 million employees in the EU-27, including more than 1.2 million in Germany alone, the mechanical and plant engineering sector holds the distinction of being the largest employer among capital goods industries in both the EU-27 and Germany.

In the EU, VDMA represents a turnover volume of approximately €860 billion, with nearly 80% of the machinery sold in the EU originating from domestic manufacturing plants.

This visit promises to foster collaboration and technological exchange between German and Indian industries, furthering the growth and development of the textile machinery sector in both nations.

VDMA @ ITMA ASIA: Smart Technologies for Green Textile Production

At ITMA ASIA + CITME end of November in Shanghai, 40 VDMA members will present their technologies and solutions for the Chinese and Asian markets under the heading “smart technologies for green textile production”. This year’s ITMA ASIA is the first major post-Corona textile machinery fair in China.

The exhibiting VDMA members cover nearly all different machinery chapters with a focus on spinning and manmade fibers, nonwovens, weaving, braiding, knitting & hosiery, finishing & dyeing and textile processing.

The VDMA Textile Machinery Association and VDMA China will be present in the industry hub in Hall 8 zone B to support the members before and during the fair. The industry hub is also contact point for visitors who want to inform themselves about the exhibiting VDMA members.
Textile Machinery in China: Italian Machinery Manufactures on Display at ITMA ASIA + CITME

A total of 59 Italian machinery manufacturers will be exhibiting at the upcoming ITMA ASIA+CITME 2022, to be held from November 19 to 23 in Shanghai, as the event had been postponed for a year in the wake of the Covid19 pandemic. Of these 59 manufacturers, 26 will be presenting technological innovations as part of the National Sector Groups, organized by ACIMIT and ITA – Italian Trade Agency. Occupying a surface area of around 2,000 square meters, Italy is among the major foreign exhibiting Countries at the event, as has been the case for previous editions as well.

ITMA ASIA+CITME, Asia’s foremost textile machinery trade fair, is all set to kick off in Shanghai on November 19th, and Italian technology will once again be on full display, showcasing innovative, sustainable solutions.

Asia is a major destination for Italy’s textile machinery manufacturers, with fully 38% of all Italian textile machinery exports during the first half of 2023 (amounting to roughly 338 million euros) directed towards Asian markets. China, in particular, is an absolutely important market for Italian companies: the first in Asia and the second worldwide behind Turkey in 2022. In the first six months of this year, Italian machinery sold in China reached a value of 81 million Euro.

“The general outlook for the Chinese market remains positive, although the demand for foreign machinery from local textile manufacturers has slowed somewhat for this first half of the year,” comments ACIMIT pres-
ident Marco Salvadè. “Investments in the textile industry have never stopped, so there is no shortage of opportunities in China. I believe ITMA ASIA + CITME will confirm our expectations for a recovery in demand.”

Indeed, the demand for machinery in China is centered mainly on technologies capable of combining savings in production costs with solutions aimed at respecting the environment. “My belief is that to increase competitiveness at a global level, China’s textile manufacturers – just like those of other Countries – need to focus on the digitalization of production processes, as well as on sustainable technology solutions. In this regard, Italian technology can certainly satisfy these needs, proposing innovative processes designed to enhance sustainability and digitalization, something which visitors at the fair will be able to see for themselves,” Salvadè concludes.

For his part, Augusto Di Giaicinto, Italian Trade Commissioner in Shanghai, states that, “ITMA ASIA + CITME has returned to Shanghai after two years, with a full reopening of the Chinese market, a significant statement that marks a reprise for the entire sector.

In fact, ITMA ASIA + CITME continues to be one of the most important events for Italian textile machinery sector, one highly awaited event also for Chinese operators increasingly sensitive to quality, innovation and the ability of Made in Italy to combine technologies that can bring together cost savings with product sustainability. And we need to keep in mind that over 40% of all Italian exports to Cina is made up of capital goods and innovative technologies that are especially appreciated by Chinese product manufacturers.”

ACIMIT will be present at ITMA ASIA + CITME 2022 at the INDUSTRY INFORMATION HUB, with its very own Hot Desk.
Redefining Albanian Textile and Apparel: The Stella SHPK Success Story

Stella company was started in 1995, by two Italian businessmen and an Albanian businessman with the purpose of producing Underwear garments initially for the Italian market, with a small group of 20 employees.

In 1997 when in Albania a civil war happened, the owners didn’t believe any longer to this project anymore and sold the company to an Albanian businessman Mr. Matuka. Since then Stella company is a family-owned business and continuously growing offering underwear garments to EU markets. Nowadays with 3 factories and 250 employees.

STELLA’s range of products mainly is comfortable underwear, daywear, nightwear, and Sportswear for all genders.

Interview with Mr. Xheni (Eugen) Matuka / CEO at Stella

How do you evaluate the textile and apparel sector in Albania?

The textile and apparel sector is the sector that employs more than 70% of the workforce population, basically is the main sector of developing the country based on the people who are employed.

Albania state has developed state schools and also A Textile University for Tex-
tile Engineers. Mainly Albania is a part of the European textile and Apparel cluster, it means that the material and accessories elaborated in Albania mostly come from European countries.

After the Pandemic even Albania like all the countries in the world is struggling for new workforce in the Textile industry, for that reason Albania has created a Cluster of producer companies with the purpose of producing high-quality all types of garments.

Here are some key points about the Albanian Textile and Apparel:

Textile and Apparel Production: Albania has a history of textile and apparel production, and this sector has been gaining momentum in recent years. The country is involved in the production of a wide range of textile products, including clothing, fabrics, and accessories.

Labor Force: Albania has a relatively skilled and competitive labor force, making it an attractive destination for textile and apparel manufacturers looking to reduce production costs while maintaining quality.

Export-Oriented Industry: The textile and apparel sector in Albania is primarily export-oriented. Albanian manufacturers export their products to European Union countries, including Italy, Germany, and Greece, as well as other international markets.

Foreign investors, particu-
larly from Italy and other European countries, have shown interest in the Albanian textile and apparel industry. These investments have contributed to the sector's growth and modernization.

Competitive Advantage: Albania's strategic location in Europe, relatively low labor costs, and duty-free access to European markets (due to its Generalized System of Preferences status) provide a competitive advantage for the textile and apparel sector.

Albania has been increasingly involved in the production of fashion items, including clothing, footwear, and accessories. Some Albanian companies have established themselves as reliable suppliers for well-known fashion brands.

Challenges: Despite its potential, the sector faces challenges such as the need for further infrastructure development, improved regulatory frameworks, and efforts to meet environmental and labor standards to remain competitive in international markets.

Government Initiatives: The Albanian government has expressed interest in promoting and supporting the textile and apparel industry as part of its economic development strategy. This includes initiatives to attract foreign investment and improve infrastructure.

How many percent of your products are exported to international markets and how many percent are used in local market? Usually Stella company export 100% to international markets, but it depends mostly on market volatility, now the International market has increased the request so we export 100% mainly to EU Countries.

Where are your main export destinations and countries? Where do you see STELLA in 5 years?

There are different directions where we think to develop the company, the
two mains are High-quality products and the Automatizations of producing processes the textile in the same time other types of projects that Stella company is working on is Solar energy producing and real estate industrial Buildings.

Lately, Stella company bought 30,000 square meters of different industrial buildings with 60,000 square meters of esplanade and roads to facilitate the Industrial Buildings.

**Sustainability and recycling an important subject for textile manufacturers and end users all around the world, What is the STELLA sustainability policy, and what you did for this?**

Sustainability and recycling are important subjects for STELLA company, our company is OEKO-TEX certified. We recycle plastic packaging cartoon packaging and paper based on a contract with recycling companies, The new transport vehicles that we have bought are with LPG fuel, and more than 80% of energy consumed for producing processes comes from Our Photovoltaic solar plant. Also, we applied a “Green policy” and we have planted 180 new plants per year in our company around the buildings.

STELLA company is an OEKO-TEX-certified company and we believe in our values of standards.

**How do you evaluate the apparel sector in Europe?**

I think that the apparel sector in Europe is growing with the new approach of more quality products, more sustainable, and more comfortable than fashion apparel!

Well, Albania until now has been developed only in factories CMT, With the new market trends and new technologies Albania has a good opportunity to develop the vertical chain in Textile, producing fabric material, coloring and treating the fabric, and not producing and dyeing the threads.
Blue-jean Lady AQUARIA® and The Three Denim Treatments

Class-apart denim treatments by AQUARIA®

Denim is the new black. With consumers increasingly looking to shop consciously and the always-increasing demand for denim, it is crucial to keep pace or, even better, to be ahead of times. The denim treatments made possible – as per quality and savings, we’ll go over it in a moment – thanks to the blue-jean Lady AQUARIA® by Biancalani have been presented during ITMA 2023 right in Milan, the textile machinery business heart of Italy. And they have been described as class-apart. They are Aquastone, Aquaflat and Aquafix.

Biancalani has made many tests on AQUARIA®, always looking for something special, for something more than what already existed. As per denim, the aim was to create treatments by Biancalani similar or preparatory to the ones made on fab-
ric during the laun-
dry process – laun-
dry processes are
meant to work on
the dark, raw denim
fabric and scratch it, spray it treat it
in dedicated ma-
chines to get to the
finished jeans. That
is also in response
to requests coming
from Biancalani’s
clients who have al-
ready been success-
fully using AQUAR-
IA®, aware of denim
growing trend.

Being AQUARIA®
a machinery that
treats the fabric
continuously, it is
possible to save
time and energy by
anticipating part of
the treatment, pre-
cisely, in an open-
width continuous
process. That’s vital
for companies in-
volved in large scale
production. Biancal-
ani was contacted
by one of the most
well-known, historic
denim brands, in-
volved in large scale
production, precise-
ly for Aquastone,
the first of the three
denim treatments
by AQUARIA®.
Aquastone is meant
to get to laundries
with a fabric that
has already been so
carefully treated to
show a great stone-
washed effect and
to ensure huge time
and energy savings
during the follow-
ing garment laun-
dry processes.

Aquastone is a
washing process
reproducing the fi-
nal stonewashed ef-
fect: it abrades the
fabric surface while
leaving the bottom
side untouched and
Thus bringing out the real fabric structure. That surface-treatment prevents from reducing the tone of color, on the contrary it leaves enough color. Thus, the piece of clothing can be further treated so to reach the typical worn effect on the seams and the necessary shading, and the accentuated three-dimensionality which is part of the laundry process. The result is a class apart from traditional mercerizing.

Aquaflat is a process aiming at a new effect that is totally different from traditional products. In this case, current technology allows to get to a smooth, flat fabric that also has the ultimate soft hand. Mercerizing had already transformed fabric processing in 2000, with fabric getting flatter and shinier, but the hand was quite textured and somehow rough. Thanks to Aquaflat, the fabric is flat, but softer and fluffier to the touch.

Aquafix exploits the unique effect created by AQUARIA® mechanical washing, the so-called, unparalleled, mama-wash effect. While the color is preserved, AQUARIA® removes those color parts that are not fixed and completely useless: the necessary part for shading is the only one actually getting to the laundry phase thus allowing considerable energy saving as per laser treatment. Besides, as per color removing, thanks to the eco-bleaching treatment by AQUARIA® it is possible to remove almost 50% of color without using harmful substances.

AQUARIA® brings innovation to the textile world: at the moment, no other open-width continuous machinery for textile finishing does what AQUARIA® does in terms of quality working on fabrics during the washing process. The results have been described by textile experts as class-apart and it seems AQUARIA®, the blue-jean Lady, is truly a step forward: from the dark, raw denim to a perfectly pre-worked flat fabric with visible pattern that could be used as it is and that is ready to be drawn on during the laundry process.
YOUR GATEWAY TO TEXTILE

Nobeltex experience goes back to more than 60 years in the field of machinery for spinning, weaving, dyeing, embroidery, twisting, doubling and rewinding, as well as humidification, ventilation and waste removal systems. In addition, we supply, install and maintain fire protection systems.

For many years, we have been capable of providing comprehensive and integrated services as we have the greatest experience and the biggest team, as well as being the exclusive agents in Egypt for the best machine manufacturer.

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Alaba-Egypt
Tel: (+20 2) 33041642 33035744

Alexandria Office
40 Sofia Zaghloul Street - Alexandria-Egypt
Tel: +20 3 4876220 - 4841093

www.nobeltex-gies.com
The partnership is part of wider efforts to build a new global circular knitting machine industry leader. Santoni Shanghai Knitting Machinery Co., Ltd., founded and wholly owned by Italy’s Lonati family, today announced the strategic acquisition of Terrot GmbH, a leading manufacturer of circular knitting machines based in Chemnitz, Germany.

The move comes as the latest development in Santoni Shanghai’s long-term vision to build an ecosystem that aims to reshape and consolidate the circular knitting industry. The transaction will be finalized pending approval from Chinese regulatory authorities.

The global circular knitting machine market is expected to see significant growth in the coming years, with a July 2023 report from Consegic Business Intelligence forecasting a 5.7% CAGR from 2023 to 2030, propelled by an increasing consumer preference for breathable and comfortable knitted fabrics as well as increasingly diversification of demand for knitted apparel.

To seize this market opportunity, Santoni Shanghai has...
developed an ambitious strategic plan centered around innovation, sustainability and digitalization. The new partnership with Terrot aims to further this strategy by enhancing Santoni’s integrated and scaled-up ecosystem, while also driving the sustainable development of the global knitting machinery industry.

“We see our machines not simply as isolated units of production, but rather as parts of a holistic and integrated ecosystem,” Mr. Gianpietro Belotti added. “Each part of this ecosystem is interconnected with the entire industry chain, bolstered by our recent advances in digitalization and our century long expertise. The new synthesis will offer now the largest range of technical solutions available in the market, which we believe will enable us to satisfy the needs of all investment levels. Through our partnership with Terrot, we are one step closer to fulfilling our vision of innovatively consolidating the entire industry.”

“With the strategic investment of Santoni, we aim to strengthen our position as the preferred solution provider to many of the world’s leading textile manufacturers and top brands as well as continue working with industry talents as we provide valuable and essential know-how to drive premium ‘Made in Germany’ textile machinery.” said Robert Czajkowski, Managing Director of Terrot GmbH. “We have found a strong, globally active partner with clear dedication to quality, performance and excellent expertise in all circular knitting segments, who understands the unique value proposition and potentials of our portfolio and with whom we can realize our growth objectives” he added.

Terrot GmbH Co-Managing Director Dirk Lange expressed his similar conviction that Santoni was the perfect partner for Terrot’s ambitions. “Having defined our strategic growth targets, we are now embarking on the next exciting chapter in our long and successful history, one that includes a 160-year tradition of textile machinery manufacturing.” Lange said.

By creating synergies and integrating capabilities in production, sourcing, innovative technologies, sustainability, software and digitization, both parties are confident that future joint projects will present numerous opportunities to serve all of major textile manufacturing centers like China, ASEAN countries, South and Central Asia, Mediterranean Countries and the Americas by unlocking exceptional value for all global textile and apparel players.

“The integration of Terrot, which also includes the well-known Pilotelli brand, will bring an immediate and extraordinary boost to our products portfolio,” said Gianpietro Belotti, CEO of Santoni Shanghai. “Terrot’s incredible technical capabilities, extensive product range and vast experience in serving customers all over the world will enable us to better achieve our shared aspirations. We are very excited about this partnership and look forward to working with Terrot as we move towards establishing a pioneering industry ecosystem, realizing our mission to providing customers with an utterly new knitting experience.”
In this exclusive interview, we have the privilege of speaking with Mr. ZARRAD Mounir, the Commercial and Marketing Director of Denim House, a leading player in the Tunisia textile industry.

We delve into Denim House’s journey, from its inception as part of the SARTEX Group in 1983 to its transformative growth in 2015. Over the years, Denim House has emerged as a leader, earning trust and recognition from renowned brands, thanks to its skilled team, sustainable practices, and commitment to producing high-quality products.

Join us as we explore Denim House’s diverse product range, its pivotal role in Tunisia’s denim manufacturing sector, and its strategic position as a key denim exporter in North Africa.

A Journey of Growth and Success within the SARTEX Group

Denim House is part of the SARTEX Group which was founded in 1983. The year 2015 was a changing point for our company with the implementation of Denim House for all the purchasing, storing, planning, cutting and sewing with the Sartex site specialized in the dyeing washing and finishing department. Together, they cover the full manufacturing process – from sourcing and design to the packaging of the final product.

Sartex group started with only 27 employees to reach over 5000 employees by 2023, having 2nd & 3rd generations joining our company and creating a family-like work environment.

In 2023 we reached a historical record of 5 million pieces manufactured
in our site. Throughout the years Denim House became a leading partner in the textile sector not only in our country but also internationally and especially in the EMEA region gaining the trust of many known brands thanks to our qualified team, sustainable process and high-quality products.

One-Stop Solution for High-Quality Jeanswear Manufacturing
DH specialises in the manufacturing of Jeanswear and sportswear: bottoms, garments, chino, cargo, jackets and overalls. Vertically integrated from design to pattern, cutting, sewing, washing and finishing. DH can adapt to any client requests thanks to the cutting-edge machines we have and to our experienced development and design team, we are also able to work on a big range of styles from simple 5pts to complex fashion styles with special finishing.

The Thriving Denim Manufacturing Sector in Tunisia:
The denim manufacturing sector in Tunisia has witnessed significant growth in recent years. The country’s strategic location, skilled workforce, and proximity to European markets have made it an attractive destination for textile and apparel production.

Tunisia has become one of the leading denim exporters in North Africa. Tunisia will be the 4th jeans supplier to Europe in 2021 with a total value of over 300 million euros, the equivalent of 17 million pieces with a market share of 9% of the European market.

The Tunisian market presents many pros for our international partners:
* Geographical positioning in the Mediterranean and the proximity to all the countries.
* Preferential trade agreements with Europe also known as the free trade agreements.
* Open-minded culture, easy integration and fast adaptability to the client’s needs.
* Short manufacturing lead time between 5 and 6 weeks.
* Respect for international social and environmental norms.
* Adaptability to new innovation, digitalization and new technologies.

As per global denim production and trade, it remains a thriving industry, with a growing demand for sustainable and ethically produced denim products.

Serving Clients Worldwide – From Europe to the Americas and Asia
Our company is 100% an exporting company meaning all of our clients are international clients. Our main destinations are 18 countries in total which are mostly located in Europe with 75% We also have a growing presence in the East and North America especially the USA with 15% and 10% for Asia, licensees and latin America.

The Textile and Denim Industry’s Path to Sustainability and Innovation in 2023
Even though the current situation is a little bit blurry due to many international challenges such as COVID-19, war, inflation, economic difficulties, climate change etc., the global textile and apparel industry, particularly the denim sector, is facing a setback during 2023 and hoping to resume to its level of growth by the end of 2024.

Sustainability will play a pivotal role as consumers become more conscious of their choices. We anticipate increased demand for eco-friendly and ethically produced denim products. Technological advancements, such as digitalization and automation, will also reshape the industry, improving efficiency and reducing waste.

Denim House’s Commitment to the Future
Denim House is committed to staying at the forefront of the industry. We are con-
stantly innovating and investing in research and development to create cutting-edge denim products with the most sustainable processes: increasing automation, reducing manual work, reducing water and energy consumption and all kinds of waste.

One of our latest projects is about 3D collections design services for all products; clothes collections, fabrics etc. for digital artists, game developers, designers, hobbyists, and all professionals seeking high-quality 3D assets for their projects.

**Denim House’s Dedication to Sustainable Practices**

Sustainability is of essence to Denim House. Our sustainability policy encompasses every aspect of our operations, from sourcing eco-friendly materials to reducing water and energy consumption in our production processes.

We have implemented a water treatment and recycling station with a capacity of 1600m³ over 3000m² surface reusing 85% of our used water and reducing COD by 87%, BOD5 by 91% and TSS by 99% and of course reducing chemical usage, investing in laser machines for more sustainable process, low energy consuming machines and currently working on providing the plant with solar power after successfully implementing a pilot project that we plan on scaling it on our sites.

**Tunisia’s Textile Industry and Its Renewed Promise**

The reason behind that is the strong historical connections with our European partners that go way back in time, One of the many other reasons is the denim culture that Tunisia acquired for decades and the interactions we had with all our partners, denim experts, brands, designers and brands.

The Tunisian government has provided incentives, and educative training for the textile sector, including preferential trade agreements and investment incentives. They have recognized the industry’s potential for job creation and economic growth and have supported its development.

Even though it sustained setbacks in the previous years due to many external
reasons now it's starting to come back stronger, focusing more on the textile sector and acknowledging its importance to our country, reviewing many laws to support the textile sector to thrive thanks to the efforts of many national organizations such as the CETTTEX (Textile Technical Center), CEPPEX (Export Promotion Center), FTTH (Tunisian Federation for Textile and Clothing) and international GIZ, USAID, who are very active in Tunisia.

Denim House's Commitment to Quality and Sustainability

Denim House holds several certifications to validate our product quality and sustainability efforts. These include mainly GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard), GRS (Global Recycled Standards), OCS (Organic Content Standard) as well as ISO14001 & ISO 45001 and many others such as BSCI (Business Social Compliance Standard), SMETA, SEDEX, fair labor etc.

Our Commitment and Vision for a Brighter Future

We would like to emphasize our commitment to producing denim products that not only meet the highest quality standards but also contribute to a more sustainable and responsible future.

Denim House is dedicated to being a leader in environmentally conscious denim manufacturing, and we welcome partnerships and collaborations to drive positive change in the textile industry. We thank our customers and stakeholders for their continued support and we look forward to a bright future for denim.
Insight: Indonesia Textile Market

Biancalani agent in Indonesia talks about cooperation, government support and a strong partnership. Indonesia textile market has finally experienced a significant economic upturn and rising purchasing power for the first time since 2020, which was not a foregone conclusion.

Indonesia is among the top 10 textile-producing countries in the world and definitely able to supply strong international demand. The strong support from Indonesian government – aiming at propelling Indonesia into the world’s top five textile producers by 2030 thanks to the so-called Industry 4.0 master plan – is definitely fundamental and absolutely encouraging.

Mr. Yudi Sulasdi, Biancalani agent in Indonesia at Sigma Multi Prima, speaks precisely of cooperation and support. That is what the company got from Biancalani and what resulted in getting orders just few months after Sigma was founded. Actually, as Yudi recalls, Sigma has been founded because Biancalani has encouraged its founder to start his own business and since then the two companies benefit from a strong partnership based on cooperation and trust.

First of all, Yudi says, two companies working close together must share the same mission, i.e. to enhance customers satisfaction globally by providing added value to textile finishing processes. In Indonesia, Biancalani Textile Machinery, is perceived as a producer of top-quality textile machinery ensuring the softest hand and countless finishing effects, while boasting very good brand positioning and an already high number of installed units.

On the other hand, Sigma takes care of giving constant and detailed updates to Biancalani, thus creating a virtuous communication circle essential to any professional partnership that really works. Plus, regular visits to clients and seminars on Biancalani textile machinery are definitely part of Sigma approach to business.

Looking to the future, Sigma is enthusiastic of the new AQUARIAR machine, while AIROR24 keeps on being a best seller in Indonesian textile market. Besides, Biancalani machinery totally meets the main points of the above-mentioned Industry 4.0 master plan by Indonesian government, i.e. high textile technology, rapid data analysis and sustainability – it should be emphasized that the plan includes a specific restructuring program for textile industry machines and equipment.
Pleating never goes out of fashion. On the contrary, the passion for pleated textures continues to set trends in the world of fashion and haute couture and has even conquered other creative sectors, such as design and architecture.

Relaunched at the turn of the century and made popular by Marylin Monroe, the elegant, pleated skirt is synonymous with style. However, when it comes to adding patterns or other graphic design elements to a pleated garment, the nature of the process creates some complications. This is where the introduction of digitally printed designs and patterns can take pleated garments to even higher levels of quality and appeal.

Not only that, but digital printing techniques can also offer designers and textile companies increased flexibility when it comes to modifying a piece. Whether to improve the end result last minute or simply create a slightly different version of an existing design – changing the colours gives consumers multiple options of the same product.

Omniapiega is a company who recognises the opportunities made possible with digital printing. This Italian company’s expertise in producing high-quality pleated garments is central to its success. Founded in 1970, Omniapiega has tackled various technological challenges over the years in order to continuously improve the complex pleating processes, enhance quality and deliver the best possi-
ble service. The most recent way this established business has driven even further success and maintained its competitive advantage was to add digital printing services to its offering.

Bringing Print into the Fold
Based in Carate Brianza, in the province of Monza Brianza – strategically located close to the textile districts of Como and Turin and the fashion capital, Milan – Omniapiega offers a highly specialist, customised pleating service to fashion designers and brands.

“In the past, we used external suppliers for creative development and for printing, with very long and complex production processes,” explains Pierfilippo Longoni, Fabrics Developer at Omniapiega. “However, when dealing with the world of fashion and creativity, tight deadlines, and last-minute changes are the order of the day. Even when a product is approved, very often variants of the design have to be made very quickly. Consequently, with production times exceeding two weeks, outsourcing the print was complicated and presented several problems.”

This lengthy process and the need to create different versions of the same product on demand prompted Omniapiega’s management to take the leap and bring digital printing in-house. The aim was to speed up production and guarantee consistent quality from the conception of the design to the choice of fabrics, right up to the delivery of the almost finished product.

Fashioning a New In-House Digital Print Service
With the support of Bompan, Mimaki’s exclusive reseller in Italy, Omniapiega installed its first Mimaki JVS printer in 2015,
which was quickly followed by two more units.

“The first step was to create a dedicated printing team, including a technician specialising in sublimation printing for textiles, a graphic designer and a textile designer. It was with this new team that, after researching the solutions available on the market, it was decided to focus on Mimaki’s technology,” explained Longoni.

With its expert team in place and three Mimaki systems printing reliably and at high quality, Omniapiega was able to successfully launch its in-house service, increasing both production speed and flexibility. The company could now easily meet the requirements of its customers for fast iterations or design versions, as well as provide more choice when it came to printing onto different fabrics.

“The ability to print in-house gave us the extra edge. Mimaki’s technology proved effective right from the start, providing the quality, repeatability and production efficiency we needed. Over the years, we then turned our attention to perfecting the creativity and design element of our services,” continued Longoni.

Latest Mimaki Technology for ComPLEAT Creativity

Focused on production technology innovation and with the excellent experience Omniapiega has had with Mimaki to date, the company decided to upgrade its production facility in 2022. They added a Mimaki TS55-1800 sublimation printer, intended for continuous production on 350-metre reels, and a TS100-1600 sublimation printer for sampling.

The combination of the two high performance machines allows the company to run proofs with greater flexibility before moving to actual production. The consistently high quality achievable with these two systems provides Omniapiega with the certainty that it will achieve the same end results, identical to the prototypes, every time.
Longoni continued, “The investment in the Mimaki TS55-1800 and TS100-1600 printers enabled us to further improve speed and productivity. But that’s not all – Mimaki’s technology has enhanced our creative processes too, making it possible to replicate a number of vintage jobs in a modern way. In our archive, we have around 6000 different samples for pleating processes and fabric designs.

Designers have access to this archive and often take vintage designs or garments as inspiration. Thanks to Mimaki’s technology, we are able to work with them to adapt these beautiful vintage patterns to ensure they look flawless when printed and then pleated. The Mimaki printers produce vibrant colours and intricate, accurate details that add that final touch of creativity to the pieces.”

“Pleating has always been our core business and we boast a leading position in the market. In fact, we can say that when we look in the shop windows of the high streets across Italy, the pleats on display are often our own work. With the addition of our dedicated team and Mimaki’s digital equipment, we have been able to further consolidate our position as an industry leader.

The high-end fashion brands we work with are excited with the applications we achieved with this technology, and likewise, they are happy with the exceptional service in terms of flexibility and speed, both in development and production, that we are able to provide thanks to the Mimaki printers. Last but not least, digital printing has opened up countless avenues of development and innovation for us, allowing us to further accelerate our path of continuous growth and evolution.

We look forward to what the future holds as we continue to push new creative and technological boundaries together,” Longoni concludes.
Texpasa is a family-owned business with a rich history dating back to 1978. Over the years, we have embarked on an incredible journey, transitioning through various historical stages in the textile industry. Our evolution has led us to become a cutting-edge company specializing in the knitting, dyeing, and finishing of textiles for the apparel market.

**First in Finishing in Guatemala**

In 2020, we marked a significant milestone by opening our second plant at the Michatoya Industrial Park in Palin. This state-of-the-art facility houses our knitting, dyeing, and finishing operations, consolidating our original factory in Guatemala City. As part of this expansion, we have successfully relocated our Brückner stenters, with the invaluable support of Brückner technicians, further enhancing our capabilities.

At Texpasa, we are committed to delivering excellence in every textile we produce, and our legacy of innovation and dedication continues to drive us forward. We look forward to serving our customers with the highest quality textiles for many more years to come.

David Franco, Maintenance Manager of Texpasa, is highly satisfied with the support of the service team: “Brückner builds high-quality machines and offers excellent service. We have known this since the purchase of our first stenter. The support during the relocation of the machines from Guatemala City to Palin also shows us that Brückner is a service partner we can rely on even in the case of big challenges. The machines were carefully dismantled and packed with Brückner’s support. They arrived in good condition and are..."
being reassembled and put into operation without any problems."

A total of seven Brückner stenter frames with vertical chains will be operating in the Michatoya plant from the start of 2024. The latest POWER-FRAME stenter with 10 bays was put into operation in 2022. All Brückner stenters in the Michatoya Industrial Park are counter-construction.

Thus, the heating and ventilation elements change the dryer side every 1.5 meters, which leads to an absolutely uniform air admission, i.e. a very homogeneous air quantity and temperature distribution over the entire fabric web width. They offer the highest possible drying performance and process control matched to the fabric quality thanks to the technically mature and proven split-flow ventilation system.

This is extremely important for the major sports and leisure brands in which Texpasa supports. Robust and low-maintenance chains, chain bars, and pin bar carriers stand for long service life and low wear.

The finishing results are exactly reproducible and overdrying of the fabric during machine standstill is excluded by the air bypass system. Minimal air pressure losses and high-quality insulation result in the lowest possible electrical and thermal energy consumption and thus in low production costs.

Sustainability is important to Texpasa in numerous aspects: The company has allocated capex into sustainable and reusable green energy, e.g. photovoltaics, and biomass, and has planted together with partners 60,000 trees in a biomass forest for the future, thus reducing the CO2 footprint.

Another sustainability building block is the wastewater treatment center, with a capacity of up to 100 cubic meters of water per hour. After treatment, the water meets or exceeds all purity regulations.

Francisco Solares, GM and Vice President of Texpasa puts it in a nutshell: “The Brückner machines perfectly fit our demanding sustainability concept. The quality of the finished fabric is excellent and the Brückner stenters impress with energy efficiency and low production costs. We appreciate very much that Brückner accompanies us as an innovative supplier of high-quality textile finishing lines and a reliable service partner”.

Brückner appreciates this long-standing customer, too: Regina Brückner, CEO says: “As a traditional and highly innovative family-owned company, we attach great importance to sustainability both in our production facilities and in our products. Texpasa is a very good example of how investing in the future, sustainability, and environmental protection can go hand in hand. We are very pleased about this long-standing cooperation and wish Texpasa continued success.”
Launch of **HKS 3-M ON PLUS** with Considerably Increased Fabric Spectrum

**KARL MAYER** has added a new model to its successful HKS 3-M ON family. The newcomer is called HKS 3-M ON PLUS, and— as the name suggests— offers more flexibility than ever before.

One particular recent addition to the production repertoire are net-like fabrics that can be produced in a variety of densities and structures, including square marquisettes and shoe fabrics, with both also realisable in coarse gauges.

The extended fabric spectrum increases the limits of the HKS 3-M’s range of uses, and unlocks new potential areas of applications.

The HKS 3-M ON PLUS is the go-to machine especially when rough, durable textiles are required. The all-rounder also scores additional bonus points such as an even better fabric quality and increased competitiveness thanks to higher speeds.

**Technical features for maximum utilisation effects**

The performance upgrade is based on specific technical adaptations. These modifications include reinforced needles and knitting elements, and a more robust knitting motion. The sinkers now also have more room to manoeuvre, which increases the patterning flexibility.

Apart from the targeted
modifications aimed at increasing the range of uses, the HKS 3-M ON PLUS offers all of the features and technologies of the latest digital generation of three-bar HKS models. These include a batching device that provides additional benefits, Multi-speed optimisations to avoid speed losses, and energy-data monitoring – all presented in the form of prototypes at ITMA 2023. Further innovations simplify the handling and ensure a better product quality.

HKS 3-M ON PLUS is available in the gauges E 14 to E 28, and with working widths of 130", 180" and 210".

**Patterning with the utmost flexibility and efficiency**

Customers who want to fully exploit the extensive patterning potential offered by the HKS 3-M ON PLUS efficiently can use the HKS 3-M ON family’s digital options with either k.innovation CORE or k.innovation CORE lite.

KM.ON’s two web-based software solutions from the k.innovation product range were developed for patterning with unlimited repeat lengths without mechanical data carriers, and the machine must be connected to the KARL MAYER GROUP subsidiary’s cloud. Pattern changes take considerably less time and effort, which offers significant advantages. No more lengthy ordering processes and transport costs, stock holdings or elaborate manual interventions on the machine, as is usually the case when pattern discs are used.

k.innovation CORE lite is a browser-based chain link editor. For already existing patterns, the required chain link information
can be conveniently imported from any mobile device and simply edited with k. innovation CORE lite. New patterns can be created by entering the lapping values of simple designs for any ground guide bar. Before loading them directly onto the machine, the software completes a plausibility check.

In addition, patterns can be created on any mobile device using a design tool via the web-based software k.innovation CORE, with everyone involved in the creative process participating online. Working from a single source shortens processes, helps to prevent mistakes and promotes creative output through uncomplicated exchange.

**Development led by practical requirements**

As the HKS 3-M ON PLUS focuses on maximum performance, KARL MAYER closely collaborated with its customer Heathcoat Fabrics when designing and developing the new model. The UK-based company, which was established in 1808, has been a KARL MAYER GROUP partner for many years, and is one of the market leaders in the area of warp knitted and woven fabric manufacturing. Its specialties include technical textiles for specific uses, whose development and manufacture often poses complex challenges that must first be resolved. Heathcoat Fabrics supplied Queen Elizabeth’s veil fabric on the occasion of the royal wedding in 1947, as well as parachute fabrics for NASA’s Perseverance rover mission to Mars, for which this pioneering company won the Queen’s Award for Enterprise in 2022.

To manufacture its product portfolio even more efficiently, the company initiated development of the HKS 3-M ON PLUS, and provided support in the form of processing tests with yarns that were heavier than the previous norm for tricot machines. In addition, the customer contributed their wide-ranging practical expertise to the cooperation.
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görüsmek üzere
In this exclusive interview with Maurizio Cantoni, Head of Sales & Marketing at GDM, we delve into the evolution of GDM as a pioneering force in the disposable hygiene sector. From its foundation in 1986 to the present day, GDM has not only established itself as a global leader but has also continually adapted to meet the ever-evolving needs of the market.

GDM is spearheading a transformative era in disposable hygiene manufacturing solutions: converting and packaging machinery for baby and adult diapers, underpads, as well as feminine hygiene products.

Founded in 1986, GDM as we know it today was born in 1995 from the merger of two companies acquired by Coesia, a group of innovation-based industrial and packaging solutions companies operating globally. In 1999 GDM acquired the Engineering Department of a well-known multinational disposable hygiene manufacturer, taking advantage of a 50-year engineering experience. From that moment on GDM has never stopped expanding its portfolio: from packaging machinery to end-of-line,
it is now able to offer turnkey solutions to customers who want to profit from a single source supplier.

In recent years we have harnessed innovative technologies and a progressive “Business Made Easy” approach. Our focus has shifted from a supplier of cutting-edge technology for the disposable hygiene industry, to a 360-degree partner providing “full-plant solutions”. From pre-sale consultancy to after-sales customer care, we aim to support and simplify our customers’ business at every step.

What innovations or advancements in disposable hygiene products and technologies has GDM been particularly proud of in recent years?

What we always aim to do is try to respond to the needs of an ever-changing market. For this reason, in the past few years, we have been expanding GDM solutions portfolio. We have been offering higher-speed machinery for our standard technologies, such as baby open diapers, as well as focusing on new product trends, specifically designing machinery for baby and adult pants.

Nowadays consumers are not only asking for new formats but also for thinner yet performing absorbent products. For this reason, the disposable diaper industry has been moving fast towards the redefinition of core, the innermost layer of the diaper typically consisting of a blend of cellulose fluff pulp and SAP (poly-acrylate granules). One of the innovations on products we are proudest of is GDM Extra Thin Core.

Our technology allows to balance the two ingredients, fluff and SAP, thus adjusting the core recipe to make the product thinner and yet extremely performant.

The benefits of a thinner product are first of all economical: in fact, less bulky products mean less cost for logistic, as well as reduced shelf space. Besides, a balanced core allows the design of more discrete, wearable and mobility-aiding diapers.

The sophisticated yet easy-to-operate system of Extra Thin Core has been developed entirely by GDM leveraging advanced CFD (Computational Fluid Dynamic) simulations. Through mathematic models of the raw materials, simulations allow to evaluate the fibers’ distribution within the core and deliver products that can better meet consumers’ needs.

How does GDM prioritize sustainability and environmental responsibility in its manufacturing processes for disposable hygiene technologies?

Sustainability is among the top priorities of our agenda.
As suppliers of advanced technology for the disposable hygiene manufacturing industry, our challenge is to imagine machines, lines, and plants that have a lower environmental footprint. In order to provide customers with greener solutions, we developed Option Zero, a program created exactly with this purpose: designing machines able to process more sustainable raw materials, create less waste, as well as improve operational efficiency and energy savings. From alternatives to traditional core materials to innovation in packaging solutions, we are constantly striving to a greener approach.

This is also true for our corporate vision: in the last years, we have been applying a zero-plastic policy in our headquarters, and ensuring our center of operations with fully renewable-derived energy supply. There is still a long way to go, but we are working hard to respond pragmatically to environmental challenges and commit to a cause that concerns us all.

In what ways does GDM collaborate with partners and clients in the MEA region to address specific market needs and demands?

We have activated profitable partnerships with important players in the MEA region, also putting into play the consultancy approach we call “Business Made Easy”. When new players intend to invest in the disposable hygiene industry, the knowledge of the market, and thus of the product's features, is key to success. We offer specific consultancy at this stage of the chain, working shoulder-to-shoulder with our customers, to understand their specific needs and develop tailored solutions for them.

First, we define together what is the needs of the market in terms of product construction, features, absorbency and performance. Then we translate the idea into reality with Product Quality Lab testing activities, and connect the manufacturer with industry experts, raw materials suppliers, and technology partners – we do value strategic networking. During the design of the product, we also support intellectual property management to help the customer ensure all product features are free from patents. Finally, we are ready to develop the product itself. In order to do this, we leverage GDM's test rigs, and state-of-the-art technology for the most reliable output.

To thrive in a competitive market, product-specific knowledge is crucial: being experts in the industry, we believe that providing our customers with support from the earliest stages is essential to build a solid business from the basics.

Could you share insights into the key challenges and opportunities you see in the disposable hygiene sector,
especially in the MEA region?

The MEA region is full of golden opportunities for investors in the disposable hygiene industry. In recent years the market has been expanding steadily, especially with regards to baby diapers and lady hygiene segments. The growth, both in value and units, of such segments is rooted in the changes societies are experiencing. The increase of birth rate on one side, changing lifestyles and urbanization on the other, are driving the request for more baby and lady products. And growth doesn’t seem to be stopping soon.

For these reasons, the number of players is also growing pretty fast. The more producers populating the industry, the more competitive the market landscape will be. To face such a challenging scenario, differentiation becomes key to manufacturers, as well as promptly responding to consumers’ requests. Delivering affordable, quality products is thus the only way to assess one’s positioning on the market and gain competitive edge.

Innovation is at the heart of our corporate strategy. GDM R&D team focuses on a variety of activities: from designing new production processes for updated product features, through developing customized technological solutions, to studying innovations to handle greener raw materials. With an eye on product trends and one on the latest technological advancements, we are always committed to providing state-of-the-art solutions, catering to the most diverse needs.

As far as the product is concerned, we have recently released Accordion Core, a solution designed to delivering superior absorbency, skin-friendliness and discretion while ensuring manufacturers with meaningful savings on raw materials. And the same applies to our latest technological innovation: Inline Laminated Waistband, an advanced development that responds to market requests for more comfortable and performant products and guarantees manufacturers flexibility and full process control.

Our research and development efforts always aim to provide our customers with solutions tailored on their needs.

How does GDM envision the future of disposable hygiene products and technologies?

The disposable hygiene market is changing fast. From one point of view, we must take some global trends into account like, for instance, sus-
tainability. Research shows that consumers are paying more attention to the environmental impact of the articles they purchase, being even willing to pay more for eco-friendliness.

Sustainability will also influence the supply chains, which means technological developments: greener raw materials, less waste, and energy-saving machinery are among the innovations we expect to become trends in the next few years.

From another point of view, the disposable hygiene industry is becoming more diverse and much more competitive. With significant differences on local scale, emerging markets are focusing on baby and lady segments, while mature markets are now catering to the needs of aging societies offering a broader range of adult incontinence products. Such heterogeneity is shaping a more complex and composite industry, taking competition to the next level. To stay relevant and generate more value, manufacturers need to quickly respond to such trends and find new ways to stand out of the crowd.

Lastly, what advice or insights can GDM offer to aspiring entrepreneurs or businesses looking to enter the disposable hygiene sector?

In an expanding, competitive market, here’s our advice to businesses entering the disposable hygiene industry. First it is important to know the market they are entering – which can help them decide which product to deliver –, and second to find a reliable partner to support them at developing their business and generating value.

For this very reason, we have designed a 360-degree partnership approach called “Business Made Easy”. Our philosophy is to provide global presence as a service and support customers to unlock their full potential.

Thanks to our full-plant solutions, a portfolio of innovative solutions throughout the whole value chain, we aim to be at our clients’ side at all stages.

Full-plant solutions are particularly effective in the case of newcomers in the industry, since our extended expertise, knowledge of the market and technological know-how can accompany newborn organizations through every stage of the value chain. From product development and testing, through machinery supply and operators’ training, to after-sales and remote assistance, we can provide advanced turnkey solutions to help manufacturers start production in a short time providing them with the benefits of a single source supplier.

Can you mention if you have any local or international standards and certificates?

GDM fully embraces the Inter-
national Standard for Quality Management – ISO 9001. Our mission is to provide our customers with the best possible solutions and using ISO 9001 ensures that they are partnering with a reliable player. Also, thanks to this certificate, they are sure to get consistent, good-quality products and services, that help them generate more value.

Our responsibility is not only towards our customers but also towards our employees. As part of the Coesia group, we are very serious about improving employee safety. That is why we adopted ISO 45001 – the International Standard for Occupational Health and Safety with the aim to reduce workplace risks and create better, safer working conditions. Like all companies from the group, we believe that people are key to our strength and success, and we want to guarantee them the best safety standards.

Finally, we have decided to prove our responsibility towards the environment with ISO 14001, the International Standard for Environmental Management. This certificate helps us translate our commitment to a better environment into practical actions, contributing to the pillar of sustainability.

At the end, you can add any other information that you think is interesting...

On a global scale, the industry is moving towards servitization, and so are we. Over the last few years, GDM expertise has been enriched by the integration of the latest digital developments of Industry 4.0 and Artificial Intelligence, leading to a whole new portfolio of solutions. Digitization, in fact, opens new possibilities in terms of consultancy and advanced customer service. What we are doing, together with Coesia, is building a complete digital ecosystem – Coesia Digital – to go even beyond smart factories and design fully automated plants.

The incorporation of IoT (Internet of Things) into converting and packaging lines allows the implementation of automated processes. Also, it creates a seamless network for real-time data analysis that we can turn into valuable solutions for our customers. What we aim to do is leverage digital technologies at their fullest to offer avant-garde services tailored on diverse needs. Our extensive experience combined with a strong digitized industrial know-how can secure us with the status of market leaders.
Furthering its commitment to continuous innovation and providing sustainable solutions for diverse needs across the value chain, Hyosung will introduce a unique offering of certified sustainable materials, which it will present at Performance Days Munich, Kingpins Amsterdam, and Functional Fabric Fair Portland this fall.

Creating a more powerful, traceable sustainable story, Hyosung is expanding its creora® Bio-Based elastane offering to include various options for the yarn to be made with a higher content of renewable resources. Hyosung was the first company to commercially introduce USDA and SGS-certified creora® Bio-Based elastane made with 30% renewable resources in 2021, which has been successfully adopted by leading global brands. According to an independent 3rd party LCA, the manufacture of 1kg creora® Bio-Based elastane reduces its carbon footprint by 20% as compared to the production 1kg of conventional spandex.

“We are very excited to follow the success of our creora® Bio-Based elastane with a second phase of third-party certified fibres made with a higher content of renewable resources to meet consumer demand for traceable, bio-based products,” said Simon Whitmarsh-Knight, Hyosung Global Marketing Director – Textile.

Anticipating denim brand
needs, Hyosung has added the following creora® 3D Max elastane offerings to include sustainable and functional version of the fibre that matches the same performance and recyclability benefits as conventional creora® 3D Max elastane. They include USDA and SGS-certified creora® Bio-Based 3D Max elastane, RCS certified, 100% recycled creora® regen 3D Max elastane made from industrial waste, and creora® Easy 3D Max elastane that provides soft power, excellent stretch and is recyclable.

“As a complete sustainable textile solutions provider, we are proud of our ability to continually innovate and offer materials that support our customers’ sustainability needs,” said Whitmarsh-Knight. To help product developers and designers conceive garments made with its innovative yarns, Hyosung will present a broad assortment of multi-function fabrics and concept garments developed by its Fashion Design Center (FDC) at each show.
‘Mimaki Application Days’ EMEA-Wide Customer Event Program Launched to Highlight Application Opportunities and Inspire Business Growth

Mimaki Europe, a leading provider of industrial ink-jet printers, cutting plotters, and 3D printers, has today announced that it will be co-hosting a series of 200 in-person events across EMEA.

This extensive events program, entitled ‘Mimaki Application Days’, will take place over the next six months in partnership with Mimaki’s valued dealer network. Each event features special localised content designed to provide customers with face-to-face application-focused information and advice, aimed at supporting business growth.

In addition to these in-person events, Mimaki has also revealed the dates for its hugely popular virtual event, ‘Global Innovation Days’, which will complement the ‘Mimaki Application Days’ program. The Fifth Global Innovation Days event will take place on the 25th-27th October.
2023, with webinars and discussions centred around UV printing technologies and applications.

The new Mimaki UJV100-160Plus and UCJV330-160 printers will be a highlight of this next event, with talks and demonstrations showcasing these latest additions to the Mimaki product range.

The webinars will offer attendees a deep dive into the many production benefits and extensive variety of applications made possible with these new machines, as well as with other UV technologies in the Mimaki portfolio. There will also be talks highlighting the benefits of adopting UV printing to support a more sustainable future for the industry.

**New Mimaki Application Days – Focusing on Local Market Trends**

Each ‘Mimaki Application Days’ event will offer customers a chance to connect with Mimaki and its partners on a local level and engage on the latest market trends and applications driving new business opportunities. It also provides a platform for customers to see the latest Mimaki technology in action, ask the Mimaki and partner teams for expert advice and technical support, as well as connect with industry peers. The events will have product demonstrations, presentations and discussions themed around local trending applications, such as car wrapping, interior décor, and light boxes, tailoring each show to the demands of the region.

Danna Drion, General Manager Marketing, Mimaki Europe, explains, “The core objective of these events is for us to further our support for EMEA customers looking to identify new ways to grow their businesses. The speakers will offer customers a deep dive into trending applications and explain how they can use their Mimaki solutions to maximise productivity, output quality and meet demand for various types of products.”
"While remaining the world’s largest producer of clothing and footwear, China has also been the largest consumer of these products since 2021," says Monforts Head of Denim Hans Wroblowski. “The country now accounts for 25% of the global clothing and footwear market, with the USA in second place with a 21% share and Europe with a 20% share. This suggests a significant change, since the biggest market for China’s products is now its own. European machine builders like Monforts, however, have much to contribute to ensuring all markets continue to grow sustainably, and we are looking forward to many fruitful discussions in Shanghai."
Efficiency
At stand C07 in Hall 5 at the Shanghai exhibition, Wroblowski and other Monforts experts will be on hand to explain the advantages of Montex stinters for essential drying processes in terms of production throughput – and especially in energy efficiency and resource savings.

“Because finishing is a particularly energy-intensive part of the textile production chain, it is exactly where convincing results can be achieved and we have developed a wide range of energy-saving measures,” says Wroblowski. “This not only includes state-of-the-art machine chamber insulation, but also heat recovery systems.”

The Monforts Universal Energy Tower, for example, is a free-standing air/air heat exchanger that achieves energy savings of up to 25%.

The ECO Booster heat recovery system with integrated automatic cleaning is meanwhile directly integrated into the chamber design of the Montex stenter and enables energy savings of up to 35% depending on the application. One ECO Booster module is sufficient for stenter ranges with up to eight chambers.

Both the ECO Booster and the Energy Tower can also be retrofitted to existing ranges, in order to make production more resource-efficient and economical, yet without having to invest in a new machine.

“If anything, today’s high energy prices are only encouraging investment, because for our customers, energy costs can account for up to 70% of production costs, so there is great demand for ways of saving money,” Wroblowski says. “This also helps in terms of global warming and reducing carbon footprint, of course. We see the energy crisis of the past two years as an opportunity because it is leading to an energy consumption rethink in the textile industry.”

Denim
Two major areas of specialism for Monforts technologies are in denim production and the finishing of a wide range of technical textiles.

Over 900 Monforts Thermex hotflue dyeing systems are now operational in the main textile producing countries, with around 150 of them already reaping the benefits of the Econtrol® and Econtrol®T-CA
processes. Econtrol® is a continuous process for the dyeing of woven cotton and cellulosic fabrics in which reactive dyestuffs are fixed into the fabric in a one-step dyeing and drying process with a controlled combination of steam and air. The entire pad-dry process takes just two-to-three minutes at a temperature of between 120-130°C and a relative humidity volume of 25-30%.

The latest innovation for denim manufacturers is the CYD yarn dyeing system which integrates new functions and processes into the weaving preparatory processes – spinning, direct beaming, warping and assembly beaming, followed by sizing and dyeing – in order to increase quality, flexibility, economic viability and productivity.

“Differentiation is the key in the highly-competitive denim fabrics industry, whether that is through the successful incorporation of new fibres, accommodating new fabric constructions or exploring the many options for how to treat them at the finishing stage, to gain a market advantage,” says Wroblowski. “These latest Monforts lines allow users to be extremely versatile and respond quickly to market demand, while also allowing very short production runs.”

Technical textiles
The Montex®Coat coater meanwhile serves a very diverse number of markets and enables full PVC coatings, pigment dyeing or minimal application surface and low penetration treatments, as well as solvent coatings to be carried out. Key applications include tents, tarpaulins and awnings, black-out roller blinds and sail cloth, automotive interior fabrics and medical disposables.
Loptex proudly introduces in the market the total solution for the contamination reduction and control in Nonwoven lines. The application refers to carded fibers for the production of finished webs for hygiene and medical purposes.

The new Sorter Easy Link EXA NW is installed in an opening point and before the carding process. It offers high accuracy and precision in detecting the smallest visible contamination. Furthermore, it offers a total control on raw material in the preparation process. It significantly contributes to the reduction of contaminants in the downstream processes.

Its modular concept leads to customized solutions for all types of blow room lines. The new EXA Web NW system inspects the finished webs before winders. It controls the remaining of contamination and all material imperfections through arrays of embedded color cameras systems and LED illumination sources.

EXA Web NW combined with Easy Link EXA NW reduces the content of contamination of raw materials whilst optimizing control on the finished web. It also identifies the origin and cause of contamination at all stages of the production process.

The EXA WEB combined with Easy Link EXA NW leads to significant quality improvement of finished webs, resulting in better production yield.
Innovative Textile Production and Finishing:
Mahlo Presents New Solutions at ITMA Asia 2023

When ITMA Asia opens its doors in Shanghai between November 19 and 23, Mahlo GmbH + Co. KG will present its systems and solutions for efficient and high-quality textile production and finishing together with Shanghai Kuantex at booth H5-C28. The focus will be on the machine manufacturer’s new straightening concept.

In the textile industry, the name Mahlo stands for high-quality automatic straightening systems and process control systems. The recipe for success of the experts from Germany is almost 80 years of experience paired with the latest technological developments. At the Mahlo booth H5-C28, the team will therefore present the latest development in weft straightening systems alongside established systems: The Orthopac RXVMC sets the highest standards in warp detection and correction.

“For many of our customers, the issues of quality, energy savings and return on investment play a major role,” says Product Manager Clemens Kaplan. “Our goal is to combine all three points in our systems and thus optimize the customers’ production process.”

Among other things, the focus is there-
fore on the new X-Series concept for forward control of knitted fabrics with strong drafting. The Orthopac RXVMC straightening machine, which was presented for the first time at this year’s ITMA Europe, can remove distortions in textile fabric webs even faster and more precisely.

**New straightening concept: more precise and faster response**

“In the new straightening concept, special attention was paid to the straightening mechanics and their interaction with the analysis electronics of the probe system,” explains Sales Manager Thomas Höpfl. The control concept is also new. A probe group at the leveler infeed detects distortions even before they reach the correction rolls. In this way, the rolls are brought directly into position and the fabric is corrected from the very first centimeter.

A scanner group at the outfeed also detects possible residual distortion, which is corrected at the second straightening module. This enables an even more precise and faster response when it comes to reacting to rapidly changing distortions. The Orthopac RXVMC therefore shows its full strength when straightening knitwear and fabrics sensitive to distortion.

Also contributing to high-quality textile production and finishing is the Famacont PMC for controlling weft and stitch course density, which will also be on show at ITMA Asia. The Famacont PMC-15 uses a sensor to measure the yarn or stitch density and compares it with the target value stored in the recipe data management system.

The detected deviation of the yarn density from the target value is used to fully automatically regulate the leading during the needling process on the stenter frame. Interested parties can have the mode of operation explained to them at the Mahlo booth with the help of a demo tower and their own or provided fabric samples.

**Digital environment**

Another major topic remains Industry 4.0, because the best measured data is of no use if it cannot be utilized. Mahlo has continuously developed its digital environment mSmart. “Our systems generate data that the customer can use immediately to regulate goods on-line. At the same time, all measured values are backed up in our data management system mLog enhanced and can be retrieved at any time. With this historical data, processes can be optimized and weak points in the process can be minimized,” explains Sales Manager Thomas Höpfl.
The Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), in cooperation with the Hague-based UpRights Foundation, is proud to launch the GOTS Due Diligence Handbook for Certified Entities. This landmark publication is a crucial step forward in the promotion of sustainability, human rights and ethical business conduct in the textile sector.

Ruslan Alyamkin, Responsible, Standard Development and Implementation (Social Responsibility) at GOTS, stated, “The GOTS Due Diligence Handbook marks a significant progression following the incorporation of Due Diligence Criteria in the latest GOTS 7.0 version. It is a testament to GOTS's commitment to supporting Certified Entities in their journey towards required responsible business practices. The Handbook underscores GOTS’s dedication to promoting human rights, social justice and environmental integrity”.

Clear Guidance for GOTS Certified Entities Based on Recognised International Standards

The GOTS Due Diligence Handbook for Certified Entities is based on the recognised international frameworks, including the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector (2018) and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). The Handbook offers GOTS
Certified Entities clear guidance on integrating due diligence processes into their operations, thereby helping them to comply with domestic due diligence laws such as the German Supply Chain Law, French Vigilance Law, and upcoming EU legislation.

A Comprehensive Blueprint
The GOTS Due Diligence Handbook for Certified Entities was developed as a structured roadmap, leading Certified Entities through the process of establishing and refining their management systems. The emphasis of the Handbook is on a holistic due diligence approach, ensuring that GOTS-certified companies not only identify but also proactively prevent and effectively mitigate potential adverse impacts on human rights and the environment.

The Handbook ensures that GOTS Certified Entities are equipped with the knowledge and tools to respond to potential challenges, transforming them into leaders in responsible business conduct within the textile sector. The GOTS 7.0 criteria, bolstered by this Handbook, paves the way for a more sustainable and socially conscious business approach in the textile sector.

OECD Standards Assessment
GOTS is currently undergoing the OECD Alignment Assessment, a three-stage process that will result in a reputable, independent evaluation of the GOTS Criteria’s alignment with the OECD’s due diligence guidance documents. The process includes a Standards Assessment, an Implementation Assessment and a Credibility Assessment. As GOTS enters the Standard Assessment phase, it effectively showcases its dedication to sustainable practices, in line with the comprehensive international framework for responsible garment and footwear supply chain laid out in the OECD Due Diligence Guidance. This process, supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, began in July 2023 and is expected to be completed in January 2024.

GOTS is committed excellence and improvement
GOTS remains committed to enhancing its criteria and systems to ensure better transparency, credibility, and trust for its Certified Entities and the general public. In line with this, GOTS is working towards creating further guidelines for its Certification Bodies, to empower them with the necessary tools and knowledge to improve their auditing and verification techniques to ensure compliance with GOTS 7.0 criteria.
Industry’s largest library of colors now fully integrated into

Shima Seiki design system with Color Atlas by Archroma®

Archroma, a global leader in specialty chemicals towards sustainable solutions, and Shima Seiki, a leading provider of computerized flat knitting machines and digital design systems, have expanded their partnership to bring the industry’s largest library of colors for cotton and polyester to the SDS®-ONE APEX design, planning and virtual sampling system and APEXFiz® (hereafter SDS®-ONE APEX series) subscription software.

Now offering a total of 5,760 color references, SDS-ONE APEX series has added all 1,440 colors for polyester from The Color Atlas by Archroma® to its color library of 4,320 Color Atlas colors for cotton poplin. The new polyester collection ranges from neutral earth tones to vibrant jewel tones and on-trend fluorescent colors, with shades suitable for sportswear, fashion, home furnishings, automotive textiles and more.

“Our SDS®-ONE APEX series users have embraced the accuracy and convenience of the Archroma Color Atlas for cotton coloration since 2020,” a rep-
A representative from Shima Seiki said, “By expanding our collaboration with Archroma to polyester colors, we are further empowering our users with color inspiration and streamlined product development.”

The extended color library in SDS®-ONE APEX series will help designers and manufacturers to visualize and evaluate their design choices on realistic fabric simulations and then put them into production with dyes and finishes that meet their desired sustainability profile. The Shima Seiki system also offers a smooth transition to machine programming for quick and accurate production, reduced waste and accelerated time to market.

Each of the 5,760 Color Atlas color references in the SDS®-ONE APEX series design software is available as a physical color standard that includes precise dyeing recipes and compliance data, as well as access to expert technical support from Archroma around the world.

“Polyester remains the most popular choice across many textile segments where high performance is a must. Users of Shima Seiki’s advanced SDS®-ONE APEX series platform will now be able to select from the industry’s largest library of colors for both cotton and polyester and, more importantly, trust that their choice can be reliably executed,” Chris Hipps, Head of Strategic Business Development, Archroma Color Management, said.

“Our colors are formulated with dyes that comply with international eco-standards and work with Archroma’s groundbreaking coloration systems, like FAST SPORT,” he continued.
Outstanding Innovations Worthy of Maximum Attention: Starting Shot for the Submission of Stellar Products for the Coveted Techtextil and Texprocess Innovation Awards 2024

“We are proud to once again present the very latest innovations – the result of unrivalled research, products and technologies of the textile manufacturing and processing industry – at the coming Techtextil and Texprocess trade fairs. For our visitors, the Techtextil and Texprocess Innovation Awards are genuine highlights. Every two years, these innovations give a perfect demonstration of the future-oriented direction being taken by the industries in fields of development, such as efficiency, ultra-new materials, coatings and sustainable production, which incentivises the market and illustrates the innovative power and spirit of the industries”, says Sabine Scharrer, Director Techtextil and Texprocess.

Looking forward with great anticipation to discover the sector’s latest and most technologically sophisticated products and processes, preparations for Techtextil and Texprocess from 23 to 26 April 2024 are in full swing. As integral parts of the two fairs, the Innovation Awards are genuine highlights. Two expert juries will select the latest, most intelligent and outstanding innovations from the sector thus ensuring that all award-winning companies and their best solutions are brought to the attention of all visitors to Techtextil and Texprocess 2024.

The closing date for all entries for the 2024 Techtextil and Texprocess Innovation Awards is 15 December 2023. The Awards are open to all companies, institutes, universities, polytechnics and individuals, regardless of whether they are exhibitors of Techtextil or Texprocess in 2024. The developments entered must have been on the market for max. two years, or be shortly before their market launch. From mid-December 2023, two juries of experienced international experts will thoroughly examine the products submitted and evaluate them in terms of criteria such as novelty, economic relevance, potential and creativity. The winning companies will be presented for the first time
during a well-publicised ceremony during the first day of the fair in Frankfurt am Main on 23 April 2024.

**Business relevant: Innovation Awards attract great attention**

Award-winning companies and research institutes benefit from the high degree of attention for their innovations generated by the Techtextil and Texprocess Innovation Awards. For example, FibreCoat GmbH of Aachen, Germany, which received the Techtextil Innovation Award in the ‘New Technology’ category together with Deutsche Basalt Faser GmbH in 2022, reported: “Winning the Innovation Award represents a milestone for us because it has always been our ambition to be honoured in this way. The Techtextil Innovation Award is the most prestigious award in the textile industry.”

The two companies were chosen for the joint development of an aluminium-coated basalt fibre. According to FibreCoat, the new product means that electromagnetic shielding as wallpaper in buildings, such as hospitals or server farms, will be up to 20 times cheaper than conventional aluminium foil. Another attractive and particularly fast-growing market is shielding solutions for electric vehicles.

A positive response was also noted among the customers of Juki Central Europe after the company was selected for the 2022 Texprocess Innovation Award in the ‘New Technology’ category. The company won the award for its innovative AW-3S automatic bobbin thread winding and feeding device. The jury was impressed by the change from a manual to an automated process as another example of Industry 4.0 and said the device not only increases productivity but also reduces fatigue for sewing machine operating personnel.

**Go-to-market boost for award winners**

Italy’s Vérabuccia company was also one of the winners in 2022 and received the Techtextil Innovation Award in the ‘Performance Fashion’ category for its patented, innovative production process that enables fruit waste to be transformed into fashion highlights. In distinction to other vegetable leathers, which tend to imitate genuine animal leather, this process retains the original appearance of a pineapple skin. The jury honoured the unconventional thinking of the Italian label whereby original fashions are created using unexpected materials. Currently, a year after receiving the award, Vérabuccia is working on opening up important markets with its patented process.

**Starting shot for entries for 2024**

Now, companies, institutes, universities, polytechnics and individuals have until 15 December 2023 to enter their inspiring, disruptive and innovative new products for the Techtextil Innovation Award 2024 or the Texprocess Innovation Award 2024 and have the opportunity to present their award-winning ideas on an outstanding platform in Frankfurt am Main during the first day of the fair on 23 April 2024. The juries are looking forward to judging the most innovative ideas emerging from the many exciting segments of the two industries.
Kardem, Leading Turkish Fashion Manufacturer, Partners with Coats Digital’s FastReactPlan for Rapid Production Boost and Business Expansion

By streamlining business critical information into a single digitised source, FastReactPlan will provide an accurate overview of capacity availability, to help meet growing customer demand for more complex styles and faster turnarounds.

Coats Digital is delighted to announce that leading Turkish ready-made garment manufacturer, Kardem, has selected Coats Digital’s FastReactPlan to digitally transform its manual planning processes and drive production efficiencies. By consolidating capacity planning data into a single source, Kardem will be in a position to capital-
ize on more systematic and efficient line scheduling to respond to more complex, last-minute order requests in an agile way.

Headquartered in Istanbul, Kardem, has been one of Turkey’s leading, ready-made garment manufacturers since 1990. The company specializes in the design and high-tech production of high-volume, time-sensitive fashion garments for Turkey as well as for a number of the world’s leading brands, including INDITEX Group, LPP, Gina Tricot, and Ralph Lauren. Using a LEAN management approach, Kardem has two factories in Turkey and Serbia and produces an average of 1.8 million pieces a month.

Kardem has been ranked among the largest corporations in Fortune and the Istanbul Chamber of Industry (ISO). It is also an active member of the Istanbul Textile & Apparel Exporter Associations (ITKIB) and the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce (ITO).

Ahmet Zeki Erdogan – General Manager and Owner, Kardem, said: “For many years we have successfully benefited from Coats Digital’s GSDCost solution to optimise our cost-to-make processes. It felt a natural extension to incorporate Coats Digital’s industry-leading advanced planning and scheduling solution, FastReactPlan, into our expanding ecosystem of technology capabilities in order to digitize our manual capacity planning processes effectively across our operations.”
“FastReactPlan will provide the real-time data visibility we need to optimize capacity planning and production efficiencies, enabling us to enhance our customer service by delivering smaller and increasingly more complex orders quickly and on time. As a result of being able to see an accurate picture of free and available line capacity on the factory floor, we will be able to take on additional new business. Coats Digital is one of the most highly regarded fashion technology companies in the world and we look forward to continuing our strong partnership to ensure we retain a competitive and innovative edge whilst successfully delivering on our ambitious sustainability and CSR targets.”

Talip Demircioglu – Planning Manager, Kardem, added: “As one of the main suppliers for the world’s largest ready-to-wear brands, it is imperative that we continue to keep up with the changing expectations of our customers by consistently improving our sustainability agenda. The way to achieve this is by increasing our production capabilities, whilst also ensuring we can monitor our production processes instantly with real data, so that we can create fast solutions every time. Because of this priority, we decided to move forward with the FastReactPlan solution to coordinate our supply chain, from order to delivery, in an efficient, flexible, measurable and rapid way.

“Thanks to FastReactPlan, we can ensure efficient planning of our internal and external capacities on a single platform, whilst instantly tracking our actual production activities at the same time. FastReactPlan will enable all relevant departments to work with the logic of “time and action”, starting with cost planning processes. As a result, the solution should ultimately provide many opportunities for us to improve our product development, supply and purchasing processes.”
With important information siloed manually in different places across the business, Kardem lacked the consolidated visibility it needed to respond to production or capacity problems as quickly as it wanted to. Finding realistic workarounds was complex and time-consuming, meaning Kardem not only found it difficult to meet growing customer demands for faster, more diversified assortments but also turned business away unnecessarily, due to a lack of business insight into available production lines.

Ibrahim Halil Hacikamiloglu – Solutions Consulting Manager, at Coats Digital, commented: “We are absolutely thrilled to have partnered with Turkish powerhouse, Kardem to implement FastReactPlan. Manufacturers must remain on their toes to keep up with the latest trends and demands for more diverse, shorter lifecycle assortments, and we look forward to ensuring that FastReactPlan delivers the insights, efficiencies and agility that Kardem requires to meet growing customer and consumer expectations and stay consistently ahead of the game.”

Wesley Ekman – Global Sales Director, Coats Digital, commented “We are seeing an increasing number of Turkish manufacturers, keen to embrace technology to propel their digital transformation journeys in a highly competitive landscape. We have significantly expanded our team across Turkey to offer unprecedented local support for Coats Digital’s comprehensive ecosystem of business-critical digital tools that are powering an agile, resilient, transparent, and sustainable, global fashion supply chain, and we are excited to be partnering with Kardem as they accelerate their digital transformation journey.”
Turkey’s New Exhibition Incentive Rules: Impact on Textile and Clothing Exports

Turkey has consistently held a prominent position among the world’s top textile and clothing producers and exporters, ranking within the top 5 globally in various segments including clothing, home textiles, and machine-made carpets.

Behind Turkey’s success in these sectors lies a combination of technical expertise, cutting-edge technology, and the unwavering dedication of Turkish textile artisans. Equally significant is the role played by the Turkish government in supporting the textile industry, greatly contributing to the expansion of exports. Among the Turkish government’s support mechanisms for various industries, including textiles, is the provision of exhibition subsidies aimed at encouraging producers to participate in global exhibitions, explore new markets, and boost exports.

However, Turkey’s regulations governing exhibition incentives are not static, continuously evolving and adapting.

This year, the Turkish government introduced a new mechanism to support the country’s participation in exhibitions. Under the previous system, every company could engage in exhibitions related to their industry worldwide and receive government incentives by presenting invoices and cost documents, the amount of which varied depending on the country and region. These incentives often covered 50% of the total costs, rising to 75% for select target markets like the United States.

Under the new mechanism, larger companies are now limited to participating in up to five exhibitions per year. Participating in more than five exhibitions does not qualify for government incentives, although the percentage of government incentives for large firms exporting to target markets has increased to as much as 100%. Additionally, changes have been made to the type of documents required for claiming these incentives.

The crucial question remains: What will be the impact of restricting Turkish companies to only five exhibitions per year?

Mr. Ergon Karabulot, an expert in the textile exhibition industry, sees this new law as a positive development, despite certain challenges it poses for some companies. He commented, “The new law forces..."
companies to be more selective in their choice of exhibitions. Consequently, their chances of participating in medium and small exhibitions in emerging markets are reduced, given the profusion of excellent exhibitions in each sector. For instance, in the realm of fabric manufacturers, a sector where Turkey holds significant influence, attending events like Munich Fabric, Premier Vision, and Tex World is essential. After these, companies are left with only two slots, and this leaves them with limited opportunities to gain government incentives at regional exhibitions.”

The law classifies companies into two categories: large and medium-sized companies, and small companies. The division is based on two criteria: either an annual turnover exceeding 50 million liras or employing more than 50 individuals.

Mr. Ergon noted that small companies would be the primary beneficiaries of this law, stating, “Smaller companies naturally rely more on government incentives. This law, which falls under the purview of the Turkish Ministry of Economy, may allow small companies to attend up to 10 exhibition events. Large companies with substantial export volumes do not pay as much attention to these incentives, as they possess greater financial resources and the capacity to travel globally, attending numerous exhibitions to maintain their current clientele. It is worth noting that larger textile goods manufacturers in Turkey often own multiple brands and subsidiaries. Once one company reaches the limit of five exhibitions, they can continue participating in exhibitions through their other companies, effectively using these incentives again.”

Annually, the Turkish government identifies its list of target countries, with the government subsidies varying between 50% to 100% based on Turkey’s macroeconomic objectives, offering different levels of support for each market.

Mr. Sirhan Pol, the manager of a company that organizes textile exhibitions in Istanbul, Turkey, highlighted a positive aspect of this law: “An increase in the incentive ceiling encourages companies to participate more robustly in important foreign exhibitions within their industry. This translates into more beautiful and expansive exhibition spaces and additional amenities for their participation. The Turkish government has consistently demonstrated its commitment to supporting exporters in foreign exhibitions in recent years. These changes are aimed at enhancing optimization and problem-solving. Turkish companies are now strongly oriented toward expanding their exports.”
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FAX.: (+98-21) 88741530, (+98-21) 88750602

Factory office:
Factory: No.27-28-49-50 Industrial zone, Sirjan Special Economic zone, Sirjan-IRAN
TEL.: (+98-344238) 2023 (5 Lines)
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