

# KOHANTEXTILE

MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA TEXTILE JOURNAL



**CEM YALCIN: TURKEY IS SUFFERING NOW, BUT WILL RISE AGAIN**



**KABILEN SORNUM: HOW GROZ-BECKERT SHAPES THE FUTURE OF TEXTILES**

## **HOMETEX SHENZHEN 2026: CONNECTING WINDOW & WALL COVERING PROFESSIONALS TO SOURCING, TRENDS & INNOVATION**

As Asia's premier exhibition focused on window and wall coverings, treatments, and protection, HOMETEX SHENZHEN 2026 is going to take place at the Shenzhen Convention & Exhibition Center (Futian) from March 7 to 10, 2026.

Positioned as a one-stop sourcing platform for window and wall coverings, the exhibition aggregates top-tier supply chain resources from China, covering the full spectrum of industry products and innovative solutions.



**EXPANDED HALLS, NEW PRODUCT ZONES: VIATT 2026 UNLOCKS BROADER OPPORTUNITIES**

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Spanish Machinery Makers Emphasize Innovation Amid Market Uncertainty



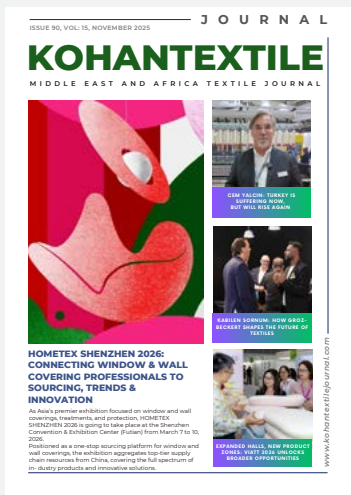
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# Did CEMATEX Take a Risk on Singapore?



Mr. Alex Zucchi, President of CEMATEX

ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025 has officially concluded, marking one of the most internationally diverse editions in recent years.

In an exclusive interview with Mr. Alex Zucchi, President of CEMATEX, he shared candid reflections on the strategic decision to relocate the show from China to Singapore—and why the results exceeded expectations to *Kohan Textile Journal* ...

## Insights from President Alex Zucchi

According to Mr. Zucchi, one of the strongest motivations for choosing Singapore was its visa-friendly entry policies, which addressed a long-standing challenge faced by international visitors attending exhibitions in China.

“It wasn’t a gamble,” he explained. “It was an idea we wanted to test—to see whether we could attract

more foreign visitors.”

The outcome proved remarkably successful.

This year, the event welcomed a sharp rise in attendees from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Indonesia, creating an atmosphere far more global than previous editions.

“While the edition in China was nearly 90% local visitors, this one has been a truly international exhibition,” Zucchi noted.

“Our exhibitors, especially the European companies, are extremely satisfied with the quality and volume of foreign customers.”

Beyond accessibility, Zucchi emphasized Singapore's reputation as a leader in sustainability and green innovation, calling it "one of the greenest and most technologically advanced countries" despite its size.

### **Singapore Sets a New Standard for Sustainable and Accessible Textile Exhibitions**

He stressed that the textile industry remains one of the world's most polluting sectors, making Singapore an ideal environment to showcase modern solutions and learn from a country that has already implemented effective sustainability models.

"Our role is not only to propose new ideas, but to deliver real solutions.

Singapore offers invaluable opportunities for learning how to achieve those results," he added.



With the exhibition's success now evident, CE-MATEX will evaluate the data carefully before deciding on the next host city.

### **But Zucchi made one point clear:**

future locations must guarantee easy access and straightforward visa processes, as these factors proved essential for broadening international participation.

As the industry reflects on this year's achievements, Singapore has set a compelling benchmark—one that may very well shape the future direction of ITMA ASIA + CITME.



# Gneuss Highlights Fiber-to-Fiber Recycling

## Challenges and Solutions at ITMA Asia Singapore 2025



**A**t ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025, Gneuss reaffirmed its position as a global leader in polymer processing and recycling technologies, presenting advanced solutions for fiber-to-fiber recycling and addressing the real market challenges facing circular textile production.

Mr. Niklas Mohlmann, Regional Sales Manager at Gneuss, shared key insights into the current state and future outlook of textile recycling.

Mohlmann acknowledged that the recycling sector is currently under pressure due to low virgin raw material prices.

“At the moment, recycled fibers struggle to

compete economically because recycling requires additional purification and reprocessing steps, which means higher investment,” he explained.

However, he stressed that the long-term outlook remains strongly positive.

“As consumers increasingly demand sustainability and traceability, the market will inevitably shift toward recycled content.

The future will depend on a balanced integration of virgin and recycled materials.”

He also highlighted one of the biggest technical hurdles in mechanical recycling: achieving stable and consistent feedstock quality.

“Reliable fiber-to-fiber output depends on controlled material input with manageable impurities.

Once this foundation is secured, Gneuss technologies can deliver excellent results for circular production,” he added.

### **Advanced Extrusion and Filtration for Virgin-Quality**

Recycled Pellets At the exhibition, Gneuss introduced its latest degassing extruder technology, designed to efficiently remove spin finishing oils and residual moisture from recycled fibers.

“This step is critical to properly condition recycled materials so they can be reused for highquality fiber spinning,” said Mohlmann.

Another major highlight was Gneuss’ pro-

prietary rotary filtration technology, which ensures consistent melt purity and stable processing conditions.

This allows manufacturers to produce recycled pellets that closely match the performance of virgin materials.

“Our role is not just to sell machinery,” Mohlmann explained. “We work closely with customers to identify the right feedstock and fine-tune process parameters to achieve the perfect pellet quality.”

With a comprehensive portfolio including MRS extruders, high-performance filtration systems and process optimization tools, Gneuss positions itself as a key technology partner for textile manufacturers moving toward closed-loop production.

### **“Fiber-to-fiber recycling is clearly the future,” Mohlmann concluded.**

“At Gneuss, we deliver complete recycling solutions that help the industry move toward a more sustainable, efficient, and circular textile economy.”





## Biancalani Unveils Next-Generation Finishing Innovations at ITMA ASIA Singapore 2025

**A**t ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025, Biancalani Textile Machinery showcased a powerful trio of advancements that reinforce its leadership in modern fabric finishing.

The company introduced AQUARIA®, celebrated global engagement at the exhibition, and highlighted the enduring success of its iconic AIRO®24 tumbler — together defining a new era of high-performance and sustainable finishing.

### A New Era of Wet Finishing with AQUARIA®

Biancalani’s newest innovation, AQUARIA®, marks a major leap in fabric preparation and wet finishing.

Built on the same air-flow principle as the AIRO®24, AQUARIA® enhances the process by integrating controlled water, chemical, and enzyme applications — all within a single machine.

AQUARIA® allows mills to perform washing, preparation, enzyme treatments, and resin or chemical applications using Biancalani’s signature air-driven fabric movement.

“This development enables us to offer delicate, uniform treatments with exceptional flexibility,” said General Manager Rossano Biancalani.

“It brings new possibilities for sustainable and versatile wet finishing.”

### **Strong International Reach at Singapore Edition**

Biancalani reported an exceptionally successful ITMA ASIA 2025, with a diverse audience from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, South-east Asia, Turkey, Brazil, the U.S., and China.

“We are very happy with this edition,” said Mr. Biancalani. “Singapore’s central location and accessibility created a uniquely international environment — something missing in recent Shanghai editions.”

He praised Singapore as an ideal host city, noting strong buyer engagement and meaningful busi-

ness discussions throughout the event.

### **AIRO®24: The Global Benchmark for Terry Towel Finishing**

Alongside AQUARIA®, Biancalani highlighted the continuing worldwide dominance of AIRO®24, the continuous tumbler that has transformed terry towel finishing.

Powered exclusively by air — with no mechanical contact except gentle impact against a grid — AIRO®24 delivers unmatched softness, bulk, relaxation, and drying efficiency.

“It is a true classic in terry finishing,” Mr. Biancalani emphasized. Mills worldwide run multiple AIRO®24 units to meet premium towel standards across cotton and blended constructions.

With AQUARIA® pushing wet finishing forward and AIRO®24 maintaining its status as the industry benchmark, Biancalani’s performance at ITMA ASIA 2025 underscores its role as a global innovator shaping the future of textile finishing.



# Biancalani

TEXTILE MACHINERY



find out more



## AIRO<sup>®</sup> 24

Dryer for continuous and open-width tumbling treatments of woven, non-woven and knitted fabrics

## AQUARIA<sup>®</sup>

Open-width continuous tumble washing range for any kind of textile wet treatment



find out more



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# Eroğlu Global Holding Expands Operations in Egypt with \$350 Million Investments

**E**roğlu Global Holding, one of Turkey's leading textile and apparel groups, has significantly expanded its presence in Egypt with \$350 million in new investments across the Ismailia and Damietta governorates.



The company now employs more than 10,000 workers in its Egyptian facilities and delivers \$460 million in annual exports to markets in the United States and Europe. Read it on Kohan Textile Journal.

## Turkish textile giant plans deeper partnerships and boosts Egypt's export strength

During a high-level meeting with Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly, Eroğlu Global Holding Chairman Nurettin Eroğlu expressed the company's interest in further strengthening cooperation with the Egyptian government.

The discussions included potential partnerships to manage and operate state-owned spinning and weaving factories, a move that could accelerate moderniza-

tion and bring international expertise into the public sector.

Eroğlu's expanding footprint underscores Egypt's growing appeal as a global textile and garment production hub, supported by competitive labor costs, strategic geographic positioning, and major government investments in industrial zones.

If realized, the proposed collaboration could mark a pivotal step in revitalizing Egypt's textile industry, enhancing operational efficiency, boosting exports, and solidifying the country's role as a key player in the international apparel supply chain.



# Swiss Machinery Makers Emphasize Sustainability and Automation



**S**wiss textile machinery manufacturers delivered a strong message of resilience, innovation, and global commitment during ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025, reinforcing Switzerland's position as one of the world's most influential players in advanced textile technology.

According to Cornelia Buchwalder, Secretary General of Swiss Textile Machinery, Switzerland ranked among the top exhibitors at the show, standing as the fifth largest by exhibition space and seventh by number of exhibitors.

"Our presence here clearly reflects the international relevance and strength of Swisstextile machinery," Buchwalder said.

Swiss companies showcased a comprehensive range of technologies across the entire textile value chain, from spinning and weaving to finishing, with a strong focus on sustainability, automation, and digitalization.

These three pillars are shaping the future of textile manufacturing by re-

ducing energy and water consumption, addressing labor shortages through automation, and enabling datadriven production intelligence.

“This journey toward efficiency and sustainability is ongoing, and our companies are fully committed to supporting the industry’s transformation,” she added.

Despite the positive atmosphere at the exhibition, Buchwalder also outlined serious external pressures affecting Swiss exporters.

One of the most critical challenges is the 39% tariff imposed on Swiss textile machinery entering the United States, placing Swiss manufacturers at a significant disadvantage compared to neighboring competitors with lower duties.

“This tariff gap is already influencing customer decisions and weakening Swiss competitiveness in a key market,” she said.

At the same time, the continued strength of the Swiss franc against both the euro and the U.S. dollar is further increasing export costs.

“Our machinery becomes more expensive globally due to currency pressure,” Buchwalder noted.

Combined with a broader slowdown in global machinery demand, these factors are creating a difficult trading environment.

In response, Swiss Textile Machinery is intensifying its support for members as they adapt to sweeping European sustainability regulations, including eco-design rules,

circularity frameworks, and digital product passport requirements.

The association also provides tailored consultancy to help manufacturers navigate sustainability assessments, digital transformation, and operational upgrades.

Despite high costs and global uncertainty, Switzerland’s competitiveness remains underpinned by structural strengths such as its innovation-driven culture, world-class apprenticeship system, and strong academic ecosystem led by institutions like ETH Zurich.

“This combination of skills, agility, and engineering excellence allows Swiss companies to remain globally competitive,” Buchwalder concluded, adding that small but positive signs of market recovery are beginning to emerge.



## Zimmer Austria Highlights Strategic Partnerships as the Foundation of Innovation at ITMA

**A**t this year's ITMA, Zimmer Austria once again underscored the critical role that long-term industrial partnerships play in driving progress within the global textile and carpet printing sector.

For Andreas Rass, Managing Director of Zimmer Austria Digital Printing Systems, the exhibition is more than a showcase—it is a strategic meeting point for strengthening collaborations that keep the industry competitive in an increasingly challenging environment.

Rass noted that Zimmer's presence across multiple halls reflects the company's deep integration within the wider printing ecosystem.

"ITMA is always a great place to celebrate, connect, and form new partnerships," he said. "Whether it's auxiliary equipment for our print lines, inks, or specific printer components, these relationships are essential for surviving in the very tough conditions the textile and carpet industries face today."

For Zimmer Austria, collaboration is not a trend but a long-standing operational principle.

**The company has spent decades working closely with:**

- Dryer manufacturers
- Printhead suppliers
- Ink developers
- Coating technology partners
- Specialized auxiliary equipment providers

According to Rass, these partnerships enable Zimmer to deliver fully integrated production lines, especially in the high-demand fields of coating and digital carpet printing.

By synchronizing machinery, chemistry, and process controls, Zimmer ensures consistent performance, higher efficiency, and long-term reliability for its global customers.

“These partnerships make you strong,” Rass emphasized. “In today’s global textile landscape—where competition is intense and expectations keep rising—the only way forward is through collaboration that benefits everyone in the value chain.”

**Zimmer Austria’s message at ITMA is clear:**

innovation does not happen in isolation. It is built on decades of cooperation, shared expertise, and unified goals that allow technology providers to push boundaries together.

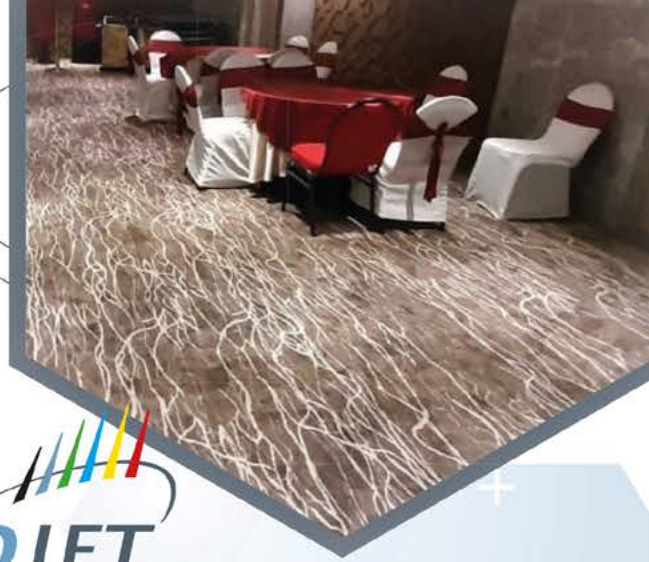
As the textile and carpet sectors continue to evolve, Zimmer’s partnership-driven approach positions the company as a resilient and forward-thinking leader—one committed to delivering complete solutions that meet the industry’s toughest demands.



READY TO SUPPORT YOU  
*challenge us*

- developing the idea
- building the process
- designing and manufacturing the printer and line components
- installing and commissioning the equipment
- implementing and transferring the process technology and know-how
- servicing the production line





# COLARIS *chromoJET*

**COLARIS & CHROMOJET printing systems are the first choice when it comes to carpet and raschel blanket printing.**

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COLARIS carpet printing solution was introduced in 2015 and is the high-resolution printer for today's market needs. Ready-made solutions can be provided for a wide

range of flooring products, including contract and residential carpets, rugs, mats, tiles, made of tufted, nonwoven or even woven PA, PES, or viscose substrates. Additionally, we provide print lines for wool, acrylic and viscose flooring products.

Small to medium tile and mat production in 2.200 mm width or for wall-to-wall carpets up to 5.200 mm width at a capacity of 4 linear meters per minute – your goal is our challenge.

Engineering and manufacturing the print line as per your specific needs is the aim. No matter whether you choose us as your general supplier for a complete line, or you want to incorporate existing or domestic machinery in combination with a ZIMMER AUSTRIA digital printer, we offer the most cost-effective

solution for your needs.

CHROMOJET and COLARIS print lines from ZIMMER AUSTRIA are the right choice when looking for contract carpet printing or even for automotive, public transport and aeronautic flooring applications.

Both types of machines are working successfully in the market. Several of our customers are having CHROMOJET machines since many years and decided to make the step into high resolution COLARIS inkjet printing, to match the needs of an innovative and modern carpet design at the highest print quality available in the market.

**For any of your needs feel free to contact us. We will do our best to find the most economic solution for your project.**





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# Expanded halls, New Product Zones:

## VIATT 2026 Unlocks Broader Opportunities

The Vietnam International Trade Fair for Apparel, Textiles and Textile Technologies (VIATT) is poised to return to the Saigon Exhibition and Convention Center (SECC) from 26 to 28 February 2026.

Building on its second edition's nearly 13% exhibitor growth, next year's show floor will expand by 20%, from 15,000 to 18,000 sqm and cover the full area of Halls A and B.



This includes new dedicated zones for apparel, fashion accessories, and textile chemicals and dyes, with the strategic growth underscoring Vietnam's emergence as a vertically and horizontally integrated textile powerhouse.

Despite recent business challenges, the global industry still considers Vietnam a strategic, long-term market.

The country's signing of 17 new generation free trade agreements (FTAs) has further fuelled market and export diversification, positioning VIATT as a pivotal platform for varied industry players to capitalise on Vietnam's dy-

namic business landscape and foster international collaboration.

Ms Wilmet Shea, General Manager of Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd, emphasised VIATT's significance: "VIATT's second edition marked a 30% increase in buyers' internationality and a 10% rise in buyers overall, signifying the fair's crucial role in advancing Vietnam's textile industry."

Next year's expanded showcase and its trend-focused approach will enable suppliers across the textile spectrum, within fashion, home, and technical segments, to connect with leading global brands, supporting Vietnam's shift from volume-driven exports to value-led innovative and sustainable manufacturing."

**Also Read: Vietnam's Market Potential Realised as Exhibitors Confirmed Across three Textile Sub-Sectors at VIATT 2026**

VIATT 2026 will further solidify its position as South-east Asia's premier sourcing event by introducing specialised trend forums, sustainable textile showcases, and designer fashion shows.

A key highlight will be the return of the Econogy Hub, dedicated to eco-friendly materials, sustainable production, and certification.

Aligning with Vietnam's goal of establishing a closed-loop textile economy by 2050, the platform spotlights innovations such as organic fibres, recycled synthetics, and low-impact dyeing technologies.

Complementing its sustainability initiatives, the fair will continue the development of its Innovation & Digital Solution Zone.

This zone features cutting-edge technologies that optimise design, production, and supply chain management – from AI-driven prototyping to automation systems.

These solutions empower Vietnam's textile sector to

upgrade operations and harness new market opportunities.

**Apparel Fabrics & Fashion: sustainable growth engine**

Vietnam is a powerhouse in the textile and garment sector, generating over USD 44 billion in 2024 and targeting USD 48 billion this year, with apparel textile manufacturers now prioritising sustainable fibres, innovative fabrics, and design-driven finished products.

In line with this transformation, VIATT 2026 will expand its offering to finished apparel products to better

serve fashion designers, as well as garment manufacturers.

The category is set to include the debut Fashion Label Zone, showcasing boutique fashion houses, while the fair will also introduce a dedicated Fashion Accessories Zone for bags, footwear, jewellery, and more, likely to appeal to brands such as Tory Burch and Zara, notable buyers in the previous edition.

VIATT 2025 attracted other global brand buyers including American Eagle, Callaway, Club Monaco, Decathlon, J.Crew, Lululemon, M&S, Nike, Puma, Target, and Wacoal.





Meanwhile, Southeast Asian buyers took advantage of the international products on offer.

Reflecting on the region's fashion potential, Mr Bao Jia Cheng from Shaoxing Sunsmile Textile Co Ltd, exhibiting at VIATT 2025, said: "We have brought fashion embroidery fabrics and polyester embroidery yarns, predominantly for stylish women's wear.

Southeast Asia is undoubtedly a key focal point for the future evolution of Asia-Pacific's economy, and I regard this exhibition as a crucial avenue for penetrating the Southeast Asian market.

I've seen a promising visitor flow and good quality customers, and notably met interested parties from Vietnam, Thailand, India, and other parts of the region."

### **Home & Contract Textiles: riding the urbanisation wave**

Vietnam's home textile market is experiencing robust growth, driven by rising disposable income, urbanisation, and changing consumer preferences. The market is projected to grow from around USD 3 billion in 2025 to nearly USD 4 billion by 2030.

With many exhibitors at the fair aiming to leverage this growth, key product categories include bedding, bath linen, table linen, curtains, upholstery fabrics, and decorative textiles.

The demand for these fabrics has drawn notable buyers such as IKEA, Muji, and Novotel to VIATT 2025.

Building on this momentum, the 2026 edition will feature enhanced displays of finished textile products for contract and residential applications, ranging from luxury bedding and curtains to contract-grade textiles for hotels and homes.

Mr Dennis Macharia, Sourcing – Home Textiles China from Maaron International Procurements, remarked when sourcing at last year's fair: "We are a home textiles company managing American clients' orders in China.

There have been promising leads, especially Chinese suppliers who have already opened a good number of factories in Vietnam, and in India, Myanmar, and Indonesia.

I have already found OEKO-TEX and BSCI certified suppliers at VIATT 2025, which are very important for our clients.”

Additionally, VIATT's Economy Check provides independent confirmation of eco-credentials, saving buyers time and resources while building trust across the supply chain.

Exhibitors who pass the Check will be featured in the online directory, Economy Finder, which helps buyers more easily identify exhibitors with sustainability certifications.

**Technical Textiles & Technologies: innovation frontier**



Driven by economic growth, adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies, and supportive government policies, the global technical textiles market is projected to grow at a CAGR of 6.5% from 2024 to 2032, reaching over USD 390 billion by 2032.

Key segments include Clothtech (clothing), Indutech (industrial), Mobiltech (automotive), Medtech (medical textiles), Protech (protective wear), and smart textiles with moisture-wicking or UV-protection properties, many of which have been exhibited at the fair.

Set to extend its technical scope, VIATT 2026 will introduce a dedicated Textile Chemicals & Dyes Zone, featuring additives for chemical recycling, fibre production, finishing & coating, pre-treatment, and weaving & knitting preparation; chemical dyes and pigments; and more.

The Vietnam International Trade Fair for Apparel, Textiles and Textile Technologies (VIATT) is organised by Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd and the Vietnam Trade Promotion Agency (VIETRADE).

# VIATT

Vietnam International Trade Fair for Apparel,  
Textiles and Textile Technologies

26 – 28.2.2026

Saigon Exhibition and Convention  
Center (SECC), Ho Chi Minh City

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platform for the entire  
textile value chain

**Apparel Fabrics & Fashion**

**Home & Contract Textiles**

**Technical Textiles & Technologies**



[www.viatt.com.vn](http://www.viatt.com.vn)



# 2026 (The 21st) Guangzhou International Textile, Clothing and Printing Industry Expo

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## ICOMATEX Unveils New Sustainable Technologies and Reports Strong Global Momentum at ITMA Asia Singapore 2025

ICOMATEX, the Spanish textile machinery manufacturer celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, concluded ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025 with exceptional results, unveiling two major sustainability-driven innovations while reinforcing its global market position.

Managing Director David Valmana highlighted both the company's technological progress and a cautiously optimistic outlook for the textile machinery sector.

At the exhibition, ICOMATEX showcased two new systems developed under COFIELD, its dedicated sustainability division.

The first innovation is an advanced energy recovery system for stenters and dryers. The system captures waste heat generated during production, redirects it through a heat exchanger, and reinjects it back into the machinery.

“We recover heat that would otherwise be wasted and use it again in the same machine,” Valmana explained.

This solution significantly reduces gas consumption and operational costs without requiring changes to existing production processes.

The second innovation is an electrostatic smoke filtration unit designed to capture oil particles and smoke within a closed system, producing visibly cleaner exhaust.

According to Valmana, the filtration system not only helps factories comply with environmental standards but also improves working conditions inside textile plants.

With rising energy prices and stricter environmental regulations across Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, ICOMATEX sees rapidly growing demand for such sustainability-oriented solutions.

**ICOMATEX Marks 50 Years of Innovation with Strong Market Confidence**

Beyond technology, ITMA ASIA Singapore delivered outstanding commercial results for ICOMATEX.

“We had good expectations, but the show exceeded them,” Valmana said.

He emphasized the high quality of visitors, noting strong engagement from decisionmakers, agents, partners, and serious buyers seeking advanced textile solutions.

He also praised Singapore as a strategic global hub for business networking and international exhibitions.

Founded in 1975 in Barcelona, ICOMATEX has spent five decades developing advanced finishing, coating, and technical textile processing systems.

Today, the company is increasingly focused on supporting the global shift from conventional textile manufacturing toward high-value technical textiles.

Despite recent market slowdowns and intense competition from Europe, Turkey, and Asia, Valmana remains confident about the sector’s recovery. “Competition is everywhere, and we have to live with this.

This is the future,” he said. “Companies have already invested, and textile factories will return to buying machinery because they want to produce more — and produce better.”

His remarks reflect a broader sentiment at ITMA ASIA + CITME 2025: after a period of uncertainty, the global textile industry is preparing to enter a new phase of investment, innovation, and sustainable growth.



# Brückner Reports Exceptional Demand and Strong Global Interest at ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025



**B**rückner Textile Technologies, one of the world’s leading manufacturers of textile finishing machinery, announced outstanding results and high-quality business engagements during ITMA ASIA + CITME 2025 Singapore, confirming strong global demand for energy-efficient and sustainable finishing technologies.

According to Alex Mandel, Sales Manager at Brückner Textile, the event exceeded expectations from the very first days.

“We already had a very good feeling before arriving in Singapore, and now we can confidently say that this exhibition is excellent. The quality of visitors is extremely high. We have met customers from almost every region of the world,” Mandel shared.

He highlighted significant engagement from markets including Uzbekistan, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Turkey and notably Egypt — a country experi-

encing rapid growth in textile investment.

“The number of Egyptian customers visiting our booth confirms that Egypt is becoming one of the fastest-growing textile markets,” he added.

“The level of discussions is very professional. We are absolutely satisfied.”

## **Brückner Unveils New SFP2 “Smart Dryer” — Designed for Efficiency and Affordability**

At this year’s exhibition, Brückner presented its newest innovation: the SFP2 Smart Dryer,

a stenter model engineered to meet global demand for energy efficiency and lower operating costs.

The new system is designed specifically for cotton and cotton-blended fabrics, both for drying and heat-setting.

The SFP2 offers a more accessible price point while maintaining the durability and precision Brückner is known for.

“The SFP2 has a lower price than our premium SFP4 high-performance machine, but the quality and performance remain 100% Brückner — made in Germany,” Mandel emphasized.

“The feedback from customers around the world has been extremely positive. We clearly see a large global market for this model.”

### **Sustainability Through Technology: Hardware + Digital Twin + Operator Training**

Mandel explained that textile sustainability and efficiency cannot depend on just one factor — it requires a complete approach.

“Everybody talks about efficiency and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, but you need three things,” he said.

### **A highly efficient machine**

Brückner machinery already offers the most energy-efficient finishing equipment on the market.

### **Process optimization using digital simulation**

Brückner’s new EXPERTAX digital twin software enables mills to optimize production settings without stopping the machine.

Mandel noted:

### **“EXPERTAX is unique in the world of textile dry finishing.”**

Training machine operators to make better decisions  
Brückner’s global team of process engineers travels to mills worldwide to train production staff on best practices, machine settings, and maintenance.

“Many operators don’t realize how much their settings affect efficiency,” Mandel said. “With the right machine, digital process optimization, and proper training, mills can reduce costs and improve sustainability without large investments.”

### **A Positive Outlook for the Textile Industry**

Despite the current global uncertainties, Brückner sees strong long-term momentum.

“We must stay positive. There is a bright future for our industry,” Mandel concluded. “With the right focus on efficiency and sustainability, textile manufacturers can improve productivity and profitability.”



## Product range for carpets and textile floor coverings

- ▶ Finishing lines for tufted and woven carpets
- ▶ Thermofusion ovens for needle felt materials
- ▶ Back-coating lines for artificial turf
- ▶ Drying and heat-setting lines for digital printed materials
- ▶ Full bath impregnation units
- ▶ Roller and knife blade systems
- ▶ Laminating units
- ▶ Minimum application units
- ▶ Heat-recovery systems
- ▶ Air cleaning and filter systems
- ▶ Various innovative heating systems





## Product range for the textile finishing industry

- ▶ Stenters and heat-setting lines for woven and knitted fabrics
- ▶ Multi-layer stenters for sensitive fabrics
- ▶ Weft straighteners
- ▶ Relaxation dryers for high-quality knitted fabrics
- ▶ Sanfor ranges for woven and knitted fabrics
- ▶ Continuous dyeing ranges and infrared dryers
- ▶ Heat-recovery systems
- ▶ Air cleaning and filter systems



# Hometex

## SHENZHEN 2026

ONE STOP SOURCING EVENT FOR  
WINDOW AND WALL COVERINGS

07-10 MARCH 2026  
Shenzhen, China

## HOMETEX SHENZHEN 2026: Connecting Window & Wall Covering Professionals to Sourcing, Trends & Innovation

**A**s Asia's premier exhibition focused on window and wall coverings, treatments, and protection, HOMETEX SHENZHEN 2026 is going to take place at the Shenzhen Convention & Exhibition Center (Futian) from March 7 to 10, 2026.

Positioned as a one-stop sourcing platform for window and wall coverings, the exhibition aggregates top-tier supply chain resources from China, covering the full spectrum of industry products and innovative solutions.

It serves as a professional hub

for global home textiles and home furnishing buyers, facilitating seamless connections, trend insights, and mutually beneficial business collaborations.

### **One stop sourcing event for window and wall coverings**

Spanning over 100,000 square meters, HOMETEX SHENZHEN 2026 will welcome more than 800 exhibitors from China and overseas.

Its product lineup encompasses core categories including curtains & drapes, blinds & shades, shutters, curtain fabrics, rail systems, and a wide range of window decoration accessories.

Acting as a pivotal bridge between global buyers and verified Chinese manufacturers, the exhibition enables overseas purchasers to connect directly with trusted, verified suppliers.

This direct connection allows them to source high-quality products at competitive factory-direct rates, slashing procurement and communication costs.

## Top Reasons to Visit HOMETEX SHENZHEN 2026

HOMETEX SHENZHEN 2026 has become an unmissable annual event for global window and wall covering professionals. The key reasons include:

- **All in one place:** Spanning over 100,000m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space, Hometex Shenzhen brings together over 800 participating companies across 4 days.

- **Affordable Excellence:** Connect with trusted and verified suppliers and discover a wide range of high-quality window and wall coverings at competitive prices.

- **One-stop sourcing:** Find all aspects of the industrial chain under one roof, including window covering & protections and accessories.

- **Innovative Trends:** Stay ahead of curve with the latest trends and product innovations, featuring modern designs, unique styles, and high-quality materials.

- **Advanced Technology Integration:** Explore cutting-edge technologies such as UV protection, energy-efficient window coverings, and home automation systems for enhanced convenience and sustainability.

- **Sustainable Solutions:** Embrace eco-friendly practices with an array of sustainable materials.

## Event Highlights: Beyond Sourcing

HOMETEX Shenzhen serves as a vital sourcing hub for industry professionals, offering a unique platform to explore the latest innovations and trends in window and wall solutions.

Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with leading manufacturers, suppliers, and designers, showcasing a diverse

range of products, from luxurious drapery and blinds to cutting-edge wall treatments and protective solutions.

- New and Innovative Product Showcases

- International and Regional Pavilions / Trend Zones

- Competitive Prices, Premium Quality from OEM Suppliers

- Business Matchmaking

Enjoy tailored business matchmaking at HOMETEX Shenzhen, specifying your sourcing needs, and forming new strategic partnerships with top companies in the field of window and wall decoration from China and around the world.

## Knowledge-packed Industry Conference and Seminars:

Learn about the latest industry trends and insights from expert speakers and thought leaders at Hometex's design forums and keynote sessions.

## Hosted Buyer Program: Effortless Sourcing for Our Overseas Visitors

To elevate the experience for overseas buyers, HOMETEX SHENZHEN 2026 will feature an enhanced Hosted Buyer Program, exclusively designed for overseas VIP buyers responsible for home textiles and home furnishing procurement.

Centered on targeted B2B matchmaking, the program leverages exhibition resources to provide exclusive perks, including customized business pairings, priority access to top exhibitors, dedicated negotiation spaces, and more.

These value-added services enable overseas buyers to quickly unlock potential business opportunities, driving efficient market expansion and growth.

Notably, the application deadline for the

Hosted Buyer Program is January 15, 2026—eligible overseas buyers are encouraged to apply early to secure the exclusive benefits.

In March 2026, Shenzhen will once again emerge as the global focal point for the window and wall coverings industry.

With its expanded scale, premium resources, and targeted matchmaking services, HOMETEX SHENZHEN 2026 is set to become the bridge for industry innovation and business collaboration.

Global buyers, designers, distributors, and industry professionals are invited to join this landmark event, explore new growth opportunities, and collectively shape a sustainable future for the sector.



# Join North Carolina's Spring 2026 Technical Textile Trade Mission To The Middle East



**N**orth Carolina's textile innovators are invited by The Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) to join a trade delegation to the Middle East focused on technical textiles and advanced material applications.

This mission will connect participating companies with distributors, manufacturers, and government buyers seeking high-performance fiber, yarn, fabric, and finished solutions across industrial, medical, defense, and infrastructure sectors.

## Who should participate?

Companies producing or supplying:

- . **Fibers and filaments:** high-tenacity polyester, aramid, carbon, polypropylene, UHMWPE, and bio-based fibers.
- . **Yarns:** multi-filament, high-modulus, conductive, antimicrobial, and flame-resistant yarns.
- . **Fabrics:** woven, nonwoven, and knitted structures engineered for filtration, protection, composites, or geosynthetics.

. **Finished goods and systems:** personal protective equipment (PPE), ballistic panels, smart textiles, automotive interiors, filtration media, marine composites, or performance apparel.

## Why the Middle East?

Rapid expansion in smart infrastructure, defense modernization, oil & gas safety, and renewable energy projects is fueling demand for advanced technical fabrics.

Regional buyers are increasingly seeking U.S. partners known for quality, innovation, and reliability—and North Carolina's textile cluster leads the nation in technical and specialty textile manufacturing.

## Benefits to Delegates:

- . Pre-arranged B2B meetings with vetted distributors and buyers
- . In-market briefings on regulatory, customs, and procurement trends
- . Exposure to high-value niches (aerospace, geotextile, filtration, energy, and defense sectors)
- . On-site logistical and translation support through state and federal trade partners

**Participating Regions:** Oman, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar.

**Planned Dates:** Spring 2026

**Application Deadline:** February 15, 2026



## VDMA Textile Machinery Association Highlights Strong Performance at ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025

**T**he VDMA Textile Machinery Association concluded a highly successful participation at ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025, marking one of its strongest showings in recent years.

Speaking to Kohan Textile Journal, Dr. Harald Weber, Managing Director of the Association, reflected on an exceptional exhibition experience, characterized by global engagement, high-quality visitors, and strong industry momentum.

This year, around 70 VDMA member companies exhibited in Singapore, presenting their newest technologies across the entire textile value

chain — from spinning, weaving, knitting, and braiding to finishing.

Exhibitors highlighted key advancements in efficiency, automation, digitalization, and sustainability, reinforcing Germany's position as a global innovation leader in textile machinery.

“We had a very international show, with visitors coming from all over the world,”

Dr. Weber said. “Our members are very satisfied — the expecta-

tions have been exceeded.”

According to Weber, the strong visitor turnout and high-level decision-makers onsite allowed German machinery manufacturers to engage in productive technical discussions and explore new cooperation opportunities across Asia and beyond.

### **ITMA 2027 in Hannover**

Dr. Weber also emphasized the industry’s excitement for the next major milestone: ITMA 2027, returning to Germany after many years, this time in Hannover.

“Registrations have already started, and the resonance is very positive,” he noted.

“We welcome the global textile

community to Germany in 2027, where innovation is at the heart of Europe’s textile machinery industry.”

The upcoming edition will be held under the unifying theme: “Co-Creating the Future of Textiles.”

This slogan underscores the importance of collaboration between technology providers, manufacturers, brands, and innovators to build a more efficient, sustainable, and competitive global textile ecosystem.

### **Germany: A Global Innovation Hub**

Weber highlighted that Germany remains the core of advanced textile engineering, where breakthrough technologies are developed in close partnership with customers worldwide.

“Germany is the center of innovation for the textile machinery industry,” he said.

“Together with our partners, we shape new solutions that secure a prosperous future for the global textile sector.”





## Marzoli Drives Sustainability, Automation and Recycling Innovation at ITMA Asia Singapore 2025

**M**arzoli Textile Engineering, one of the world's oldest and most respected spinning machinery manufacturers, delivered a powerful message of innovation, sustainability, and automation during its successful participation at ITMA Asia + CITME Singapore2025.

With more than 170 years of engineering legacy, the Italian company reaffirmed its leadership by showcasing advanced solutions that respond directly to the industry's urgent need for energy efficiency, recycling, digitalization, and smart manufacturing.

General Manager Cristian Locatelli emphasized that Marzoli's technological strength is deeply rooted in decades of electronic and software development.

The company's directdrive systems and digital platforms now cover the full spinning line—from blowroom to ring frame—ensuring optimized energy consumption, high productivity, and long-term machine durability.

"Sustainable production starts with sustainable equipment," Locatelli stated, underlining the importance of simplified maintenance and reduced spare-parts dependency.

A major highlight of Marzoli’s presentation was Refiber, its advanced recycling solution that allows manufacturers to spin high-quality recycled fibers directly on ring frames—an achievement traditionally limited to open-end spinning.

Refiber supports circularity across cotton, wool, cashmere, and silk while also reducing dye usage.

“This technology enables sustainable yarn production without sacrificing quality,” he said.

### **A Complete Sustainability and Automation Ecosystem**

Marzoli also introduced its Traceability Platform, providing full transparency from fiber to yarn—an essential requirement for brands seeking verified sustainability.

In addition, the company debuted its pioneering nanofiber technology, developed over ten years, which enhances natural fibers with advanced functional properties and opens new frontiers in performance textiles. Beyond sustainability, Marzoli reaffirmed its automation leadership.

Having pioneered automatic doffing on ring frames in the 1980s, the company is now working closely with its parent company Camozzi Group to bring robotics into spinning. “Robotics is absolutely the future.

We aim to enable true robotic handling of textiles,” Locatelli said. ITMA Asia Singapore 2025 also proved highly successful from a business perspective.

“The quality of visitors was extremely high, and we received very positive signals for new projects and joint innovation,” Locatelli noted.

He praised Singapore’s strategic role as a global hub that allows European manufacturers to connect efficiently with Asian markets.

With its integrated approach to recycling, traceability, automation, and nanofiber innovation, Marzoli continues to shape the future of smart, sustainable spinning on a global scale.



# DESIGNED TO IMPACT

Turning advanced solutions  
into strategic advantage.



**MARZOLI**

Textile Engineering



Spinning  
Technology



Digital  
Textile

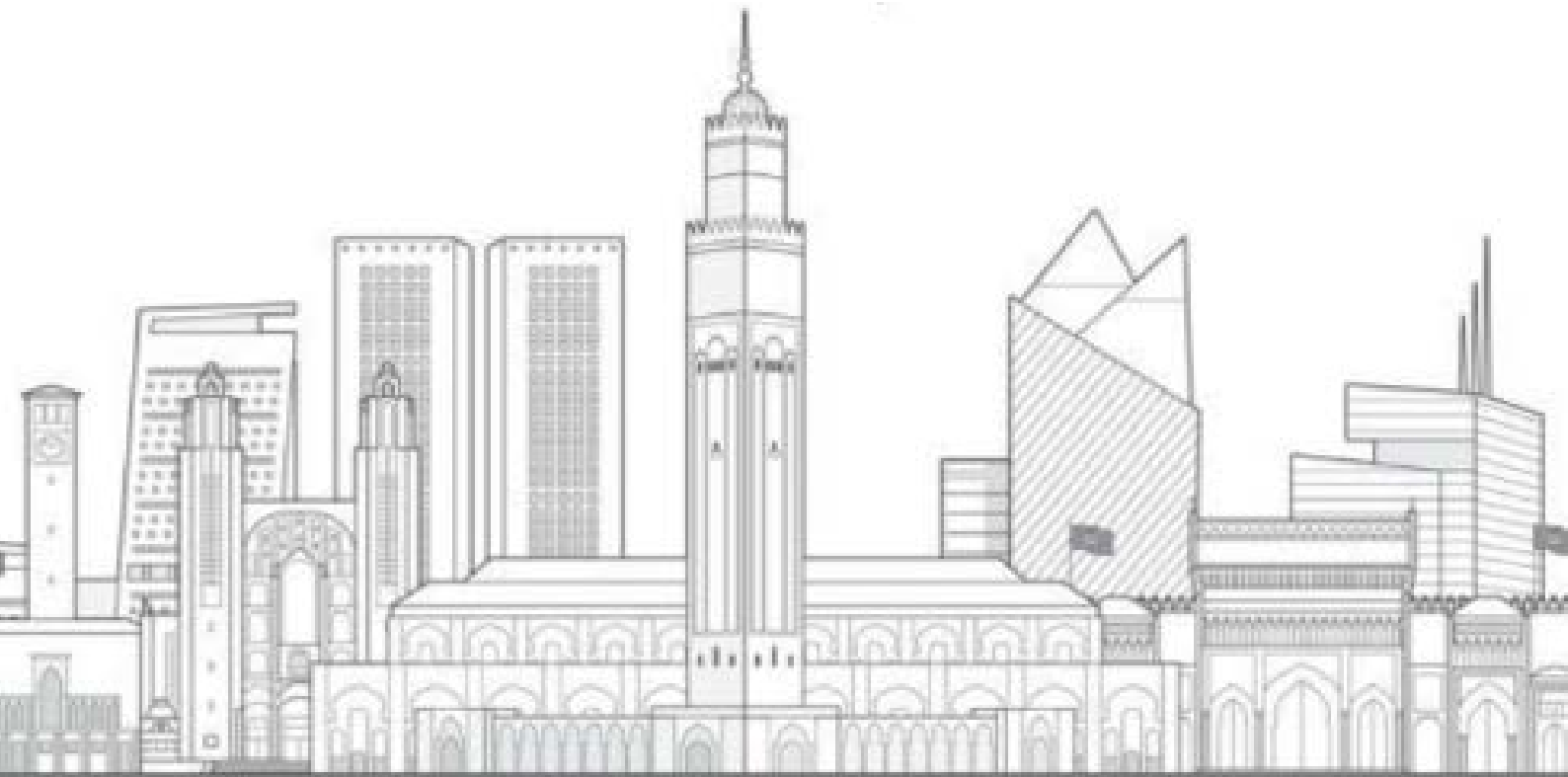


Nonwoven  
Technology



Advanced  
Yarns





## Swiss Textile Machinery Hosts Industry Symposium in Casablanca to Strengthen Ties with Moroccan Textile Sector

**T**he Swiss Textile Machinery Association will host a major Symposium in Casablanca on December 4, 2025, bringing together Swiss technology leaders and Morocco’s rapidly expanding textile and apparel industry.

Held at the Casablanca Marriott Hotel, the event aims to strengthen collaboration, promote innovation, and introduce advanced solutions that enhance efficiency, sustainability, and competitiveness in textile production.

Morocco’s key textile hubs — including Casablanca, Tangier, Fez, and Meknes — will benefit from direct engagement

with world-renowned Swiss member companies specializing in cutting-edge machinery, recycling technologies, and resource-efficient production.

The one-day program includes expert presentations, technology showcases, and B2B networking sessions, with simultaneous French interpretation provided.

“Our symposium in Casablanca is an opportunity to build new relationships and create fresh business opportunities with the Moroccan textile industry,” said Davide Maccabruni, President of the Swiss Textile Machinery Association.

**Participation is free, with registration open until November 19, 2025.**

# Trützschler Leads Nonwoven Transformation



**K**ohan Textile Journal presents an exclusive interview with Jutta Stehr, Head of Marketing at Trützschler Nonwovens, exploring the company's latest advancements in recycling, circularity, AI-driven digitalization, and sustainable nonwoven technology.

As global demand for recycled fibers accelerates—and as regions like Africa prepare to scale textile waste management—Trützschler shares its strategic insights, technological innovations, and long-term vision for building a smarter, greener, and more resilient textile future.

## **Recycling Innovation and Technology**

Trützschler Nonwovens has been a pi-

oneer in developing recycling solutions for textile waste and post-consumer materials. Could you share the latest innovations your company has

The main challenge in regard to recycled fibers lie in collecting, sorting, and recycling post-consumer textiles, as consistent, homogeneous raw materials are essential for stable production and product quality results.

While R-PET fibers from PET bottles are easy to process with our equipment due to their uniform properties, fibers reclaimed from mixed textiles are more difficult.

Mechanical recycling shortens these fibers and affects their strength, limiting their use to lower-grade nonwovens like airlaid, thermobonded plaster or buffer fleece. These nonwovens usually are thrown away to go to incineration or landfill.

Currently, our own solutions for processing post-consumer recycled fiber materials are still under development.

Our NCTC Technical Center can process various fiber types and blends, and we encourage customers to test their recycled materials and to develop stable and efficient production processes.

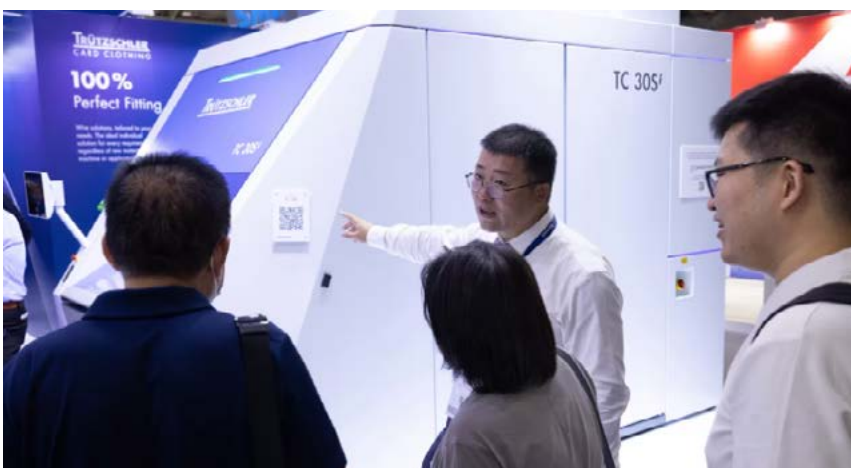
### **Circular Economy and Global Demand**

With growing demand for recycled fibers worldwide, how does Trützschler support manufacturers in adapting their production lines to meet circular economy standards without compromising quality or productivity?

Our machinery processes recycled fibers such as R-PET and also cotton comber noils. These waste fibers from the combing process can be used with our NCR random and NCA airlaid cards to produce high-quality cotton wipes or pads.

Innovations in this regard are our latest X-series cards. Both the NC-X and the NCT-X card feature a separate good fiber suction system, which recycles unconsolidated web edges back into the blending bin after web formation.

### **Africa's Rising Potential in Recycling**



The African continent is gaining attention for its growing textile sector and its need for sustainable waste management. How do you evaluate the potential for recycling and nonwoven production in Africa, and is Trützschler planning any partnerships or initiatives in this region?

As previously mentioned, the real challenges lie in creating textiles designed from the outset for recycling. Mixed materials or fast-fashion items, for instance, pose particular difficulties in recovering high-quality fibers.

The export of used textiles from Europe to Africa tends to be problematic: it can provide short-term social and economic benefits by creating informal jobs and offering affordable clothing.

But second-hand textile exports ultimately hinder the development of sustainable local textile industries and worsens waste issues, as much fast fashion items cannot be reused.

Currently, nonwoven production in Africa is very limited.

For years, we have sought to encourage potential manufacturers to establish local nonwoven production, especially for technical applications like road construction or other local industry branches, as well as hygiene products such as diapers and wipes.

## **AI and Digitalization in Nonwoven Machinery**

Artificial Intelligence is transforming machinery monitoring and maintenance. How is Trützschler integrating AI, IoT, and digital analytics into its nonwoven lines to enhance performance, predict maintenance needs, and reduce operational downtime?

Our digital solution is called T-ONE. This modular software system centrally collects all product and production-relevant data.

There are already solutions available for many applications, such as quality control, recipe management, process monitoring and documentation, as well as AI-based plant optimization.

A key advantage is that T-ONE can be seamlessly integrated into the customer's existing IT landscape – including their ERP and MES systems, as well as any digital solutions they may already use for instance for recipe management.



T-ONE is continuously developed further. Our customers have a direct say in which new features are implemented next. Currently, additional functionalities are being tested, scheduled for launch in 2026.

This customer-driven approach is what makes T-ONE so successful, enabling its use not only in the production of polymer and staple fiber-based nonwovens, but also in other industries.

## **Sustainability and Energy Efficiency**

Energy consumption remains a major cost factor in nonwoven production.

What energy-saving or eco-efficient technologies has Trützschler developed to help customers reduce both environmental impact and production costs?

Our main objectives for our customers' success are: a) to minimize fiber usage in each product, thereby saving costs and valuable resources; b) to maximize machine availability, ensuring customers achieve

the highest possible output; and c) to ensure our machines consume as little energy as possible.

Our production line concepts are meticulously tailored to the customer's product range and processes. For example, our new NC-Xe card is a streamlined version specifically adapted to the lower requirements of standard needle-punching lines.

In our new MPD (Modular High-Performance Dryer) we have further reduced energy consumption. Especially cotton lines or high-speed spunlacing lines for viscose or wet-laid nonwovens require a high drying capacity.

The MPD dryer's thoughtful design reduces energy by more than 10% compared to other solutions.

Additionally, this dryer is equipped for operation with hydrogen or biogas, providing our customers with a forward-looking, future-proof solution.

### **Future Outlook and Industry Vision**

Looking ahead, how do you see the future of the nonwoven and recycling industry evolving globally — and what role will Trützschler Nonwovens play in leading the transition toward smarter, greener, and fully circular textile manufacturing?

Both single-use and durable nonwov-

ens will continue to serve an important function within the textile industry.

These materials offer a broad range of applications designed to improve safety and health (for instance geotextiles and filter media) and convenience, such as baby and adult diapers, femcare and wipes.

To promote sustainability, the expanded use of recycled fibers is necessary; however, supply chain challenges must first be addressed. The role of machinery in this context is comparatively minor.

Trützschler remains at the early stages of this transition, but our machines are frequently suitable for processing recycled fibers. We recognize that each customer's fiber material and final product requirements are unique.

Our Nonwovens Customer and Technology Center (NCTC) is available for testing fibers, developing reliable production processes, and producing all varieties of fiber-based nonwovens incorporating recycled materials.



# MicroPunch

Green Needling Technology for Lightweights



## DiloGroup Unveils New Green Needling Solutions in Singapore

**D**iloGroup, one of the world's leading manufacturers of nonwoven production systems, concluded a highly impactful presence at ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025, marking a significant return to the region after more than two decades.

Throughout the exhibition, the company showcased a series of groundbreaking innovations designed to push the boundaries of efficiency, sustainability and product performance in the global nonwoven industry.

Speaking with Kohan Textile Journal, Riccarda Dilo, Member of the Management Board, emphasized that the Singapore edition has offered a valuable platform to reconnect with custom-

ers from across the Asia-Pacific region, while demonstrating the latest advancements in DiloGroup technology.

### **Dilo's Next-Gen Nonwovens Tech**

DiloGroup's presentation focused on its new Green Needling Technology, including the MicroPunch® system, which dramatically reduces energy consumption compared to conventional spunlace processes.

According to Riccarda Dilo, Micro-

Punch® represents a major breakthrough for manufacturers seeking to enhance sustainability without compromising material quality.

The company also displayed its advanced intense-needling solutions, which produce exceptionally soft-touch nonwoven materials suitable for a wide range of applications.

These technologies can be combined with carded, wetlaid, or hybrid material structures, offering manufacturers unprecedented production flexibility.

Another highlight of the company's participation was the announcement of DiloGroup's expanding strategic cooperation with Kansan Materials.

The partnership brings together Kansan's specialist expertise in wetlaid and wetlace technologies with DiloGroup's global leadership in needlepunch machinery.

This synergy allows both companies to offer comprehensive, high-performance solutions tailored to the evolving technical requirements of the nonwoven industry.

"By combining our capabilities, we can introduce entirely new production concepts that unite the

strengths of wetlaid and needled solutions," Dilo explained.

DiloGroup also showcased its innovative 3D Lofter, a technology designed to enhance both the functional and aesthetic qualities of nonwoven fabrics.

The system enables fiber deposition onto the surface of the web, increasing loft, improving structural definition and creating unique visual effects such as multi-color layouts and print-like patterns achieved through fiber placement.

The technology has attracted strong interest among manufacturers seeking value-added differentiation in competitive markets.

Reflecting on the exhibition, Riccarda Dilo highlighted the importance of ITMA ASIA + CITME's return to Singapore.

"It has been an excellent opportunity to meet customers from across the region and exchange ideas with partners from many different nations.

After more than 20 years, being back in Singapore is a significant moment for us, and we are very pleased with the quality of discussions and the level of engagement throughout the event."

The company now looks forward to deepening its relationships in the Asia-Pacific region as global demand for sustainable, energy-efficient nonwoven technologies continues to rise.

# German Development Cooperation Concludes Trainex Program to Strengthen Ghana's Garment Industry



**T**he German Development Cooperation has announced the successful completion of the “Training the Next Generation of Experts in Garment Manufacturing” (TRAINEX) program, a major skills-development initiative designed to enhance technical capacity within Ghana’s textile and apparel sector.

Supported by the Special Initiative Decent Work for a Just Transition under the Invest for Jobs brand, TRAINEX was funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ in partnership with Brandix Corporate Campus.

Africa’s textile and apparel ecosystem continues to face a significant production gap.

Value-added output across the continent is projected to reach only US\$1.84 billion in 2025, far below its market potential.

In Ghana, annual domestic demand stands at approximately 120 million yards of fabric—worth nearly US\$400 million—yet local factories utilize only 30% of their capacity.

Chronic underinvestment and a shortage of skilled talent remain major barriers to growth.

**Closing the Skills Gap in Ghana’s Textile and Garment Sector**

TRAINEX was launched to help bridge this gap by equipping young professionals with the technical and managerial competencies needed to increase productivity and improve global competitiveness.

Trainees received intensive instruction in production management, quality control, merchandising and costing, industrial engineering, and social compliance.

The program blended classroom-based learning with factory-floor coaching and hands-on internships delivered by seasoned industry specialists.

As part of the initiative, participants joined a study tour in Sri Lanka, organized with Brandix Corporate Campus—the training arm of one of Sri Lanka’s leading garment manufacturers.

The tour exposed participants to international best practices and advanced garment production systems, offering valuable real-world experience.

With the program now completed, many participants are already

being integrated into local garment factories—an important milestone in building a sustainable talent pipeline for Ghana’s expanding apparel industry.

Stakeholders say the newly trained workforce will help reduce dependence on expatriate expertise while accelerating long-term sectoral transformation.

The program is also expected to support future reforms aimed at aligning Ghana’s textile and fashion curricula with industry needs.

“The training enables participants to enhance their work efficiency while also equipping them to train others in the workplace,” said Simon Hochstein, Component Head for Invest for Jobs at GIZ Ghana.

“This will help improve productivity, strengthen the textile industry, and create more jobs.

Such efforts make an important contribution to a Just Transition—one that makes our economy more inclusive and creates greater opportunities for women and youth.”

The successful conclusion of TRAINEX marks a significant step toward addressing Ghana’s skills gap and unlocking the full potential of its textile and garment manufacturing sector.



## Cem Yalcin: Turkey Is Suffering Now, But Will Rise Again

### Saurer Group's Global Sales Leader Shares Market Insights During ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025

**D**uring ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025, Kohan Textile Journal had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Cem Yalcin, Chief Sales Officer – Global Sales at Saurer Group, who offered a candid assessment of the current global textile landscape and shared his optimistic outlook for Turkey's textile sector.

Reflecting on the global situation, Mr. Yalcin noted that 2025 has been a challenging year for the textile industry, with only a few markets demonstrating resilience.

“Right now, the global market in general is not performing well,” he said. “India, China, and Brazil are among the few bright spots.”

However, other regions — particularly Europe and the Middle East — are struggling due to factors like tariffs, economic uncertainty, and regional conflicts.”

Turning to the Turkish market, he acknowledged that Turkey faces additional challenges compared to other regions.

“Energy and labor costs are high, and the exchange rate situation is difficult. Everything has become very expensive, so Turkey is suffering more than most markets right now,” he explained.

Despite the current hardships, Mr. Yalcin remains optimistic about Turkey’s future.

“I don’t believe this will last forever. Once the exchange rate stabilizes, the industry will recover quickly,” he added.

“Turkey has a key geographic advantage — it’s only a three-day drive from Europe, one of the world’s biggest textile markets. That logistical

strength will help Turkish manufacturers regain momentum.”

He emphasized that Turkey’s strategic location, experienced workforce, and strong industrial base ensure that the country will remain a vital player in global textiles.

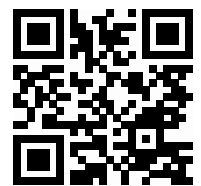
“Turkey will not disappear from the textile map,” he concluded. “This is not a permanent situation. In a short time, I believe Turkey will be back, stronger and more competitive than before.”

As global textile leaders gathered in Singapore to discuss innovation, sustainability, and market recovery, Mr. Yalcin’s remarks served as a reminder that resilience and adaptability remain at the heart of the textile industry’s success.



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# Kenya Welcomes AGOA Extension Proposal

**K**enya has welcomed a proposal by the United States administration to extend the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) for an additional year, a move that is currently under review by the US Congress.

The extension is seen as a vital step to maintain uninterrupted trade access while both sides work toward a stronger long-term trade framework.



The development followed high-level talks in Washington, DC, where Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia W. Mudavadi, who also handles foreign and diaspora affairs, accompanied President William Ruto in a meeting with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer.

## **Also Read: Eswatini Urged to Diversify Textile Export Markets as AGOA Nears End**

Greer stated that the proposed one-year extension would give the US administration adequate time to design a more resilient, future-ready AGOA framework that better reflects the evolving trade and investment priorities of both nations.

## **Kenya and US Eye Broader Trade Partnership**

Mudavadi stressed that the engagement went beyond the immediate extension of AGOA.

Kenya and the United States are now laying the groundwork for a new, forward-looking bilateral trade arrangement, aimed at elevating economic cooperation to a higher level.

The envisioned framework is expected to improve predictability for investors, unlock wider market access, and establish a modern, mutually beneficial partnership aligned with both countries' long-term ambitions.

Both sides also identified several high-growth sectors with strong potential for expanded cooperation.

These include apparel and textiles, agriculture, leather and footwear, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, as well as information and communication technology (ICT) and digital services.

According to the Kenyan government, these sectors are expected to generate quality employment, boost export earnings, attract new investments, and strengthen value chains across Kenya's economy.



## TVE Escale Showcases Industry 4.0 Innovation at ITMA Asia Singapore 2025

**A**t ITMA Asia Singapore 2025, Kohan Textile Journal spoke with Mr. Arnau Farré, Sales Manager of TVE Escale, the Barcelona-based leader in textile finishing machinery.

The company drew significant attention with its new Industry 4.0 solutions designed to transform data management, utility monitoring, and sustainability across textile production lines.

### **First Time Exhibiting at ITMA Asia—and a Strong Impression**

Although TVE Escale previously attended ITMA Shanghai only as visitors, this marked the company's first official participation at ITMA Asia.

"People always spoke very positively about the

previous ITMA Singapore. Finally being here as exhibitors, we are very happy," said Farré.

"We are meeting visitors not only from Asia, but also South America and Europe. The diversity allows us to reach everyone."

The large international turnout created strong engagement opportunities for the company.

### **Leading the Shift Toward Sustainable, Efficient Textile Finishing**

TVE Escale used the exhibition to

debut its latest advancements in Industry 4.0 technologies, focusing on automation, real-time monitoring, and resource efficiency.

“We are developing software systems to monitor our machines and control utility consumption—water, steam, and chemicals—because these are key points for making processes more sustainable and efficient,” Farré explained.

**The new digital platform collects data from each machine, enabling:**

- . Real-time visualization of machine performance
- . Full monitoring of utility consumption
- . Tracking efficiency KPIs
- . Reducing waste and operational costs
- . Improving environmental performance
- . Providing complete process traceability

**Industry 4.0: Data, Automation, and Environmental Responsibility**

According to Farré, the global textile finishing sector is rapidly embracing modernization.

“All of us must improve every day. The industry is moving toward more efficient, more automated,

and more environmentally friendly processes. Sustainability is the main direction.”

TVE Escale’s developments address these industry demands directly.

**Full Traceability for Every Meter of Fabric**

One of the company’s key highlights is its new data-collection system offering end-to-end traceability:

“We collect all process data so customers can follow the complete traceability of each and every meter of fabric they produce,” he said.

“This is what we are presenting here.”

With global brands requesting detailed sustainability information, this level of monitoring strengthens customers’ competitiveness.

**A Strong Debut in Singapore**

TVE Escale’s first participation at ITMA Asia Singapore successfully showcased its commitment to digital transformation and sustainability—values increasingly essential for modern textile finishing.

With Industry 4.0 applications, advanced monitoring tools, and a focus on environmental efficiency, the company demonstrated why it remains one of Europe’s most trusted names in textile finishing machinery.

# Precision, Sustainability, and Industry 4.0 at the Heart of Pleva's Innovations

**A**t ITMA Asia Singapore 2025, Kohan Textile Journal met with Kathrin Pleva, representing Pleva GmbH, one of Germany's leading developers of advanced sensor and control technologies for textile finishing.

With decades of engineering expertise, Pleva continues to position itself at the forefront of process optimization, sustainability, and digital transformation in the global textile industry.

## **Pleva: High-Precision Sensors and Controls for Advanced Textile Finishing**



Introducing her company, Kathrin explained:

“We are producing sensors and control systems for the textile industry, especially for finishing—fabric temperature sensors, exhaust humidity sensors, weft straighteners, and sophisticated camera technolo-

gies. All of this is showcased here at ITMA Singapore.”

Pleva's solutions are widely recognized for improving accuracy, consistency, and quality across complex finishing operations, while enabling real-time monitoring and precise measurement of critical parameters.

## **Strong Presence at ITMA Asia Singapore 2025**

Kathrin expressed strong satisfaction with the Singapore edition of ITMA Asia:

“The ITMA in Singapore is a very, very good exhibition for us. We see great diversity in participating countries, and the visitor quality is extremely high.

We've had excellent discussions—not only with textile producers, but also with our business partners. We really like the Singapore edition.”

With a notable presence of decision-makers from Asia,

the Middle East, Africa, and Europe, the event provided Pleva with a strategic platform to connect with both new and existing customers.

### **Sustainability and Resource Efficiency at the Core**

Sustainability remains central to Pleva's mission. Kathrin highlighted how the company's technology directly contributes to reducing waste and energy consumption:

"Our products are not only heroes for your process, but also heroes for sustainability.

We make your processes more transparent and help you use fewer resources like heat, chemicals, and energy."

These systems interface seamlessly with Pleva's advanced process visualization and control platforms, supporting Industry 4.0 integration and enabling mills to operate with increased automation and data-driven intelligence.

### **Market Outlook and Industry Momentum**

While acknowledging global market uncertainties, Kathrin observed renewed optimism during the exhibition:

"At the moment, we have many uncertainties in the market, but according to our experience, it will go up soon.

People are willing to move forward, and if politics gives the right impulses, we have a bright future ahead—more sustainable, more transparent—and we are ready to support that transformation."

### **New High-End Camera Technology Unveiled**

Pleva also used the platform to introduce its latest innovation—an advanced camera-based measurement system:

"We're presenting a very nice high-end camera technology for pick course density measurement—pick counting—along with powerful visualization and control tools. We invite everyone to visit our booth and experience it firsthand."

Pleva's strong presence at ITMA Asia Singapore 2025 reinforces its reputation as a global leader in precision instruments, sustainability-driven solutions, and modern finishing technologies.

With its commitment to efficiency, reliability, and digital innovation, the company is poised to support textile mills worldwide in their transition toward smarter and greener production.



## Turkish Textile Group VANTELA Announces Investment Plans in Tunisia

The Turkish textile company VANTELA has formally expressed its intention to establish operations in Tunisia following a meeting held on November 24 at the headquarters of FIPA-Tunisia.

CEO Mahmut Vanli was received by the Agency's Director General, Jalel Tebib, along with the promotion team responsible for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).

The announcement comes at a time when Tunisia's textile and apparel sector is experiencing renewed growth and heightened investor interest.

### **Strengthening Turkish-Tunisian Industrial Cooperation**

The meeting served as part of broader efforts to deepen economic ties between

Turkey and Tunisia while exploring new industrial opportunities. Discussions centered on Tunisia's business environment, the incentives offered to foreign investors, support mechanisms available through FIPA-Tunisia, and the country's strategic advantages—including a skilled workforce, competitive logistics, and close proximity to the European market.

At the conclusion of the talks, VANTELA executives confirmed their commitment to launching an investment project in Tunisia and have already begun initial administrative procedures with the assistance of FIPA-Tunisia's operational teams.

The Agency highlighted recent reforms aimed at simplifying the setup process for international companies and improv-

ing the country’s overall industrial attractiveness.

FIPA-Tunisia also welcomed the increasing interest of Turkish textile companies in the Tunisian market, reaffirming its readiness to support investors through each phase of project development.

Tunisia, it noted, continues to position itself as a competitive manufacturing hub in the Mediterranean—particularly for export-oriented textile value chains.

VANTELA representatives emphasized the strategic advantage of operating in Tunisia, describing it as an ideal gateway for expanding production capacity targeting both European and African markets, especially amid shifting global supply-chain dynamics.

According to figures from the first nine months of 2025, Tunisia’s textile and apparel industry is showing strong recovery.

Foreign direct investment in the sector grew by 27.9%,

rising from 135.9 million dinars in 2024 to 173.8 million dinars in 2025.

This upward trend reinforces the sector’s status as one of the country’s core export engines and strengthens Tunisia’s appeal to international industrial operators.

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## Global Sourcing Expo Melbourne 2025 Sets New Benchmarks in Growth, Engagement and Industry Impact

**T**he Global Sourcing Expo Melbourne, held from 18–20 November at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, has wrapped up an exceptional edition that demonstrated strong international engagement, commercial opportunity and industry momentum.

Over three dynamic days, the Expo welcomed over 5,000 visitors, marking an impressive 8% increase from 2024 and highlighting the growing relevance of the event within Australia’s sourcing, retail and manufacturing landscape.

Many attendees commented on the strength of connections and conversations facilitated at the event, with one visitor sharing, “The Global Sourcing Expo has opened up so many opportunities for my business and I’ve been able to connect with so many people face-to-face.”

Feedback like this demonstrates the Expo’s ongoing commitment to delivering meaningful engagement and valuable trade outcomes.

### **A Premier International Sourcing Showcase**

Together with the co-located China Clothing Textile Accessories Expo, this year’s event featured 800+ exhibitors from more than 16 coun-

tries, showcasing cutting-edge products, manufacturing excellence and global sourcing capabilities across apparel, textiles, accessories, footwear, home-ware and supply chain services.

Visitors explored a diverse and innovative range of international suppliers, uncovering new partnerships and fresh opportunities across key global markets.

### **A Standout Global Sourcing Seminar Program**

The Global Sourcing Seminar Program continued to be a major highlight of the Melbourne event, attracting large audiences and delivering compelling insights from industry leaders and subject-matter experts.

This year's seminars explored some of the most transformative topics shaping global sourcing today, including the rapid evolution of artificial intelligence in sourcing and product development, the increasing importance of sustainability and responsible manufacturing, the fast-changing dynamics of eCommerce and digital retail, and the latest shifts in sourcing trends and global supply chain strategies.



Attendees praised the depth and relevance of the program, with one visitor noting, “The Seminar Sessions were so great to sit in on, and I loved hearing from people who have real-life experiences that we can learn from.”

The strong engagement with the seminar program reinforced the Expo’s role as not just a sourcing event, but a hub for education, professional growth and forward-thinking industry insights.

## Outstanding Exhibitor and Visitor Feedback

Exhibitors also expressed strong satisfaction with the buyer quality, organisation and business outcomes of the Expo.

One exhibitor shared high praise, saying, “The Global Sourcing Expo Australia is the best in the world.

I’ve been to Magic and major fashion fairs in London and Paris, but they’re nothing like this. The organisers, led by Julie and her team, have done a fantastic job, and I will definitely come back next year.” — Kenny, Hungfat Keme.

Such positive feedback from both exhibitors and visitors affirms the Expo’s status as a premier platform for international trade, connection and long-term sourcing relationships.

## Growth, Momentum and an Expanding Audience

The uplift in visitor attendance, the strength of exhibitor participation and the overwhelmingly positive testimonials highlight the Expo’s growing influence and the trust the industry continues to place on the event.

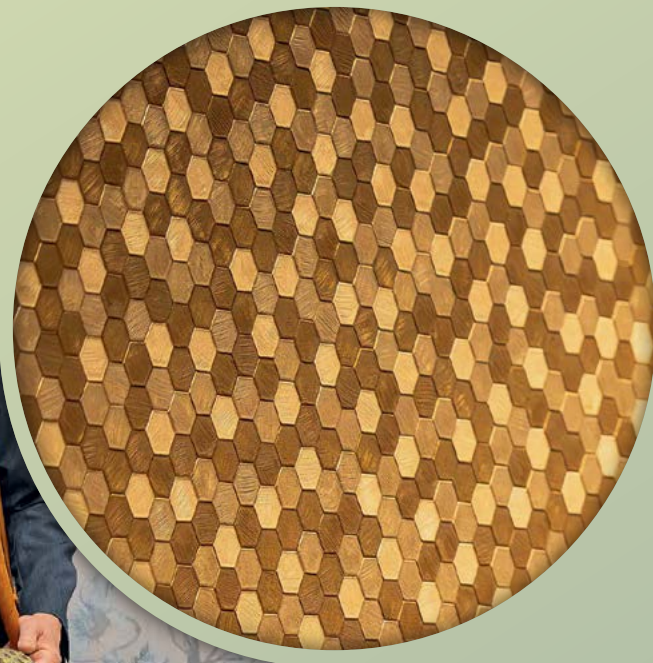
With a blend of returning visitors and new attendees, the Global Sourcing Expo remains an essential destination for businesses seeking new global partnerships and insights into market evolution.

## The Global Sourcing Expo Returns to Sydney in 2026

Planning is already underway for the next edition of the Global Sourcing Expo, returning to Sydney on 16–18 June 2026 at the International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney.

The Global Sourcing Expo team looks forward to welcoming attendees and exhibitors to Sydney in 2026 for another world-class event that continues to champion global sourcing, innovation and industry collaboration.



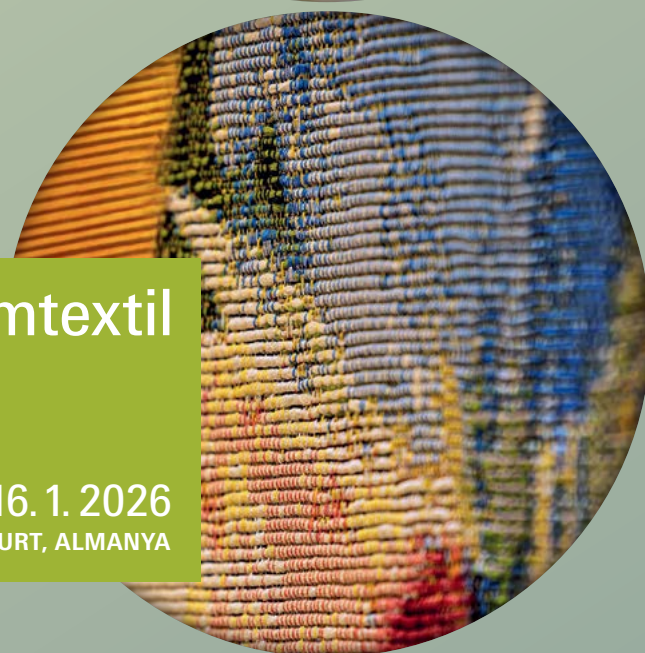


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# Ratera Highlights Specialized Braiding Technologies at ITMA Asia Singapore 2025



**D**uring ITMA Asia + CITME 2025, Kohan Textile Journal spoke with Manel Lorente Muixi, Area Sales Manager at Ratera, a leading Spanish manufacturer known globally for its advanced braiding machinery.

With decades of expertise, Ratera continues to play a pivotal role in supplying high-precision braiding solutions across multiple industries.

## **Diverse Applications: From Maritime Ropes to Medical Sutures**

According to Lorente, Ratera's

strength lies in its broad and specialized product portfolio.

“We produce braiding machines for very different applications,” he explained.

“We have machines to make big mooring ropes for ships, carbon fiber structures for automotive and aerospace, and high-performance solutions for the medical sector such as suture braids. Any kind of rope, cord, or shoelace — we can manufacture the machinery for it.”

At the Singapore edition of ITMA Asia, the company aimed to reconnect with its growing customer base across Asia and Southeast Asia.

“So far, we are quite satisfied with the exhibition,” Lorente added. “We have received visitors from almost everywhere in Asia. It has been a good show for us.”

### **Competing Through Specialization, Not Price**

Lorente addressed a long-standing perception in the market that European machines are significantly more expensive than others.

“That may have been true decades ago,” he said. “But today, when you compare Spanish or German machines, the price difference is minimal. The key strategy now in the textile machinery sector is specialization.”

Ratera focuses on high-value, technically demanding segments — from medical applications to climbing ropes and other high-end products.

“This specialization is our way to compete worldwide,” he noted.

### **Innovation as a Survival Strategy**

For Ratera, continuous R&D is not optional — it is fundamental.

“Innovation is mandatory nowadays,” Lorente emphasized. “Since we cannot compete on price, we

must continuously develop new solutions and stay ahead.

Otherwise, new competitors will undercut with lower prices, and you will lose competitiveness. Ongoing innovation is the only way to survive.”

### **Uncertain Global Outlook, but Steady Confidence**

When asked about the global market outlook, Lorente acknowledged today’s unpredictable economic and geopolitical climate.

“The world is unstable — financially, economically, and politically,” he said. “But throughout our history, we have always faced challenges and always survived. I believe we will continue to do so.”

### **Strong Support for ITMA Asia Singapore**

Ratera expressed strong satisfaction with the organization and visitor quality at ITMA Asia + CITME 2025.

“It’s a nice show,” Lorente concluded. “I hope the organizers keep doing this exhibition in the future and that it continues expanding.

**We look forward to returning and doing more business here.”**

# HETEX Jacquard Highlights Global Expansion, Quality Leadership and Sustainability Vision at ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025

**H**ETEX Jacquard, a young but fast-growing European supplier of premium harness cords and full harness solutions for jacquard weaving machines, reported a highly productive participation at ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025.

Speaking with Kohan Textile Journal, Amadeo Sanchez, Export Manager of HETEX Jacquard, described the exhibition as “a very positive and successful experience,” noting strong visitor interest, new customer engagements, and valuable reconnections with industry partners.



Sanchez explained that although the final day of the event was quieter, the overall exhibition generated significant traffic and new business opportunities.

“We have attended many people, many new customers and contacts. The show exceeded our expectations,” he said.

## A New Generation With a Strong Legacy

Although HETEX Jacquard is less than two years old,

the brand builds upon the heritage and technical know-how of the former Swiss-based HETEX, a well-known specialist in jacquard harness technology.

Today, the company operates from Spain, combining European engineering with a renewed investment in R&D, product innovation, and sustainable production.

“We are reinvesting, re-imagining and bringing new ideas into the field.

Even as a young company, we follow the tradition of the old HETEX while building something modern and forward-looking,” Sanchez noted.

## Quality as the Core Philosophy

Sanchez emphasized that HETEX Jacquard’s global reputation is rooted in one key element: uncompromising quality.

“If you search anywhere—online or through industry colleagues—you will find the same message: HETEX Jacquard means top-quality harness cords,” he said.

The company manufactures high-precision harness cords and complete harness systems compatible with major jacquard machine brands.

According to Sanchez, HETEX Jacquard is also a main supplier for Staubli, with all Staubli modules using the company’s harness cord technology.

### **Strong Export Orientation Toward Asia**

Reflecting on market trends, Sanchez highlighted that the majority of global jacquard demand currently comes from East and South Asia, where weaving capacity and carpet production have been expanding rapidly.

“We mainly export to India, China, Pakistan and Iran. Europe is steady, but the major growth today is in

Eastern Asia,” he said.

Given the company’s rapid establishment in global markets, HETEX Jacquard aims to expand its footprint further in Asia and the Middle East, supported by strategic partnerships and continued investment in product performance.

### **Sustainability, Recycling, and Innovation Ahead**

Sanchez underlined that the future of jacquard weaving—and the broader textile machinery industry—will increasingly depend on sustainability, circularity, and advanced R&D.

“There is no doubt we must focus on recycling, new technologies, and innovation.

R&D will shape the next generation of jacquard solutions,” he stated.

HETEX Jacquard plans to continue investing in environmentally responsible materials and production processes, aligning its strategy with the rising

global demand for sustainable textile technologies.

### **A Positive Outcome for the Singapore Edition**

The ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025 edition—which concluded earlier this week—provided a unique opportunity for European technology firms to engage with Southeast Asian buyers.

Despite initial uncertainty about hosting the event outside China, exhibitors like HETEX Jacquard reported strong business results driven by high-quality visitors and focused industry interest.

This interview was conducted by Behnam Ghasemi, Editor-in-Chief of Kohan Textile Journal, during the exhibition in Singapore.

With its renewed identity, heritage-driven expertise, and ambitious innovation plans, HETEX Jacquard is positioning itself as a next-generation technology partner for the global jacquard weaving industry.

# Lagos Fashion Week Wins 2025 Earthshot Prize for Pioneering Sustainable Fashion in Africa



**L**agos Fashion Week has been named the winner of the 2025 Earthshot Prize in the “Build a Waste-Free World” category, earning global recognition for its transformative role in driving sustainability across Africa’s fashion industry.

The prestigious award was announced during a high-profile ceremony in Rio de Janeiro, where the Earthshot Prize highlighted Lagos Fashion Week as a cultural powerhouse reshaping industry standards through an African lens.

## **Africa’s Leading Fashion Platform Sets a Sustainability Benchmark**

Founded in 2011 by Omoyemi Akerele, Lagos Fashion Week has grown into the continent’s most influential fashion event.

Its sustainability-first model requires every participating designer to prove commitments in areas such as:

- Responsible material sourcing
- Eco-friendly dyeing and finishing
- Ethical garment production
- Low-impact logistics and transport

By embedding accountability into Africa's most important fashion week, Lagos Fashion Week has effectively raised year-round sustainability expectations for brands across the continent.

### **£1 Million Prize to Support Expansion Across Africa**

The £1 million Earthshot Prize award will help Lagos Fashion Week scale its circular and ethical model to more African cities.

Expansion plans include Kigali, Dakar, and Accra, with a goal of replicating its framework across five African fashion weeks by 2030.

### **Earthshot Prize 2025: Other Category Winners**

**. Protect & Restore Nature – Re.green (Brazil):** AI-driven restoration of the Atlantic Forest

**. Clean Our Air – City of Bogotá (Colombia):** Reduced pollution through electric buses and clean air zones

**. Revive Our Oceans – High Seas Treaty (Global):** World's first treaty to protect high-sea marine ecosystems

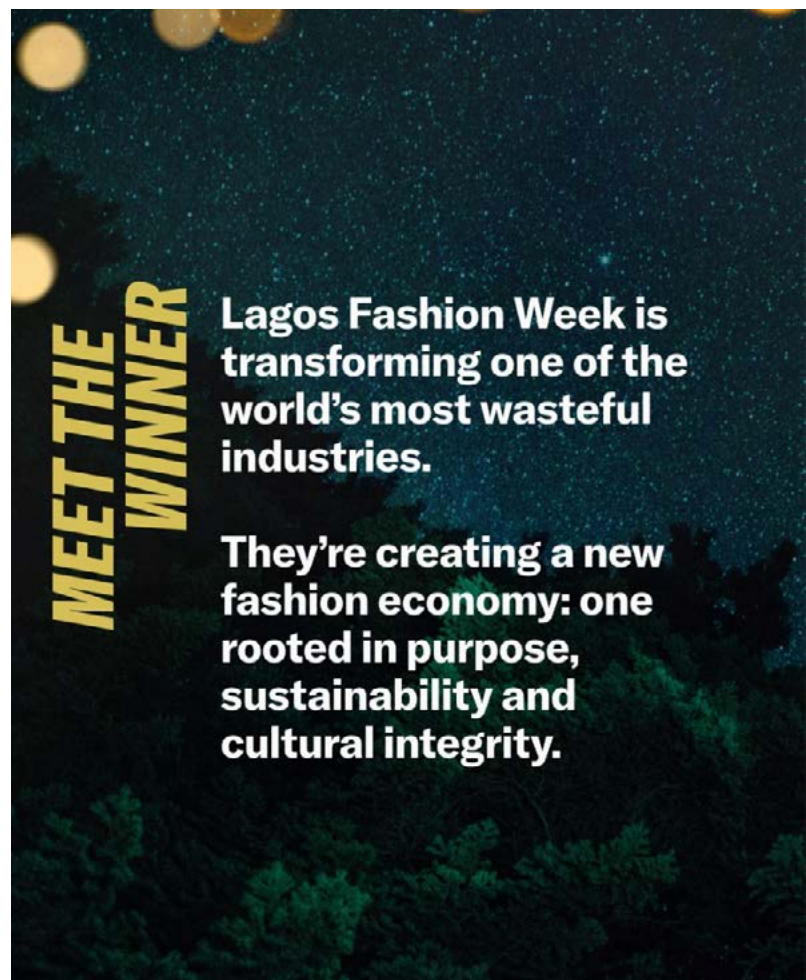
**. Fix Our Climate – Friendship (Bangladesh):** Coastal resilience, mangrove restoration, and climate adaptation efforts

### **Driving a Waste-Free Future Through Fashion**

As the winner for Build a Waste-Free World, Lagos Fashion Week was praised for reshaping how African brands design, produce, and distribute fashion.

By enforcing sustainability at the continent's most prominent industry event, organizers have accelerated broader adoption of responsible practices.

With Earthshot support, Lagos Fashion Week is set to deepen its continental influence — helping African fashion unlock a future where creativity, culture, and sustainability advance hand in hand.



# Spanish Machinery Makers Emphasize Innovation Amid Market Uncertainty



**A**t ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025, Spanish textile machinery manufacturers delivered a strong collective performance, demonstrating not only advanced technology but also a resilient business mindset shaped by long-term uncertainty in global markets.

Alejandro Gallego Alcaide, Director of International Business at AMEC, Spain's textile machinery association, emphasized that the industry must stop waiting for the perfect market rebound and instead focus on strengthening competitiveness during challenging times.

"Instead of asking when the market

will get better, we should focus on being competitive while uncertainty is happening," Gallego said.

He noted that economic cycles, the pandemic, energy prices and weakening demand have turned instability into a constant feature rather than a temporary phase.

According to him, future growth will come from companies that move beyond conventional textiles into high-value segments such as technical, medical and defense textiles, where investment continues even during downturns.

Regulatory pressure is also reshaping competitiveness.

Sustainability and recycling requirements—particularly from Europe—are accelerating

machinery upgrades linked to waste reduction, traceability and environmental performance.

Artificial intelligence is emerging as another decisive factor. “AI will go deeper into manufacturing. It won’t just monitor machines—it will help us think and decide,” Gallego said.

### **Spanish Machinery Combines Technology, Fair Pricing and Human Values**

At the exhibition, Spanish manufacturers stood out not only for innovation, but also for business philosophy.

Many Spanish machinery companies are family-owned across generations, enabling long-term partnerships and deep customer understanding.

“When you work with a Spanish machinery company, you don’t just buy equipment—you partner with a family,” Gallego noted. These firms prioritize fair pricing and customer profitability rather than short-term margins.

This values-based approach is reinforced through Spain’s “Positive Industry” movement, uniting 400 manufacturers around shared commitments to fair labor, continuous innovation, and social and environmental responsibility.

Commercially, Spanish exhibitors closed the Singapore edition with outstanding results.

“We had a high number of visitors and very strong business meetings,” Gallego said, highlighting direct access to decision-makers from Southeast Asia, South Asia and the Middle East—markets often difficult to reach through European exhibitions.

The Singapore venue enabled efficient navigation and productive meetings.

Fifteen Spanish companies showcased technologies across the entire textile value chain, from spinning, weaving, non-wovens and recycling to digital factory software and sustainable garment finishing.

“Spain may not lead in volume,” Gallego concluded, “but our strength is technology, commitment and customer care.”





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# Spanish Solutions for Textiles

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## Main tendencies within the Spanish industry landscape

### Energy efficiency and sustainability.

The sector investment is concentrated in achieving machines with greater energy efficiency. The sector is also **focused on finding sustainable solutions, reducing CO2, and reducing water consumption.**

### Automation of machines and processes.

The evolution in machinery connectivity leads the Spanish sector to advance towards the goal of **achieving Smart Factories.**

### New materials.

The Spanish textile sector is living **an important change due to the use of new materials.** This leads to innovation in technology for the use of recyclable materials and technical textiles and, on the other hand, it boosts the development of Smart Textiles.

[More information](#)



# Care Applications Showcases Breakthrough Resource-Saving Dyeing Technologies at ITMA ASIA 2025



At ITMA ASIA Singapore 2025, Care Applications, the Spain-based specialist in sustainable dyeing and finishing technologies, drew strong attention from global textile manufacturers seeking advanced solutions for resource efficiency, process automation, and high reproducibility.

During an exclusive interview with Carmina Ferri Valer, CEO of Care Applications, she highlighted the company's mission: optimizing existing machinery to drastically reduce water, chemical, and energy consumption across dyeing and finishing lines.

## Customized Technologies That Transform Existing Machinery

Carmina Ferri explained that Care Applications designs modular, adaptable devices that integrate directly into customers' existing machines—whether for garment dyeing, rope dyeing, or beam dyeing.

“We develop special devices that adapt to the customer's

machinery.

These solutions reduce water and chemical consumption and improve efficiency.

We analyze each customer's needs and customize systems to their plant. This personalized approach ensures better results and higher satisfaction,” she noted.

Care Applications' philosophy is grounded in collaboration and customization.

The company conducts a detailed study of each production line before im-

plementation, allowing improved reproducibility, lower operating costs, and precise process control.

### **Strong Reception at ITMA ASIA Singapore**

According to Ferri, the company's debut at ITMA ASIA Singapore exceeded expectations.

"The quality of the visitors has been extremely high and very focused on our solutions. We are very happy with this first experience in Singapore and we expect to return again," she said.

The fair provided an ideal platform for showcasing the company's latest innovations and expanding its presence in Asian markets.

### **Global Results: Proven Savings Across 17 Countries**

Care Applications currently operates in 17 countries, including Italy, India, China, Bangladesh, Turkey, Pakistan, Tunisia, Mexico, Vietnam, Ecuador, Peru, and Portugal. More than 150 machines worldwide are now equipped with their technologies.

### **Real customer data demonstrates the impact:**

#### **Portugal – CLOSER Technology on Jet Dyeing Machines**

- . 100% reproducibility
- . 60–70% savings in reducing agents and alkaline
- . Improved process stability and repeatability

#### **Ecuador – ECOFINISH® Atomization System**

- . 60% water savings
- . 75% thermal energy savings
- . Reduced processing time
- . No chemical exhaustion bath required

#### **Italy – ECOFINISH® for Dyeing Processes**

- . 78% electricity savings
- . 75% water savings
- . 100% Sodium Chloride reduction
- . Significant improvement in LCA (Life Cycle Assessment)

"These numbers clearly show how our technology contributes to sustainability," Ferri emphasized.

### **Driving the Textile Industry Toward Cleaner Production**

Care Applications continues to position itself as a leader in sustainable textile innovation, merging advanced engineering, environmental responsibility, and process industrialization. Its solutions enable dyehouses to transition from traditional, resource-intensive processes to modern, efficient, and eco-friendly operations.

As the textile world accelerates toward lower-impact manufacturing, technologies like ECOFINISH® and CLOSER offer a clear roadmap for mills seeking measurable improvements in cost, quality, and sustainability.

# Masias Maquinaria Highlights Innovation and Recycling Solutions at ITMA Asia Singapore 2025



**A**t ITMA Asia 2025, Masias Maquinaria reaffirmed its position as a global leader in fiber processing technologies, presenting advanced solutions for home textiles, nonwovens, and recycling applications.

Speaking to Kohan Textile Journal, Patricia Masias, General Manager of Masias Maquinaria, shared insights into the company's growing international presence and its commitment to innovation-driven progress.

Masias Maquinaria specializes in developing complete fiber-processing lines for pillows, quilts, and mattresses, as well as insulation products and

advanced nonwoven structures. "We provide solutions for fiber processing lines, especially for the home textile market," Masias explained.

"Our machinery supports applications from airlay and carding to cross-lapping, helping manufacturers produce felt, insulation materials, and more."

With a well-established client base across Europe, North America, and South America, the company attended ITMA Asia with a clear goal: expanding its footprint in emerging Asian and Middle Eastern markets.

Masias described the Singapore edition as "better than expected," emphasizing the diversity of visitors.

“We met people from Iran, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brazil, and even South Africa.

Singapore’s strategic location brings together audiences that we normally don’t reach as much in Europe,” she added.

### **Innovation and Reliability at the Core**

Masias highlighted that the company’s long-term success is driven by its commitment to continuous innovation and high-quality service.

“The secret is innovation—always pushing to solve new problems for our customers,” she said. “Service quality and machine safety are essential.

We design complete lines with high reliability, complexity, and security in mind. That’s what makes us a reference in Spain.”

### **Strong Focus on Recycling and Circular Solutions**

One of Masias Maquinaria’s key priorities is developing machinery that helps manufacturers reuse and recycle textile waste. Their flagship solution, Flexipad, is designed for the mattress industry.

The system allows manufacturers to process foam scraps, mattress trim-

mings, and quilted waste by shredding and blending them with low-melt fibers to create new padding layers that replace foam.

“This helps mattress producers reuse their own scraps and reduce waste,” Masias noted.

The company also provides defibering systems capable of processing pillow, quilt, and mattress scraps—supporting both pre-consumer and post-industrial recycling streams.

Beyond mattresses, Masias offers technologies to convert post-consumer cotton into nonwoven products, helping customers integrate circularity into their value chains.

“Part of our heart has always been in recycling,” Masias emphasized. “Now we are using all this experience to support post-consumer waste solutions as well.”

### **Expanding Horizons Through ITMA Asia**

The company views the Singapore edition of ITMA Asia as a major opportunity to connect with new customers and present its recycling-focused innovations to markets seeking sustainable, cost-effective fiber solutions.

With global demand rising for circular systems and efficient processing lines, Masias Maquinaria’s participation underscores its commitment to shaping the future of textile machinery.

# Trützschler Reports Strong Interest at ITMA ASIA Singapore



**T**rützschler concluded ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025 on a highly positive note, reporting strong visitor engagement and significant interest across its spinning, card clothing, and nonwovens innovations.

Speaking to Kohan Textile Journal, Dr. Bettina Temath, Head of Global Marketing at Trützschler, emphasized that Singapore proved to be an ideal hub for connecting with key Asian textile markets.

“Singapore is a very good location for us because it offers excellent access to our customer regions,” she noted.

“We were pleased with the number and quality of visitors from Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Indone-

sia, Vietnam, and across Asia. The response exceeded our expectations.”

Strong Demand for Automation and High-Efficiency Machinery  
Trützschler showcased an extensive range of technologies from all business units, reflecting the company’s focus on automation, quality control, and productivity.

### Key highlights included:

- T-CAN Automated Can Transport System — designed to ad-

dress labor shortages and rising labor costs while ensuring consistent material allocation.

- TC 30i Carding Machine — launched in 2024 and already recognized for delivering up to 40% higher production with excellent market feedback.
- ID3 Integrated Draw Frame — appreciated for its stability and high-level automation.

In card clothing, Trützschler presented its complete wire portfolio, including the new Precise Top 52 flat top, offering longer lifetime, higher resistance, and improved nap removal.

The nonwovens division displayed its full spectrum of air-through bonding, needle punching, and spunlacing solutions.

### **Truecycle: A Complete Pathway for Textile Waste Recycling**

Dr. Temath also highlighted

Trützschler’s growing commitment to circularity.

“With Truecycle, we offer a complete recycling system — from tearing to recycled fiber preparation,” she explained.

“Today, the most feasible model is pre-consumer waste, but the real challenge is scaling up to post-consumer waste. The industry still needs a clear legislative framework to move forward.”

### **Market Outlook: Slow but Cyclical**

While acknowledging that global demand remains subdued, Dr. Temath emphasized that the textile industry is inherently cyclical.

“We have seen many ups and downs. After every slump, the market eventually recovers,” she said.

She added that China remains a strong market, while regions such as Egypt and Türkiye continue to offer long-term potential due to competitive labor costs, strong infrastructure, and a skilled textile workforce.



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# Destination Africa 2025 Concludes with Strong Global Participation and Growing Interest in Egyptian Manufacturing



**D**estination Africa 2025 closed on a high note last week, reaffirming its position as one of Africa's most influential sourcing platforms.

Held on November 12–13, the event drew a broad mix of international buyers, manufacturers, and sourcing specialists, underscoring Egypt's rising status as a competitive textile and apparel hub and a gateway to wider African supply chains.

Egypt's textile and apparel sector—valued at USD 23.5 billion in 2024—remains one of the country's largest industrial and export engines. A decade earlier, Egypt imported USD 1.6 billion in key textile inputs such as fibers, yarns, and fabrics; today, the country has rapidly expanded domestic capabilities and positioned itself as a regional production powerhouse.

## Visitor and Exhibitor Numbers Reach New Highs

Organizers reported an impressive turnout, with over 350 international buyers and delegates from the United States,

Europe, Türkiye, the Middle East, and Asia.

Notable sourcing groups included teams from the U.S., Türkiye, Poland, France, Spain, and Italy.

This year's show featured 90 exhibitors from Egypt and across Africa, showcasing fabrics, apparel, home textiles, and vertically integrated manufacturing solutions.

Leading exhibiting countries included Egypt, Algeria, Ghana, and Benin, with Benin attracting attention for its growing investment in value-added textile processing.

## Major Global Buyers Strengthen Engagement

Destination Africa 2025 welcomed several high-profile international companies.

Recent delegations and fair attendees included global retailers and sourcing leaders such as:

- . Walmart
- . Chef Works
- . Macy's
- . Centric Brands

Europe was represented by brands such as H&M, Mango, and Pepe Jeans, while companies from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, China, South Korea, Germany, India, Mexico, Brazil, Poland, France, the U.K., and Italy were also present.

Türkiye showed one of the most dynamic participation levels, with representatives from LC Waikiki, De-facto, Ramsey, KIP, Oxxo, and Eren Perakende actively exploring Egyptian production opportunities and attending factory visits.

### **Egypt Gains Strategic Importance Amid Global Sourcing Shifts**

Growing instability and rising production costs in several traditional sourcing regions—most notably Türkiye—are prompting global apparel brands to reconsider supply chain structures.

Turkish media recently reported significant operational pressures within Türkiye textile industry, warning of relocation risks as factories face closures and cost inflation.

In this context, Egypt has emerged as a strategic partner with competitive pricing, advantageous logistics, preferential trade agreements, and expanding industrial zones.

Turkish sourcing consultant Sibel Ege, head of Ren Sourcing, praised the energy and collaboration at the fair:

“This year’s Destination Africa fair truly impressed me with the exceptional synergy among Turkish visitors.

The appreciation from attendees reinforced the importance of the work I do. I extended my services to include sourcing support in Egypt due to growing demand.”



Similarly, Aysegul Katar, Supply Chain Director at Panco, emphasized the fair’s strategic value:

“Destination Africa 2025 provided an invaluable platform to evaluate Egypt’s commercial potential.

We were able to meet investors and sector leaders from many countries, creating a strong foundation for future collaborations.”

**Benin’s Growing Role and Kenya’s Momentum**

Beyond Egypt, the presence of Benin, Ghana, and Algeria reflected an accelerating regional interest

in African manufacturing ecosystems.

Benin, in particular, gained attention as it continues to develop its cotton-to-garment value chain.

Kenya, though not exhibiting this year, remains an important emerging hub; its expanding industrial infrastructure and trade facilitation policies continue to boost its reputation among global buyers.

**A Successful Edition with Expanding Global Impact**

Destination Africa 2025 successfully reinforced Cairo’s position as a major meeting point for the global textile and apparel industry.

With record international engagement, productive B2B interactions, and increasing recognition of Africa’s manufacturing potential, the fair demonstrated Africa’s expanding role in global sourcing.

For many participants, Destination Africa was not only a platform to showcase products—it was a strategic environment for building long-term partnerships in an industry undergoing rapid transformation.

As momentum builds, Africa—led by Egypt and supported by emerging players like Benin—is steadily shaping the future of global textile and apparel production.





## Kabilen Sornum: How Groz-Beckert Shapes the Future of Textiles

In today's rapidly evolving textile industry, innovation is no longer limited to machinery alone — it extends to digital intelligence, precision engineering, and sustainable practices that redefine production standards.

Groz-Beckert, a global leader in industrial needles and textile tool systems, continues to set new benchmarks through its dedication to technological excellence and customer partnership.

At ITMA Asia + CITME 2025 in Singapore, Groz-Beckert showcased its latest developments, highlighting solutions that integrate

efficiency, automation, and environmental responsibility.

In this exclusive interview, Mr. Kabilen Sornum, responsible for Marketing and Digital Projects at Groz-Beckert's Textile Tools Division for the Asia-Pacific region, shares insights on the company's participation in ITMA Asia, market expansion in Africa and the Middle East, innovation strategy, sustainability commitments, and the future of intelligent textile manufacturing.

### 1. Exhibition Experience

“What motivated Groz-Beckert to participate in ITMA Asia + CITME Singapore, and how do you evaluate the significance of this edition for your company and the textile industry?”

- ITMA Asia + CITME is one of the most important platform in Asia for textile machinery, and Singapore offers a strategic gateway to the entire Asia-Pacific region.

For Groz-Beckert, participation in this edition is driven by our commitment to be close to our customers, showcase our latest technological advancements, and engage directly with industry partners across knitting, weaving, nonwovens, tufting, sewing, and spinning.

- This year’s event is especially significant as it highlights the industry’s focus on sustainability, digitalization, and intelligent manufacturing — all key areas of Groz-Beckert’s innovation strategy.

- ITMA Asia provides an ideal opportunity to demonstrate how our precision tools and systems contribute to greater energy efficiency, process reliability, and long-term value creation for textile manufacturers worldwide.

## 2. Market Expansion

“Groz-Beckert has a strong presence worldwide. How do you view the emerging opportunities in rapidly developing textile markets such as Africa and the Middle East?”

- Africa and the Middle East are becoming increasingly important regions for the global textile value chain.

We see growing investments in textile infrastructure, supported by favorable trade policies and a shift toward regionalized production closer to key consumer markets.

- For Groz-Beckert, these are exciting opportunities to contribute our expertise in precision tools, process optimization, and sustainability.

As new mills and apparel clusters develop, we aim to support them with reliable technology, technical training, and local service — helping ensure long-term quality and efficiency.

- In the coming years, we expect these regions to play a much larger role in diversifying global textile production, and Groz-Beckert intends to be a trusted partner in that transformation.

## 3. Innovation Focus

“What are the latest innovations or technologies Groz-Beckert is presenting at this year’s exhibition, and how do they respond to the current industry demands for efficiency and sustainability?”

- At ITMA Asia + CITME 2025,

Groz-Beckert is presenting innovations across all six product areas — Knitting, Weaving, Nonwovens, Tufting, Sewing, and Spinning — each focused on efficiency, precision, and sustainability.

- A key highlight is the LCmax™ energy-saving needle in circular knitting, offering up to 20% lower energy consumption through its wave-shaped shank geometry.

In nonwovens, our new barb design extends tool life and reduces clogging, while the InLine card clothing series ensures more consistent carding results.

- We're also showcasing advanced sewing technologies such as the SAN™ special application

needles and the INH digital needle-handling system, both improving process reliability and reducing waste.

Across all divisions, our goal is to help textile manufacturers achieve higher productivity with lower resource use — turning precision into sustainability.

#### **4. Industry Direction**

“From Groz-Beckert’s perspective, how do you see the global knitting and textile machinery industry evolving over the next five years, especially with automation and digitalization shaping production?”

- Over the next five years, we expect the global knitting and textile machinery industry to become increasingly automated, data-driven, and sustainability-focused.

Automation will continue to enhance productivity and consistency, while digitalization will enable real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance, and process optimization.

- At Groz-Beckert, we see this evolution as an opportunity to combine our precision tools



with intelligent digital solutions that give manufacturers better control over quality, energy use, and maintenance cycles.

- The integration of smart sensors, data analytics, and sustainable materials will redefine efficiency — transforming textile production into a more connected, transparent, and resource-efficient ecosystem.

## 5. Sustainability Commitment

“Sustainability has become a global priority. Could you share how Groz-Beckert integrates eco-friendly practices or materials into its production and product development?”

- Sustainability is embedded in every stage of Groz-Beckert’s operations — from product design to manufacturing and logistics. We focus on material efficiency, long service life, and recyclability, ensuring each innovation contributes to lower resource consumption and waste.

- Ultimately, our goal is to make precision synonymous with sustainability — helping our customers achieve higher performance with a smaller environmental footprint.

## 6. Collaboration & Customer Support

“How does Groz-Beckert plan to strengthen partnerships and technical

support with customers in Asia and other growing textile markets?”

- Asia remains the heart of the global textile industry, and strengthening our partnerships here is a key priority.

Groz-Beckert plans to expand its local presence, training programs, and technical service network to ensure customers receive faster, more specialized support.

- We are also enhancing collaboration with machine builders, research institutes, and manufacturers to co-develop solutions tailored to regional production needs.

By combining our global expertise with local insight, we help customers adopt the latest technologies — from energy-efficient tools to digital quality management systems — smoothly and effectively.

### • **Our focus is long-term partnership:**

supporting textile producers in Asia and other growing markets to achieve higher productivity, consistent quality, and sustainable growth.

“Textile growth has no boundaries — and neither does our commitment.

As the industry moves forward, Groz-Beckert will move with it, shaping the future of the textile world.” – Kabilen Sornum



## Groz-Beckert is your everyday companion

Our precision tools serve the textile world. With the help of our around 70,000 products and comprehensive services that support the knitting, weaving, nonwovens, tufting, sewing and spinning industries, textiles are created that are indispensable for our daily life: from clothing or carpets to technical textiles for vehicles or the medical sector.

170 years after its founding, Groz-Beckert is based on the Swabian Alb and yet at home everywhere in the world. At our headquarters in Albstadt, we currently employ over 2,200 of our approximately 9,500 employees.

Sharing challenges and making progress together.

[www.groz-beckert.com](http://www.groz-beckert.com)

**GROZ-BECKERT**

# Margasa Unveils New Post-Consumer Textile Recycling Technologies at ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025



**M**argasa, the Spanish specialist in textile recycling machinery, made a powerful impression at the recently concluded ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025, introducing breakthrough innovations aimed at transforming the global textile circularity landscape. Read it at Kohan Textile Journal.

With more than 55 years of expertise and a strong heritage rooted in Barcelona since 1969, Margasa continues to position itself as one of the world's leading developers of cutting-edge solutions for mechanical recycling of textile waste.

## A New Era for Post-Consumer Textile Recycling

Speaking to Kohan Textile Journal, Mr. Jordi Marlasca, General Manager of Margasa, emphasized that the company's latest technologies are designed to address the most urgent challenge in textile sustainability: post-consumer waste.

"We are launching new machinery specifically engineered to recycle used garments and second-hand clothes collected after consumer use. The goal is to give new life to fibers and bring

true circularity into the textile value chain,” Marlasca said.

Margasa’s post-consumer recycling lines—already operational in several countries—are now being offered as a key solution for the rapidly growing Asian market.

The company’s systems process all types of textile waste, including spinning waste, garment cutting leftovers, selvages, and mixed materials.

### **Introducing the Industry’s Most Advanced Recycling Laboratory Machine**

One of Margasa’s major unveilings in Singapore was its new laboratory-scale recycling equipment, specifically developed for:

- . Universities and research centers
- . Large manufacturing groups
- . Sustainability-driven design teams
- . R&D departments exploring circular product development



This compact yet powerful sampling machine allows companies to test and analyze their own textile waste, understand fiber recovery quality, and explore new circular product possibilities.

“The industry has been waiting for a tool like this,” Marlasca noted. “It fills a huge gap. It helps manufacturers and researchers evaluate their waste streams and innovate with recycled fiber applications.”

The machine has already attracted widespread interest from universities and technical institutes worldwide, reinforcing the need for rapid knowledge transfer to the next generation of textile engineers.

### **Mechanical Recycling: Challenges and Rapid Progress**

Marlasca highlighted the inherent challenge of mechanical recycling—fiber length reduction and changes in technical characteristics.

Yet, he emphasized that global progress has been remarkable: “Spinners are achieving better yarn results every day.

The industry is working hard to use recycled fibers ef-

fectively, and the results are improving much faster than expected. The future belongs to recycled fibers.”

### **Spain’s Technological Strength in Textile Machinery**

Spain remains one of the strongest European hubs for textile machinery know-how.

According to Marlasca, Spain’s leadership comes from decades of specialized engineering and the ability to compete in high-value niche technologies:

“We focus on strategic, highly technical segments where we can add real value.

With our background, technology, and know-how, we remain extremely competitive globally—even against the biggest players.”

### **Singapore Exhibition Exceeds Expectations**

Marlasca praised ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025 for delivering an exceptional quality of visitors and decision-makers:

“This exhibition was a huge surprise for every-

one. We met owners, top executives, and real buyers from the major Asian markets. Singapore proved to be the ideal location—central, accessible, and connected to the world’s most important textile economies.”

He added that Singapore has the potential to become a long-term hub for the Asian machinery market: “The show is already at the same level as major European exhibitions. It should remain in Singapore for many years.”

### **Market Outlook: The Return of the Upward Wave**

Despite the global slowdown in recent years, Margasa sees strong signs of a market rebound:

“Textile is a wave—up and down. We have lived through the lower part, but now we clearly feel the recovery coming. Orders are increasing, confidence is rising, and the next few years will be a peak period. Now is the right time to invest.”



# Kansan Materials Strengthens Global Position with Strategic Dilo Partnership at ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025



**K**ansan Materials, the newest division of the Kansan Group, marked a significant milestone at ITMA ASIA + CITME 2025 in Singapore by showcasing its advanced wetlaid nonwoven technologies alongside the Dilo Group, reinforcing their strategic partnership and expanding their footprint in the Asian market.

Gökhun Güngör, Sales Executive at Kansan Materials, shared insights into the company’s growing role in the global nonwovens sector and the positive reception experienced during the exhibition.

## Three Divisions, One Vision for Innovation

Kansan Group operates through three specialized divisions:

- Kansan Converting – complete wet wipes converting lines, from converting machinery to liquid application systems.
- AndroPack – end-of-line automation including case packers and palletizing technologies.
- Kansan Materials – the latest division, dedicated to nonwoven machinery with a strong focus on wetlaid and wetlace processes.

“Kansan Materials was established to bring highly engineered wetlaid solutions to the nonwoven industry,” said Güngör.

“With our wetlaid and wetlace expertise combined with Dilo’s global leadership in needle-punching and carding, we are delivering a powerful technological package to the market.”

### **A Strategic Partnership for Next-Generation Nonwovens**

The partnership between Kansan Materials and the Dilo Group (Germany) integrates the strengths of two technology leaders:

- Kansan’s wetlaid & wetlace process innovations
- Dilo’s world-renowned needle punch and carding systems

Together, the companies aim to support manufacturers in advanced segments such as:

- Spunlace

- Wetlace
- Hybrid processes (CP, CPC, CCP) – Carded Pulp and related combinations

“This collaboration creates a robust advantage for customers,” Güngör added.

“By combining know-how, we offer complete, high-efficiency solutions for a rapidly evolving nonwoven industry.”

### **Strong Engagement at ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025**

For Kansan Materials, participating at the Dilo booth in Singapore marked an important step in positioning the brand within Asia — one of the world’s fastest-growing nonwovens markets.

“We were very satisfied with the visitor quality and strong interest in wetlaid solutions,” noted Güngör.

“Asia is a key growth region, and ITMA ASIA + CITME has been an excellent start to expanding our

marketing and business activities here.”

The company will continue its Asia engagement by exhibiting with Dilo at Techtexil India from 19–21 November as part of its ongoing regional tour.

### **Rising Turkish Presence in Asian Textile Exhibitions**

According to exhibition organizers, 35 Turkish companies exhibited at ITMA ASIA 2025, signalling growing interest from Türkiye in Asian textile and nonwoven markets.

“For many years, our industry focused mainly on Europe and the U.S.,” said Güngör.

“Taking a stronger role in Asia is essential — our national strategy is always to increase exports over imports.

Seeing more Turkish companies active in these markets is a very positive sign, and we hope this number will continue rising.”

# DMS Dilmenler Machinery Strengthens Global Presence at ITMA Asia Singapore 2025



**D**MS Dilmenler Machinery, one of Turkey's oldest and most established textile machinery manufacturers, marked its return to ITMA Asia Singapore after a decade.

We spoke with Mr. Tugay Kapukaya, International Sales Manager, who shared insights on the company's legacy, market outlook, and future strategy.

## **A 40-Year Legacy in Textile Dyeing and Finishing**

Founded more than four decades ago, DMS Dilmenler Machinery has built a global reputation for high-quality textile dyeing and finishing machines.

"DMS is the oldest manufacturer of its kind in Turkey. We are known worldwide for our

quality, management, and production capability.

Compared to both local and European competitors, we can manufacture high quantities of machines efficiently," says Kapukaya.

The company showcased its latest dyeing machine at ITMA Asia + CITME Singapore, a milestone event considering their last participation in Singapore was ten years ago.

"The atmosphere is excellent. We met far more visitors than expected, and all our agents are here. ITMA Asia is an essential platform to reach Asian customers."

## **Market Shifts and Challenges in Turkey's Textile Industry**

Kapukaya explains that the textile landscape in Turkey is undergoing significant change.

“The textile industry in Turkey is not in its best shape, especially the garment sector.

Many garment manufacturers are moving to Egypt because of labor costs.

That’s why companies like us are focusing more on machinery exports and new international markets.”

However, Turkey remains a global reference point for high-quality fabrics.

“Turkey is still strong in fabric production. If someone needs premium fabric, they come to Istanbul.

This will not change easily. The capacity will stay stable—not growing, but not declining either.”

### **The Need for United Representation of Turkish Machinery**

Kapukaya emphasizes the

### **importance of cooperation among Turkey’s machinery manufacturers:**

“One company alone cannot represent the Turkish machinery sector globally.

All Turkish manufacturers should participate together and showcase our strengths collectively.

This would create far greater impact for the industry.”

### **Advanced Technology Through Global Collaboration**

One of DMS’s biggest strengths is its deep integration of European technology.

“DMS works with German technologies and partners like Lenze, ABB, and SETEX. We develop our software and electronic systems together.

We constantly host engineers from Lenze and ABB in our factory.”

This close collaboration

is complemented by the company’s unique advantage: DMS owns and operates its own dyehouse.

“We are not only machine producers; we are machine users.

Our dyehouse gives us real-time feedback. We share this with our engineering team and suppliers, and together we develop better solutions.

This is why DMS can compete with European brands.”

### **A Clear Path Forward**

From advanced R&D partnerships to consistent participation in major international exhibitions, DMS Dilmenler Machinery continues to strengthen its global footprint.

**The company’s vision remains clear:**

Innovate continuously, collaborate widely, and represent Turkish machinery excellence on the world stage.



## Coats Digital Showcases Cutting-Edge Garment Software at Destination Africa 2025

**C**oats Digital, the software business of Coats Group and a global leader in digital transformation solutions for the fashion supply chain, proudly participated in Destination Africa 2025, one of the continent's most influential textile and apparel sourcing exhibitions.

The event, held in Cairo, Egypt, once again brought together regional and international stakeholders to explore innovation, collaboration, and sustainable growth across the textile and apparel industry.

### **A New Milestone in Digital Transformation**

Coats Digital's participation at Destination Africa 2025

marked another milestone in its mission to accelerate digital transformation within the apparel and textile ecosystem.

Representing Coats Egypt, the team engaged with manufacturers, brands, and sourcing professionals to discuss how data-driven technologies can enhance efficiency, agility, and sustainability across production lines.

The company's suite of business-critical garment software solutions—covering design, development, costing, planning, and manufacturing—was at the center of conversations during the exhibition.

Built upon deep industry expertise and proven global best practices, Coats Digital's technologies are designed to help fashion companies reduce lead times, optimize resources, and improve profitability.

### **Supporting Regional Growth and Collaboration**

Through its active presence at Destination Africa, Coats Digital reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Africa's grow-

ing role in the global fashion supply chain.

The event served as a valuable platform to connect with regional partners, apparel producers, and industry innovators seeking to leverage technology for long-term competitiveness.

**A spokesperson from Coats Egypt emphasized the importance of collaboration and local empowerment:**

“Destination Africa continues to be a remarkable platform to exchange ideas, build partnerships, and showcase how digital transformation can redefine the future of fashion manufacturing.

We are proud to contribute to this journey and to represent Coats' ongoing commitment to Africa's apparel ecosystem.”





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# Swedish Machinery Makers Shine at ITMA ASIA 2025



**T**he Swedish Textile Machinery Association (TMAS) concluded a highly successful participation at ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025, marking a strong return to one of Asia’s most dynamic textile and technology hubs.

Led by Secretary General Therese Premler Andersson, the TMAS delegation featured six leading Swedish manufacturers demonstrating cutting-edge solutions for weaving, garment production, home textiles, and sustainable finishing.

Speaking to Behnam Ghasemi, Editor in chief of Kohan Textile Journal, Premler Andersson expressed strong satisfaction with both the exhibition environment and the quality of professional engagement throughout the show.

“Singapore has proven once again to be a true international hub. We have met visitors from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and across Asia. The diversity and quality of the audience exceeded expectations,” she said.

## **Singapore: A Strategic Hub for Global Engagement**

TMAS emphasized the unique advantages of Singapore as the event’s host city — a place known for innovation, accessibility, and efficient organization.

“It’s easy for many nationalities to come here. The city is welcoming, well-connected, and perfectly positioned for global business. For our members, the venue has worked flawlessly from move-in to move-out,” Premler Andersson commented.

Throughout the exhibition, TMAS member companies held numerous technical meetings, strategic discussions, and partnership sessions with mill owners, engineers, and textile investors from across Asia — reflecting strong market interest in Swedish technology.

## **Showcasing Sweden’s High-Performance Textile Technologies**

The TMAS delegation presented advanced technologies across the textile value chain, demonstrating Swe-

den's engineering strength and commitment to innovation.

In the weaving sector, Vandewiele Sweden and Eltex of Sweden showcased high-precision yarn feeders and advanced thread-monitoring sensors designed to enhance weaving performance and reduce production errors.

Solutions for the garment and home textile sectors were also prominently featured, including automated sewing systems for terry towels, bedding, filters, and mattresses, along with sophisticated cutting technologies engineered to improve speed and consistency in production lines.

A major highlight of the Swedish pavilion came from the finishing sector, where Imogo and Baldwin introduced next-generation spray-based dyeing and finishing technologies.

These innovations replace traditional water- and chemical-intensive processes with cleaner, highly

efficient systems capable of reducing water consumption by up to 80%, lowering chemical and energy usage, and significantly minimizing waste.

Their sustainable finishing solutions demonstrate how Swedish manufacturers are shaping the future of eco-efficient textile processing worldwide.

### **A Transformative Period for Global Textiles**

According to Premier Andersson, the global textile industry is undergoing a critical transformation driven by new regulatory frameworks, technological shifts, and sustainability expectations.

"We face new regulations in Europe, rapid development in AI and data management, and a growing global demand for sustainable solutions.

At the same time, many markets face labor shortages — driving a widespread shift toward automation," she noted.

She emphasized that Swedish textile machinery manufacturers are well positioned to support this transition with advanced automation, digital tools, and sustainability-focused engineering.

### **Looking Ahead**

TMAS will evaluate insights from ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025 with its members and partners as it prepares for continued collaboration across Asia.

"This exhibition has shown us the importance of being present in a global hub like Singapore.

The discussions we had here will influence our strategies going forward," Premier Andersson added.

With its strong presence and impactful technological showcase, TMAS reaffirms Sweden's role as a global leader in textile machinery innovation and sustainable manufacturing solutions.

# Canlar Mechatronic Highlights Strong Market Position and Positive Outcome at ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025



**C**anlar Mechatronic, one of Türkiye’s leading manufacturers in the textile machinery sector, has reported a highly successful participation at ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025, stating that the event exceeded the company’s expectations in terms of location, visitor quality, and overall atmosphere.

In an interview with Kohan Textile Journal, Onur, Area Sales Manager of Canlar Mechatronic, described the company’s strong international footprint:

“We are selling our machines in more than 40 countries around the world.”

**He also emphasized Canlar Mechatronic’s dominant role in the Turkish market:**

“We are the biggest company in Türkiye in our field, and we currently dominate around 65% of the domestic market.”

This significant market share, he noted, is the result of consistent engineering improvements, competitive pricing, and long-term technical support that has helped the company expand into multiple international regions—including Asia, the Middle East, Europe, South America, and Africa.

Regarding the Singapore edition of the exhibition, Onur expressed satisfaction with both the venue and the professional environment: “The fair was much better than we expected. The location, the hall layout, and the atmosphere were really nice. It was definitely a good exhibition for us.”

Although many exhibitors initially approached ITMA ASIA in Singapore with caution—given the shift away from the traditionally strong Shanghai venue—Canlar Mechatronic’s experience suggests that visitor quality compensated for the lower overall crowd size, making the event commercially worthwhile.

As the global textile machinery sector faces increasing competition from Europe and East Asia, the strong momentum of Turkish manufacturers like Canlar Mechatronic underscores Türkiye’s rising influence in the international machinery market.

The interview was conducted by Behnam Ghasemi during the recently concluded exhibition in Singapore.

# Cameroon Set to Launch Camtext SA, a \$300 Million Cotton-to-Textile Mega Project

A high-powered consortium—comprising Panafritex (the textile arm of Arise), Sodecoton, CNPS, and Marlo Properties Fincorp—is preparing to launch Camtext SA, a major integrated cotton-to-textile industrial project in Cameroon.



All technical and administrative groundwork has been finalized, with only financial mobilization pending for the 180 billion XAF (approx. \$300 million) investment, according to Business in Cameroon.

Industrial Zone, Training Center, and 15,000 Jobs Planned

The project will establish a fully integrated textile hub in the Dibamba industrial and port zone, featuring spinning, weaving, knitting, and finishing units. The facility is expected to create 12,000 direct jobs.

Complementing the hub, a textile center of excellence will be built in Garoua, which will train technicians and workers while hosting garment manufacturing activities.

This second site will create an additional 3,000 jobs, bringing the total employment impact to 15,000.

## This dual-location strategy leverages:

- Proximity to Cameroon’s cotton basin
- Sodecoton’s longstanding technical expertise
- Douala’s available energy infrastructure for energy-intensive processes

Camtext SA plans to process 12,000 tons of Sodecoton cotton, significantly reducing raw fiber exports and increasing local value addition.

## Rollout from 2026, Full Capacity by 2033

The preparatory phase begins in the first half of 2026, including workforce recruitment and training in collaboration with the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training, alongside the launch of the Garoua garment factory.

A four-year ramp-up is planned, with optimal industrial capacity targeted for 2033. Investors anticipate a return on investment within 11 years.

## Inspired by Arise Benin's Industrial Model

Camtext follows the successful blueprint of Arise's industrial platforms in Benin, designed to compete with Asian manufacturing hubs, especially China.

### The project is expected to benefit from:

- Tax exemptions on electricity
- Reduced customs duties
- Corporate tax incentives

Production will rely on a blend of local cotton and synthetic fibers to maintain competitive pricing.

Contrary to rumors, Cicam, the state-owned textile firm, will not close; instead, the government plans a modernization program, viewing Camtext as a complementary addition that strengthens the entire national textile ecosystem.

### Strategic Importance for Cameroon's 2030 Development Vision

The initiative aligns with

Cameroon's National Development Strategy 2020–2030 (SND30), which aims for:

- 600,000 tons of cotton production annually
- 50% local processing by 2030

Currently, Cameroon processes only 5% of its cotton locally, with the sector weakened by low-priced imports—often entering through contraband—leading to factory closures and widespread job losses.

### Priority market segments under Camtext SA include:

- Uniforms for defense, security forces, and public services (using 60% domestic cotton)
- Sportswear production (jerseys, tracksuits, sneakers), targeting at least 50% of domestic demand

The project comes at a challenging time for African cotton producers; the CFA zone recorded an

11.5% decline in 2024/2025 to 2.3 million tons, due to climate variability, pest outbreaks (PR-PICA), and falling prices near 890–900 XAF/kg.

Promoters estimate a net annual result of 3–4 billion XAF once fully operational.

### Success Hinges on Energy, Logistics, and Anti-Contraband Measures

For Camtext to cement Cameroon's position as a major Central African textile hub, several conditions must be met:

- Timely financial closure
- Stable and competitive energy supply
- Efficient logistics along key transport corridors
- Strong enforcement against textile contraband

If achieved, Camtext SA could dramatically reshape Cameroon's textile economy, create lasting jobs, and restore the country's position as a competitive regional manufacturing powerhouse.

# Africa Sourcing and Fashion Week 2025 Showcases the Continent's Rising Textile Power



**T**he 11th edition of Africa Sourcing and Fashion Week (ASFW), the continent's leading garment, apparel, and textile exhibition, officially opened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, spotlighting Africa's growing influence in global fashion and sourcing.

Running from Thursday to Sunday, the event — the largest of its kind in Africa — features 210 exhibitors representing diverse regions of the continent as well as international participants.

The show aims to showcase Africa's capacity

for creativity, innovation, and sustainable production in textiles, apparel, and fashion.

## **A Platform for Growth, Culture, and Sustainability**

Skander Negasi, Founder of ASFW, emphasized that the exhibition is more than a display of fabrics, footwear, handbags, and garments.

"It serves as a platform to demonstrate how Africa's textile, leather, and fash-

ion industries can drive sustainable growth and employment,” he said.

**“Our textiles are not only clothes; they tell the stories of our histories, identities, and cultures.”**

Kebour Ghenna, Executive Director of the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, expressed optimism about the future of Africa’s textile industry.

“With a population of 1.4 billion—over 60 percent under the age of 25—Africa is not just a market; it is the world’s next major consumer base and most dynamic workforce,” he noted.

### **Driving Modernization and Global Competitiveness**

According to Nicholas Mudungwe, Ex-

ecutive Director of the Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute, the ASFW is a testament to both the resilience of Ethiopia’s textile and garment sector and Africa’s growing importance as a global sourcing destination.

“African nations are taking bold steps to enhance the business environment by cutting red tape, improving logistics, and ensuring better working conditions to increase exports and create more jobs,” he said.

Organizers report that Africa’s textile and apparel market is expanding at an annual rate of 5 percent, contributing roughly 1.2 percent to the continent’s GDP.

The steady growth signals Africa’s emergence as a key player in the global textile and fashion industry, blending cultural identity with sustainable industrial development.





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## DEMAS Showcases AI-Powered Camera Inspection Technology at ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025

**T**urkey continues to strengthen its position as a global center for textile machinery manufacturing, and DEMAS Textile Machinery is one of the companies leading this transformation.

At ITMA ASIA + CITME 2025 in Singapore, the company introduced its newest breakthrough: an AI-supported, camera-controlled automatic inspection machine, eliminating the need for manual fabric inspection.

“We are proud to be among the first companies in the world — and the very first in Turkey — to manufacture AI-driven camera inspection systems for printed fabrics,” said

Deniz Ortatepeli, Export Manager at DEMAS Machinery.

“With this technology, the operator no longer needs to manually check defects.

The machine automatically detects flaws, generates a report, and provides optimized cutting instructions, helping mills reduce fabric waste and improve productivity.”

The new system blends high-resolution camera technology with intelligent software.

By identifying fabric defects in real time and guiding cutting decisions, manufacturers gain:

- Higher inspection accuracy
- Reduced fabric wastage
- Faster production cycles

### **Lower operating costs due to minimal operator involvement**

DEMAs specializes in machinery for finished fabrics — including inspection, rolling, rewinding, unwinding, and roll-packaging systems.

The company has seen growing demand for automated quality control systems, driven by the textile sector's need to reduce labor dependency and increase efficiency.

Turkey as a rising hub for textile machinery According to Ortatepeli, more than 30 Turkish textile machinery manufacturers are participating in the Singapore edition — a strong indication of the country's rapid growth in this sector.

“Turkish machinery manufacturers attend all the major exhibitions worldwide,” he said. “Our industry is strong and innovative, and we believe the market will rebound next year.

The slowdown in the global textile sector is temporary.”

By bringing their latest AI-based inspection system to Singapore, DEMAs aims to further expand into Southeast Asia — one of the fastest-growing textile markets in the world.



# Turkish YKM Textile Confirms New Investment in Tunisia



**T**urkish textile manufacturer YKM Textile has officially confirmed its decision to invest in Tunisia, following a high-level meeting with Mr. Jalel Tebib, Director General of FIPA-Tunisia, on November 13.

The visit is part of broader efforts to strengthen economic cooperation between Tunisia and Turkey, particularly in the textile and apparel sector — one of Tunisia's most strategic and fast-growing industries. Read it on Kohan Textile Journal.

## **Strengthening Tunisian-Turkish Industrial Ties**

During the discussions, YKM Textile CEO Ugur Yildiz reviewed Tunisia's investment climate, highlighting the country's competitive advantag-

es, including its skilled labor force, geographic proximity to Europe, and attractive incentives for foreign investors.

The company confirmed that it has already initiated the required investment procedures, in close coordination with FIPA-Tunisia.

YKM representatives emphasized that Tunisia offers a compelling platform for expansion, particularly for textile producers seeking efficient access to European markets.

## **Reforms and Rising FDI in Textiles**

Mr. Tebib outlined recent reforms aimed at improving the business environment, accelerating administrative procedures, and facilitating industrial setup.

He reaffirmed Tunisia's position as a competitive manufacturing and logistics hub in the Mediterranean region.

The announcement comes at a time when Tunisia's textile and clothing sector is experiencing renewed dynamism.

According to official data, foreign direct investment (FDI) in the tex-

tile industry surged by 41.9% in the first half of 2025, rising from 92.8 million dinars in 2024 to 131.8 million dinars over the same period in 2025.

### **A Strategic Move for Both Markets**

YKM Textile's expansion is expected to contribute to job creation, technology transfer, and stronger industrial integration between the two countries.

The investment aligns with Tunisia's strategy to attract high-value manufacturing projects and reinforce its global presence in textile production.

With investment procedures now underway, YKM Textile's entry marks another significant step in deepening Tunisian-Turkish industrial cooperation.



## **Africa's Untapped Textile Potential Needs Technology, Not Demand**

**A**frica's textile potential is vast, but its biggest barrier isn't demand — it's technology.

### **Speaking at ITMA Asia + CITME Singapore 2025, John Daniel, Africa's Untapped Textile Potential Needs Technology, Not Demand**

Founder of PowerJet Press Africa Limited, told Kohan Textile Journal that Nigeria's apparel market is "overwhelming," yet production remains slow due to outdated, mostly manual processes.

His first exposure to advanced multi-head printing and textile machinery revealed how dramatically efficiency could improve.

Daniel stressed that Nigerian manufacturers lack access to modern equipment and financing, not market opportunities. With proper technology, he said, Africa could unlock enormous growth and transform its textile and apparel industry.



## Trützschler Group Strengthens Partnerships with Egyptian Textile Industry During Customer Day in Cairo

**T**he Trützschler Group, one of the world's leading textile machinery manufacturers, successfully hosted a Customer Day in Cairo, welcoming key representatives from Egypt's textile and garment industry.

The event served as a platform to deepen partnerships, exchange insights, and present Trützschler's latest innovations designed to optimize production efficiency, quality, and sustainability.

### **Commitment to Egypt's Textile Future**

In his keynote address, Florian Schürenkrämer, Shareholder and Member of the Supervisory Board at Trützschler, outlined the company's long-term vision and dedication to customer-driven innovation, emphasizing Egypt's growing importance in global textile production.

Renowned for its premium cotton and competitive production environment, Egypt remains a key hub for textile investment.

With its strategic location near major export markets, and advantages such as low energy and labor costs, the country continues to attract global manufacturers seeking efficien-

cy and quality.

### Showcasing Next-Generation Technologies

Trützschler presented several breakthrough technologies tailored to the specific needs of Egyptian textile producers:

#### **TC 30i Card**

The next-generation card delivers up to 40% higher productivity while maintaining or improving yarn quality.

Its T-GO automatic gap optimizer and WASTECONTROL system ensure optimal raw material use and minimal fiber loss.

#### **IDF 3 Integrated Draw Frame**

Designed for rotor and airjet applications, it enables a shortened spinning preparation process, providing more homogeneous slivers, superior yarn quality, and energy savings.

#### **TCO 21XL Comber**

As the world's first 12-head comber, it increases productivity by approximately 50% compared to standard eight-head machines and reduces space requirements by 25%.

Advanced Card Clothing and Non-wovens Solutions: Offering precision, flexibility, and adaptability to diverse

production needs across the textile value chain.

#### **Digital Transformation with MyMill**

In addition to machinery, Trützschler highlighted its MyMill digital platform, a cloud-based solution that enables real-time monitoring and optimization of spinning mill performance.

This integration of smart technology supports data-driven decision-making and sustainable mill management.

#### **A Platform for Growth and Collaboration**

The event concluded with networking sessions, allowing Egyptian industry leaders to engage directly with Trützschler experts.

Participants praised the company's continued commitment to supporting local development and innovation in textile manufacturing.

"We are proud to support Egypt's textile future and to build on our strong partnerships in this strategically important market," said Florian Schürenkrämer.

#### **The Cairo Customer Day reaffirmed**

Trützschler's position as a trusted partner to Egypt's textile industry — providing cutting-edge solutions that drive efficiency, quality, and competitiveness across the sector.



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# Africa's Fashion Landscape Transforms: From Traditional Hubs to Emerging Powerhouses

**A**frica's diverse and rapidly evolving fashion landscape is gaining global attention — from Morocco and Egypt's nearshoring advantage in Europe to Lesotho's vital trade with the U.S. and South Africa's growing retail presence.

Traditionally, Morocco and Tunisia have been Europe's key fashion suppliers, while Egypt is fast becoming a dominant textile producer.



Lesotho, though small, has built its apparel sector around exports to the U.S. valued at \$237 million, though its market position has recently been challenged by tariffs of up to 50%.

Meanwhile, in Ghana, the devastating Kantamanto fire has reignited debate about the vast volume of Western textile waste reaching Africa's shores.

## A Complex but Promising Continent

Spanning over 30 million square kilometers and home to 54 nations, Africa's textile and apparel sector reflects its vast diversity.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF),

five economies — South Africa, Ethiopia, Egypt, Algeria, and Nigeria — account for half of the continent's \$2.8 trillion GDP.

While Africa has yet to emerge as a major fashion consumption market, it is steadily becoming a production powerhouse. From cotton cultivation to garment assembly, many nations are unlocking their industrial potential.

Yet, as ODI Global notes, much of Africa's value chain remains fragmented, concentrated mainly on raw materials and final garment manufacturing, with limited local fabric and textile production.

This gap allows nations such as China and Bangladesh to profit by exporting fabrics back to Africa at higher prices.

## Trade, Growth, and Regional Integration

In 2023, Africa exported \$747

billion in goods and services, with textiles contributing \$22 billion — roughly 3% of the total. Cotton alone made up over 7% of these exports.

The launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in 2018 has strengthened intra-African trade, while rising labor and production costs in Asia have prompted many manufacturers to explore African alternatives for sourcing and investment.

### **Egypt and Morocco Lead the Way**

Morocco remains one of Africa's top textile hubs, leveraging its geographical proximity to Europe and strong ties with Spain, Italy, and Portugal.

However, Egypt has emerged as the region's fastest-growing textile center, benefiting from low labor costs, economic stability, and inflation control, positioning itself as a competitive alternative for European buyers.

### **Lesotho's U.S. Market at Risk**

Lesotho, a landlocked nation within South Africa, has developed a robust apparel industry exporting primarily to Levi Strauss, Walmart, and other U.S. brands.

Fashion represents 90% of its manufacturing exports and employs 40,000 workers.

However, American tariffs have threatened this success, with former duties reaching 50% and still hovering around 15%, putting pressure on local factories.

### **South Africa and Ghana: Two Faces of Consumption**

South Africa, with a GDP per capita of €6,200, stands as one of the continent's most developed consumer markets.

It has hosted major international retailers such as H&M, Mango, Inditex, and Gap, reflecting its role as a gateway for global fashion

brands entering Africa.

Conversely, Ghana has become symbolic of the dark side of global fashion waste. The Kantamanto market, often dubbed the world's largest secondhand clothing hub, receives an estimated 15 million garments weekly, much of it unsellable waste.

The recent Kantamanto fire exposed the environmental toll of this influx, reminding the world that nearly 46% of Europe's textile waste ends up in Africa.

### **A Continent on the Rise**

Despite its challenges, Africa's fashion and textile industry stands on the threshold of transformation.

With trade agreements like AfCFTA, growing investment in infrastructure and sustainability, and the increasing interest of global brands, the continent is positioning itself as both a production base and a future consumer market — signaling a new era for African fashion on the world stage.



## Transforming The Circular Knitting Sector Through Smart Technology and AI

Interview with Mr. Javaheripour, CEO of Araz Company and Founder of Joula

**A**t the ITMA asia + CITME singapore, Mr. Javaheripour, CEO of Araz Company and founder of the innovative brand Joula, shared insights into how his company is transforming the circular knitting sector through smart and sustainable technologies.

“Our main strategy at Joula is to reduce textile waste through innovation,” he explained.

“Our first product, the Laser Needle System, uses laser technology to

detect broken needles in knitting machines, minimizing material waste and improving production quality.”

He continued by introducing another major development — KnitNet, an online monitoring system designed to give factory managers real-time visibility into production performance.

“KnitNet tracks everything happening in the factory — from machine efficiency to worker productivity — and instantly reports data to managers. It’s like having a live dashboard for your entire operation.”

The company's most advanced innovation, KnitVision, pushes the boundaries of smart textile technology.

"KnitVision monitors fabric during knitting and detects any defect — from broken needles to horizontal or vertical lines — using artificial intelligence.

The system can even stop the machine automatically to prevent fabric waste. It's a step forward in smart manufacturing and sustainability."

### **AI: The Game-Changer in Textile Manufacturing**

Commenting on the growing role of artificial intelligence, Mr. Javaheripour noted:

"AI has revolutionized every industry, and

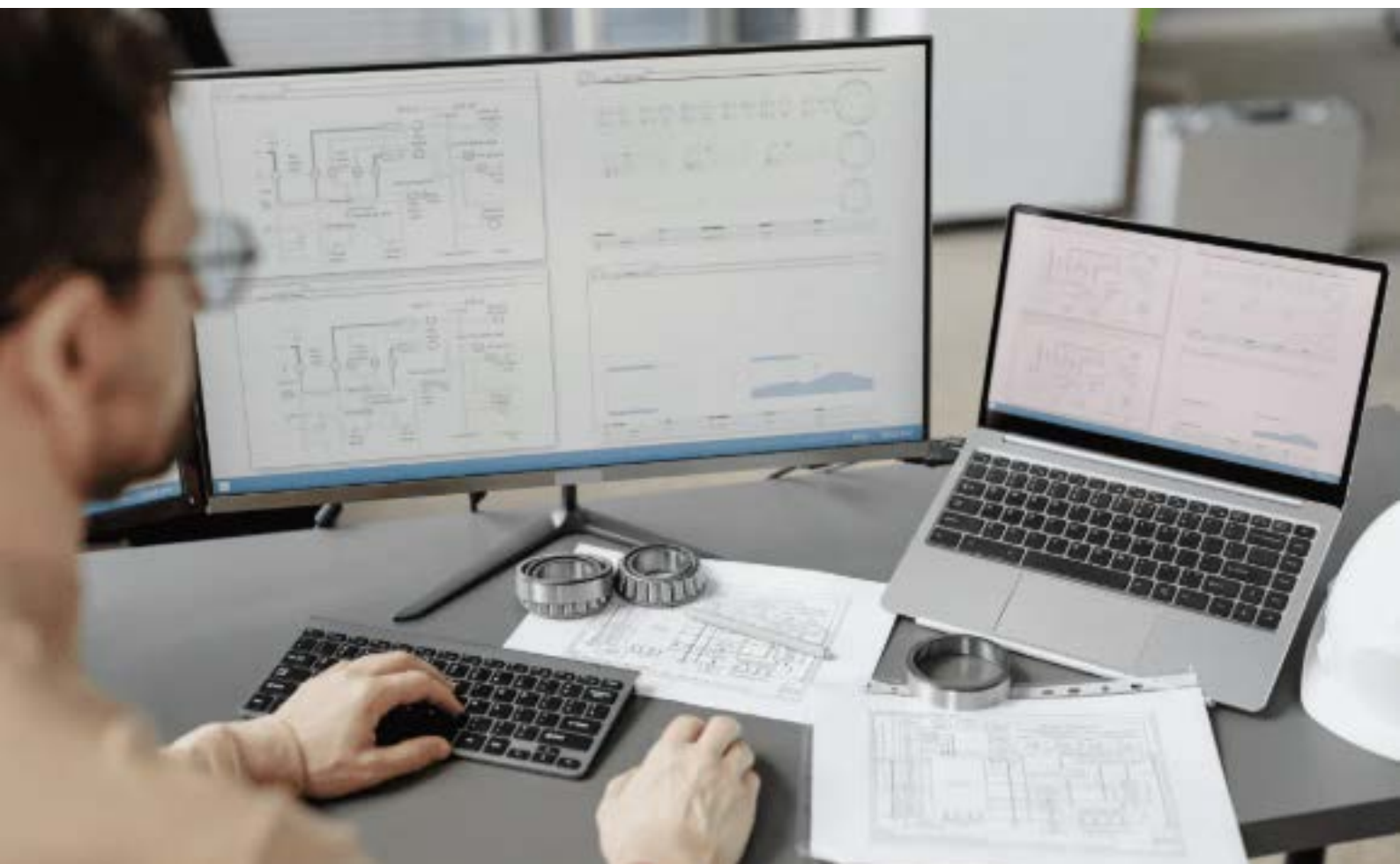
textiles are no exception. Our latest system integrates AI to identify defects in real-time with remarkable precision.

While AI brings incredible potential, it also requires human insight and skill to guide it effectively."

Despite current economic challenges, he remains optimistic about the future of the Iranian textile industry:

**"Even in difficult times, innovation shines brightest.**

We are confident that with persistence, creativity, and technology, the textile industry in Iran will continue to grow stronger."





## Hop Lun Enters Africa with Strategic Morocco Acquisition

### Chinese Lingerie Giant Secures Three Factories in First Expansion Beyond Asia

**H**op Lun, a leading Hong Kong-based lingerie manufacturer, has finalized two agreements to acquire three production sites in Morocco, marking its first manufacturing footprint in Africa and accelerating its access to European markets.

#### Details of the Expansion

##### Acquisition of Tobago

Hop Lun will take ownership of Tobago, a well-established Moroccan producer of corsetry, lingerie, and swimwear.

Founded in 1996, Tobago operates a 3,000-square-meter factory capable of producing around 1 million garments annually, primarily for French and other European brands.

#### Deal with Chantelle Group in Morocco

A second agreement covers Fama-co and Atma, two Moroccan factories previously operated by French luxury lingerie brand Chantelle.

Together, these sites add approximately 1.4 million garments per year to Hop Lun’s production capacity.

Chantelle will continue to source lingerie products from Hop Lun once the acquisitions are complete. Both transactions are expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2025.

### **Strategic Value for European Market Access**

#### **Leveraging Morocco–EU Trade Advantages**

The three Moroccan facilities employ around 800 workers in total, providing Hop Lun with a strong local workforce and seamless entry into European Union markets through Morocco’s preferential trade agreements with the EU.

“This acquisition reflects our confidence in the strength and potential of the local workforce, and our excitement about the opportunities ahead— Erik Ryd, Executive Chairman of Hop Lun

He added that Morocco offers a dynamic platform for growth, supported by its improving industrial

infrastructure and export-oriented ecosystem.

### **Global Growth Momentum**

#### **Expansion Since Platinum Equity Takeover**

Hop Lun operates factories in Bangladesh, China, and Indonesia, supplying major international consumer brands as well as its own labels.

Since being acquired in 2022 by Platinum Equity, the U.S. investment fund owned by billionaire Tom Gores, the company has:

- Acquired a lingerie manufacturer in Bangladesh
- Expanded production in China
- Entered the U.S. market through a third acquisition

The Morocco deal now extends its global reach to Africa for the first time.

### **Morocco’s Textile Industry Role**

#### **A Major Employer and Export Engine**

#### **Morocco’s textile and apparel industry:**

- Employs 235,000 people — 24% of industrial employment
- Hosts approximately 1,600 companies
- Exports the majority of production to the European Union

The country continues to strengthen its position as a near-shore manufacturing hub for European fashion brands seeking shorter lead times and responsible sourcing models.

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# India and Saudi Arabia Strengthen Cooperation in Textile Manufacturing and Trade



India and Saudi Arabia are deepening cooperation in the textile sector, exploring new strategies to expand production capacities, trade volumes, and joint industrial initiatives, according to a statement from the Indian Ministry of Textiles on Tuesday.

The discussions took place during a meeting between Khalil ibn Salamah, Saudi Arabia's Vice Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources, and Neelam Shami Rao, India's Textile Secretary.

Both sides identified priority areas for col-

laboration, including ready-made garments, technical textiles, man-made fibres, carpets, handlooms, and handicrafts.

## **Strengthening Bilateral Trade and Industrial Synergies**

India currently ranks as the second-largest supplier to Saudi Arabia's textile and apparel market, with exports valued at USD 517.5 million in 2024, representing 11.2% of Saudi Arabia's total textile and apparel imports.

The talks emphasized the potential for Saudi investment in India's ready-made garment sector, which remains a key driver of both employment generation and export growth.

The dialogue also reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's interest in leveraging India's expertise in textile design, manufacturing, and workforce training.

### **Shared Commitment to Sustainability and Innovation**

The Ministry noted that both nations recognized the importance of promoting sustainability across traditional sectors such as handloom, handicrafts, and carpets, which not only reflect India's rich cultural heritage but also align with global trends toward eco-friendly and ethically produced products.

A major outcome of the meeting was the shared acknowledgment of Saudi Arabia's strengths in petrochemical-based industries and India's growing capacity in man-made fibres and technical textiles.

These complementary advantages are expected to serve as the foundation for future trade and technology collaboration, particularly in areas of raw material sourcing, product innovation, and technology transfer.

### **Building a Long-Term Strategic Textile Partnership**

Both India and Saudi Arabia reaffirmed their commitment to building a sustainable, innovation-driven partnership that enhances industrial cooperation and trade diversification.

The initiative reflects a shared vision to advance textile sector growth across both traditional and modern manufacturing segments, reinforcing the strategic economic ties between New Delhi and Riyadh.



# Tümkalıp Strengthens Its Asia Presence at ITMA Asia Singapore 2025



**D**uring ITMA Asia + CITME Singapore 2025, Kohan Textile Journal interviewed Mr. Ahmet Levent, Managing Director of Tümkalıp, one of Turkey’s long-established manufacturers of weaving loom spare parts.

## 40 Years of Expertise in Loom Spare Parts

Founded nearly four decades ago, Tümkalıp specializes in producing spare parts for modern weaving technologies—including projectile looms, flexible rapier looms, and rigid rapier looms.

“Tümkalıp has been manufacturing spare parts for almost 40 years. We export to more than 28 countries,” explained Mr. Levent.

The company’s long-standing engineering expertise and reputation for quality have

made it one of the most trusted names in the global spare parts sector.

## Why ITMA Asia Matters for Tümkalıp?

Tümkalıp returned to ITMA Asia with a strategic goal: reaching customers who cannot easily travel to Europe.

“Many Pacific Asian customers have difficulties visiting European exhibitions. In Europe, we couldn’t meet enough customers from this region.

This show allows us to access them—and we succeeded. We had very good contacts, and we are happy to be here.”

The Singapore event proved essential for expanding Tümkalıp’s presence in Asia’s weaving industry, where demand

for reliable spare parts continues to grow.

### **Stable Demand Despite Global Economic Slowdown**

Unlike machinery manufacturers, Tümkalıp's business model provides resilience in challenging economic cycles.

"We supply spare parts—not investment products. When the economy slows down, machine purchases decrease, but existing machines must continue operating.

That is where Tümkalıp helps the industry by offering inexpensive and sustainable spare parts."

While many machine builders struggle with declining investment orders, Tümkalıp remains stable due to the continuous need for replacement parts.

"We are not affected much by the global economic crisis."

### **Turkish Textile Industry: Strong Heritage, New**

### **Challenges**

Mr. Levent also shared his views on the Turkish textile sector:

"Turkey is a very strong textile producer with deep history. Many Turkish companies are now investing abroad.

In the last five years, our currency became very valuable, creating cost challenges and reducing our global price competitiveness."

Some large Turkish groups have shifted production to other countries, but Mr. Levent remains confident:

"This is a phase, but Turkey will not give up the textile industry."

### **OEM-Quality Spare Parts—Without Competing With China**

Tümkalıp positions itself as the closest alternative to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs):

"Our products are fully replaceable with original

spare parts. After OEMs, Tümkalıp is the most reliable and strongest company in its field."

However, the company has no intention of entering a price war with low-cost producers:

"We cannot and do not want to compete with Chinese products. Our goal is to serve customers who use OEM parts but want high-quality, dependable alternatives."

### **A Consistent, Technology-Driven Future**

With a robust export network, a reputation for precision engineering, and a stable market demand for spare parts, Tümkalıp continues to strengthen its leadership in weaving technology components.

ITMA Asia Singapore 2025 confirmed the company's strategic direction:

expanding into Asian markets while maintaining its commitment to quality and OEM-level reliability.

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