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JOURNAL

KOHAN TEXTILE

MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA TEXTILE JOURNAL



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NORTHSHORE ADOPTS COATS DIGITAL SOLUTIONS

GSDCost, FastReactPlan and FastReactFabric to form the digital foundation of a purpose-built, zero-waste apparel facility creating thousands of jobs in Northern Ghana

Coats Digital today announced that Northshore Apparel Ghana Ltd, a pioneering sustainable apparel manufacturing start-up backed by the Ghanaian and German Governments, has selected the full suite of Coats Digital's solutions - GSDCost, FastReactPlan and FastReactFabric - as the cornerstone of its digital infrastructure.

Purpose-built from the ground up, Northshore Apparel is establishing Northern Ghana's first apparel manufacturing hub, transforming reclaimed land into a state-of-the-art, zero-waste facility designed to deliver ethical, efficient and globally competitive apparel production for mindful fashion brands. The new facility will specialise in knitted and woven garments with a focus on T-shirts, polos, fleece hoodies, children's wear, sportswear, underwear, leggings and trousers.

The project sits at the heart of an ambitious regeneration programme to address chronic unemployment in Northern Ghana, reduce internal migration to the south, and help stem unsafe and illegal migration routes to Europe by creating decent, dignified jobs at scale in one of the country's most underserved regions.

Nurideen Mohammed, Co-Founder and CEO of Northshore Apparel Ghana Ltd, said: "From the beginning, our ambition was to build far more than a factory. We wanted to create a regenerative manufacturing ecosystem that delivers dignity, opportunity and long-term prosperity for Northern Ghana. To do that successfully, digitalization had to be designed in from day one. We were looking for an integrated solution that would give us control over our most critical cost drivers — labour, fabric and delivery performance — while allowing us to operate proactively, not reactively. After reviewing several technology providers, our team unanimously chose Coats Digital because of its deep industry expertise and the strength of its integrated solutions."





Northshore Apparel's manufacturing campus will span more than 50 acres and has been designed to support over 2,000 trained employees at launch, with the potential to positively impact thousands of livelihoods across the wider community. The facility will provide fair wages, free daily meals and on-site medical care, alongside a creche for nursing mothers, prayer rooms and safe changing facilities. A dedicated training academy will upskill young people and women, while a zero-waste operating model will be delivered through anaerobic biodigesters that convert solid waste into energy, water recycling systems that enable irrigation, and on-site solar generation.

Located within the West African cotton belt, the facility has been designed to support shorter, more resilient supply chains while delivering the transparency, speed and responsiveness demanded by today's global fashion brands.

By implementing GSDCost, FastReactPlan and FastReactFabric as a unified digital ecosystem, Northshore Apparel will establish precise, scientific garment costing and fair labour standards using GSD™ international method-time standards. The solutions will enable fast, accurate production planning and line balancing, even for short-run, last-minute or highly varied orders, while optimising fabric purchasing, utilisation and waste reduction across all styles and seasons. The integrated platform will eliminate data silos, enable real-time cross-departmental decision-making and support a shift from reactive operations to proactive, margin-controlled manufacturing, ensuring reliable on-time delivery while maintaining strong ethical and sustainability commitments.

Nurideen Mohammed added:
"Investing in FastReactPlan, FastReactFabric and GSDCost is a strategic decision for us. This combination directly supports our ability to control labour and fabric costs, plan efficiently and deliver consistently on time. Just as importantly, it gives us the transparency and accuracy we need to ensure fair wages, build trust with our customers and compete confidently in a fast-moving global market."





Born on reclaimed land once used as a refuse dump, Northshore Apparel stands as a symbol of transformation, turning waste into worth and vulnerability into opportunity. Guided by its commitment to people, planet and shared prosperity, and supported by a fully integrated Coats Digital technology stack, the company is redefining what modern apparel manufacturing can be.



Northshore Apparels is currently training 2,000 new employees to spearhead the launch of the new facility, in January 2026. The company intends to hire a further 1,000 new employees by April 2026, and a further 7,000 local workers by the end of the year.

Diaa Hashem, Sales Manager at Coats Digital, said: "I'm proud to lead this partnership with Northshore Apparel and collaborate with a team that combines strategic vision, strong culture, and exceptional capabilities. By integrating GSDCost, FastReactPlan, and FastReactFabric, Northshore is creating a fully connected digital ecosystem that streamlines costing, time, fabric, and capacity management into one efficient process. This transformation will establish world-class operational standards and position Northshore as one of the region's leading factories in the coming years. Their commitment to digitalization and process excellence will deliver real value—optimising resources, reducing costs, improving on-time delivery, and accelerating lead times for customers and global brands."

Himanshu Mehrotra, Managing Director, Coats Digital, commented: "Northshore Apparel represents a bold new model for apparel manufacturing - one where technology, sustainability and social impact are designed in from the very beginning. We are incredibly proud that Coats Digital's full suite of solutions has been chosen as the digital backbone of this landmark project. By deploying our suite of solutions as an integrated ecosystem, Northshore Apparel is setting itself up for long-term resilience, operational excellence and ethical growth. This is a powerful example of how digitization can enable not only more efficient supply chains, but also fairer work, reduced waste and stronger partnerships between brands and manufacturers. We look forward to supporting Northshore Apparel as it brings this inspiring vision to life."





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GSDCOST™



AI, START-UPS, RESEARCH: TECHTEXTIL AND TEXPROCESS BRING TOGETHER PLAYERS IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

From start-ups to universities and research institutes: at Techtexsil and Texprocess, the world's leading innovation trade fairs in Frankfurt am Main, exhibitors present future-oriented concepts for the global textile industry. With the international Campus & Research area, a strong participation from start-ups and the latest AI applications for textile processing, both trade fairs showcase current developments in the textile industry. By bringing together innovation, research and application, they enable new partnerships across the textile value chain.

Universities, research institutes and start-ups present their visions for the global textile industry at Techtexsil and Texprocess – ranging from new materials and smart design

tools to automated production chains. “Techtextil and Texprocess bring together global research with textile and user industries. This leads to new ideas and collaborations that bring innovations to the market more quickly,” says Sabine Scharrer, Director Brand Management Technical Textiles & Textile Processing at Messe Frankfurt.

Campus & Research: A global meeting point for textile research

The Campus & Research sector continues to grow and is even more international in 2026: around 40 research institutes and universities from Europe, Asia, Africa and South America share their latest findings with the textile industry here. Participants include Saxion University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands), the InnoFiber Research Lab at the University of Minho (Portugal), IMS Bauhaus Latino América (Uruguay), the Higher Institute of Technological Studies of Ksar Helal (Tunisia) and TU Dresden.

The TFI – Institute for Flooring and Interior Systems at RWTH Aachen University demonstrates in a special exhibition how a textile-based guidance system for the visually impaired enables accessibility in indoor spaces. The research institutions and universities are identified by a special sign at the exhibition stand and in the online exhibitor search for visitors.

Start-ups lead the way for the textile industry

About 20 start-ups exhibit their ideas and technologies on the exhibition grounds. At Techtexsil, numerous newcomers present innovative approaches to fibres and yarns: the Swiss company Climatex displays circular textile technologies and fully recyclable products, whilst qCella (Switzerland) showcases a cellulose fibre innovation and ultra-thin surface heating technology. R.O.A.M Systems (USA) presents a new type of nonwoven fabric production using additive fibre placement. At Texprocess, the Laboratory for Artificial Intelligence in Design (AiDLab, Hong Kong) demonstrates an AI-supported textile inspection technology for automated textile fault detection and real-time quality control.

The Bulgarian start-up Productive Solutions showcases, among other things, an AI-supported SaaS platform for production control in the apparel industry. These and other start-ups can be easily found via a sign at their exhibition stands and in the online exhibitor search.



Experience AI innovations first-hand

AI can be experienced first-hand at Techtexsil and Texprocess: visitors can interact with two robots at the Style 3D/Assyst booth. The company demonstrates how training software can be used to manage complex processes in apparel production. The Italian exhibitor Willy Italiana presents a checklabel machine that uses self-learning AI to inspect the quality of ribbons and labels. The Spanish exhibitor Picvisa Machine Vision Systems demonstrates how AI-supported optical sorting systems can assist recycling processes by identifying and separating textiles by material or colour. Exhibitors and presentations on the topic of AI can be easily found with the “Texpertise Focus AI” sign.

Future-Ready Nonwovens and Fiber Solutions at Techtexsil

From April 21 to 24, 2026, the Trützschler Group will present its future-ready solutions at Techtexsil in Frankfurt, Germany. At Booth C61 in Hall 12.0, Trützschler Nonwovens will showcase its latest developments for efficient nonwovens production, including comprehensive service and consulting solutions. Highlights include the fully upgraded X-Series nonwoven cards suitable for spunlace, needle-punching and air-through bonding (ATB) processes, as well as the T-ONE digital working environment enhanced with new features. Trützschler Card Clothing will complement the presentation with a new card wire designed with a specially engineered surface for high-performance nonwoven applications. Visitors can also take a closer look at Trützschler's complete solution for the recycling of textile waste, TRUECYCLED.

New streamlined configurations featuring the compact NC-Xe card further reduce the footprint while ensuring high process stability and consistent product quality.

Beyond complete line solutions, Trützschler Nonwovens will showcase upgrades to its single machine portfolio, including the X-Series nonwovens cards (the high-speed card NCT-X, the versatile NC-X and the compact NC-Xe), the MPD high-performance dryer and the new compact AquaJet-X. These developments are designed to combine compact machine concepts with high operational reliability and outstanding performance.

At Techtexsil 2026, Trützschler Nonwovens will also highlight its advanced ATB technology for hygiene applications. The process enables the reliable processing of ultra fine fibers down to 0.4dtex, producing exceptionally soft nonwovens that meet the highest requirements for softness and performance in baby diaper applications.

T-ONE, Trützschler Nonwovens' digital working environment, serves as a powerful digital backbone for any nonwoven line.

New enhancements include an energy management function for real-time monitoring of electricity and gas consumption and CO₂ footprint calculation per time unit, roll or order, as well as camera-based anomaly detection that identifies fiber migration and accumulations at an early stage. This helps to prevent unplanned downtime while improving process stability and production transparency.

With tailored modernization and development solutions, Trützschler Nonwovens supports manufacturers in optimizing existing installations and translating new product ideas into stable, industrial scale production. Application-specific consulting enables higher efficiency, increased output and longer service life - without compromising quality.

Trützschler Nonwovens: Shaping the future of nonwovens

The T-SUPREMA needle punching line has proven its performance in the market, with lines successfully operating at two customer sites since early this year. It demonstrates the exceptional versatility of needle-punched nonwovens, covering basis weights from below 50gsm to above 2,000gsm.



Trützschler Card Clothing (TCC): Next-generation card clothing for demanding nonwovens applications

Visitors can experience top nonwovens performance with our high-efficiency card clothing. Our TCC experts will present our latest innovation: a new wire with special surface designed for Hygiene, Spunlace and ATB applications. It ensures cleaner operation, less contamination and reduced downtime – delivering maximum productivity for your line. More details will be revealed at the exhibition – don't miss this opportunity to see it first hand.



Meet us in Frankfurt

Techtextil 2026 provides an ideal platform to exchange ideas with industry experts and explore practical solutions for today's challenges in nonwovens manufacturing. Our teams look forward to welcoming visitors at Hall 12.0, Booth C61 in Frankfurt.

April, 21-24, 2026

VISIT US AT
TECHTEXTIL



 Messe Frankfurt

 Hall 12.0, Booth C61



Trützschler Spinning: TRUECYCLED – the complete solution for textile recycling

Visitors can also learn more about TRUECYCLED, Trützschler's complete solution for the recycling of textile waste. It covers the complete process: from cutting and tearing textile waste to carding and drawing secondary fibers. Based on Trützschler's technological recommendations and a Trützschler machinery line-up, it ensures the best possible quality of the end product.

T-SUPREMA

Needle-punching
as easy as never before

More Information:



TRÜTZSCHLER
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Why Nearshoring Alone Is Not Enough: Rethinking Competitiveness in the Global Textile Industry

As global supply chains continue to shift under geopolitical pressure, rising costs, and sustainability demands, nearshoring has re-emerged as one of the most discussed strategies in the textile and apparel industry. For regions close to major consumption markets—particularly Europe—this trend has created new opportunities. But the reality is more complex than it appears.

From the perspective of Kohan Textile Journal, nearshoring is not a long-term strategy in itself. It is a window of opportunity—one that requires structural transformation to become sustainable.

The Illusion of Nearshoring as a Competitive Advantage

Over the past few years, disruptions in global logistics have pushed many European brands to diversify their sourcing strategies. Proximity has become a key factor. Faster delivery times, greater flexibility, and reduced risk have encouraged brands to shift part of their production closer to home. However, this shift has largely been tactical rather than structural.

In many cases, nearshoring has been limited to specific segments such as quick replenishment orders, smaller production runs, and fast fashion cycles. While these segments are valuable, they do not represent a full transformation of global sourcing patterns.

The core volumes of production often remain in traditional manufacturing hubs where cost efficiency and scale are still unmatched.



Structural Challenges Behind the Opportunity

The real limitation of nearshoring lies in structural weaknesses within emerging production hubs. While proximity offers speed, it does not automatically solve deeper industrial challenges.



One of the most critical issues is the lack of upstream integration. Many nearshoring destinations still rely heavily on imported raw materials, which reduces their flexibility and increases costs. Without strong local capabilities in spinning, weaving, and processing, the supply chain remains fragmented.

At the same time, rising energy costs, labor expenses, and compliance requirements are placing additional pressure on manufacturers. These factors erode the very competitiveness that nearshoring is supposed to provide.

In contrast, more established players with integrated textile ecosystems are better positioned to offer both speed and scale—making competition increasingly difficult.

Moving Beyond Subcontracting: The Value-Added Imperative

For many textile-producing regions, subcontracting has long been the dominant business model. While often perceived as a limitation, it has in fact provided a stable industrial base and access to international markets.

The challenge today is not to abandon subcontracting, but to evolve it. A growing number of manufacturers are moving toward a more integrated model, incorporating design capabilities, product development, and sourcing expertise. This shift allows them to participate earlier in the value chain and capture higher margins.

Rather than competing solely on manufacturing capacity, the focus is gradually shifting toward co-creation with brands. This transformation—from execution to collaboration—is where real competitiveness begins to emerge.

Sustainability: From Compliance to Strategic Positioning

Environmental regulations, particularly in Europe, are redefining the rules of the game. Traceability, recycling requirements, and carbon footprint transparency are no longer optional—they are becoming entry conditions.

While some manufacturers have already begun investing in sustainable practices, the level of readiness remains uneven across the industry. For many companies, the transition is costly and complex, requiring both financial investment and technical expertise.

This creates a risk of fragmentation within the sector, where only a limited number of players are able to meet the new standards.

At the same time, sustainability presents a significant opportunity. Regions that can align proximity with sustainable production capabilities have the potential to position themselves as preferred partners for global brands.

Competing with Asia and Turkey: A Question of Strategy

Direct competition with low-cost Asian producers or highly integrated manufacturing hubs is neither realistic nor strategic.

Instead, the path forward lies in differentiation. Speed, flexibility, and reliability are areas where nearshoring regions can create real value. These strengths are particularly relevant for short production cycles, rapid replenishment, and mid-sized collections.

However, these advantages must be supported by improvements in industrial infrastructure, logistics efficiency, and overall business environment. Competitiveness is not determined solely at the factory level—it is shaped by the entire ecosystem, including energy costs, financing, and regulatory frameworks.

The African Market: Potential Without Immediate Impact

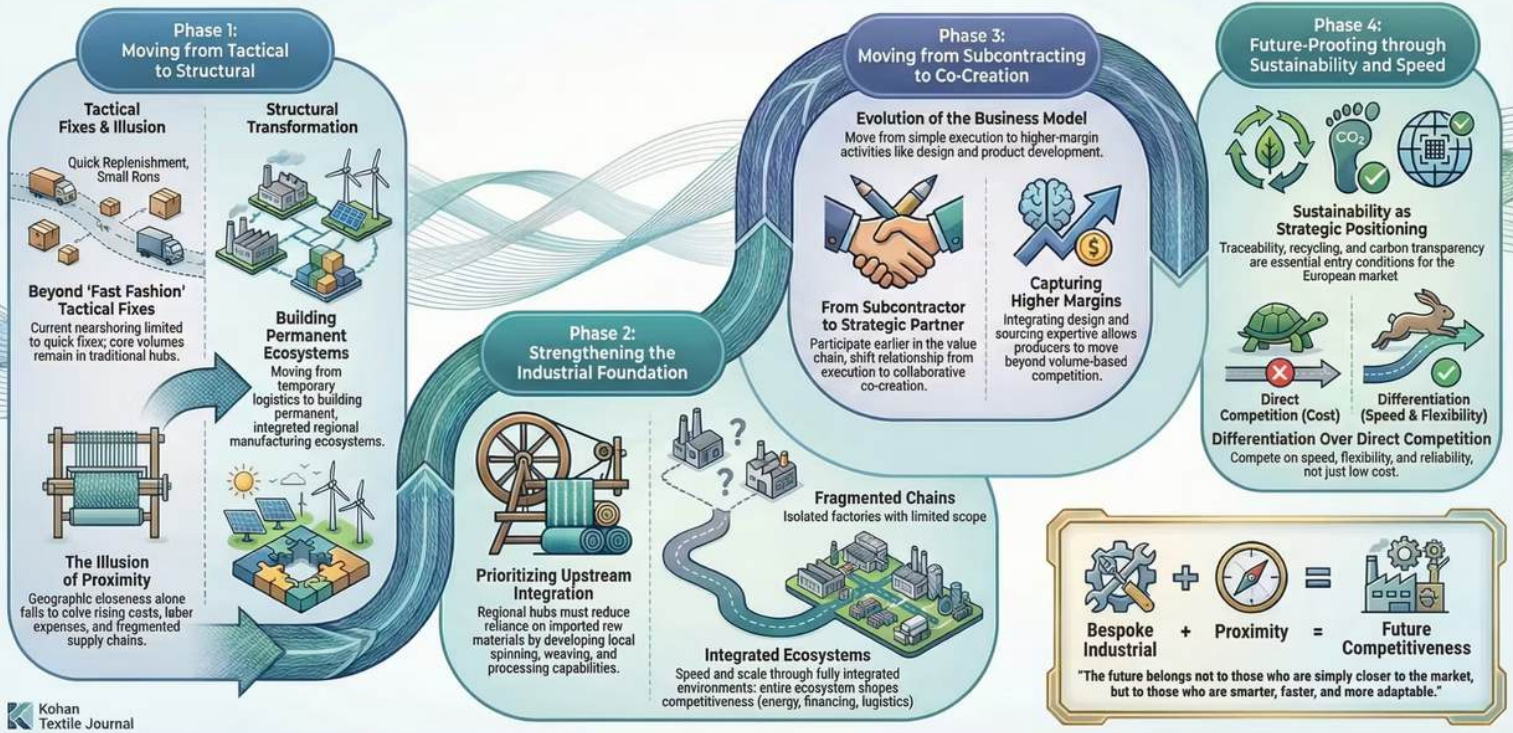
The African market is often highlighted as a future growth opportunity for textile producers. While the potential is undeniable, the reality remains challenging.

Limited purchasing power, strong competition from low-cost imports, and underdeveloped logistics networks continue to restrict large-scale expansion.

Opportunities do exist, but they are highly targeted—particularly in segments such as uniforms, workwear, and institutional supply. In this context, success depends less on export strategies and more on long-term partnerships and regional integration.

Beyond Proximity: The Strategic Evolution of Textile Nearshoring

Transforming nearshoring from a temporary fix into a structural, value-added competitive strategy.



Final Perspective: From Opportunity to Strategy

Nearshoring has opened an important door for the global textile industry, but it is not a solution on its own. The real challenge lies in transforming short-term opportunities into long-term strategies. This requires investment in upstream integration, a shift toward value-added services, and a serious commitment to sustainability.

In an increasingly competitive and regulated global market, the winners will not be those who are simply closer—but those who are smarter, faster, and more adaptable. From our editorial perspective, the future of textile competitiveness will be defined not by geography alone, but by the ability to combine proximity with capability.

A New Benchmark for the Textile Printing Industry

As the global textile sector moves deeper into the era of smart manufacturing, the expectations placed on printing and coating technologies have never been higher.

Efficiency, precision, reliability, and intuitive operation have become essential for companies seeking to stay competitive in a market shaped by rapid innovation and shifting customer demands. At Techtextil 2026 in Frankfurt, ZIMMER AUSTRIA will present its latest advancements in Screen Printing & Coating Systems and Digital Printing Technology - solutions engineered not only for high performance but also for operator-friendliness, flexibility, and long-term future readiness.

Among the highlights are several coating system models from the company's Screen Printing & Coating portfolio. The Digital Printing Systems division presents an impressive full-scale print carriage from a COLARIS system, which can be equipped with up to 96 printheads. They will further introduce as a world premiere, the all-new COLARIS-TeX. This next-generation digital textile printer has been redesigned from the ground up to deliver maximum usability, superior serviceability, and outstanding productivity for modern textile environments.

A Glimpse of Scale: The COLARIS Print Carriage with up to 96 Printheads

One of the most striking elements of ZIMMER AUSTRIA's Techtextil booth will be the COLARIS print carriage, showcasing up to 96 high-performance print heads. Used in digital carpet and towel printing systems, this print carriage demonstrates the scale and engineering sophistication required for high-capacity industrial printing.

The full-size print carriage highlights the enormous throughput potential of ZIMMER AUSTRIA's digital platforms, while also emphasizing the mechanical precision and dimensional stability that ensure consistent high-quality results. With the textile industry demanding faster turnaround times, greater design diversity, and improved production reliability, the COLARIS print carriage exemplifies how advanced engineering and smart system integration can meet these evolving challenges.



World Premiere: The All-New COLARIS-TeX

ZIMMER AUSTRIA will further introduce their all-new COLARIS-TeX digital textile printer. This fundamentally redesigned platform sets new standards in print quality, user experience, environmental efficiency, and machine uptime - offering a compelling vision of what future-ready textile printing looks like.



Designed Around the Operator

One of the core development goals for COLARIS-TeX was to simplify operation. ZIMMER AUSTRIA's engineering team focused on making the machine as intuitive and ergonomic as possible, resulting in a system where:

- Daily tasks require minimal manual intervention
- Maintenance procedures are faster and require fewer tools
- Critical components are easily accessible
- Intelligent system functions actively support the operator

This operator-centric design minimizes the risk of errors, shortens training periods, enhances safety, and ensures consistently high print quality - even in demanding multi-shift environments.

Maximum Uptime Through Digital Connectivity & Remote Support

Downtime can have a significant impact on productivity and profitability, which is why COLARIS-TeX integrates an advanced digital connectivity package. The machine can connect directly to ZIMMER AUSTRIA's service infrastructure, enabling remote diagnostics, predictive maintenance, and real-time support from the company's specialists.

These capabilities dramatically reduce the likelihood of unexpected machine stoppages, ensuring stable production and high machine availability. For textile manufacturers, this means improved reliability, reduced maintenance overhead, and more efficient use of production capacity.

A Revolutionary Print Carriage Concept

The redesigned print carriage of the COLARIS-TeX is one of the system's most transformative innovations. The new construction elevates both mechanical stability and user accessibility, leading to improved precision and streamlined maintenance.

Key benefits include:

- Excellent accessibility for quick, safe print head replacement
- Increased structural rigidity for long-term accuracy
- Higher printing precision, especially at elevated production speeds

The print carriage supports up to 12 color channels and up to six printheads per channel, allowing customers to configure the system for maximum flexibility or maximum output.

The use of FUJI-FILM Dimatix StarFire™ print heads adds further value, offering long service life and reparability - key factors for maintaining superior uptime and reducing long-term operating costs.



Universal Ink System for Maximum Flexibility

To accommodate the diverse needs of the textile market, the COLARIS-TeX features a universal ink system capable of handling multiple dye classes as well as functional fluids. The ability to run various chemistries in parallel enhances application versatility, enabling users to expand their product range and react quickly to market requirements.

A re-engineered capping station complements this versatility, ensuring optimal print head protection and reliable ink management under all operational conditions.

COLARIS TuneUp System: Smart Automation for Perfect Print Quality

The COLARIS-TeX integrates the new COLARIS TuneUp System - an intelligent automation suite that significantly simplifies machine setup and improves print consistency. Its smart functions include:

- Automatic calibration based on nozzle-level density adjustment
- Digital print head alignment for simplified replacement
- Digital banding compensation

These automated tools reduce operator workload and ensure consistently high print quality. For design-driven textile applications, TuneUp guarantees accurate reproduction across print runs with minimal manual adjustment.

New Blanket Cleaning Module and Water Recycling Options

Responding to growing sustainability demands, ZIMMER AUSTRIA developed a new blanket washing system for the COLARIS-TeX that drastically reduces water consumption. When combined with the optional water treatment module, total water use can be reduced to a fraction of what comparable systems require today.

This innovative approach not only minimizes environmental impact but also lowers operating costs.

Improved Fabric Feed System & New Dryer Concept

To prevent material waste and ensure flawless printing from the first meter, the COLARIS-TeX features a newly developed fabric feed system that guarantees distortion-free material introduction. A new dryer design, capable of handling up to five fabric passes, supports consistently reliable energy-efficient drying performance without requiring additional lead fabrics.

Conclusion:

Visit ZIMMER AUSTRIA at Techtextil 2026
For a closer look at the next generation of textile printing and coating solutions, visit ZIMMER AUSTRIA at Techtextil 2026 in Frankfurt, Germany Hall 12.0, Booth C81.



THE ART OF DIGITAL TECHNICAL TEXTILE PRINTING

WEBSITE



COLARIS by ZIMMER AUSTRIA stands for premium digital printing technology designed for the world of technical textiles – BUILDTECH, CLOTHTECH, HOMTECH, MOBILTECH, PACKTECH, SPORTECH, and PROTECH.

It's a story of Austrian innovation, textile expertise, and color excellence – built for manufacturers who demand precision and reliability in every meter of fabric.



BUILDTECH



HOMETECH



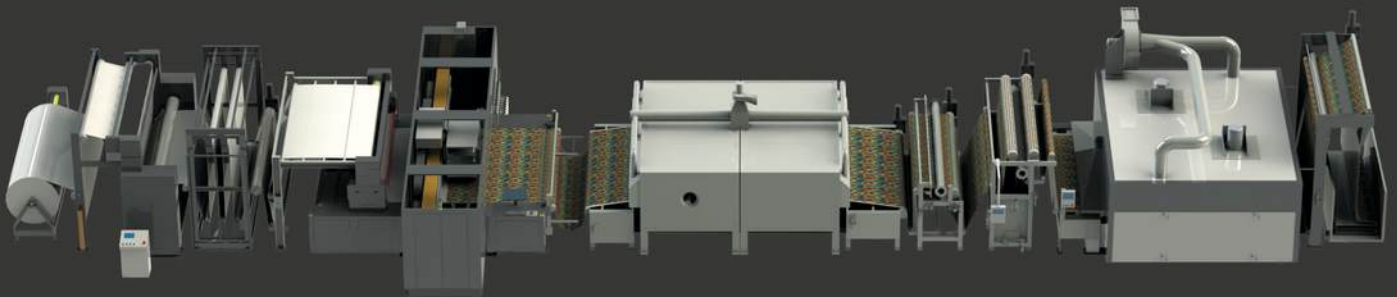
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WHERE INSPIRATION MEETS FABRIC

COLARIS by ZIMMER AUSTRIA redefines digital printing for Technical Textiles – with precision, brilliancy, depth, and the power to express every detail of your design.

From indoor and outdoor advertising, sun umbrellas, awnings, transport fabrics, sports and leisure clothing – COLARIS unlocks true color freedom.

MANUFACTURED IN AUSTRIA – PROVEN ACROSS THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY



KEY FEATURES

One system, many Inks and materials

Ergonomic, intuitive, easy operation

Precise mechanics and reliable electronics

Market proven printhead technology

Minimal Ressource, maximum efficiency

Engineered for true 24/7 operation

Online diagnostic and service-support

TECHNICAL PERFORMANCE

Print widths 1800 – 2700 – 3400 mm

Up to 860 m²/h

12 individual color channels

72 FUJIFILM Dimatix StarFire™ print-heads


Versatile ink system

Eco friendly belt cleaning system

Low water & energy consumption

ZIMMER AUSTRIA DIGITAL PRINTING SYSTEMS

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6330 Kufstein | AUSTRIA

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TECHTEXTIL FRANKFURT

HALL 12.0

BOOTH C81

For any kind of printed technical textiles – COLARIS delivers color without limits. ZIMMER AUSTRIA – Made in Austria

INSIDE MILANO FASHION&JEWELS 2026: WHERE CREATIVITY MEETS TEXTILE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

E V E N T S

A closer look at the brands shaping the future of fashion and textile collaboration

Milano Fashion&Jewels (MFJ) once again proved its position as more than just a fashion and accessories exhibition. During its February 2026 edition, the event transformed into a dynamic platform where creativity, craftsmanship, and business strategy converged — offering valuable opportunities not only for fashion brands but also for textile professionals, sourcing specialists, and international buyers.

At the heart of this experience were the exhibitors themselves. Through a series of on-site interviews, brands shared their perspectives on why MFJ continues to stand out as a strategic meeting point in today's evolving fashion and textile ecosystem.



Beyond Jewelry: A Platform for Textile-Driven Fashion Business

While Milano Fashion&Jewels is widely recognized for its jewelry segment, the 2026 edition clearly highlighted its growing relevance for the broader textile and fashion supply chain. From material sourcing to finished products, the exhibition created a bridge between textile manufacturers, designers, and retail decision-makers. Brands emphasized that MFJ is not only about showcasing collections but also about building connections that extend into textile sourcing, production partnerships, and market expansion. This integration reflects a wider industry shift, where fashion and textiles are no longer separate sectors but part of a unified value chain.

Why Brands Choose MFJ: Real Business, Real Connections

Across all interviews, one key message was consistent: brands return to MFJ because it delivers real business results.

Exhibitors described the fair as a “privileged space” where they can meet qualified buyers beyond traditional retail channels. Unlike many exhibitions that focus on visibility alone, MFJ provides a targeted audience actively seeking new suppliers, fresh designs, and innovative products.

For companies aiming to expand into international markets — including emerging regions such as Africa and Central Asia — the exhibition offers direct access to decision-makers who are difficult to reach through conventional channels.





Voices from the Show Floor: Craftsmanship Meets Global Reach

Brands such as Aquaforte Vicenza highlighted how MFJ allows traditional craftsmanship to reach new audiences. Specializing in gold-plated silver jewelry, the company sees Milan as a gateway to present its products beyond the conventional jewelry circuit and engage with buyers from diverse sectors.

Andrea Marazzini emphasized the importance of storytelling and design identity, noting that the exhibition attracts a truly global audience, including buyers from hard-to-reach markets. This international diversity creates a unique commercial advantage for brands seeking expansion.

Similarly, Kalliope pointed to the consistent growth of the exhibition, underlining how the increasing number of qualified visitors strengthens its business potential year after year.



Long-Term Value and Market Positioning

For established brands like Centolino and Civico 93, participation in MFJ goes far beyond short-term sales. These companies view the exhibition as a strategic platform to reinforce existing partnerships and explore new international opportunities.

Centolino, known for its high-quality Italian linen production, considers the fair an ideal environment to connect with global markets while maintaining strong relationships with existing partners.

Civico 93, with decades of experience, identifies MFJ as a key event for enhancing the value of Made in Italy within the fashion accessories sector — a message that resonates strongly with both fashion and textile professionals.

A Gateway to New Markets and Future Opportunities

Emerging and contemporary brands such as Anartxy and Club Voltaire highlighted the role of MFJ as a gateway to new beginnings. For these companies, the exhibition provides not only commercial opportunities but also inspiration and market insight.

In an increasingly complex global fashion landscape, platforms like Milano Fashion&Jewels offer clarity by bringing together the right mix of creativity, business, and international reach. The event enables brands to test new ideas, identify trends, and connect with partners who can support their growth.

MARCH 2026



More Than an Exhibition — A Strategic Industry Hub

Milano Fashion&Jewels 2026 demonstrated that the future of fashion lies in integration — where textiles, design, manufacturing, and retail come together in a single ecosystem. For visitors, the exhibition offered a chance to experience this energy firsthand. For those who could not attend, the message is clear: MFJ is no longer just a showcase — it is a strategic platform shaping the future of fashion and textile collaboration.

As the industry continues to evolve, events like Milano Fashion&Jewels will play a critical role in connecting global markets, supporting innovation, and driving sustainable growth across both the fashion and textile sectors.



KOHAN TEXTILE JOURNAL

Italian Textile Machinery Innovation Takes Center Stage in Frankfurt for Techtexsil 2026

The Italian textile machinery industry is gearing up for a key event on the international trade fair calendar: Techtexsil 2026, taking place from April 21–24 in Frankfurt, Germany.

Strong Export Performance and Market Position Italy confirms its position among the world leaders in the textile machinery sector, thanks to a solid and highly specialized production system. The industry stands out for its strong international vocation, with a predominant share of production destined for foreign markets (86% of its sales) and a consolidated presence in over 130 countries. This places the country among the top global exporters of textile technology, renowned for its quality, innovation, and reliability.

In the first eleven months of 2025, sales in Germany have already reached 81 million euros. Among the most requested technologies, accessories stand out (36%), followed by finishing machinery (33%)—the latter being essential for the production processes of the most innovative textile sectors.

The strength of Italian textile machinery lies in its dynamic structure, composed of small-to-medium-sized companies that are heavily oriented toward Research & Development. This flexibility allows Italian manufacturers to collaborate closely with end-users, transforming customer needs into highly personalized and versatile technological solutions.

“The growing demand for innovative textiles across various industrial fields is further consolidating our manufacturers’ position,” emphasizes Marco Salvadè, President of ACIMIT.

Italian expertise, rooted in historic districts such as Bergamo, Biella, Brescia, Como, Milan, Prato, and Vicenza, continues to guarantee standards of quality and reliability that make Made in Italy a point of reference for the entire global industry.

The ACIMIT associate companies present in the Italy Pavilion include: Aeris S.r.l., Aigle S.r.l., Beschi S.r.l., Bettarini & Serafini S.r.l., Bonino S.r.l., Castello S.r.l., Ferraro S.p.A., Gemata S.p.A., Gualchieri e Gualchieri S.r.l., Guarneri Technology S.r.l., Idealtex S.r.l., IMA S.p.A., Lonati S.p.A., Mariplast S.p.A., MCS Officina Meccanica S.p.A., Monti-Mac S.r.l., M.T.V. S.r.l., Nosedà S.r.l., OMMI S.r.l., Ramatex Italia S.r.l., Ramina S.r.l., Salvadè S.r.l., Simet S.r.l., S.R.S. Spindle Research & Service S.r.l., Stalam S.p.A., Tecnomeccanica Biellese S.r.l., Tecnorama S.r.l., Texera S.r.l., Ugolini S.r.l., Unitech Industries S.r.l., Zanfrini S.r.l..

The strength of the Italian presence is further confirmed by ACIMIT associate members exhibiting at individual stands or through local retailers, including: A.Piovan S.r.l., Autefa Solutions Italy, Bianco S.p.A., Cormatex S.r.l., Dell’orco & Villani S.r.l., Emme S.r.l., Fadis S.p.A., IteMa S.p.A., Lawer S.p.A., LGL Electronics S.p.A., Mesdan S.p.A., Monti Antonio S.p.A., O.M.R. S.r.l., Ratti Luino S.r.l., Siltex S.r.l., Texilmesa S.r.l., Texology S.r.l., Toscana Spazzole Industriali S.r.l., Willy Italiana S.r.l., Zappa Macchine S.r.l..

“At Techtexsil 2026, the Italian offering will once again demonstrate how the combination of high technology and customization capabilities is the key to meeting the challenges of the technical textiles sector.”



BRÜCKNER AT TECHTEXTIL 2026: PRODUCT DIVERSITY AS A KEY TO SUCCESS!

W

hen the leading trade fair Techtextil opens its doors in Frankfurt from April 21-24, 2026, we - as a leading system provider of complete lines and equipment for the finishing of technical textiles will showcase our

versatile solutions for the industry. Our focus is on maximum efficiency, process reliability, sustainability, automation, and quality "Made in Germany." The demands on technical fabrics are constantly growing, both in terms of functionality and sustainability. That is why we offer our customers energy-efficient machine concepts with intelligent drive systems that are specifically tailored to the needs of each individual customer. With our innovations, we support customers in developing and producing innovative products in a cost-effective and resource-efficient manner.

Our standout feature is the wide range of custom solutions we offer. In the field of technical textile coating, we offer the right unit for almost every process: foam or paste application via various roller and squeegee systems, application of laminating adhesive, one-sided full-surface or dot application of latex or acrylate pastes, or full-bath impregnation for aqueous media - we offer you a tailor-made solution for every application. Our customers use their Brückner lines to coat or laminate abrasive cloth, airbags, blackout material, geotextiles, tarpaulins, or roofing membranes - the list of end products is diverse.

In addition to all these coating systems and application units, we naturally also offer the appropriate drying system for each application.

For example, our ETRO dryer is especially recommended for printing and varnishing ranges. As a standalone dryer, it can also be arranged in row and enables drying without a chain or belt. It is particularly suitable for solvent-based coatings with low application quantities. The pneumatically adjustable upper part ensures excellent accessibility for both cleaning and maintenance work as well as for easy fabric threading.

The POWER-FRAME stenter frame with its proven split-flow ventilation system is the centerpiece for drying and heat-setting of traditional apparel textiles, but is also perfectly suited for drying and heat-setting after digital printing. It is also used for the thermal treatment of geotextiles, agrotextiles, needle felts, and high-temperature filters. In the field of nonwoven finishing, our product portfolio has much more to offer. For example, the thermofusion ovens from the SUPRA-FLOW product line are worth mentioning here. These can be used to finish, among other things, upholstery, high-loft nonwovens for mattresses, insulation, or lightweight nonwovens such as topsheets, paper napkins, hygiene products, or ADL nonwovens. For the nonwoven industry, we also supply high-speed spunlace lines for wet-laid nonwovens, wipes and wet wipes.

Textile finishers worldwide are currently facing new challenges. The focus is on reducing CO₂ emissions and switching to green energy sources. That is why all our systems offer a variety of different heating media: gas (direct and indirect), thermal oil, steam, electricity, hydrogen, or various combinations thereof. This allows for a quick and flexible response to energy shortages and enables a gradual transition to green energy. When operating an electrically heated dryer with green electricity, completely CO₂-neutral production is even possible.

You can benefit from further cost savings with our modular systems in the field of environmental and energy technology. Heat recovery systems air/air or air/water save process energy, reduce production costs, and pay for themselves in short time. We also offer a wide variety of exhaust air purification systems to reduce pollutants and comply with environmental regulations. These products are available in various sizes and combinations, and now also feature an automatic cleaning function for even more flexibility and reduced labor costs. You can easily retrofit these ECO products onto existing Brückner machines or even machines from other suppliers.

Contact us! We are confident that together we can find the right solution for your challenge. You can find us at Techtextil in Frankfurt in **Hall 12.0, Booth B58**. We look forward to seeing you!





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

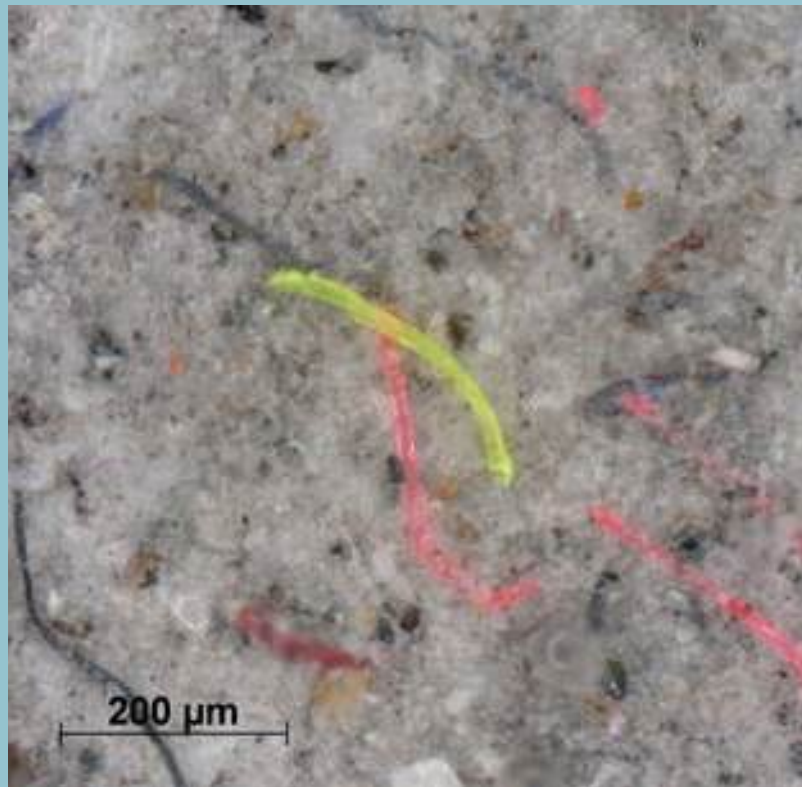


Textile Cascade Filter for Removing Microplastics from Wastewater

Microplastics are now found almost everywhere, even in remote regions of Antarctica. They enter the human body through the food chain. Studies indicate that microplastics may have negative effects on the human health.

One important source of microplastic pollution is the washing of textiles made from synthetic fibers. During washing, significant amounts of microplastics are released into wastewater and then enter aquatic ecosystems. To address this problem, the German Institutes of Textile and Fiber Research Denkendorf (DITF) have developed a textile-based cascade filter system.

The amount of microfibers released per wash cycle and per kilogram of textiles is estimated to range from 12 and 1,400 milligrams. Wastewater treatment plants are already able to remove a large portion of microplastic particles from wastewater, with removal rates of up to 99 percent. However, because of the high volume of wastewater discharged every day, these plants can still contribute significantly to microplastic pollution in the environment.



Exemplary picture of a filter cake with deposited microplastic fibers. Photo: DITF

To date, various mechanical and chemical technologies have been used in wastewater treatment. Filter cascades, on the other hand, have mainly been applied for the analysis and characterization of microplastic particles. In their study, the DITF researchers demonstrated that specialized textile-based filter cascades are also capable of effectively removing microplastics from rinse water in industrial laundries. This is possible even at low water pressure. In addition, the system has a simplified design and requires little maintenance.

The cascade microfilter developed by the Denkendorf research team consists of three filtration stages. Each stage uses a three-dimensional textile sandwich composite made of polypropylene fabric and a 3D spacer knit. The stages have progressively smaller pore sizes, allowing the removal of microplastic particles down to 1.5 μm .

A compressed-air backwashing system is integrated to clean the filter and restore its performance. Because the filter cake moves from the fabric to the spacer layer, backwashing is needed less often, and the operating time can be increased by up to 155 percent.

Field trials at an industrial laundry and a municipal wastewater treatment plant confirmed a separation efficiency of 89.7 percent and 98.5 percent for the microfilter cascade. It can thus make a significant contribution to reducing microplastic pollution.

The high microplastic separation efficiency and the long service life of the filter medium make the system a promising solution for wastewater treatment. It is cost-effective, space-saving, and can be adapted to different applications and scales.

The textile composite medium developed at the DITF can be tailored to meet a variety of filtration requirements beyond its application in microplastic filtration.



Left: Filter cake structure on 3D warp-knitted fabric cross-section, upstream side. Right: Microplastic particles on filter-woven fabric, upstream side. Images: DITF

SAURER SETS NEW STANDARDS AT TECHTEXTIL 2026

When the international textile industry gathers at Tectextil in Frankfurt from April 21 to 24, Saurer is going to present a powerful solution for the growing demands in the field of technical yarns with the TechnoCorder TC2plus. At **booth B56 in Hall 12** the company will demonstrate how modern twisting and cabling technology unlocks new market potential and sustainably optimizes production processes at the same time. The new TechnoCorder TC2plus stands for maximum flexibility, innovative yarn architectures and outstanding cost-efficiency.

Redefined flexibility

The requirements for technical yarns are continually increasing – specialization, customization, and efficiency are decisive success factors. The TechnoCorder TC2plus was specifically developed for this dynamic environment. It processes fine and coarse yarns, low and high twist levels and even a wide range of materials with exceptional process stability. The result: maximum productivity with consistently high yarn quality.

FlexiPly - Innovation opening new markets

Unlike conventional processes, FlexiPly enables the dynamic combination of different yarn types and counts. This allows the production of so-called hybrid yarns that are precisely engineered for their specific end-use loads, which provide significant advantages for applications such as mechanical rubber goods, tire reinforcements or smart textiles. FlexiPly represents intelligent material utilization, innovative product concepts and clear competitive advantages.

Performance for sensitive high-tech applications

Especially technical yarns demand the highest standards of process stability and material protection. The specially developed fine-count spindle, designed specifically for the sensitive range starting at 110 dtex, guarantees excellent yarn quality at maximum productivity.

It is ideally suited for medical textiles, protective clothing and lightweight technical fabrics. With this approach the TechnoCorder TC2plus sets new standards in terms of precision and efficiency.

Authentic effects with maximum performance

Also in the artificial turf segment the TC2plus opens entirely new possibilities. Its integrated cabling function blends various PE monofilaments into sophisticated yarn constructions that authentically reproduce natural light and shadow effects. The result is a highly convincing natural appearance combined with outstanding production efficiency.

Cost-effectiveness down to the last detail

Besides its technological flexibility the TechnoCorder TC2plus stands out for its smart process optimization features. The option to choose between random and precision winding ensures seamless alignment with downstream operations. An integrated setup assistant helps operators to define the optimal package configuration within minutes, minimizing changeover times, maximizing machine uptime and sustainably enhancing overall equipment effectiveness.

Future-proof solutions for technical textiles

The TechnoCorder TC2plus highlights Saurer's ongoing commitment to empowering customers worldwide with advanced, high-performance and economically efficient technologies.



SAURER.


BD 8 – Think economically.



The world's best doffer units

The outstanding semi-automatic rotor spinning machine BD 8 with the new automatic package doffer units (DU), finds its way into spinning mills worldwide. Equipped with up to four doffers, the BD 8 is providing sufficient doffing capacity even for coarse yarns. In a record time of 10 seconds, the packages are changed. Reduce your staff workload and optimise your workforce planning.

saurer.com



COTTON HOLDS STEADY WHILE POLYESTER CLIMBS:

HOW MIDDLE EAST TENSIONS ARE RESHAPING FIBER ECONOMICS

AS GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONTINUE TO DISRUPT GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS, THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY IS WITNESSING A STRIKING DIVERGENCE BETWEEN NATURAL AND SYNTHETIC FIBERS. WHILE COTTON PRICES HAVE REMAINED RELATIVELY STABLE IN THE SHORT TERM, POLYESTER IS EXPERIENCING UPWARD PRESSURE DRIVEN BY RISING ENERGY COSTS, LOGISTICS DISRUPTIONS, AND PETROCHEMICAL VOLATILITY.

AT FIRST GLANCE, THIS STABILITY IN COTTON MIGHT SUGGEST RESILIENCE. HOWEVER, A DEEPER ANALYSIS REVEALS THAT THE CURRENT EQUILIBRIUM MAY BE TEMPORARY—POTENTIALLY MASKING A DELAYED BUT SIGNIFICANT SHOCK TO COTTON PRODUCTION.

POLYESTER UNDER PRESSURE: ENERGY, LOGISTICS, AND STRUCTURAL EXPOSURE

Unlike cotton, polyester is directly tied to the petrochemical value chain. As highlighted in recent market analyses, synthetic fibers are highly sensitive to fluctuations in crude oil, refined products, and shipping capacity.

The ongoing instability in the Middle East—particularly around critical maritime routes—has introduced multiple layers of cost pressure:

- Rising oil prices driving up feedstock costs
- Increased freight rates due to rerouting and risk premiums
- Delays in supply chains affecting delivery schedules

These dynamics have already pushed polyester fiber prices above their highest levels of the past year, even as downstream demand remains inconsistent.

More importantly, higher prices are not translating into stronger profitability. Margins across the polyester value chain—especially in China—are being squeezed due to weak demand and elevated inventory risks.



CHINA'S ROLE: INTEGRATED SUPPLY MEETS WEAK DEMAND

China's polyester industry, known for its high level of vertical integration, has shown some resilience in absorbing shocks. Producers can partially balance disruptions across feedstocks, intermediates, and finished fibers.

However, this structural strength has its limits. Even with integrated production systems, Chinese manufacturers are facing:

- Uneven downstream utilization
- Weak order visibility
- Rising inventory levels

This creates a paradox: production capacity is recovering, but demand is not keeping pace. As a result, the market is entering a phase of margin compression rather than expansion.

COTTON STABILITY: REAL STRENGTH OR DELAYED REACTION?

In contrast, cotton prices have remained relatively stable despite global uncertainty. This stability is partly due to:

- Lower immediate dependence on energy markets
- Existing inventories and slower reaction cycles
- Reduced short-term demand balancing supply

However, this apparent stability should not be misinterpreted as long-term security.

The cotton value chain is indirectly exposed to the same geopolitical risks—particularly through fertilizers.

THE FERTILIZER FACTOR: A SILENT THREAT TO COTTON PRODUCTION

One of the most overlooked consequences of prolonged conflict in the Middle East is its impact on fertilizer supply.

Fertilizer production is highly dependent on energy inputs, particularly natural gas. As energy markets tighten and prices rise, fertilizer availability becomes constrained, leading to:

- Higher agricultural input costs
- Reduced application rates by farmers
- Potential declines in crop yields
- For cotton, this represents a delayed but critical risk.

If fertilizer shortages intensify, the next planting cycles could see reduced output, ultimately pushing cotton prices upward and disrupting supply stability.

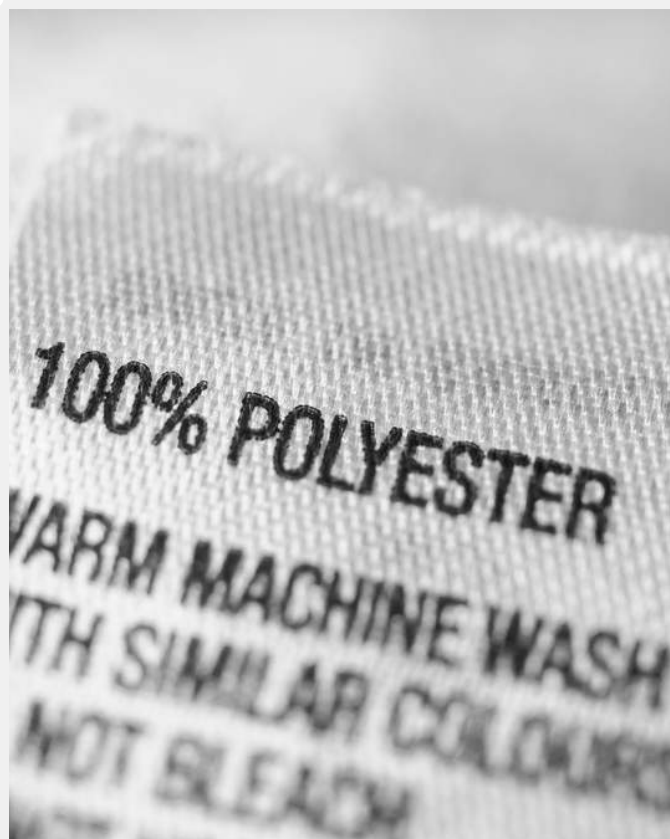
DIVERGING TIMELINES: IMMEDIATE VS DELAYED IMPACT

The current divergence between polyester and cotton can largely be explained by timing:

- Polyester reacts immediately to energy and logistics shocks
- Cotton reacts with a delay, through agricultural cycles and input constraints

This difference creates a misleading short-term narrative where cotton appears stable while polyester is volatile.

In reality, both fibers are exposed—just on different timelines.



BROADER MARKET IMPLICATIONS: FIBER STRATEGY UNDER UNCERTAINTY

For textile manufacturers, this evolving landscape introduces new strategic challenges. Relying on polyester now means facing immediate cost volatility.

Relying on cotton may appear safer—but carries medium-term risks linked to agricultural inputs. This environment is likely to push manufacturers toward:

- Greater fiber diversification
- Flexible sourcing strategies
- Increased focus on cost-risk management

CONCLUSION: STABILITY TODAY, VOLATILITY TOMORROW

The current fiber market is not defined by stability, but by staggered disruption.

Polyester is already reflecting the impact of geopolitical tension through rising costs and squeezed margins. Cotton, while stable today, may soon face its own challenges as fertilizer constraints begin to affect production.

For industry players, the key is not to interpret stability as safety—but to anticipate the next phase of disruption.

DESIGNED TO IMPACT

Turning advanced solutions
into strategic advantage.



MARZOLI

Textile Engineering



Spinning
Technology



Digital
Textile



Nonwoven
Technology



Advanced
Yarns



Kenya Secures \$3 Billion Investment to Boost Export Parks and Textile Industry

Kenya has secured a major foreign investment deal exceeding \$3 billion, marking a significant step in its ambition to strengthen industrial capacity and position itself as a leading manufacturing hub in East Africa. The investment will be led by Dubai-based infrastructure developer Arise Integrated Industrial Platforms (ArisIIP) over the next five years.

The funding will be directed toward the development of three industrial and export processing zones, alongside strategic support for the country's textile sector, including investment in the Rivatex textile company. The initiative is part of Kenya's broader strategy to attract foreign direct investment, expand export-oriented manufacturing, and generate large-scale employment opportunities.

Speaking on the sidelines of an investment conference, Nikhil Gandhi, Executive Director at AriseIIP, confirmed the scale of the commitment, stating that total investments in Kenya will exceed \$3 billion. He added that the company aims to attract manufacturers from more than 14 countries to establish production bases within the new industrial zones.

Export Zones to Drive Industrial Growth

The planned developments include two export zones along Kenya's coastline and a third located in Naivasha, in the Rift Valley region. These zones are expected to serve as integrated industrial ecosystems, offering infrastructure, logistics, and access to international markets.

Approximately 30 to 40 percent of the investment will be financed directly by AriseIIP through equity participation, while the remaining capital will be secured through loans from development finance institutions and other lenders. This blended financing model reflects a growing trend in large-scale industrial projects across Africa.

In parallel, AriseIIP will collaborate with Afreximbank and Kenya's KCB Group to establish an \$800 million financing facility aimed at supporting companies operating within the zones. This additional funding is expected to improve access to capital for manufacturers and accelerate industrial activity.

Strengthening Kenya's Textile Sector

A key component of the investment focuses on revitalizing Kenya's textile industry. The inclusion of Rivatex, one of the country's leading textile manufacturers, highlights efforts to strengthen local value chains and reduce dependence on imports.



The textile sector is viewed as a critical driver of employment and export growth, particularly as global brands seek to diversify sourcing away from traditional Asian markets. Kenya's relatively stable business environment, combined with trade agreements and regional market access, makes it an attractive destination for textile and apparel production.

Global Shifts Create New Opportunities for Africa
According to ArisellIP, shifting global supply chains—partly influenced by geopolitical tensions and rising trade barriers—are creating new opportunities for African economies. Gandhi noted that disruptions such as conflicts in the Middle East and tariff increases in major markets could accelerate the relocation of manufacturing activities to Africa.

This trend aligns with Kenya's long-term industrial strategy, which aims to position the country as a competitive export base not only for textiles but also for sectors such as minerals processing and electric vehicle components.

A Strategic Move for Regional Leadership

The investment represents ArisellIP's first major entry into Kenya, following previous projects in countries such as Benin and Gabon. Backed by major stakeholders including Africa Finance Corporation, Saudi Arabia's Vision Invest, Equitane Group, and Afreximbank's private equity arm (FEDA), the company brings significant experience in developing integrated industrial zones across the continent.

For Kenya, the agreement is expected to enhance its competitiveness within regional and global supply chains, while supporting job creation and industrial diversification. As East Africa's largest economy, the country is increasingly positioning itself at the center of Africa's next phase of industrial growth.

With large-scale investments like this, Kenya is not only expanding its manufacturing capacity but also reinforcing its role as a gateway for international companies seeking to tap into Africa's growing markets.



INTERNATIONAL **ISTANBUL YARN FAIR** OPENS WITH STRONG ATTENDANCE

One of the most important events in the textile industry, the International Istanbul Yarn Fair, organized by TÜYAP Tüm Fuarcılık Yapım A.Ş. has opened its doors for the 22nd time.

Held on March 26-28, 2026 at the Tüyap Fair and Congress Center, the fair brings together manufacturers, suppliers, and buyers under one roof, shaping the future of trade in the sector. Istanbul's strong production infrastructure, flexible supply capabilities, and well-established trade network position the fair as a significant global meeting point.

On the first day of the exhibition, there was a strong visitor turnout from 73 countries, and the same level of intensity and activity continues on the second day. With over 500 exhibitors from 15 countries, the event continues to position itself as a key hub for international trade.

Our booths for ITM 2026 and HIGHTEX 2026 are also welcoming industry professionals with great interest at the Istanbul Yarn Fair.

The fair hosts purchasing delegations from nearly 30 countries. Industry professionals from a wide geography-particularly Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Iraq, Syria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Russia, Ukraine, Serbia, Macedonia, and Kosovo, are coming together in Istanbul.

Through B2B meetings, companies are establishing new collaborations and securing export opportunities.



BIANCALANI'S PATENTED TECHNOLOGIES AT INDO INTERTEX 2026

How to enhance performance and ROI through smarter processes

For fabric producers and commission finishers, achieving higher productivity while reducing environmental impact is the key to staying competitive. Biancalani's advanced engineering solutions enable smarter fabric processing, using air and water more efficiently to save resources, cut costs, and enhance ROI.

AIRO®24: high-speed air processing for open-width drying, softening, and finishing

In modern finishing plants, productivity and fabric quality must evolve together. AIRO®24 demonstrates how advanced airflow technology can dramatically improve both.

The system processes fabric at speeds up to 2800 m/min, with an operational efficiency of up to 95%. Instead of traditional mechanical transport systems, the fabric is moved and treated exclusively through high-velocity air streams exceeding 160 km/h. This approach reduces mechanical stress while ensuring effective, uniform treatment of the textile.

Key technical features include:

- Evaporation capacity: up to 1400 kg/h
- Sustainability certification for AIRO®24: CLIMA, verified by an independent third-party RINA



- Flexible configurations: from SINGLE to TRIPLEX, allowing adaptation to different production capacities
- SMART-SWITCH 2.0 control system: enabling independent modulation of mechanical action and drying power

Beyond performance figures, AIRO® technology delivers a distinctive qualitative result widely recognized in the industry as the "AIRO® Hand." This unique, consistent, and premium fabric feel, which is soft, natural, and premium, has become a defining feature of fabrics processed with AIRO® systems. International brands seeking high-quality finishing know this effect well and increasingly consider it a benchmark for premium fabrics.



AQUARIA®: a new patented approach to continuous open-width fabric washing and wet treatments

Water consumption remains one of the most critical challenges in fabric finishing. Conventional washing processes typically require 20-30 liters of water per kilogram of fabric, creating both environmental and economic pressures.

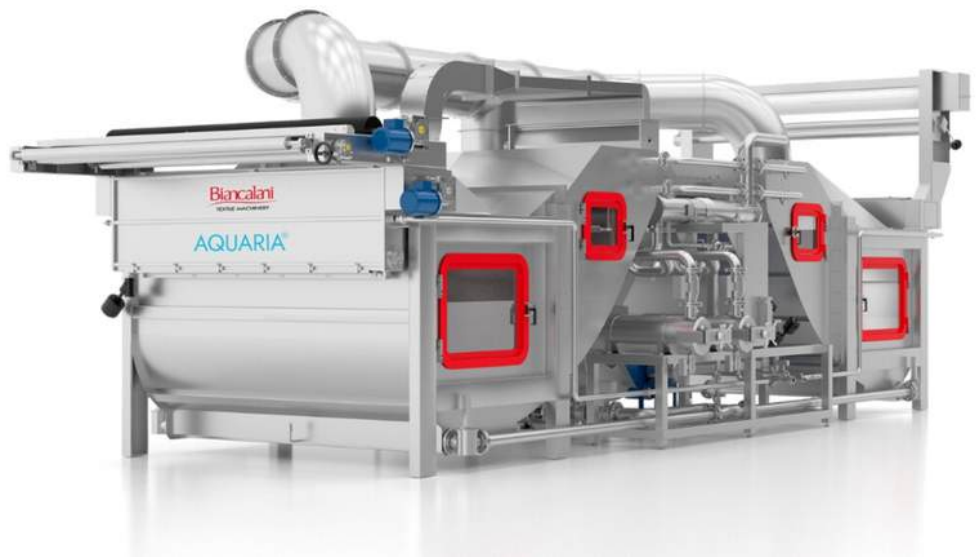
AQUARIA introduces a fundamentally different approach. By integrating the same patented AIROR pneumatic transport technology, the system moves fabric exclusively through air, drastically reducing the amount of water required for effective washing.

Inside the machine, the fabric circulates between two large accumulation chambers connected by a pneumatic ejector, where controlled mechanical action ensures thorough washing while minimizing resource consumption.

The measurable results are significant:

- Water consumption reduced by 80-90% compared to conventional systems
- Eco-bleaching with near-zero discharges, requiring less than 1 L/kg
- Complete elimination of harmful chemicals in many applications
- Working widths up to 3600 mm
- Sustainability certification for AQUARIA®: CLIMA, verified by an independent third-party RINA
- High production speeds

By combining pneumatic fabric transport with intelligent process control, AQUARIA® enables washing and wet treatments that are both highly efficient and environmentally responsible.



Meeting the industry at Indo Intertex 2026

These technologies will be presented to the textile industry at one of Southeast Asia's most important trade events: Indo Intertex 2026, taking place at the Jakarta International Expo. Fabric producers and commission finishers are invited to meet the team of Biancalani Textile Machinery to discover how patented technologies can transform fabric preparation and finishing processes.

At our Booth Hall A, Booth C8 - D8 you will be able to explore:

- AQUARIA® - open-width tumble washing and wet treatments
- AIRO®24 - open-width drying, softening, and finishing

The exhibition will also offer an opportunity to meet: Experts from the Biancalani technical and commercial team Sigma Multi Prima, Biancalani's exclusive representative in Indonesia, brings decades of local market expertise and comprehensive technical support to Indonesian textile manufacturers.



Biancalani

TEXTILE MACHINERY



find out more

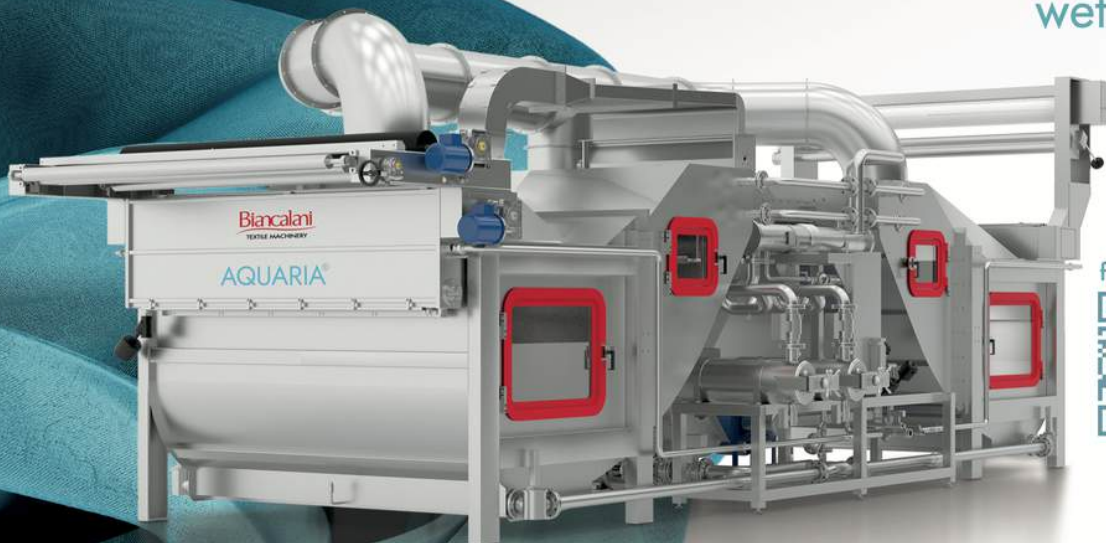


AIRO[®]24

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

AQUARIA[®]

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



find out more



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Phone: +39 0574 54871

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ANDRITZ at Techtextil 2026: Sustainability and Advanced Technologies

International technology Group ANDRITZ will be presenting its innovative nonwovens production and textile solutions at Techtextil in Frankfurt, Germany, from April 21 to 24, 2026 (Hall 12, B95). ANDRITZ will focus on technologies for durable and technical nonwovens, sustainable fiber processes, textile recycling, and life-cycle services.

Spot on Sustainability and Circularity

ANDRITZ continues to advance industrially viable solutions for sustainable nonwoven and textile production. Key topics at Techtextil include textile sorting and recycling, natural fiber processing for durable nonwovens, and complete man-made cellulosic fiber (MMCF) production plants. All innovations aim to support circularity and long-term value creation.

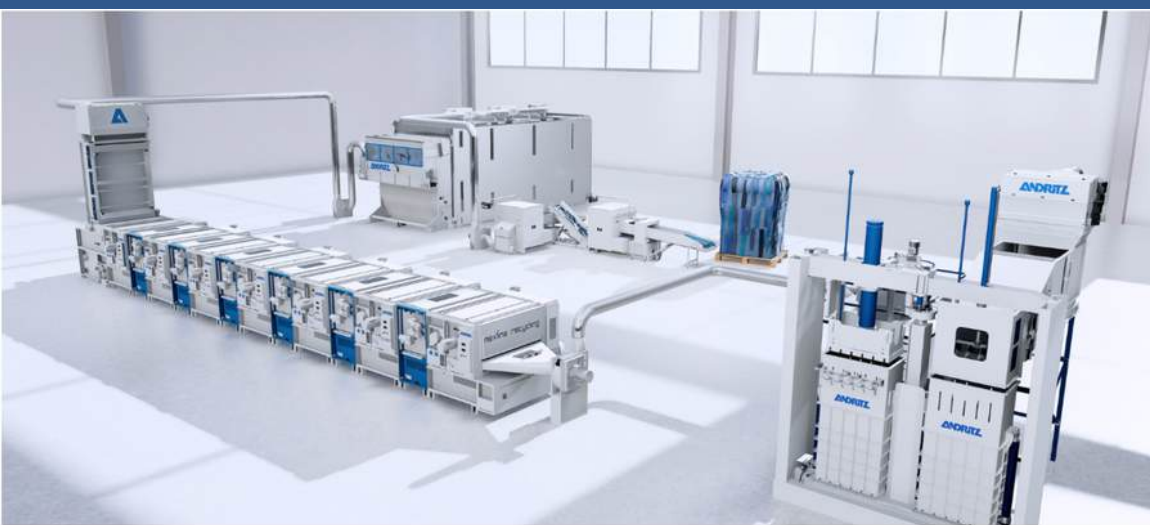
Complete MMCF production solutions for lyocell

ANDRITZ introduces its competences in production plants for MMCF, namely lyocell – a rapidly growing market driven by demand for sustainable materials. The solutions cover the full scope, from engineering to specialized equipment like flash dryers and pulp preparation systems. With decades of expertise in pulp and paper, ANDRITZ also provides audits and upgrades for existing plants. The lyocell process stands out for its environmental benefits and high-quality output, making it a key technology for the future of textiles and nonwovens.

Natural fibers for durable nonwoven

ANDRITZ highlights the growing potential of bast fibers such as hemp, flax, jute, and kenaf. These fibers offer a strong potential across industries including automotive, insulation, geotextiles, construction, and technical textiles. With their low environmental footprint, local sourcing potential, and zero-waste characteristics, bast fibers support the shift toward circular, climate-friendly production models.

ANDRITZ offers complete solutions, including dry cleaning, decortication and refining systems enabling energy-efficient processing and high-quality fiber production. This process can be perfectly combined with neXline airlay technology resulting in sustainable durable nonwovens.



Textile sorting and recycling: one century of heritage

With over a century of expertise, ANDRITZ Laroche provides solutions covering the entire textile recycling chain – from automated textile sorting and advanced fiber preparation to mechanical and chemical recycling, as well as integrated process combinations.

At Techtexil, ANDRITZ places a strong focus on predictive and automated textile sorting – key elements in closing the gap toward true circularity in the textile industry. The AI-based ANDRITZ teXscan unit evaluates fabric quality prior to recycling, enabling efficient material routing for chemical recycling, nonwoven or spinning. Complementing this, the automated sorting system classifies garments by composition and color, removes hard components such as buttons and zippers, and prepares materials for further fiber processing.

Together, these technologies create an efficient pathway for transforming post-consumer and post-industrial textile waste into fibers suitable for spinning, nonwovens, and composite applications.



Product Innovation: High-speed Production With the Andritz X-PRO™ Crosslapper

ANDRITZ introduces the new X-Pro™ crosslapper, a groundbreaking innovation in the crosslapping process for needlepunch and spunlace lines. This new machine sets unrivalled standards in speed, productivity, and quality, overcoming traditional limitations. Its unique “X-path” design ensures precise fiber control, eliminating distortion and enabling flawless overlap regardless of web characteristics. The system maximizes throughput and fabric homogeneity while maintaining superior quality. Additionally, it is fully compatible with ANDRITZ’s ProWin™ profile correction system, enhancing performance and efficiency to unprecedented levels.

Advanced Technologies for Technical Fibers

ANDRITZ will also present its technologies for processing technical fibers such as carbon, aramid, glass, and ceramic fibers. Its complete needlepunch and wetlaid lines enable precise fiber control and consistent quality for demanding end uses, including filtration, composites, construction, and industrial materials.

Life-cycle Management: Andritz Synergy Service Contracts

ANDRITZ SYNERGY™ service agreements provide efficient and cost-effective solutions to ensure uninterrupted productivity by complementing customers’ in-house capabilities with customized service packages. These agreements are designed to match the life-cycle of the equipment, including regular expert visits, preventive maintenance, retrofits, and upgrades to keep your operations running smoothly and reliably. Discover more at Techtexil. The entire ANDRITZ Nonwoven & Textile team is looking forward to welcoming customers and partners at booth B95 in hall 12.

SEDO TREEPOINT TO SHOWCASE SMART DIGITAL SOLUTIONS AT TECHTEXTIL 2026

Sedo Treepoint will present its latest digital technologies for technical textile manufacturing at Techtextil 2026, taking place from April 21–24, 2026 in Frankfurt. The company will exhibit in Hall 12, Booth D05, highlighting integrated automation and digital systems designed to improve efficiency, transparency, and sustainability in technical textile production.

Digital Integration for Complex Textile Production

As the technical textiles sector faces increasing production complexity and stricter sustainability requirements, manufacturers are under growing pressure to maintain stable processes while adapting to smaller batch sizes, specialized materials, and rising energy costs.

Sedo Treepoint's automation platforms, Manufacturing Execution Systems (MES), and control solutions are designed to address these challenges by connecting machines, process control, and production data into a unified digital environment. This integrated approach enables manufacturers to improve process stability, ensure reproducible quality, and make more informed operational decisions even in highly dynamic production environments.

From Reactive Troubleshooting to Smart Process Control

By integrating real-time monitoring and connected automation systems, Sedo Treepoint aims to help technical textile producers move beyond reactive troubleshooting toward proactive and data-driven production management.

The company's solutions enable manufacturers to manage complex production workflows more effectively while improving resource efficiency and operational transparency. These technologies also support companies in meeting stricter sustainability and compliance standards while maintaining consistent product performance.



Through its participation at Techtextil 2026, Sedo Treepoint intends to engage with technical textile producers, OEMs, and industry partners seeking practical digital tools to optimize complex manufacturing processes.

Visitors to the exhibition will have the opportunity to explore how connected automation and MES systems can support the transition toward more efficient, transparent, and sustainable technical textile production.

WHY ITCPE HAS BECOME A STRONG INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM IN THE DIGITAL PRINTING AND EMBROIDERY INDUSTRY

The ITCPE – International Textile & Printing Industry Expo has steadily evolved from a regional trade event into a recognized international platform for digital textile printing, embroidery machinery, and related technologies. As the exhibition prepares for its 21st edition, taking place from May 19–21, 2026 at PWTC Expo in Guangzhou, China, its growing global influence deserves closer attention.

The key question is simple: what makes ITCPE internationally successful in a highly competitive exhibition landscape?

A Clear International Vision



One of the defining characteristics of ITCPE is the global vision of its organizers. While many industrial exhibitions in Asia initially focus on domestic markets, ITCPE has consistently invested in international outreach. Over recent years, the exhibition has attracted large numbers of professional buyers and organized delegations from Brazil, Russia, Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, and other emerging and established textile markets.

This deliberate effort to internationalize the visitor profile has reshaped the exhibition's identity. ITCPE is no longer perceived as a purely Chinese event; it is increasingly seen as a meeting point between Asian manufacturers and global buyers seeking technology, partnerships, and competitive sourcing solutions.

Specialization as a Strategic Advantage

Another factor behind ITCPE's success is its focused positioning. Rather than covering the entire textile value chain, the exhibition concentrates on high-growth segments such as digital textile printing systems, sublimation and DTG technologies, industrial embroidery machines, printing consumables, and related automation software.

This specialization creates clarity. Visitors attend with a defined purpose, and exhibitors meet decision-makers who are genuinely active in these segments. The result is a more efficient business environment compared to broader, multi-sector textile shows where traffic is often mixed and less targeted.

Guangzhou: A Strategic Industrial Hub

The choice of Guangzhou as the host city significantly strengthens the exhibition's international appeal. As one of China's most important industrial and export centers, Guangzhou provides direct access to a vast manufacturing ecosystem. The city's infrastructure, port connectivity, and global trade orientation make it an ideal location for buyers who wish not only to visit the exhibition but also to tour factories and establish long-term supplier relationships.

The PWTC Expo (Poly World Trade Center Expo) offers modern exhibition facilities and efficient logistics, enabling the event to accommodate advanced machinery displays and live demonstrations—an essential feature for technology-driven sectors such as digital printing and embroidery.



Alignment with Global Industry Trends

The global textile printing and embroidery industry is undergoing rapid transformation. Digitalization, automation, sustainability, and on-demand production are reshaping the way factories operate. Energy efficiency, water reduction, and smarter workflow integration are no longer optional—they are competitive necessities.

ITCPE has positioned itself at the intersection of these transformations. Exhibitors increasingly showcase integrated digital printing lines, intelligent RIP software, high-speed embroidery systems, and automation solutions designed to reduce labor dependency while improving production accuracy. In this context, the exhibition serves not only as a marketplace, but as a technology showcase reflecting the future direction of textile surface design and decoration.

Strong Support for International Delegations

A crucial but often underestimated element of ITCPE's international growth is its structured approach to foreign visitor engagement. The organizers have actively implemented programs to facilitate B2B matchmaking, factory visits, and professional networking opportunities for overseas buyers.

By reducing entry barriers and creating curated business meetings, ITCPE ensures that international participation translates into real commercial outcomes rather than casual attendance. This strategy strengthens long-term credibility and encourages repeat participation from foreign markets.

Why ITCPE Matters for Emerging Markets

For companies from regions such as the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, and Latin America, ITCPE offers direct access to Chinese manufacturers that are driving innovation in cost-efficient digital printing and embroidery machinery. In an era where capital investment decisions require hands-on evaluation, the ability to compare multiple suppliers under one roof is strategically valuable.

Furthermore, as global supply chains continue to shift and diversify, exhibitions like ITCPE play a role in redefining trade routes and partnerships. Buyers are not only sourcing machines; they are building long-term operational alliances.

The 21st Edition: A Milestone

The 2026 edition marks the 21st year of ITCPE's presence in the industry. Longevity in China's competitive exhibition environment is itself an indicator of structural strength. Over two decades, the event has demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and the ability to evolve alongside technological progress. From May 19 to 21, 2026, industry stakeholders will once again gather in Guangzhou to assess new technologies, explore partnerships, and evaluate investment opportunities. The continuity of this platform reflects sustained industry confidence.



Conclusion

ITCPE's international success cannot be attributed solely to its scale or exhibitor numbers. Its strength lies in a combination of strategic specialization, global outreach, strong industrial geography, and proactive engagement with international delegations.

In a rapidly transforming textile printing landscape, ITCPE has carved out a distinct identity: a focused, internationally oriented platform connecting technology providers with serious global buyers. As it enters its 21st edition, the exhibition stands as a significant gateway to the evolving world of digital textile printing and embroidery innovation.





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

ITCPE

Textiles, Garment Manufacturing, Textile Printing, Embroidery,
Sewing, Knitting, Dyeing, Fabrics and Accessories, All in ITCPE!

**Textile Printing Industry
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FROM PROMISING START-UPS TO THRIVING BUSINESSES: THE ITMA 2023 STORY

How emerging innovators are turning industry exposure into real-world impact

At ITMA 2023, 15 start-ups were selected for the CEMATEX Start-Up Grant to showcase their technologies at Start-Up Valley, a dedicated platform connecting emerging innovators with the global textile and garment manufacturing industry.

For many of these young companies, participation went far beyond exhibition visibility. It provided direct access to manufacturers, brands, investors and technology partners across the textile value chain, accelerating their journey from innovation to industry adoption. One standout example shows how quickly that journey can translate into real-world impact.

From Start-Up Valley to global brand collaboration

As part of its Spring 2026 collection, Paris-headquartered Balenciaga, one of the most influential luxury fashion houses, unveiled the world's first 3D woven tailored suit, a breakthrough application of software-driven textile manufacturing.

The technology behind this innovation was developed by Balenciaga, in collaboration with WEFAN, a Start-Up Valley participant at ITMA 2023.

This milestone demonstrates how early-stage technologies, when given the right platform, visibility and industry access, can progress rapidly towards real-world adoption, even at the highest levels of fashion.

For start-ups seeking to translate innovation into commercial reality, it is a powerful example of what can happen when they engage directly with the global textile ecosystem.



From exposure to commercialisation: TreeToTextile

Among the companies gaining strong traction after ITMA 2023 is TreeToTextile, a Sweden-based innovator developing next-generation regenerated cellulose fibres.

“ITMA’s Start-Up Valley was the perfect place to begin our commercialisation journey,” says Nina Ekstrand, Head of Marketing and Communication at TreeToTextile. “We were overwhelmed by the strong interest in our fibres from brands and partners across the value chain. We continue to reap the benefits from the experience as we scale the production of our next-generation cellulose fibre.”

Progress for this Stockholm-headquartered company has subsequently been rapid and its ITMA debut coincided with the start up of a €35 million regenerated cellulose fibre demonstration plant at Stora Enso’s Nymölla mill in southern Sweden, with an initial production capacity of 1,500 tons of fibre per year.

Momentum has continued to build. In early 2026, leading fibre producer, Lenzing acquired a controlling stake in TreeToTextile, signalling strong industry confidence in its technology and future scalability.

Lenzing is now planning a significant increase in production output at the existing demonstration plant in Nymölla, as well as the preparation of a first industrial-scale facility.

“Innovation at industrial scale requires time, expertise and strong partnerships,” says TreeToTextile CEO Roxana Barbieru. “Lenzing’s increased ownership is a clear endorsement of our ambition to become a major player in the global fibre market.”

Scaling innovation across new applications: Noosa

Another Start-Up Valley participant, Noosa, is advancing bio-based circular PLA (polylactic acid) fibres through its patented recycling process.

“We had an amazing first experience at ITMA 2023 and were very impressed by the number of visitors from across the globe,” says Noosa CEO Luna Aslan. “It created opportunities with a lot of companies in different sectors and different parts of the world. I definitely consider it as the rendezvous for the textile industry and am looking forward to being at the 2027 exhibition.”

Since its participation, Noosa has significantly scaled its production capacity to 6,000 tonnes per year and expanded its product portfolio to include staple fibres, filaments and spun yarns, as well as fabrics and end-products made from them.

The company is now developing new applications such as performance wear and alternatives to oil-based materials, further demonstrating how early exposure to industry stakeholders can support product development and market expansion.



From industry validation to global reach: WEFFAN

For many start-ups, the most immediate value of Start-Up Valley lies in direct engagement with industry players.

For WEFFAN, this translated into conversations with potential investors and manufacturing partners from around the world.

“We met many potential investors and manufacturing partners at Start-Up Valley, which led to a memorable sourcing trip to Japan,” says founder Graysha Audren. “Taking part gave us the international reach and recognition that we wouldn’t have had otherwise. The conversations are still ongoing.”

These interactions, from technical discussions with manufacturers to strategic conversations with brands, play a critical role in helping start-ups validate their technologies, refine their solutions and identify pathways to commercialisation.

WEFFAN’s 3D weaving manufacturing process has now been validated at commercial scale with the support of Kering’s Material Innovation Lab and the Balenciaga 3D woven jacket and trousers are available in select Balenciaga stores worldwide.

A platform for industry connection and growth

“For many of the companies selected for Start-Up Valley in Milan, the showcase proved far more than just an exhibition platform,” says CEMATEX President Alex Zucchi. “It provided a catalyst for partnerships, investment and industrial development that continues to shape their trajectories.

“This ongoing momentum highlights the role of ITMA not only as a marketplace for machinery, but also as a launchpad for emerging technologies and materials that will define the future of textiles.”

Looking ahead to ITMA 2027



Building on the success of ITMA 2023, the next edition of **Start-Up Valley at ITMA 2027** will offer a new cohort of innovators the opportunity to engage directly with the global textile manufacturing ecosystem.

Only 20 start-ups will be selected to receive the CEMATEX Start-Up Grant, which includes:

- A fully subsidised special design exhibition stand
- Dedicated pavilion exposure
- Global marketing visibility
- Access to industry leaders across the value chain

For start-ups developing technologies in advanced materials, automation, digitalisation or sustainability, the platform provides a unique opportunity to gain industry validation, form partnerships and accelerate growth.

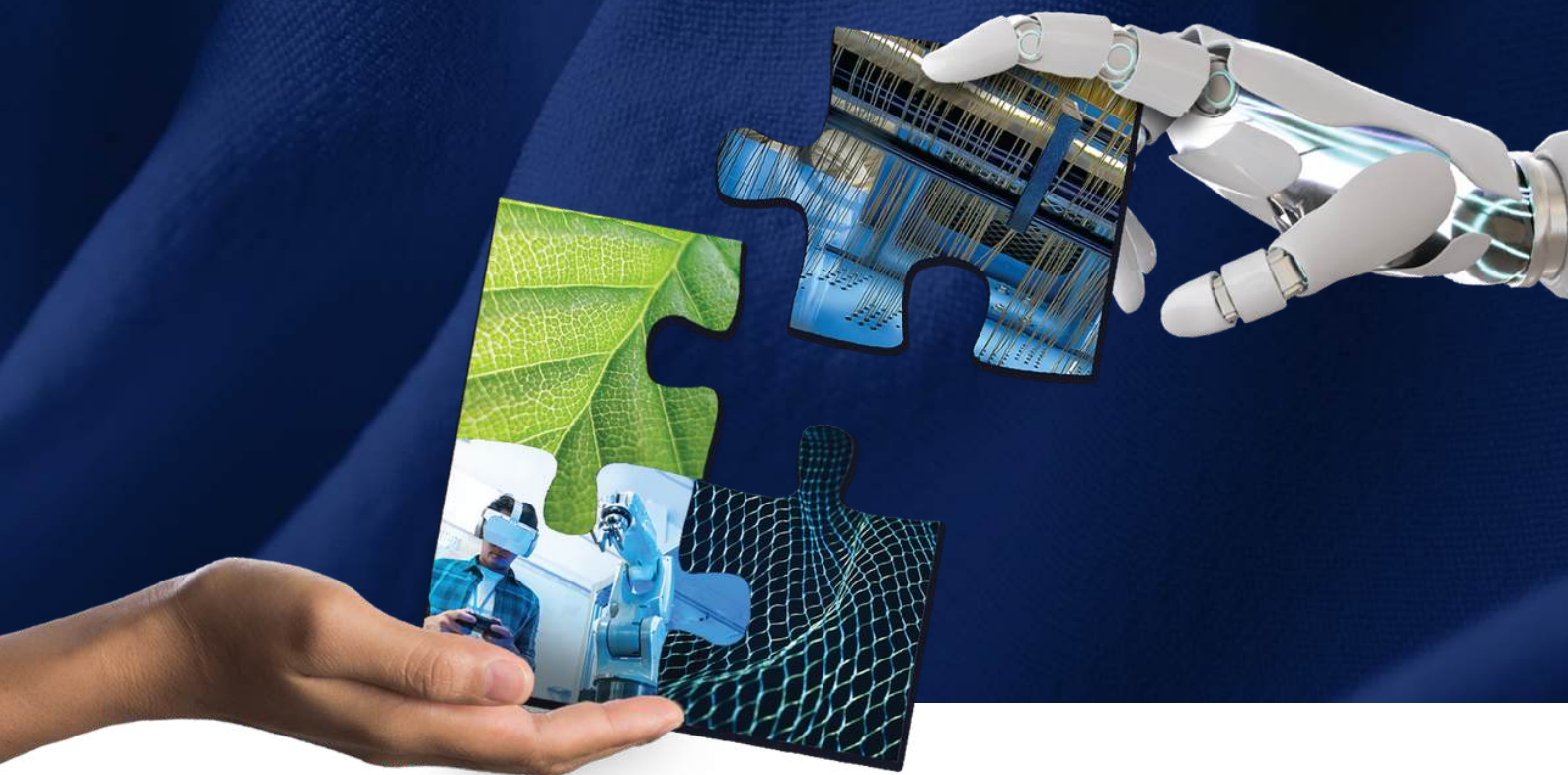
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JEANOLOGIA PROVES IT IS POSSIBLE TO PRODUCE JEANS WITHOUT POLLUTING WATER AND PRESENTS ITS ENVIRONMENTAL PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

- Thanks to its technologies, more than 21.5 million cubic meters of contaminated water and over 103 million kilograms of CO₂ were avoided in 2025.
- The company is putting figures behind a transformation already underway: reshaping denim production by eliminating polluting processes and drastically reducing resource consumption.

On World Water Day, a global awareness date highlighting the growing scarcity of this resource and the urgent need for responsible water use, Jeanologia presents its Ecological Profit and Loss Account, a pioneering model that measures the positive impact generated by the implementation of its technology in the textile industry.

In a global context where water has become one of the planet's most pressing challenges, the company is putting figures behind a transformation already underway: reshaping denim production by eliminating polluting processes and drastically reducing resource consumption.

Since 2015, Jeanologia has been auditing and publishing this Environmental Profit and Loss Account, becoming the first company in the sector to systematically quantify the positive environmental impact derived from the use of its technologies. The model measures two key indicators: the volume of polluted water avoided and the reduction of CO₂ emissions, turning sustainability into a tangible and verifiable result.

Thanks to the global implementation of its technologies, more than 21.5 million cubic meters of polluted water were avoided in 2025, equivalent to the annual water consumption of a city like Copenhagen. In addition, over 103 million kilograms of CO₂ emissions were reduced, comparable to the amount of carbon absorbed in one year by a forest of more than 20,000 hectares.

This impact is the result of integrating technologies developed by Jeanologia, including laser, G2 ozone, low consumption eco washers, e-Flow nanobubble technology, H2 Zero water recycling systems, and Colorbox sustainable dyeing solutions. These innovations enable the elimination of toxic processes, drastically reduce water usage, and support zero-discharge production models.

Today, more than 5,000 machines installed across over 70 countries are transforming denim production processes, reducing intensive water and chemical use, minimizing inefficient manual processes, and producing for some of the world's leading brands.

In addition, Jeanologia provides the industry with its EIM (Environmental Impact Measurement) platform, a tool that acts as a compass to measure, monitor, and improve the environmental impact of production processes, enabling brands and manufacturers to make data-driven decisions and move towards more responsible production.



“For years, sustainability was understood as a future commitment. Today, it is a measurable reality already in motion. The industry has the technology, the knowledge, and the responsibility to operate within the limits of the planet,” states Enrique Silla, CEO and founder of Jeanologia.

2025

21.520.000 m³

OF POLLUTED WATER SAVED

ENOUGH TO SUPPLY A CITY LIKE COPENHAGEN FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR

103.530.000 Kg

CO₂ EMISSIONS SAVINGS

EQUIVALENT TO THE CO₂ CAPTURED IN ONE YEAR BY A FOREST OF OVER 20,000 HECTARES

With this initiative, the company reinforces its role as a driving force for change within the textile industry, demonstrating that sustainability and efficiency can go hand in hand when there is real implementation at scale.

Through its ‘Mission Zero’ roadmap, Jeanologia continues to advance towards a dehydrated and detoxified textile industry, where water consumption is reduced to a minimum and environmental impact is eliminated.

At a time when access to water is one of the world’s greatest challenges, Jeanologia calls on the entire value chain – brands, manufacturers and consumers – to accelerate the transition towards more responsible production models. Because the future of fashion is defined not only by design, but by how it is made.

Jeanologia: 30 years leading the transformation of the textile industry

Since its founding, Jeanologia has been on a mission to transform the textile industry into a more ethical, sustainable, and efficient model. The company works closely with brands, retailers, and suppliers on this transformative journey, offering disruptive technologies, innovative software, and a new operational model. Their groundbreaking solutions, including laser technology, G2 ozone, Dancing Box, e-flow, H2Zero, and ColorBox, have redefined garment design and finishing standards, eliminating polluting processes and significantly reducing the use of water, energy, and chemicals. Thanks to these advancements, Jeanologia has saved millions of liters of water and eliminated harmful substances, turning its vision of a truly sustainable textile industry into reality.

GLOBAL SOURCING EXPO SYDNEY 2026: WHERE AUSTRALIA'S BUYERS MEET THE WORLD'S SUPPLIERS



Australia's sourcing, buying, and product development professionals will gather this June at the Global Sourcing Expo Sydney 2026, a three-day international trade event

designed to connect buyers with export-ready suppliers from across the globe.

Taking place 16 - 18 June 2026 at the International Convention Centre (ICC), Darling Harbour, Sydney, the Global Sourcing Expo brings together more than 600 companies from 15+ countries and regions, creating one of the most efficient sourcing environments available to Australian businesses.

Visitor registration is free, giving industry professionals direct access to a global network of manufacturers, factories, and supply partners in a single location.

A smarter way to source

Global sourcing has become more complex, competitive, and strategic than ever. The Global Sourcing Expo simplifies that process by allowing buyers to meet

suppliers face-to-face, compare capabilities, and accelerate sourcing decisions.

Attendees can explore suppliers from key sourcing regions including India, Pakistan, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and many more.

The real value of the Expo lies not just in the diversity of suppliers, but in the opportunity to compare product categories and capabilities across multiple countries in one place. By seeing manufacturers side-by-side, visitors can gain a clearer understanding of pricing structures and cost competitiveness, assess compliance maturity and certification standards, and evaluate production capacity and lead times. This ability to benchmark suppliers provides buyers with greater confidence when selecting partners and making informed sourcing decisions.



For many businesses, this ability to evaluate multiple options at once can also dramatically shorten the sourcing cycle and strengthen supply chain decisions.

The Expo is designed to facilitate meaningful, face-to-face discussions with manufacturers and sourcing partners. Across the three days, visitors can meet suppliers directly, ask detailed questions about production capability, compliance standards, and minimum order quantities, and explore how factories approach design collaboration, quality control, and logistics. These in-person conversations often provide insights that are difficult to gain through email or online sourcing platforms.



Who should attend

The Global Sourcing Expo is designed for professionals responsible for product and supply outcomes, including:

- Owners, directors, and senior management overseeing sourcing strategy
- Buyers and merchandise managers
- Designers and product developers scouting manufacturing capability
- Private label agents and brand teams looking for factory partners
- Quality, planning, and logistics managers validating supplier readiness

Visitors will get the most value from the Expo by arriving with a clear sourcing brief—defined product categories, target price points, required certifications, and realistic timelines. With more than 600 suppliers across the exhibition floor, having clear objectives helps attendees focus their time on the conversations that matter most.

Beyond the trade floor: a complete professional learning experience

Global Sourcing Expo Sydney 2026 goes beyond supplier discovery by offering a comprehensive professional learning program designed to help attendees navigate today's evolving sourcing landscape. New for 2026, two exciting additions — the Global Sourcing Summit Masterclass series and the Learning Lab — further expanding the program, alongside the established seminar series, supporting visitors with strategic insights, practical skills, and direct access to industry expertise.



Global Sourcing Seminars

Located directly on the Expo floor, the Global Sourcing Seminar Series offers fast, high-impact one-hour sessions delivered by industry specialists. These TED-style talks provide practical insights into the trends shaping buying decisions today, including AI in product development, sustainability and responsible sourcing, retail and eCommerce trends, and evolving supply chain strategies.

Designed to fit easily into a visitor's time on the exhibition floor, the seminars deliver concise, actionable insights that attendees can apply immediately. Seminar sessions are available for \$40 + GST per session.

Global Sourcing Summit Masterclass Series

New for 2026, the program introduces a full-day Masterclass series, designed to provide immersive learning and practical frameworks for modern sourcing and product businesses, giving attendees the opportunity to dive deeper into strategy, innovation, and commercial growth.

For professionals looking to think strategically about the future of sourcing, the Global Sourcing Summit delivers deeper insight through expert analysis, case studies, and forward-looking discussions. Early Bird rates are available for the Summit until 30 April 2026.



Masterclass sessions include:

Wednesday 17 June 2026

Sell More Stuff (Simpler): AI, Marketing, Strategy & Collaboration for Modern Product Businesses

Facilitated by Jenn Donovan & Therese Tarlinton

Thursday 18 June 2026

From Concept to Commercial Success: Building a Scalable, Sustainable Fashion Business

Facilitated by Jude Kingston

These one-day sessions bring together industry leaders, sourcing specialists, trend forecasters, and supply chain innovators, equipping delegates with the knowledge needed to make smarter sourcing decisions.



The Learning Lab

Another new key feature to 2026 of the Expo is the Learning Lab, a practical, interactive knowledge hub available to all visitors.

Included with free trade registration, the Learning Lab features:

- Ask the Expert sessions
- Round tables and workshops
- Live demonstrations
- Practical sourcing guidance
- Industry networking opportunities

The space is designed for buyers, importers, retailers, and sourcing professionals who want direct access to experienced practitioners and real-world advice.

A must-attend event for sourcing professionals

With hundreds of suppliers, multiple sourcing regions, and a comprehensive education program, the Global Sourcing Expo Sydney 2026 provides a rare opportunity for businesses to discover new suppliers, strengthen sourcing strategies, and stay ahead of global industry trends.

For anyone responsible for sourcing, product development, retail buying, or supply chain decisions, the Expo offers three days of high-value connections, insights, and opportunities.

Event Details

Global Sourcing Expo Sydney 2026

Tuesday 16 - Thursday 18 June 2026

International Convention Centre Sydney

APPAREL | ACCESSORIES | TEXTILES | HOME FURNISHINGS | FOOTWEAR

Australia's Ultimate Global Sourcing Destination



GLOBAL SOURCING EXPO SYDNEY

16-18 JUNE 2026





DUAL RECORD PARTICIPATION, SLEEP AND SUSTAINABILITY IN FOCUS AS INTERTEXTILE SHANGHAI HOME TEXTILES CONCLUDES FOR SPRING

Intertextile Shanghai Home Textiles – Spring Edition 2026 concluded on 13 March at the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai), achieving record highs in both exhibitor and visitor numbers. Nearly 380 exhibitors from six countries and regions connected with more than 28,500

visitors (12% increase) from 83 countries and regions. As well as higher international participation from countries such as Portugal and Uzbekistan, the fair gathered major regional industry clusters from China, showcasing excellent functional products – particularly within the expanding sleep economy – that blend cutting-edge production with evolving consumer demands for stylish, comfortable, and sustainable living solutions. This dynamic mix was vividly showcased across Hall 5.2, cementing the Spring Edition’s role as a noteworthy platform for industry advancement.

At the conclusion of the fair, Ms Wilmet Shea, General Manager of Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd, said: “Even on the first day, it was clear the result this spring would be good – and the record-breaking visitor figures reflect the platform’s growing influence. The show attracted new joiners such as the Uzbekistan Pavilion, expanding the exhibitor mix and enriching the global offering. Aligned with the trend of the expanding sleep economy, the related fringe events served as key platforms to promote industry exchange and development. Exhibitors reported high-quality leads from diverse buyers, signalling sustained market demand.”

Regional clusters and global debuts drew attention from buyers

China’s key regional clusters spotlighted exceptional functional products in down, quilts, bedding fabrics, and beyond. Standout products included certified eco-friendly woven and knitted bedsheets from Jiangyin Hongliu Bedsheet, anti-static conductive yarn bedding fabrics from Suzhou Qi Ye Knitting, and linen-hemp blends plus specially washed cotton jacquards from Ace Home. These offerings underscored the fair’s role in connecting global buyers with high-performance, sustainable home textiles tailored to diverse needs.

A key highlight amongst the overseas participation was the debut Uzbekistan Pavilion, featuring 12 exhibitors who showcased bedding and bathroom products crafted from high-quality cotton yarn. Patterned jacquard towels drew significant attention for their striking designs and appeal. The pavilion’s offerings skilfully blended traditional craftsmanship with modern sustainable production concepts, enriching the show’s diverse product mix.

Fringe insights: sleep innovations and trends

Complementing these regional and international strengths, the fair’s fringe programme sparked vital industry dialogue on emerging trends, in particular sleep. The Sleep Aid Summit and the Sleep Aid Display Area served as centrepieces for healthy sleep solutions, with the latter featuring five core themes, plus two new areas addressing temperature, touch, and visual comfort – a teen sleep colour initiative for stress relief and a “Sleep Strategic for Senior” space for seniors covering pre-sleep, in-sleep, and wake-up phases.

To amplify the buzz, other events included presentations from Ms Laurie Pressman, Vice President of Pantone Color Institute, on using colour for personal expression in homes, and Mr Jianming Zhang of Freudenberg Performance Materials Group, discussing the company’s materials for bedding applications.

Exhibitors' Feedback

"We're showcasing textured, cotton-like, and sleep-aid functional fabrics, that deliver exceptional hand-feel, skin-friendliness, and softness close to cotton, earning strong customer favour. Furthermore, we're also expanding across the sustainable product supply chain, focusing on recyclable fabric development. In home textiles, the sleep economy and sleep-tech product trends are evident, with more clients seeking fabrics that aid sleep and relieve stress. Intertextile Shanghai Home Textiles attracts a high proportion of targeted buyers, making it an ideal platform for face-to-face exchanges with new and existing clients, showcasing products, and enabling deeper future collaborations."

Ms Connie Peng, Assistant to General Manager, Wujiang City Yunjie Textiles Co Ltd, China

"This is our first time at the Spring Edition. China's luxury niche suits our Portuguese small-batch, high-end home textiles from natural fibres like linen, hemp, and innovative fire-retardant cork products for homes and hospitality. The fair's strength shines through strong buyer traffic; we've connected with many visitors from the US, Japan, Korea, and many affluent Chinese buyers appreciating our unique jacquards, designs, and certifications. They seek European taste and quality, confirming solid potential."

Ms Maria Alberta Canizes, Secretary General, Associação Home From Portugal

"This is the first time we have an Uzbekistan Pavilion here. Our main purpose is to promote Uzbek textile products - using our own cotton for yarns and home textiles like towels and bathrobes and show Chinese producers and buyers what we can make. China has the world's best textile production chain, offering huge potential. The fair connects us with diverse buyers; our exhibitors are busy meeting visitors and building contacts. We would like to return next spring with a stronger presence."

Mr Bakhtiyarov Shakhzod, Chief Specialist of the Investment Department, Agency for the Development of Light Industry under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan



"We've exhibited at Intertextile Shanghai Home Textiles for many years. This time, we are showcasing our new bathrobe and towel series with fresh materials, designs, and packaging. The fair has attracted diverse buyers, including many new and returning clients from Japan, Korea, Europe, the Middle East, and beyond. Chinese consumers now demand better aesthetics, quality, transparency, packaging, green production, factory audits, and raw materials - which we fully embrace. China's is the world's most complete home textile supply chain, boosted by the sleep economy's self-care trend, with which our skin-comfort products closely align."

Ms Quincy Liu, General Manager, Nantong No.1 Towel Factory Co., Ltd, China

Buyers' experiences



"This is my first time at the Spring Edition, and I'm impressed by the well-organised atmosphere with several promising booths for my industry. I source high-end upholstery and drapery fabrics from domestic manufacturers, for hospitality and cruising. The key requirement is fire retardancy, alongside sustainability, customisation, quick lead times, and reliable service for urgent sampling. The exhibitor response has been positive, with their unique construction qualities and evolving patterns setting them apart and making this a highly effective sourcing platform. I see strong potential and plan to return next year."

Mr Andrie Iglesias, Vice President, Andriali Contract, Türkiye

"I am sourcing high-end linen and blackout curtain fabrics. I have already connected with many Chinese suppliers and I am impressed by the quality and diversity of exhibitors. Eco-friendly products are in high demand, and I have seen particularly encouraging options among them. Overall, the show is proving to be an invaluable platform for building industry connections and exploring the latest market trends. I feel optimistic about the market outlook, and am already considering a return next year."

Mr Ismail Tasci, Owner, Het Gordijn Atelier, the Netherlands

"We attend the Spring Edition every year to tap into global industry trends and forge efficient business connections for international expansion. Its co-location with the yarn and apparel textile shows allows one-stop access to raw material suppliers, processors, home textile brands, overseas channels and full-chain partners. The eco-focused forums align perfectly with our certification, supply chain, and sustainability solutions, which clarify market needs and guide our strategy. The fair has exceeded our expectations for networking and trend insights, and boosted our confidence in sustainable global home textiles."

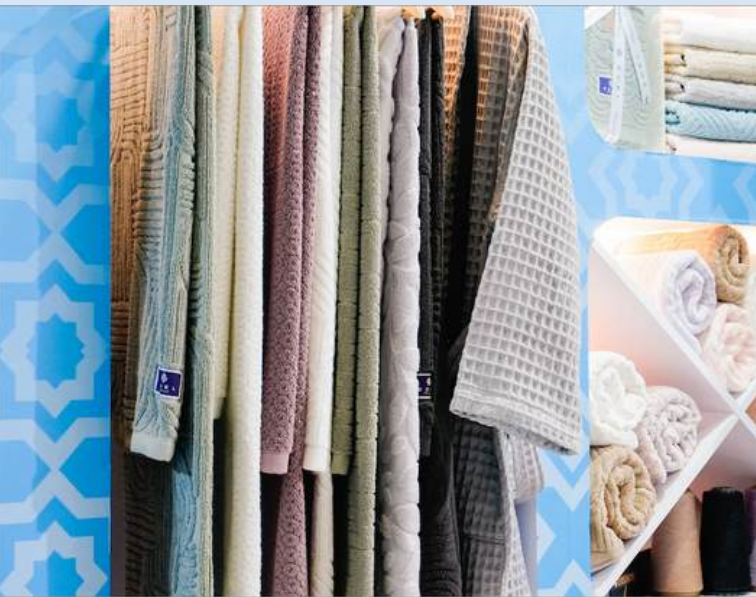
Ms Amy Zhang, Suzhou Green Plus Environmental Technology Services Co Ltd, China



Fringe speaker insights

“Intertextile Shanghai Home Textiles is an ideal platform to introduce our new fibres and classic applications in home and sleep scenarios, inspiring downstream brands while elevating our industry image and full-chain ecosystem. In the 2026 sleep economy, consumers refocus on essentials like temperature and humidity management – key to comfort in humid regions – prioritising breathable, body-contact fabrics over decor. Fibres play a pivotal role here, enabling brands to innovate across subdivided categories and living spaces for true relaxation.”

Ms Juliana Li, Business Development Manager, Lenzing Fibers (Shanghai) Co., Ltd., China (Speaker at “Fibers at the Core, Life Reborn”)



“This year’s fair reveals several clear trends: first, stronger regional cohesion in industry hubs like Zhejiang’s towel cluster and Hebei’s home textiles cluster; second, more niche segments emerging with small, specialised companies thriving – like brands focused on pet-friendly home textiles that perfectly target specific audiences despite modest scale; third, the sleep economy gaining momentum as companies shift from ‘selling products’ to ‘selling the sleep experience.’ Overall, the fair grows increasingly diverse, with larger companies paving the way for smaller exhibitors to grow with them.”

Mr Kevin Liu, Think Tank Expert, China Home Textile Association / China Sleep Research Society, China (Host at Roundtable: Platforms Empower Sleep Strategies in Home Textiles Industry)

Intertextile Shanghai Home Textiles – Spring Edition 2026 was held concurrently with Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics – Spring Edition, Yarn Expo Spring, CHIC and PH Value at the National Exhibition and Convention Center. The fair was organised by Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd; the Sub-Council of Textile Industry, CCPIT; and the China Home Textile Association (CHTA).



Groz-Beckert Showcases Innovations at Techtexsil Frankfurt 2026

From April 21 to 24, 2026, Groz-Beckert will present its latest innovations and solutions across the product areas of Knitting, Weaving, Nonwovens, and Sewing at Techtexsil in Frankfurt (Hall 12, Booth B90).

Knitting – Precision and efficiency in warp knitting

In the Warp Knitting segment, Groz-Beckert will showcase its comprehensive module portfolio. By ensuring optimal alignment of functions and tolerances across all components, these solutions deliver high precision, process reliability, and flexibility. Customers benefit from reduced setup times, minimized machine downtime, and consistently high productivity, even in demanding fine-gauge applications.

The DBxK5 SS variant is primarily used in sequin embroidery. Featuring an even shorter shank, it prevents sequins or other delicate appliqués from being damaged by the shank's penetration during stitching.

Weaving – Enabling high-performance technical fabrics

The Weaving product area will highlight solutions for demanding technical textile applications, with a focus on high-performance technical reeds.

Designed for fabrics with extremely high mesh counts, these reeds enable reliable production for both wire and synthetic materials. Manufactured using state-of-the-art processes and stringent quality standards, they ensure consistent fabric quality and long service life.

The portfolio is complemented by healds and drop wires, optimized for a wide range of technical applications and tailored to meet diverse production requirements.

Nonwovens – Driving efficiency through innovation and digitalization

In the Nonwovens segment, Groz-Beckert will present innovations designed to improve operational efficiency and process reliability.

Highlights include a newly developed needle that reduces insertion and removal time, extends needle board service life, and minimizes the risk of needle bending. In addition, the Groz-Beckert Needle Dispenser – part of the company's broader digital ecosystem – enables automated needle board management and supports more efficient production workflows.

The presentation is complemented by the unique Groz-Beckert Mounting Service for the Nonwovens Carding segment, the new CB-barb felting needle, and the staple fiber needle punch line. Laboratory services, including fiber analysis, further support customers in optimizing material selection and process performance.

Sewing – Digital quality management and advanced needle technology

A key highlight in the Sewing product area is INH 2.0 (Ideal Needle Handling), the next generation of Groz-Beckert's quality management system.

With a fully digital workflow, INH 2.0 enables end-to-end tracking of the needle lifecycle – from stock management and usage to disposal. New modules such as INH@Stock, INH@Routine, and INH@API enhance automation, improve transparency,

and support compliance requirements. The system builds on Groz-Beckert's broader digitalisation strategy, aimed at increasing efficiency and enabling data-driven processes.

In addition, Groz-Beckert will present its SANTM needle series for demanding applications.

Variants such as SANTM 5.2 and SANTM 6 ensure high process reliability in technical textiles and heavy fabrics, while SANTM 10 and SANTM 10 XS are designed for delicate materials requiring maximum protection.

The portfolio is complemented by the Litespeed™ needle, developed for heat-intensive sewing processes, ensuring stability at high speeds and in multi-layer applications.

Digital tools such as the "Needle Finder" and the "Groz-Beckert Sewing" video series further support customers with practical, application-oriented expertise.

TEZ – Innovation, development, and application expertise

At Techtexsil, Groz-Beckert's Technology and Development Center (TEZ) will be presented through an interactive 360° virtual experience.

Visitors will gain insights into the services and capabilities of the TEZ as well as its Technical Centers. The TEZ serves as a central platform for collaboration, innovation, and solution development – combining digital experiences with on-site expert interaction.



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

GROZ-BECKERT

A Strategic Shift: Can U.S. Cotton Unlock New Growth for Turkey's Textile Exports?



Cotton as a Strategic Lever in Global Textile Trade

Despite representing only a small fraction of global trade volume, cotton remains one of the most strategically significant commodities in the textile supply chain. For Turkey, the importance is even more pronounced.

The country's annual cotton demand stands at approximately 1.6 million tons, yet domestic production covers only half of this requirement. The remaining 800,000 tons are sourced through imports, making supply stability a critical issue for the industry.

In this context, U.S. cotton plays a vital role. Known for its consistent quality, standardized grading, and reliable supply chains, American cotton has become a cornerstone for Turkey's spinning sector. It acts as a safeguard for production continuity and export competitiveness. From a U.S. perspective, cotton extends beyond agriculture. It functions as a geoeconomic instrument, influencing global textile flows, supporting domestic farming through subsidies, and serving as a strategic component in international trade relations—particularly in competition with other major players.

A

s global textile markets navigate ongoing uncertainty, industry stakeholders are increasingly turning toward targeted, strategic solutions rather than large-scale policy interventions. One emerging concept gaining attention is the growing role of U.S. cotton in Turkey's textile and apparel trade strategy.

Recent industry developments indicate that Turkey may expand its imports of American cotton while simultaneously strengthening its exports of cotton-based garments to the United States. More importantly, discussions are reportedly underway around potential tariff advantages for products manufactured using U.S. cotton, a move that could reshape bilateral textile trade dynamics.

This approach reflects a broader shift toward trade diplomacy-driven growth, where raw materials become tools for unlocking market access rather than merely inputs in production.



Rising Competition: The Brazil Factor

While the United States remains a dominant supplier, Brazil has rapidly strengthened its position in the global cotton market. Cost pressures and pricing dynamics have made Brazilian cotton increasingly attractive, intensifying competition in key markets, including Turkey.

Currently, the global cotton supply landscape is largely shaped by a handful of major exporters. The United States and Brazil together account for nearly half of global supply, followed by West African countries, Australia, India, and other emerging producers.

This competitive environment highlights the importance of diversified sourcing strategies and reinforces the need for long-term trade partnerships.



Trade Barriers and Market Access Challenges

One of the key challenges facing Turkish apparel exporters is access to the U.S. market. Cotton-based garments exported from Turkey are subject to customs duties ranging between 10% and 20%, alongside potential anti-dumping measures depending on the product category.

In addition to tariffs, factors such as freight costs and currency fluctuations further complicate pricing strategies, reducing competitiveness in one of the world's largest consumer markets.

Against this backdrop, the idea of linking raw material sourcing with trade incentives offers a pragmatic solution. By integrating U.S. cotton into the production chain, Turkish exporters may gain improved access conditions, creating a mutually beneficial trade framework.



A New Era of Textile Trade Diplomacy

The evolving role of cotton in Turkey-U.S. relations reflects a broader transformation in global trade practices. Increasingly, success in international markets depends not only on production capacity or pricing, but on the ability to align with strategic supply chains and policy frameworks.

For Turkey's textile sector, this approach could serve as a short- to mid-term catalyst, supporting export growth while domestic production capacity continues to develop.

Ultimately, this model underscores a key reality of modern trade: market access is often determined not by large agreements alone, but by the strategic positioning of the right product within the right value chain.



TUNISIAN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS SHOWCASE TECHNICAL TEXTILE EXPERTISE AT TECHTEXTIL 2026

Tunisia's textile industry is gaining renewed international visibility as leading academic institutions showcase their expertise at Techtextil 2026. As part of the national pavilion, École Nationale d'Ingénieurs de Monastir and Institut Supérieur des Études Technologiques de Ksar Hellal are presenting their capabilities in high-value and technical textile development, highlighting the growing role of academia in driving industry transformation.

Supported by the International Trade Centre through the GTEX/MENATEX Tunisia project, and in collaboration with the Fédération Tunisienne du Textile et de l'Habillement, their participation reflects a coordinated effort to strengthen Tunisia's position in advanced textile segments.

At a time when technical textiles are emerging as a major growth engine, both institutions are showcasing expertise in areas such as personal protective equipment (PPE), medical textiles, automotive applications, and geotextiles. Their presence underscores the importance of aligning research, education, and industrial needs to build a future-ready workforce.

Sustainability and performance are central to their research focus, with ongoing projects aimed at developing innovative textile solutions that meet global standards while addressing environmental challenges. This approach mirrors broader industry trends, where innovation increasingly depends on cross-sector collaboration.

By combining academic excellence with industrial ambition, Tunisia is positioning itself not just as a manufacturing hub, but as a competitive player in knowledge-driven, high-value textile production.

#FTTL **ITC**
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à Techtextil 2026

DU 21 AU 24 AVRIL | FRANCFORT
ENIM : HALL 12.1 – STAND F51
ISET : HALL 12.1 – STAND F53

AMEC AMTEX MEMBERS TO SHOWCASE STRONG PRESENCE AT TECHTEXTIL 2026



Spanish technology providers highlight innovation across textile machinery and solutions

Members of AMEC AMTEX are set to demonstrate a strong presence at Techtextil 2026, reinforcing Spain's position as a key hub for advanced textile technologies.

A group of leading Spanish companies will present their latest solutions across machinery, coating, finishing, and recycling technologies. Among the participating firms:

- PICVISA – Hall 12.0, Stand D43
- COMSAT – Hall 12.0, Stand E19
- RIUS-COMATEX – Hall 12.0, Stand C76
- Twistechnology – Hall 12.0, Stand D01
- Icomatex – Hall 12.0, Stand A67
- Talleres Ratera – Hall 12.0, Stand C72
- TVE ESCALE – Hall 12.0, Stand D43

These companies represent a wide spectrum of advanced textile solutions, from coating and finishing systems to AI-driven recycling technologies and high-performance machinery.

The coordinated presence of AMEC AMTEX members highlights the growing importance of Spanish innovation in technical textiles, particularly in areas such as sustainability, Industry 4.0 integration, and process efficiency.

By supporting its members at major international platforms, AMEC AMTEX continues to play a key role in promoting Spanish textile technology worldwide and strengthening global industry partnerships.





Spanish Solutions for Textiles

More
sustainable
than ever

amec *amtex*

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](#)



Spanish Solutions for Textiles

More
sustainable
than ever



62 companies

45 of them with
outstanding international
presence



479.903.000€ in turnover

65% coming from exports



Presence in 16 international events

Capacity to serve worldwide

**Our team has more that 50 years of
experience in international promotion and
a vast knowledge of the Spanish Industry.**

What can we do for you:

- Assess any company looking for **textile technology suppliers.**
- Assist foreign buyers by organizing virtual or presential **B2B meetings and roadshows.**
- Collaborate with trade shows organizers to promote **international events.**

[More information](#)



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EUROPE MUST REACH A TIPPING POINT TO SCALE TEXTILE-TO-TEXTILE RECYCLING, NEW BCG AND REHUBS REPORT FINDS

- Europe's textile sector lacks a shared, harmonized fact base on textile waste, making it difficult for industry, policymakers and investors to align on the scale of the challenge and the solutions required.
- This report establishes a first unified baseline for textile waste in Europe and assesses what it would take to scale textile-to-textile (T2T) recycling by 2035.
- The analysis identifies a critical tipping point of around c. 2.7 Mt of textile-to-textile recycling per year needed for a viable circular textile ecosystem in Europe.
- While the technology exists, the economics do not yet work at scale. Reaching this milestone will require approximately €8-11 billion in capital investment and €5-6.5 billion in recurring annual operating costs by 2035, alongside mechanisms to close the cost gap across the value chain.
- Coordinated action across the entire textile value chain is essential to unlock scale and enable a circular textile economy in Europe, a transformation that ReHubs is helping to drive.

A

new report from Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and ReHubs, titled "Advancing Textile Circularity - Europe's textile waste challenge: Scaling Textile-to-Textile requires enabling mechanisms", highlights the

urgent need for systemic action to tackle Europe's growing textile waste and scale a circular textile economy.

The report establishes the first harmonized fact base on textile waste in Europe. It finds that Europe generates around 15.2 million tonnes of textile waste every year, including 13.3 million tonnes of post-consumer waste. However, only a small share of this waste is collected and sorted for recycling, leaving most textile waste outside recycling systems.

As a result, textile-to-textile recycling currently represents less than 1% of post-consumer textile

waste in Europe. At the same time, waste volumes continue to rise rapidly. Without decisive action, Europe's textile waste could reach the equivalent of around 80 football stadiums filled with discarded textiles every year by 2035.

The report shows that scaling textile-to-textile recycling is technically possible but requires reaching a critical tipping point of c. 2.7 million tonnes of recycling annually by 2035 to unlock economies of scale and make the ecosystem viable.

Reaching this milestone will require €8-11 billion in capital investment and €5-6.5 billion in recurring annual operating costs, as well as coordinated supply- and demand-side measures across the value chain.



Advancing textile circularity

*Europe's textile waste challenge:
Scaling Textile-to-Textile requires
enabling mechanisms*



Robert van de Kerkhof, CEO at ReHubs commented:

“Europe has the opportunity to build a truly circular textile ecosystem, but it will require systemic change across the entire value chain. Textile-to-textile recycling is technically possible today, but scaling it requires coordinated action from industry, policymakers, and investors. Through collaboration across the value chain, ReHubs is helping to drive the transformation needed to build a circular textile economy in Europe.”

Robert van de Kerkhof, CEO at ReHubs commented:

Nicolas Manuelli, Managing Director & Partner at BCG commented:

“This report shows that scaling textile-to-textile recycling in Europe is achievable, but it requires the right economic conditions. Textile-to-textile recycled fibers are a new product category with higher processing costs, meaning they will not scale without enabling mechanisms. Supply-side and demand-side measures, combined with appropriate financing tools and supportive trade and industrial policies, will be essential to unlock investment and accelerate the transition to a circular textile system.”

The analysis also underlines that textile-to-textile recycled fibers represent a new product category with structurally higher processing costs. Under current market conditions, they cannot compete directly with incumbent recycled materials or virgin fibers without targeted enabling mechanisms and coordinated policy support.

Scaling textile circularity will therefore require coordinated collaboration across the entire value chain, from improved collection and sorting infrastructure to demand signals from brands and clear policy frameworks that support investment and innovation.

APPP EXPO

上海国际广印展



APPPEXPO 2026 Preview: “Smart Factory Era” for Cutting & Engraving



The 2026 APPPEXPO Shanghai International Advertising and Printing Exhibition is gearing up to spotlight a major industry shift toward automation and flexible production as cutting and engraving technologies enter the “Smart Factory Era.” Scheduled for March 4-7, 2026 at the National Exhibition and Convention Center in Shanghai, the event is set to bring together global leaders in intelligent manufacturing and digital production solutions.

Automation Meets Cutting & Engraving

Under the theme of “Automation and Flexibility,” the APPPEXPO 2026 preview highlights how intelligent cutting and engraving technologies are transforming workflows across advertising, packaging, signage, textiles, and industrial fabrication. Manufacturers and suppliers are expected to demonstrate the latest advancements in precision, efficiency, and digital integration — reflecting a broader trend toward smart production environments that boost capacity and reduce manual intervention. By emphasizing cross-industry collaboration and diversified applications, the show aims to foster deeper engagement among exhibitors, buyers, and end-users, reinforcing APPPEXPO’s role as a pivotal global trade platform.



CONNECT CREATE

Shanghai International Digital Textile Printing Expo

2026.3.4-7
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RETECH TO SHOWCASE ADVANCED GODET TECHNOLOGIES AT TECHTEXTIL 2026

R

RETECH Aktiengesellschaft of Switzerland will present its latest godet and draw frame technologies at Techtextil 2026, taking place from April 21–24, 2026 in Frankfurt. Visitors can find the company at Hall 12, Stand B01, where RETECH will highlight solutions designed to improve yarn quality and process efficiency in fiber production.

Precision Heat Treatment for High-Performance Fibers

RETECH specializes in the design and manufacture of godets and draw frames used in heated, ambient, and cooled processing stages of synthetic fiber production. These systems enable precise thermal treatment of yarns, supporting stable processing conditions across a wide range of polymers and applications.

The company's technologies can operate at process temperatures of up to 400 °C, making them suitable for the production of high-performance fibers. A core strength of RETECH lies in its ability to deliver highly accurate and stable control of both temperature and speed, tailored to the specific characteristics of different materials and manufacturing processes.

Induction Heating Technology Enhances Process Control

RETECH's advanced induction heating systems, available in both single-zone and multi-zone configurations, provide precise temperature control across the entire godet surface. This ensures highly uniform heat distribution and allows manufacturers to influence key yarn properties such as tenacity, elongation, and shrinkage, ultimately contributing to consistent final product quality. Energy efficiency and durability are central to the RETECH design philosophy. Optimized heating systems, efficient drive solutions, and a robust mechanical structure combine to extend equipment lifespan while maximizing machine availability.

Smart Monitoring for Reliable Operation

An important component of the RETECH system is the UTR-6A non-contact temperature measuring and transmission system, which continuously records temperature data directly from the rotating godet. The data is transferred to the UCR-6 controller, enabling precise regulation and real-time monitoring.

This technology supports preventive maintenance by protecting critical components such as the godet, bearing systems, and induction heater. At the same time, it helps maintain stable production conditions and contributes to improved sustainability in fiber manufacturing operations.

At Techtextil 2026, RETECH will demonstrate how advanced temperature control, intelligent monitoring, and energy-efficient design can support high-quality yarn production and reliable industrial performance across the global technical textiles sector.



COMING SOON! HOMETEX SHENZHEN 2026 – ASIA'S PREMIER HOME FURNISHING EXPO OPENS ON 7 MARCH 2026!

Elite Exhibitor Lineup: Industry Leaders Under One Roof

Hometex Shenzhen 2026, themed Sustainability, Crossover & Innovation, has gathered top industry suppliers—bringing together the best players from every part of the market. The carefully selected exhibitors include high-quality, high-performance fabric companies: full-service solution providers, segment leaders, and skilled craft specialists such as Aico Home Textile, YYBS Home, Qianbaihui Weaving, Z-Home, Hengli, Haining Lunbo Textile, Mingjing Textile and BQ Textile. It also welcomes well-known industry companies like JBL, Molik, Birkin and IKEA.

For 30 years, Hometex Shenzhen has been the home and soft furnishing industry's trusted platform for brand launches, global business growth, and trendsetting. Taking place 7-10 March 2026, this year's fair builds on this legacy with 100,000 sqm of exhibition space, 8 themed pavilions, and over 800 exhibitors covering the entire supply chain.

It features a wide range of products: home textiles & fabrics, wall decorations, window treatments, custom furniture, smart home systems, and home accessories. More than just a product show, it presents complete soft furnishing solutions, modern living spaces, and smart home ecosystems. As a one stop industry platform, it connects design, R&D, production, and global sales. It remains the Asia's premier event for brand launches, business matching, design innovation, and trend leadership.

Joining this diverse group are leading enterprises from five key sectors:

- World-class imported fabric brands: AS Création, JAB, Euroart, Casamance, Limonta and Maestro;
- High-end wall covering pioneers: Uniwal, Minga, Birkley, Yulan and Shoji Décor, all ready to show their highly anticipated 2026 collections;
- Famous art paint brands: Louis Long, Mullano, Hohenberger and Eleniavita;
- Top smart window treatment providers: Dooya, Xidamen, Yongfeng Aluminium (YFA), Coulisse and MSJ Smart Home;
- Premium carpet brands: Shengduolan, HOPD Carpet, Glubo Carpet and D.Sermer.



Under one roof, these industry leaders will showcase their fine craftsmanship, innovative designs and custom high-end home solutions—giving global attendees a unique look at the future of the home furnishings industry.



Tailored Global Sourcing: Precision Business Matchmaking

To make global sourcing easier and support effective cross-border cooperation, Hometex Shenzhen 2026 has created a special Business Matchmaking Zone just for international buyers. This key feature offers a smooth, efficient sourcing experience. The zone connects global buyers with pre-matched suppliers for one-on-one, personalized meetings. This cuts out the inefficiency of searching widely and lets buyers focus on high-value discussions that speed up partnerships and negotiations. To make these connections even more targeted, the fair will host three themed matchmaking sessions, each focused on a major product category with fixed time slots to ensure focused and productive meetings.

HOMETEX SHENZHEN 2026

Business Matchmaking Zone Your Right Supplier Matchmaker

Dates: 7-8 March 2026

Location: Booth 3B09, Hall 3

Organizer: Hometex Shenzhen 2026

Topic-Focused Sourcing Sessions

2026
07 March
14:00-16:00

Curtain & Curtain Fabric
Sourcing Session

2026
08 March
10:30-12:30

Wall Coverings
Sourcing Session

2026
08 March
14:00-16:00

Sun Protection
Sourcing Session

High-Profile Concurrent Events: Ideation & Innovation Unleashed

Hometex Shenzhen 2026 will not only offer exceptional business opportunities, but also feature a wide range of high-quality concurrent events. Combining cutting-edge design, industry insights, trend forecasting and interactive experiences, it creates a multi-dimensional intellectual and creative showcase for the global home furnishings community.

Harmony & Inspiration 2026 Interior Trends Exhibition

Dates 7-10 March

Location Hall 3

Organizers
Hometex Shenzhen 2026, WGSN



INTRODUCTION

In partnership with global trend authority WGSN, we bring together top home brands worldwide to define 2026 future living and launch cutting-edge interior trends.

Featuring exhibition zones, forums and a wonder market, we create an ecosystem from inspiration to realization, offering a complete vision for the future of lifestyle.

-Four Seasons Garden Zone: Reimagining Future Outdoor Living

For outdoor living enthusiasts, the 2026 Hometex Shenzhen • Four Seasons Garden Outdoor Shading & Courtyard Zone (Booth 9C66, Hall 9) is jointly presented by Hometex Shenzhen, Modu and Garden Gathering. It redefines outdoor living with an immersive display of forward-thinking outdoor space solutions.

A strategic response to the fast-growing global wellness and outdoor living trends, the zone acts as a high-end platform for trend insights, innovative products and targeted business opportunities. It features two signature events:

- New Ecology of Outdoor Living, exploring the intersection of technology, design and human-centric values in modern outdoor spaces.
- English-style Floral Salon, a special International Women's Day event offering one-stop outdoor living solutions, interactive floral workshops and exclusive gifts for attendees.

- Harmony & Inspiration 2026: Defining Future Interior Trends

A standout highlight of the fair is the Harmony & Inspiration 2026 Interior Trends Exhibition, taking place in Hall 3 from March 7 to 10. In a landmark collaboration with global trend authority WGSN, Hometex Shenzhen brings together leading home brands from around the world to shape the future of living and unveil the latest cutting-edge interior design trends for 2026. With immersive display zones, insightful industry forums and a vibrant lifestyle market, it builds a complete ecosystem from creative inspiration to real-world application, giving attendees a holistic vision of the future lifestyle and design.

2026 Hometex Shenzhen • Four Seasons Garden Outdoor Shading & Courtyard Zone

Dates 7-10 March

Location 9C66, Hall 9

Hosted by
Hometex Shenzhen 2026

Co-created by
Modu, Garden Gathering

CORE CONCEPT

Bringing the Outdoors In, Extending Life Beyond. An immersive platform for outdoor lifestyle experience, trend insights and trade. Visitors can enjoy one-stop solutions, floral workshops and exclusive gifts.



EVENTS

07 March 10:00-17:30

New Ecology of Outdoor Living
(Integration of Technology, Design & Humanism)

08 March 10:00-12:30

English-style Floral Salon (for International Women's Day)

World Youth Design Forum

Dates
15:00-17:00, 8 Mar 2026

Location
2V66, Forum Zone, Hall 2

Hosted by
Hometex Shenzhen 2026



AGENDA

15:00-15:05 ▶ Opening Speech

15:05-15:25 ▶ Luxury Textile Path - Rosalba Fucci (TOM FORD Chief Designer)

15:25-15:40 ▶ British Luxury Home Textiles & Art - Linnea Duckworth (Textile Artist)

15:40-15:55 ▶ Nature, Textiles & Words - Katerina Knight (Textile Art Expert)

15:55-16:10 ▶ Woven Fabric R&D - Hua Zishan (Dash+Miller Chinese Art Consultant)

16:10-16:25 ▶ Danish Home Textiles - Nikolina Boldero (Kvadrat Consultant)

16:25-17:00 ▶ Panel Discussion

-World Youth Design Forum: Shaping a Sustainable Design Future

The fair reinforces its dedication to design innovation and sustainable development with the World Youth Design Forum. In partnership with 5 leading international textile and fabric design experts, the forum will host in-depth discussions on material innovation, artisanal craftsmanship, contemporary design, and a sustainable future for the industry. The event will include keynote speeches from each distinguished guest, followed by an engaging panel discussion that will inspire transformative ideas for the next generation of home furnishings design.

-New Product Launch Series: Unveiling the Latest Industry Innovations

Additionally, the 2026 Exhibitors New Product Launch series will take place from March 7 to 9 in the Forum Zones of Hall 3 and Hall 9. Attendees will get direct access to the latest products, technological innovations and trend forecasts from leading exhibitors, with brand representatives available for one-on-one consultations.

Highlight sessions include:

- The 2025 Color Trend Conference (JAB New Product Launch)
- AS Création's launch of its integrated soft furnishings and home décor solutions, as well as the 2026 Harvest Home trend
- Islemill's in-depth sharing on natural textile inspiration and applications
- YYBS's 2026 S/S New Products & Trend Launch themed Freedom Beyond Style
- SOPHIEREN's special session Aesthetic Coexistence
- A groundbreaking presentation on tech-forge protection that sets a new benchmark for healthy curtains

2026 Exhibitors New Product Launch

INTRODUCTION

The event features exhibitors introducing their latest products and technologies, sharing industry trends, and offering visitors direct communication opportunities with enterprise representatives.

AGENDA

Hall 3 Forum Zone	7 March 13:00-13:45	2025 Color Trend Conference (JAB New Product Launch)
	8 March 13:00-14:00	AS Création's Transformation to Holistic Soft Furnishings & Home Décor Solutions – 2026 Harvest Home Trend Launch
	9 March 10:00-11:45	Islemill: Inspiration Source & Natural Textile Applications
Hall 9 Forum Zone	8 March 11:00-11:45	Freedom Beyond Style YYBS 2026 S/S New Products & Trend Launch
	8 March 14:45-15:30	Aesthetic Coexistence — SOPHIEREN Special Session
	7 March 15:45-16:30	Tech-Forge Protection, Redefining the Benchmark for Healthy Curtains

Join Hometex Shenzhen this March & Shape the New Future of Home Furnishings

Featuring a prestigious lineup of leading exhibitors, customized global sourcing solutions, trend-setting displays and inspiring industry events, Hometex Shenzhen 2026 is set to become the most influential home furnishings event in the Asia-Pacific region this year. Global home furnishing professionals, designers, buyers and industry enthusiasts are sincerely invited to join this grand opening event of the year from March 7 to 10, 2026, and explore the new future of the home furnishings industry together.





Hometex

Shenzhen 2026

One Stop Sourcing Event for Window and Wall Coverings

Why Visit?

- ✓ **Targeted Networking:** with spanning over 100,000+ m² exhibition space, bringing together over 800+ suppliers across 4 days
- ✓ **One-Stop Sourcing Platform:** all aspects of the industrial chain under one roof
- ✓ **Affordable Excellence:** Premium quality & competitive prices
- ✓ **Innovative Trends:** The latest trends and product innovations
- ✓ **Advanced Technology Integration:** Cutting-edge technologies: UV protection, energy-saving & beyond
- ✓ **Sustainable Solutions:** Eco-friendly materials & practices

100,000+m²
Exhibition Space

800+
Exhibitors

100,000+
Visits

50+
Events

07-10
March 2026
Shenzhen, China




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INTERTEXTILE APPAREL SHAKES UP GLOBAL SECTOR WITH NEW TRENDS, INNOVATIONS ACROSS THREE BUSINESS-DRIVEN DAYS IN SHANGHAI

F

aced by both trade and travel uncertainty, Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics – Spring Edition 2026 nevertheless delivered strong results, with participants praising the platform’s leading role facilitating sustainable innovation, digitalisation, trends, and trade in the international apparel textile sector. Over 96,000 visitors from 119 countries and regions explored the offerings of over 3,000 exhibitors from 11 to 13 March at the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai), where in vogue, high-potential textiles for SS 2027 were clearly demonstrated. Beyond the booths, various fringe events and product displays presented vital platforms for many new materials and process improvements to reach a wider audience.

Speaking at the show’s close, Ms Wilmet Shea, General Manager of Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd, said: “The market landscape is presenting several challenges, yet the industry continues to put its faith in Intertextile Apparel - this is indicated by our excellent exhibitor return rate and steady visitor flow, with international participation remaining strong. It is clear China is helping to pave the way for the fashion industry’s functional, digital, and sustainable evolution, which makes this flagship fair - one of the biggest in the world for apparel textiles - crucial for global exchange across traditional and emerging markets.”



International exhibitors returned to the show at a rate of over 60%, with several debutants aiding a slight overall increase in the total. On the international side, eight featured zones, seven country/region pavilions, and three group pavilions gave visitors much to explore across the three days. For the fair's more than 100 overseas and domestic VIP buyers, and 200 buyers from 10 international delegations, various tours and business matching sessions made onsite sourcing more convenient.

Within the fringe programme, leading experts presented topics covering fashion, performance, sustainability, and innovation to over 4,500 participants at 50 events, while nearly 1,500 samples were displayed at the Intertextile Directions Trend Forum, the Econogy Hub Display Area, the new Pet Boutique, and The CUBE at Functional Lab – making on-trend and cutting-edge fabrics quick to compare, and relevant exhibitors easier to find.

Sustainable innovation: fairgoers deliver keen insights on China's textile market

At the fair, Lenzing organised a pavilion and featured in the fringe programme, using both avenues to gain an even stronger foothold in the domestic market. "Chinese consumers' awareness of TENCEL™ has exceeded 60%, with 92% of those willing to purchase derived products," said **Ms Maggie Li, Marketing Head, Textile China at Lenzing**. "We want to convey these positive downstream signals to our B2B clients at the fair, while launching our new TENCEL™ Lyocell HV100 fibre has attracted numerous visitors making enquiries."

Mr Fred Wang, the company's BD Manager for Functional Wear, said: "Pet-related spending has compounded at some 15% for five straight years, opening unprecedented opportunities for pet textile fabrics. We aim to leverage Intertextile Apparel's strong influence to attract more pet industry players through the Pet Boutique, while in the related Pet Forum I was honoured to discuss the applications of our natural fibres in the sector."

Domestic buyers of more traditional apparel textiles were also optimistic despite macro-economic uncertainties. **Mr Yanchi Shao, General Manager of Yagang Lace, said:** "Against the backdrop of a complex economic situation intertwined with trade frictions, we are facing challenges with our client base and securing orders – which further underscores the importance of attending large-scale, industry-benchmarking fairs like Intertextile Apparel. I remain confident in China's sustainable development prospects; as the world's largest textile producer, it is the preferred destination of international buyers, and in recent years has made significant progress in R&D and innovation."





Exhibitors' Feedback

"The industry is accelerating its evolution towards digitisation, traceability, and the circular economy, and our core value lies in providing in-depth support that aligns perfectly – from testing services to ensure export compliance, to dissemination of trend information – empowering our clients to stay ahead. This fair brings together buyers from around the world, particularly from our core Asian market, enabling us to connect with many potential and existing partners in one location. Despite our global recognition, we still regard this as a vital platform for client engagement."

Mr Rainer Roten, CEO, TESTEX AG, Switzerland

"We'll keep coming back to Intertextile Apparel because Asia has huge potential as a new, untapped market for us. It's now a trend leader, with buyers currently seeking a lot of stripes and checks. At this fair, some massive companies previously unknown to us have made orders and enquiries. Just 10 minutes ago, we had a lead for 200,000 metres of fabric. There's now very little that can match Turkish fabric performance-wise, and the new Türkiye Pavilion is brilliant – with everyone together, there's a much higher chance of buyers exploring our stand."

Mr Selçuk Türkoğlu, Sales Specialist, Marsala Textile, Türkiye

"The Chinese market is continuously increasing demand for natural fibres, with high-end precious fibres gaining more favour. At the same time, consumers are no longer seeking the ostentatious, instead placing value on products that are luxurious but also sustainable, easy to wear, and comfortable. Intertextile Apparel has been our primary channel for Chinese market entry for 25 to 27 years; especially in the past two years, we have connected with many new clients here, particularly from the online sector. This fair's value to our business development is truly irreplaceable."

Mr Andrea Rossi, CEO, Lanificio Luigi Colombo S.p.A, Italy



“Intertextile Apparel is an excellent platform to acquire customers, promote our products and brand, and hold in-depth discussions. This is our first time at the Spring Edition, and judging by the first day’s results, it has truly exceeded our expectations. As well as meeting our existing European and American clients, numerous new buyers showed strong interest. The global demand for functional fabrics is rising, especially in China, driven by consumers’ growing inclination towards healthy lifestyles and sports like badminton and skiing.”

Ms Eva Zhu, Fabric Business Unit/Vice Director, Hyosung International Trade (Jiaxing), China

“This was our first time exhibiting at the fair, and both the footfall and industry-focused quality of leads far exceeded our expectations, making networking highly efficient. We chose this influential platform primarily to attract international clients. The breadth of brands, trading companies, and overseas buyers in attendance is impressive, and many expressed strong interest in our core products. Our sustainable philosophy aligns perfectly with the fair’s ethos, validating our specialisation in functional products. Overall, it was an excellent experience, and we will definitely continue to participate in future editions.”

Ms Ming-yang Zhang, Marketing Department, CPL New Material Technology Co Ltd (Umahemp), Japan





Visitors' comments

"This edition's Intertextile Directions Trend Forum is amazing - it's bigger, better, with more variety. You can not only see what's trending but also take pictures and find the suppliers. The trend of brown and earth tones is so strong this season, which is exciting for us. I've also just seen an embroidered women's suiting fabric that we can apply to menswear tuxedo jackets, and I'll go visit the stand. This edition's had more innovation; I've met five new mills, and I only add suppliers to my list if they've done something really special."

Ms Marissa Falting, Formal Senior Designer, POLITIX, Australia

"At the fair, we have seen a growing number of suppliers developing staple fibre and Tencel-blended fabrics for the baby sector, achieving ultimate softness as well as eco-friendly dyeing and sustainable production. Intertextile Apparel is more than just a sourcing platform; it is an industry bellwether and inspiration hub, allowing us to compare the latest domestic and international technology. Our team is not only visiting booths but also prioritising the fringe events, especially the material-themed discussions, which help us grasp the technological direction of the entire industry from a macro perspective."

Mr Yanbo Wang, Infant Wear R&D Expert, Babycare, China

"As a delegation composed of 15 garment pattern producers, our main objectives at Intertextile Apparel were to keep abreast of fashion trends, seek suitable suppliers, and pay close attention to the industry's digital transformation. Upon arriving, we were deeply impressed, especially with the fair's enormous scale. Our focused visits to exhibitors' booths and venue exploration have yielded fruitful results, while the centralised display model enabled us to efficiently connect with suppliers, quickly assess cooperation potential, and complete industry exchange."

Mr Azamat Alymkulov, Executive Director, Textile Development Center, Kyrgyzstan



Speaker's insights

"There's actually so much value in waste and so much of it in the market. The panel gave really useful insights into the different perspectives of designers, NGOs and manufacturers, showing their challenges and the opportunities to work together to meet them. It's also very inspiring to see the interesting exhibitors with innovative solutions here at Intertextile Apparel, and the amount of conversation that's being had around sustainability and circularity at a big forum like this is really exciting and important for visibility."

Ms Nissa Cornish, Executive Director, Redress, Hong Kong

(Moderator at Econogy Forum - Redefining Fashion: Waste is the New Resource)



The fair was co-organised by Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd; the Sub-Council of Textile Industry, CCPIT; and the China Textile Information Centre. It took place alongside Yarn Expo Spring, Intertextile Shanghai Home Textiles - Spring Edition, CHIC and PH Value at the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai).



OUTLAST BRINGS FRESH2SKIN® COOLING TECHNOLOGY TO COTTON AND VISCOSE

O

utlast Technologies has expanded its fresh2SKIN® cooling technology to cellulose-based fibers such as cotton and viscose, enabling brands to combine natural materials with a refreshing cooling effect and long-lasting thermal comfort.

The latest development allows fresh2SKIN® to be applied while maintaining an exceptionally natural and soft handfeel.

The finish is virtually imperceptible on the textile, preserving the smooth, flexible character that consumers expect from cotton and viscose fabrics.

What consumers experience instead is the benefit: an immediate, pleasantly cool sensation when the fabric touches the skin.

This instant sensory effect can create a strong purchase impulse at the point of sale. Unlike many textile technologies that remain invisible to the consumer, fresh2SKIN® provides a cooling experience that can be felt immediately, for example, when trying on a T-shirt equipped with the technology.

fresh2SKIN® combines instant freshness with lasting comfort. While the textile delivers an immediate cooling sensation upon skin contact, integrated microcapsules containing natural wax help absorb excess body heat and release it again when temperatures drop. This supports a more balanced microclimate and can help reduce sweating during the day or night.

“Achieving this exceptionally natural handfeel on cellulose-based fibers such as cotton or viscose was a key objective for our development team,” says Volker Schuster, Head of Research & Development at Outlast Technologies. “Our goal was to integrate the fresh2SKIN® functionality without compromising the authentic character of these materials. The result are textiles that feel completely natural while delivering an immediately noticeable cooling effect.”

The development opens new opportunities for next-to-skin applications, including T-shirts, underwear, activewear, sleepwear, and bedding textiles.

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IRAN'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY UNDER PRESSURE: WAR, UNCERTAINTY, AND THE FRAGILITY OF PRODUCTION CHAINS

As geopolitical tensions escalate in the Middle East, Iran's textile industry is entering a critical phase marked by uncertainty, cautious decision-making, and structural vulnerability. Insights gathered from industry insiders reveal a sector attempting to maintain operational continuity while navigating disruptions in raw material supply, labor stability, and export flows.

Unlike typical economic slowdowns, the current situation is not merely about reduced demand—it is about survival strategies in an unstable

environment where decisions are made week by week, sometimes even day by day.

Production in Limbo: Between Restarting and Shutting Down

One of the most striking observations from the field is the lack of clear operational direction among textile manufacturers. While some factories are preparing to resume production after seasonal breaks, others remain hesitant, waiting for clarity on how the geopolitical situation will evolve.

Many producers are adopting a short-term approach, planning operations only a few days ahead rather than committing to long-term production schedules. This reflects a broader lack of confidence in market stability.

In several cases, factories are considering partial operations—running limited shifts while keeping part of the workforce on standby. This strategy reflects an attempt to balance cost control with the need to maintain production readiness.

The Hidden Crisis: Labor Retention and Workforce Fragility

Beyond production, one of the most critical concerns is labor retention. Textile manufacturing in Iran relies heavily on workers from distant regions, making workforce stability particularly fragile.

Industry players emphasize that once workers leave—especially if they enter unemployment insurance systems—they are unlikely to return. Rebuilding a trained workforce is not only time-consuming but also operationally complex.

This creates a paradox: even when demand is uncertain, companies are reluctant to shut down completely, fearing the long-term consequences of losing skilled labor.





Raw Material Bottlenecks: A System at Risk

Perhaps the most immediate threat to production continuity lies in raw material supply—particularly in the polyester segment.

The dependency on petrochemical inputs such as polyester chips creates a fragile supply chain. If upstream production is disrupted, downstream textile operations face immediate shutdown risks.

Current estimates suggest that existing inventories may only sustain production for a limited period—often no more than one month. Beyond that, without stable imports or domestic supply, a significant portion of the industry could halt operations.

The potential consequences are severe: dozens of factories could be forced to shut down, impacting thousands of workers.

Demand Collapse vs Export Lifeline

Domestically, demand for textiles—particularly non-essential goods such as carpets and apparel—has sharply declined. Consumer purchasing behavior has shifted dramatically, with discretionary spending nearly disappearing in the current climate. However, exports continue to offer a critical lifeline.

Markets such as Afghanistan, Iraq, and Central Asian countries remain relatively accessible, and as long as cross-border trade routes remain open, export-oriented segments of the industry may sustain operations.

This duality—collapsed domestic demand versus partially stable export markets—is shaping strategic decisions across the sector.

Short-Term Survival Strategies: Operating Under Uncertainty

Faced with multiple layers of uncertainty, companies are adopting survival-driven strategies:

- Production is being aligned with existing inventory levels rather than future demand forecasts.
- Decisions are increasingly reactive, based on daily or weekly developments.
- Financial exposure is being minimized by avoiding large-scale commitments.

At the same time, many companies are trying to “hold the line” until at least early to mid-spring, hoping for geopolitical stabilization that would allow normal operations to resume.

A System Under Strain: The Risk of Structural Disruption

What makes the current situation particularly concerning is not just the immediate disruption, but the risk of long-term structural damage.

If production halts extend, the industry could face:

- Permanent workforce losses
- Supply chain fragmentation
- Increased reliance on imports
- Reduced global competitiveness

Unlike more flexible economies, the textile sector in Iran lacks the operational agility to shut down and restart seamlessly. This limitation increases the cost of every disruption.

Outlook: A Race Against Time

Despite the challenges, there remains cautious optimism within the industry that the current crisis will not be prolonged. Many stakeholders believe that geopolitical tensions may de-escalate within weeks, allowing production cycles to normalize.

However, this optimism is balanced by realism: the industry’s ability to endure depends on how quickly stability returns.

Until then, Iran’s textile sector remains in a delicate position—caught between resilience and vulnerability, operating in a state of controlled uncertainty.

Conclusion: A Defining Moment for Iran’s Textile Industry

The current situation represents more than a temporary disruption—it is a stress test for the entire textile ecosystem.

From raw materials to labor, from domestic demand to export channels, every layer of the industry is being challenged simultaneously.

How companies respond in the coming weeks may define not only their short-term survival but also the long-term trajectory of Iran’s textile industry in an increasingly uncertain global landscape.



TÜRKIYE'S TEXTILE AND APPAREL SECTOR FACES GROWING PRESSURE

T

urkey's textile and apparel industry, long considered one of the pillars of the country's manufacturing economy, is experiencing one of the most challenging periods in recent years. New data emerging from the sector reveals a sharp contraction in employment and a significant rise in company closures over the past three years.

Turkey's textile and apparel industry is facing one of its most difficult periods in recent years, with new data revealing a sharp decline in both employment and business activity. Once a cornerstone of the country's manufacturing economy, the sector is now under growing pressure from rising costs, weak domestic demand, and slowing export markets.

Over the past three years, nearly 10,000 textile and apparel companies have closed, highlighting the scale of the contraction. The impact on employment has been equally significant. Since 2022, the industry's workforce has dropped from over 1.2 million to around 845,000 by the end of 2025. This means that nearly one-third of all workers in the sector have lost their jobs within a relatively short period.

Several structural challenges are driving this downturn. Rising energy prices, increasing labor costs, and high financing expenses have made it difficult for manufacturers to remain profitable. At the same time, inflation and currency volatility have added further uncertainty to investment planning.

Externally, slower economic growth in key export markets, particularly in Europe, has reduced demand for Turkish products, while competition from lower-cost producers has intensified.

Despite these challenges, Turkey retains strong industrial capabilities. However, the sector now faces a critical need for transformation to remain competitive.



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DOMOTEX asia/CHINAFLOOR 2026 in Shanghai set for another robust edition for the global flooring industry

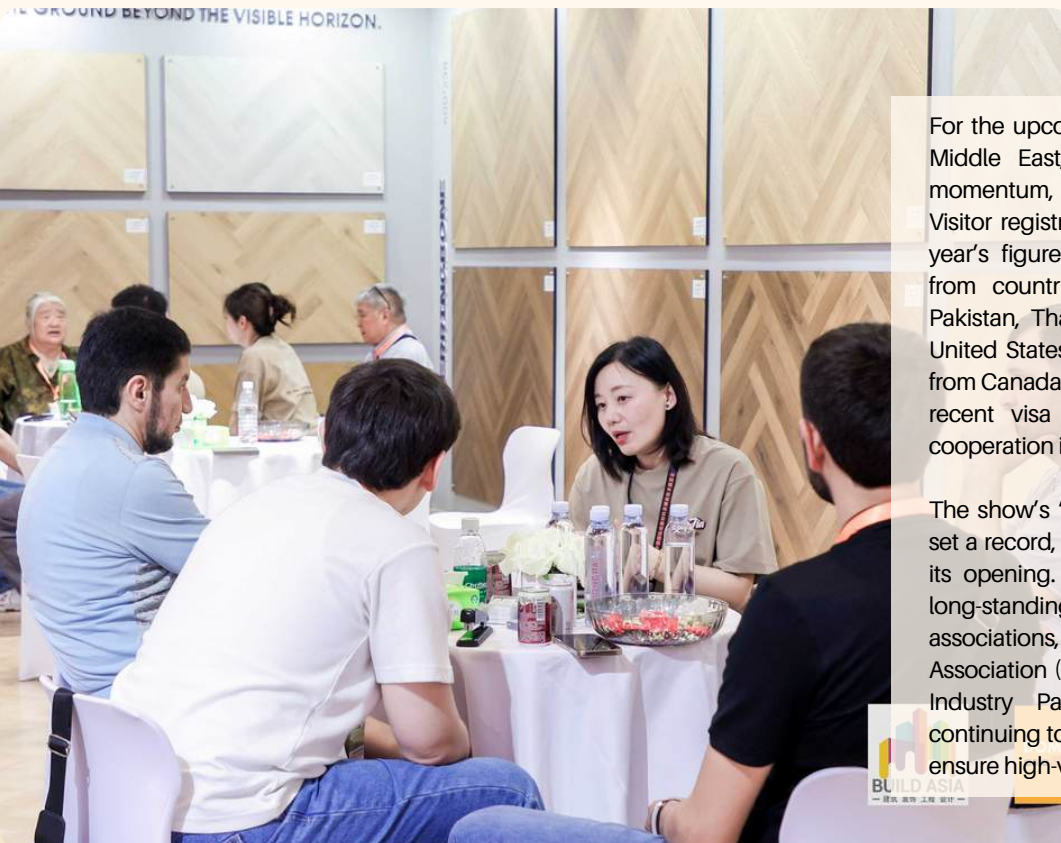
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OMOTEX asia/CHINAFLOOR - Asia's leading platform for the carpet and flooring industry - will bring together professionals from across the globe in Shanghai from 27 to 29 May for its 28th edition. The show provides unrivaled access to the latest innovations, emerging trends, and business opportunities, showcasing the rich potential of Asia Pacific's stable and expanding markets for the flooring sector.

International attendance at DOMOTEX asia /CHINAFLOOR has long been one of its standout features. In 2025, the event was attended by 83,056 flooring professionals from 124 countries, including more than 18,000 international participants. With this expanded reach across worldwide markets, DOMOTEX asia/CHINAFLOOR has already become an unmissable meeting point for the global flooring industry and a platform of unparalleled opportunities.



BEYOND THE VISIBLE HORIZON.



For the upcoming edition, despite ongoing turmoil in the Middle East, the show continues to maintain strong momentum, with minimal impact on overall participation. Visitor registration is progressing steadily, in line with last year's figures. Registration growth is especially notable from countries such as South Korea, Australia, India, Pakistan, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam as well as the United States. Strong registration has been observed also from Canada and the United Kingdom, supported in part by recent visa waivers for travel to China and bilateral cooperation initiatives.

The show's "Buyer Club" hospitality program has already set a record, with over 200 applicants just one month after its opening. DOMOTEX asia/CHINAFLOOR continues its long-standing partnerships with regional industry associations, including the Australasian Timber Flooring Association (ATFA), Federparquet in Italy, Malaysia Interior Industry Partners Association (MIIP) among others, continuing to attract qualified buyers into this program and ensure high-value business connections.

EVENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

DOMOTEX asia/CHINA FLOOR 2026 will feature an exciting lineup of industry events, workshops and seminars, with valuable regional markets' statistics and insights, highlighting the trends and reflecting how evolving trade dynamics and consumer needs are shaping the Asian flooring industry.

Asia Flooring Talks: Asian Markets' Insights and Trend Forecasting

This half-day, fully English-language workshop will take place on the second day of DOMOTEX asia/CHINA FLOOR 2026, offering an in-depth look at the latest statistics, trends, and consumer preferences across Asia's largest flooring markets. Through presentations and panel discussions, international industry experts, leading flooring companies, associations and industry media will share their perspectives on regions' flooring market status. Topics will include market insights, innovations brought by the Asian manufacturers, Asia's trends in the interior design, and other key developments. Confirmed speakers and moderators include, among others, Phil Buckley (CEO of Australasian Timber Flooring Association - ATFA); Elvin Tay (President at Malaysia Interior Industry Partners Association); Mallory Cruise-McGrath (Senior Managing Editor at Floor Covering Weekly), David Shi (GM at Power Dekor); Thomas Young, (Vice GM at Haima Group); Laetitia Kimblad (Director BU Flooring Technology at Valinge).



Sense-It! Design and Sensory Economy Summit - by cadex

Cadex for years has served as a premier platform within DOMOTEX asia/CHINA FLOOR, dedicated to fostering cross - industry collaboration for the contract, design, and architecture community. This year, the summit "Sense It! Design and Sensory Economy" will take place on for the first day of the show, bringing together Chinese and international experts in architecture and interior design, who will present their insights on integrating sensory economy with design and share real - world success stories, underscoring the immense potential of this fusion. Speakers include Edoardo Nieri (Founder & Design Director at Atelier Meadow); Peter Ippolito (Managing Partner & Creative Director at Ippolito Fleitz Group); Beatrice Rizzi (Asia Regional Director at DEDODESIGN) and Red Hu (Co-founder & Design Director at Greater Dog), among others. Following the main forum, the panel discussion "SHE DESIGN: Sensing Tomorrow" will convene exceptional female designers from diverse cultural backgrounds around the globe, to share their experiences of being at the vanguard of multi - disciplinary design, offering the industry fresh perspectives and invaluable inspiration.



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DESIGN, INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY PROPEL VIATT 2026'S EXPANDING ROLE IN ASEAN TEXTILE SOURCING

A

t its third edition, the Vietnam International Trade Fair for Apparel, Textiles, and Textile Technologies (VIATT) further reinforced its role as a key sourcing and business platform for ASEAN's textile industry. The three-day fair welcomed over 17,000 visits from 54 countries and regions, and featured over 460 exhibitors from 21 countries and regions across 18,000 sqm.

The 2026 edition was marked by the introduction of new international pavilions and zones, broadening the fair's sourcing scope across new geographies and product categories. The fringe programme, headlined by the debut Trend Forum, further distinguished VIATT as the region's most integrated textile trade platform – uniquely spanning the entire value chain.

“This exhibition takes place at a time when Vietnam’s textile and garment industry is entering a new phase of development - shifting from extensive to intensive growth, from contractual manufacturing to higher value-added production, and from traditional production models to green and smart manufacturing,” said Mr Bui Quang Hung, Deputy Director General of VIETRADE, at the fair’s opening ceremony. “VIATT 2026 encourages leading global brands to transfer technology, share management expertise, and engage in the development of domestic raw material supply chains.”





Reflecting on this edition’s achievements, Ms Wilmet Shea, General Manager of Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd, said: “With each edition, VIATT has grown in both depth and breadth - not just as a sourcing platform, but as a space where the industry comes together to shape the future of the textile industry across the ASEAN region. The response from exhibitors and visitors alike reflects a growing recognition of what this fair uniquely offers: a holistic view of the entire value chain in three textile sectors, underpinned by a shared commitment to design, sustainability, and international collaboration.”

A focal point within the returning European Zone - which also spotlighted leading exhibitors from Italy, Switzerland, Türkiye, and the UK - the German Pavilion offered buyers direct access to a comprehensive range of well-engineered products and solutions, with a strong emphasis on quality, compliance, and time-proven manufacturing excellence.

Complementing this, the inaugural Türkiye Zone made its debut at the fair, further broadening the European sourcing landscape and introducing a new dimension of textile expertise to VIATT’s growing international offering.

Suppliers from across the value chain made valuable connections at the show

A key exhibitor from the German Pavilion, Ms Chixian Zhao, Deputy General Manager of Ibeno Shanghai Technical Textiles (Technical Textiles & Technologies), shared: “We focus on technical textiles, especially flame-retardant fabrics for firefighters and emergency response, but also chemical protection workwear and EV fire protection. The German Pavilion’s design is simple and beautiful, while the concept is valuable and well-arranged, including matching us with VIP buyers, and introducing our company onstage - which drew additional visitors to our booth. We have connected with some Vietnamese firefighter agencies, while I’m very pleasantly surprised to find many overseas buyers who have factories or supply chain segments in Vietnam.”

Exhibitors across all three sectors responded positively to the fair’s international atmosphere and diverse visitor profile. Ms Kiki Chen, Global Marketing Communications Manager, Covation Biomaterials LLC (Apparel Fabrics & Fashion; USA) highlighted the fair’s global reach: “The Southeast Asian and Vietnamese markets are gaining traction, and VIATT has helped us connect with several international brands, including Inditex, PVH, and Sneakers Group, as well as some fabric and garment manufacturers and traders. It is the most international fair I’ve exhibited at for two years, and we met high-quality buyers and contacts from the US, Europe, Southeast Asia, China and more.”

Mr Xavier Leite, President of Home from Portugal (Home & Contract Textiles), echoed this sentiment from the home textiles perspective: “As an association promoting Portuguese textiles for home and contracting, we aim to reach new markets and buyers who appreciate medium-high to high-end products. VIATT offers us a chance to display our products alongside competitors from various countries, many of whom already buy from Portugal. We’ve made valuable contacts at this year’s show - visitors appreciate the uniqueness of our high-quality, niche market products.”

For another returning exhibitor, VIATT’s unique three-sector format proved a key draw. Mr Ezra Clarence, Marketing Manager, PT Kary Indomas Elok (Apparel Fabrics & Fashion; Indonesia), noted: “We are showcasing products mainly for clothes, stuffed toys, and home furniture. VIATT combines three sectors together which is a perfect match for us and helps us reach new potential customers. We want to export to the US and Europe as well and we met such targeted customers here. Our A/W collections got attention from big clients such as GAP and Carter’s.”



Mr James Jing, Vietbac Textile Printing and Dyeing Co Ltd (Apparel Fabrics & Fashion; Vietnam) added: “This is our second time at VIATT, and during this edition we’ve met new quality international clients with offices in Vietnam. The Southeast Asian market is gaining traction, and recent tax reductions in Vietnam encourage European customers to order from here. We value the fair’s international and professional atmosphere and are pleased with the buyer quality and footfall. We plan to return in 2027.”



Visitors' comments

"As a Canadian-owned company, we partner with many strategic vendors in Vietnam. What's quite unique about this country is seeing that transition towards more innovative qualities; moving away from just volume towards material differentiation. This fair is very important because for a lot of brands, it's important to look at the entire value chain. From a traceability perspective, it is invaluable to have insight into your yarn supplier, the yarns being used in your fabrics, and ultimately your garment suppliers. That's one thing I found especially helpful at VIATT 2026."

Mr William Yip, Raw Materials Lead, Mountain Equipment Company, Canada

"There are many suppliers from different countries and a wide choice of raw materials such as fabrics, as well as many new techniques. For example, Thailand has a supplier with new improvements in towel materials and double-layer towel technology, which is very impressive and especially suitable for Vietnam."

Ms Nancy Le, Vice Director, GM Corp., Vietnam

"We are a team of around 15 buyers who have come from India, representing customers from South Africa, the US, Europe, and other parts of the globe. We are at VIATT 2026 to find some newness in fabrics and good garment manufacturers - we have already met some interesting Vietnamese and Chinese suppliers at the fair, and we also look forward to seeing more. I have been visiting this country for many years; the design trends here are very different and interesting."

Mr Sanjeev Jain, President and CEO, TQM Global Buying (Sourcing Professionals Alliance), India

Beyond the show floor, VIATT 2026 offered an expanded fringe programme designed to share trends, insights, and strategies with global industry players, bringing international perspectives to educate and inspire the local and regional markets. Key events included the inaugural Trend Forum, the Vietnam Textile & Garment Industry Development Strategy Summit (VTGIS), and the Textile Industry Exchange, alongside a series of seminars, panel discussions, workshops, and three captivating fashion shows that blended local and international perspectives.



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ZIMMER AUSTRIA HIGHLIGHTS LATIN AMERICAN OPPORTUNITIES AT EXINTEX 2026

Zimmer Austria has announced its participation in EXINTEX 2026, one of the most important textile exhibitions in Latin America, taking place in Puebla, Mexico.

A

t EXINTEX 2026, Zimmer Austria is showcasing its latest advancements in textile printing technologies, with a strong focus on digital and high-performance solutions. The company presents its COLARIS digital textile printing systems alongside CHROMOJET carpet printing technology, both designed to help manufacturers modernize production, improve efficiency, and achieve superior print quality.



Zimmer Austria is also strengthening its regional footprint through collaboration with its local partner Fi-Tech, Inc., underlining its long-term commitment to the Mexican and broader Latin American markets.

Speaking about the exhibition, Mario Calis, Sales Manager at Zimmer Austria, emphasized the strategic importance of the region.

"South America is a really interesting market for us," Calis said. "We clearly see increasing interest in new and up-to-date textile printing technologies, and many companies in the region are evaluating investment opportunities."

He added that Zimmer Austria's participation in EXINTEX 2026 aims to introduce the company's latest technologies to the market and support regional customers.

"We are participating here to show our latest technologies that are suitable for the market and to support our customers," he noted.

Another key topic highlighted during the exhibition is the increasing demand for camouflage textile printing, particularly in light of recent geopolitical developments.

Martin Basset, Sales Manager at Zimmer Austria, noted that demand for camouflage printing solutions has been rising due to evolving defense strategies and global security challenges. "The market demand for camouflage printing is currently very strong," Basset said. "Developments such as Europe's defense strategies and ongoing conflicts in regions like Ukraine and the Middle East are increasing the need for advanced camouflage textile solutions."

He emphasized that Zimmer Austria is recognized as a global leader in camouflage printing technologies, supported by decades of innovation and technical expertise.

"Zimmer has developed numerous innovations and know-how in this field. We are very satisfied to be here in Mexico to meet our current and potential customers and to provide them with the best possible support," Basset added.

Azerbaijan Textile Association (ATA) Becomes Member of ITMF



The Azerbaijan Textile Association (ATA) has officially become a Member Association of the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF), further strengthening Azerbaijan's integration into the global textile value chain.

Founded to represent and promote the interests of Azerbaijan's textile and apparel industry, ATA plays a key role in sector development, policy dialogue, capacity building, and international cooperation. By joining ITMF, ATA reinforces its commitment to fostering sustainable growth, innovation, and global competitiveness within the national textile ecosystem.

ITMF members are responsible for approximately 90% of global textile and apparel production and represent the entire textile manufacturing value chain. Through its membership, ATA and its member companies gain access to a unique global platform for information exchange, dialogue, and industry networking.



Mr. Christian Schindler, Director General of ITMF, stated: "Welcoming the Azerbaijan Textile Association as a new Member Association further strengthens ITMF's global network. Azerbaijan's textile sector has significant development potential, and ATA's participation in ITMF will contribute to deeper international collaboration, knowledge sharing, and integration into the global textile value chain."

Through ITMF membership, ATA members will benefit from exclusive access to global statistics, reports, surveys, webinars, and industry insights. In addition, ITMF conferences, workshops, and networking events provide valuable opportunities for Azerbaijani textile companies to expand their international partnerships, enhance export potential, and adapt best global practices.

Ms. Farida Akhundova, Executive Director of ATA, stated: "Joining ITMF marks an important milestone for Azerbaijan's textile industry. It is a strategic step toward deeper integration into global markets and the adoption of international standards and innovations. ITMF membership opens new opportunities for our member companies to strengthen their competitiveness, expand exports, and build long-term international partnerships."

This membership represents a significant achievement for Azerbaijan's textile sector and reflects ATA's strategic vision to position the country as an increasingly competitive and reliable partner in global textile trade.

THE ADDRESS FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY DYEING AND FINISHING SYSTEMS: ITM 2026

Dyeing and finishing technologies, one of the most critical and value-added areas of the textile sector, have gained strong growth momentum on a global scale. Technologies that are pioneers of this transformation focused on sustainability, quality and efficiency will meet with sector professionals at the ITM 2026 International Textile Machinery Exhibition. Dyeing and Finishing Hall (11-12) will host the latest technologies that increase efficiency, optimize resource use and reduce environmental impact in textile finishing processes.

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Global Growth Trend in the Textile Dyeing and Finishing Market

The global textile finishing lines market was reached \$7.67 billion in 2024, and is expected to grow to \$10.05 billion by 2029 with a compound annual growth rate of 5.9%.

Increased demand in automotive and technical textiles, the need for sustainable production, and investments in quality and process efficiency are among the key drivers of this growth. On the other hand, the global textile dyeing machinery market is estimated to be approximately \$6 billion in 2025, and is projected to grow at an annual rate of over 5.5% between 2026 and 2030.

This strong growth potential and technological transformation will be presented to industry professionals at the ITM 2026 International Textile Machinery Exhibition, to be held at Tüyap Fair and Congress Center from June 9-13, 2026. The Dyeing & Finishing Hall will offer participants the opportunity to establish new collaborations, examine advanced technology investments, and evaluate market opportunities with innovative machines, smart production lines, and sustainable solutions reflecting global trends.



Technological Transformation in Textile Dyeing and Finishing Machinery

Textile dyeing and finishing machinery is rapidly being reshaped around environmentally friendly production, digitalization, and automation. Low-liquor and salt-free dyeing machines, to be exhibited at ITM 2026, significantly reduce water and chemical consumption while increasing dye uptake efficiency and providing shorter process times.

Supercritical CO₂ dyeing, dope dyeing (mass dyeing), and enzyme-assisted dyeing technologies are among the innovations that stand out, especially in terms of water conservation and carbon footprint reduction.

In post-dyeing finishing processes, energy efficiency is increased thanks to heat pumps, heat recovery, and alternative energy systems, while plasma, ozone, and UV technologies minimize chemical use, enabling antibacterial, water-repellent, and functional finishing applications.

Intelligent Dyeing Lines and Digital Control Systems

IIoT-based dyeing and finishing lines enable real-time monitoring of temperature, pH, color intensity, and chemical dosage. AI-powered color management and quality control systems improve color consistency while reducing rework and waste rates.

Robotic conveying systems and automated roll loading/unloading solutions reduce human intervention on production lines, offering a safe and uninterrupted process. Next-generation energy-efficient stenters, jet and overflow dyeing machines, multi-functional continuous lines, and advanced tension control systems elevate quality standards in dyeing and finishing.



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