

to implement an international sourcing strategy to serve increasingly global and multi product fashion brands.

Two medical textiles leaders join forces

BeoCare Group, one of the leading North-American manufacturers of knitted medical textiles, and Fra Production, of Italy, have entered into a strategic alliance.

Both companies will continue to operate in their respective markets under their own brand names. At the same time, they will integrate their product portfolio and production capabilities in Europe and the USA.

As a result of the alliance, BeoCare, which will become Fra's distributor in the USA, will expand its product range, by offering Fra products such as the mesh fixation pants and the patented Surgifix tubular netting, as well as a wide range of bandages. BeoCare is expanding its manufacturing plant in Hudson, NC, so it can manufacture more of these mesh fixation products in the USA, under license from Fra Production.

At the same time Fra Production will become the sole European distributor for all BeoCare products, including seamless fixation pants, maternity and surgical garments and all elastic products, which were added to the BeoCare product offering since the acquisition of Shelby Elastics in 2014. "We believe this alliance presents a huge opportunity for both companies," said Fra Production's CEO Andrea Colombo. "It creates a truly global group, which will be able to better meet the global needs of our clients."

Leaders in medical textiles

BeoCare, in Hudson, NC, is the leading domestic OEM contract manufacturer of knitted textiles products for use in fixation, compression and support.

Fra Production Spa is a leader in designing and manufacturing cutting-edge medical, food, agricultural, and industrial products. Having been on the Italian and international markets for over 55 years.

Myanmar SEZs to offer wisdom to domestic industrial zones

Myanmar wants to boost manufacturing sector growth by linking special economic zones (SEZs) and domestic industrial zones. Local investors and factory owners can benefit from technology transfer, business experience and techniques for

infrastructure development and financing from the SEZs, according to industry ministry spokesperson U Ko Ko Lwin.

This is needed as the growth rate of the manufacturing sector is dropping, a newspaper in Myanmar reported Ko Lwin as saying. There are 30 local industrial zones across the country and 11 of them are in Yangon Region.

Developers failing to properly operate factories after receiving land from the government in the industrial zones is one of the primary factors behind the failure of the government's import-substitution and export-promotion strategy, he said.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector roughly made up 20 per cent of the GDP in 2016 – with 2.2 billion kyats from garment exports. With economy slowing-down, the manufacturing sector has also been affected. The government expects to have at least 25 to 30 per cent of the GDP from the manufacturing sector in the near future, Ko Lwin added.

US raises annual AGOA quota for textiles

The US Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has released the new annual limit on duty- and quota-free imports of apparel articles assembled from regional and third-country fabric under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) in the next fiscal beginning October 1. The figure is a 2.9 per cent rise over the limit in the current fiscal.

For apparel articles fully assembled in any beneficiary African country from fabric wholly manufactured in any beneficiary country from yarn originating in the United States or any beneficiary country, the new annual limit is 2,022,822,376 square metres equivalent (SME), Apparel articles entered in excess of these quantities will be subject to otherwise applicable tariffs, according to a recent US Federal Register notice. Of this limit, 1,011,411,188 SME is available for apparel articles imported under the AGOA third-country fabric provision, a special rule for lesser-developed countries that offers preferential treatment for apparel articles assembled in one or more lesser-developed beneficiary African countries, regardless of the country of origin of the fabric used. The AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004 mandates that the quantitative limit for the 12-month period beginning October 1, 2017, will be an amount not to exceed 7 per cent of the aggregate square meter equivalents of all apparel articles imported into the United States in the preceding 12-month period.

Foundation says the resulting polyester and cotton fibers are good enough to be used in new textile production. Now, they are building an industrial-scale plant to pilot the project. The H&M Foundation plans to license the technology out to help the entire fashion industry become more eco-friendly by 2020.

Intertextile Shanghai to focus on sustainability

Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics, China's international trade fair for apparel fabrics and accessories, to be held in October will focus on sustainability. The centre of sustainability is the All About Sustainability zone, but eco-friendly products and companies will also be part of Beyond Denim, Functional Lab, SalonEurope and Accessories Vision areas.

The show is to be held during October 11-13, 2017.

In Beyond Denim zone, Orta Anadolu, Kipas Denim and Soorty Enterprises will all introduce their own eco-friendly denim production processes. And in the Functional Lab, many exhibitors offer both innovative and sustainable products such as the Chemours Company's durable water repellent which contains 63 per cent renewably sourced content, and Singtex with their insulation foam and membrane made from coffee oil extracted from used coffee grounds – just two of the many sustainable products on offer.

Researchers Develop a New Fiber Made from Recycled Cotton

Finland's VTT Technical Research Centre has produced a new fiber made from recycled cotton.

Using a process that involves dissolving discarded and worn cotton and turning it into raw material, researchers have created the first product models that show how recycled fiber can be upcycled into yarn, and then fabric, without harming the environment.

The fiber, which is smooth and feels "halfway between cotton and viscose," features a subdued matte finish and nice drape, according to VTT, and could reduce the textile industry's carbon footprint as researchers say the process is more environmentally friendly than viscose production.

VTT created the first batch of the recycled fiber in a pilot facility using a carbon disulphide-free process. Unlike conventional

viscose production, VTT's recycled fiber process doesn't require carbon disulphide—a colorless volatile liquid—for dissolution, and polyester residues are removed from the cotton material using traditional methods from the pulp sector.

According to VTT, the recycled fiber's carbon footprint, which is produced using VTT's carbamate technology, is approximately a third smaller than for cotton and is in a similar category to other viscose materials. What's more, the recycled fiber's water footprint is an estimated 2 percent of what organic cotton uses, and 10 percent of viscose. VTT's carbamate technology (CCA) is a solvent-free clean technology that dissolves materials before they are turned into recycled fibers for fabric.

Once yarn was spun at Tampere University of Technology and turned into recyclable fibers at VTT's laboratory, the first model products, including flat-knitted fabrics and gloves, were created by Agtuvi, a Finland-based knitwear company.

Première Vision Paris Puts Focus on Sourcing for Next Edition

Première Vision Paris is enhancing the sourcing and manufacturing aspects of its next edition, set for September 19 to 21 at the Parc des Expositions de Paris Nord Villepinte in Paris.

With a focus on Asia Pacific sourcing, "The Sourcing Connection" area will feature a selection of exhibiting companies that have at least 65 percent compliance with the market standards as confirmed through an audit by Bureau Veritas, measuring production units and chains, and the application of workforce and wage regulations.

Alongside Première Vision Manufacturing, with fashion manufacturing specialists from the Euro-Mediterranean basin and Indian Ocean nations, Première Vision Group is bolstering its manufacturing sourcing proposals through three other initiatives.

There's a broadened offering of leather goods and footwear suppliers in an area called Bag & Shoe Manufacturing, a fashion area dubbed Bag & Shoe Elements, and a special "Country Focus – Spotlight on Tunisia."

Organizers said through these manufacturing areas, along with its core focus on materials such as yarns, fabrics, leathers, patterns and accessories, the Première Vision group aims



World Textile News

Textile printing to be at focus at FESPA Eurasia 2017

Textile printing will once again have a substantial presence at FESPA Eurasia 2017, with a number of exhibitors showcasing solutions as well as a dedicated textile feature. There was a 23 per cent increase in textile printing exhibitors at FESPA 2017 in Hamburg and which is continuing in FESPA Eurasia, being organised during December 7-10, 2017 in Istanbul.

Michael Ryan, group exhibition manager, Federation of European Screen Printers Association (FESPA) says: "An increased focus on textile is a trend we're seeing globally. There was a 23 per cent increase in textile printing exhibitors at FESPA 2017 in Hamburg and we're now seeing this reflected at FESPA Eurasia. Textile printing and garment decoration have always been a big focus in the Eurasian print industry and as our Print Census in 2015 demonstrated, textile is one of the biggest opportunities for print service providers today. We're certainly not seeing this trend slow down for FESPA Eurasia 2017."

Visitors to the exhibition will have access to a host of free content at the show including textile printing and signage workshops and FESPA's vehicle wrapping competition, Wrap Masters Eurasia, which will return to this year's show.

FESPA has launched its visitor campaign 'Dare to Be Different' for FESPA Eurasia 2017. Through the exploration of new technologies, products and solutions FESPA is encouraging visitors to be different so they can take their businesses to the next level. The exhibition will provide graphics and signage professionals as well as textile decoration specialists the

chance to discover new opportunities and to see the latest product innovations and applications for the screen, digital and textile industry under one roof.

Archaeologists discover ancient textiles

Archaeologists from the University of Cambridge say they have found several hundred textile fragments from the first half of the first millennium BC, which they claim gives a more detailed definition of the textile cultures in Italy and Greece during this period for the first time.

H&M may have just figured out how to recycle textiles

Even the most eco-minded fashion companies have had a hard time figuring out how to recycle mixed-fiber textiles (you know, like poly-cotton blends). Now, fast fashion giant H&M may have cracked the code.

H&M Foundation, the Swedish company's independent charitable foundation and investment arm, tasked Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles to help them find an open-source solution for textile blend recycling that could be commercially viable by 2020. They've already struck on something that could make recycling fabric a reality. According to H&M, the new process uses a combination of heat, water, and 5% of a biodegradable agent to separate the cotton from the polyester into high-quality, reusable materials. H&M

and hand-woven carpets and blankets. However, the local production of textile products like fiber, yarn and fabrics, etc. remains insufficient to fulfill the growing needs of textile and garment industry.

Sanctions regarding trade are one of the most potential threats to affect Iran's economy and foreign investment. The nature of the sanctions variably depends on its extent and fluctuations.

After the signing of the nuclear agreement, the world is eyeing to do business with Iran. The lifting of international trade sanctions will lead to regional trading boom in the textile industry.

Iran has been making huge efforts to increase the industry's competitiveness. The country is very keen on welcoming foreign companies for investments regarding the new machineries.

In the recent past, domestic textile and clothing production in Iran have been rather limited. Nonetheless, there is huge potential in Iran to emerge as a future textile and garment hub.

Iran is around \$2 billion market for textile and clothing, which is a huge number. There are numerous factories in Iran, which are specialized in producing different kinds of high-end fabrics for export to Europe. Below are some of the factors that prove Iran can turn out to be an emerging country in the field of textile and apparel trade.

- Iran imported nearly \$1.5 billion of manmade fiber textiles during 2013 from countries like China, South Korea, Turkey, Germany, etc.
- Iran's textile and apparel exports grew up by 8.1% in the fiscal year ended March 20, 2017. The statistic shows that nearly 5,700 tons of hand-woven Iran carpets, valued at \$345.7 million, were exported during the said period, marking a 7.5% and 18.4% YOY growth in volume and value terms, respectively.
- Iran also performed well in the apparel segment. The country exported 3,800 tons of apparel items worth \$46.2 million, up 2.6% in volume and 3.9% in value when compared to the previous fiscal.
- Iran's 2025 Vision Plan has identified textile and clothing as one of the potential industries for expansion. The plan basically emphasizes the need for technological advancements and improvement in productivity.
- Iran has a good availability of raw materials, manufacturing facilities and cheap labor that work as an attraction to foreign

countries. Iran has huge untapped potential that could be beneficial to many foreign investors.

- Certain nationalities, including Italians, are fascinated by Iranian culture as university professors praise and promote Iran's culture and traditions in their classes.

The Iranian textile and apparel industry has about 9,818 active units, constituting 11% of all the industrial entities in the country. These units have created more than 2.9 million direct jobs, accounting for 13% of all the industrial jobs in Iran. The country is planning to set up a new apparel industrial town with the aim of limiting exports and boosting domestic production. The main agenda is to make the price of Iranian clothing more competitive. This establishment can prove to be highly beneficial for the country, as it will lead to increase in quality and will help reduce production costs.

This clearly shows the potential that the Iranian government is putting into the textile and apparel sector to create their own space in the global market.

Iran textile industry missing good branding

Although Iranian textile and garment producers offer really high-quality products, lack of appropriate branding and marketing continues to pose damage on them a great deal, a businessman in the industry told Trend.

There is also some unknown mechanism that makes the cost of production in Iran go very high, which also negatively impacts how successful the business can be in this country, Mansour Aghazadeh, sales expert at Aliaf Gostar Yazd Co. said. "We are worried about fluctuating prices of raw material as well as unbridled imports. The raw material supply for our industry is in the monopoly of one company, which can do anything with prices it wishes."

"Also as for imports, we are not the only country to face such problem. Take Turkey for example, due to their anti-dumping policies, they have managed to have a flourishing textile industry," Aghazadeh noted. "If the government supports the producers and removes the obstacles, then Iranian producers of textile can also have a booming business," he said.

Iran's textile and garment industries are victimized by an annual smuggling amount of \$2.5 billion, according to official reports.

There are over 250 international garment brands with a branch in Iran.

Forum Probes Root Causes of Apparel Smuggling Into Iran

With the aim of addressing the root causes of the rampant smuggling of apparel into Iran, a forum was held at Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture.

As reported by the chamber's news portal, the TCCIM chief attributed the huge load of illegal apparel imports into the Iranian market to three main reasons: high prices, inattention to current fashion trends and neglect of branding.

Masoud Khansari also believes that until the issue of stabilizing foreign currency rates is not solved, illegal imports will not stop. He stressed that even if the whole country acts like a police, smuggling will not stop.

Khansari added that value added tax is collected from customers in other parts of the world but it is collected from producers in Iran.

The forum attendees cited different figures regarding the size of the domestic market and the rate of smuggling.

According to the reports of the Statistical Center of Iran and the Central Bank of Iran, clothing and shoes had a 4.3% share in the Iranian urban and rural household expenditures in the last Iranian year (March 2016-17).

Tehran commerce chamber's data indicate domestic production meets 60% of the demand and in view of the official import figures, illegal apparel imports would stand at \$3.57 billion.

However, Research Center of Tehran's Apparel Union believes Iranian apparel production meets 40% of domestic demand and apparel smuggled into the country is worth over \$6.2 billion. Trade Promotion Organization's figures also confirm the research center's statistics.

Secretary of the Headquarters to Combat Smuggling of Goods and Foreign Exchange Ali Akbar Pour-Ahmadnejad put domestic demand at \$8.1 billion, "of which \$5.6 billion are met through legal imports and domestic production".

"As per the most pessimistic estimate, illegal imports stand at \$3 billion," he said.

Golnar Nasrollahi, director general of the Textile, Apparel and Leather Industry Organization affiliated to the Ministry of Industries, Mining and Trade, said Iran's annual apparel demand stands at around 510,000 tons per year, while the country's production capacity is about 300,000-320,000 tons.

The Ministry of Industries, Mining and Trade recently introduced new regulations aimed at fighting smuggling in

the domestic apparel market.

The ministry has decided that foreign brands willing to sell their products in the Iranian market are required to directly apply for permits to set up sales outlet in Iran without middlemen, Fars News Agency quoted deputy minister of industries, mining and trade, Yadollah Sadeqi, as saying.

As per an agreement between the Textile Office of the Ministry of Industries, Mining and Trade and Free Trade Zone Organization, the import of apparel from free trade zones at prices higher than domestic products will face tariffs.

Sericulture growing in Iran

Iran ranks eighth in silk farming. China, where sericulture had begun four thousand years ago, on the basis of historical information, remains the main habitat of white cocoon while Iran has been the natural territory for the yellow cocoon, according to an Iranian news agency report. Over the past three years, silk farming has been growing in Iran.

"The sector has an age-old history in Iran and, presently, silk warming is prevalent in more than 50 countries while 95 per cent of silk raw materials belong to Asian countries; China alone accounts for over 80 per cent of global silk production, followed by India," head of Iran's Silk Research Centre Reza Sourati Zanjani said in the report.

Head of the Silk Research Centre underlined that "until the year 2001, almost 200,000 boxes of silkworm eggs were produced and distributed in the country, though a downward trend was experienced in silkworm egg consumption as well as in cocoon production."

He however noted that, over the past three years, an increasing trend has been observed in the industry as the output volume has climbed from 26 thousand boxes to 32 thousand boxes.

An Emerging Power in Textile, Apparel Industry

Iran has had a long and successful history of manufacturing textiles. The Persian Gulf state was one of the world's premier exporters of textiles and silks to Europe, Asia and the rest of the world. The first textile mill in Iran was established over a century ago in the capital Tehran.

The Iranian textile industry is mostly known for its carpet industry, which includes the production of machine-made



Iran news

Iran Textile News

Int'l Textile Machine Manufacturer Holds Event in Yazd

Santex Rimar Group, a leading machine manufacturer for weaving, textile finishing, nonwovens, technical textiles and green technologies, has held a second "Future Textile Road" event in Iran to underline its commitment to the development of domestic textile industry.

The event drivers are research, dialogue and intercultural cooperation, open innovation and new technology implementation, Innovationintextiles.com reported without specifying when the event was held.

The event was held in Yazd where a branch of the Silk Road skirts the western and southern edges of Iran's central desert. "Yazd can be called Iran's textile industry hub: Textile industry in this province includes about 10% of the total spinning capacity and a quarter of total weaving capacity in the country," the group, which is present in Italy, Switzerland, China, India and Turkey.

According to Santex Rimar, the aim of "Future Textile Road" is to build an innovative platform for the future development of the global textile industry and the long-term construction of the cooperation between countries.

During the event, Santex Rimar signed an agreement with Yazd University for supplying a SMIT rapier weaving machine to train students on the latest textile technologies and do research jointly.

Contents shifted from the relationship between university and local textile companies to financial tools for Iranian entrepreneurs who want to buy equipment—from the latest

developments of SMIT to the trends of fabrics design of Spring/Summer 2018.

Smit Textile S.p.A. offers machinery products for the textile industries, including parts, attachments and accessories. It markets its products in Italy.

Since April 2016, SMIT officially entered among Santex Rimar Group's brands.

Swissmem presents new textile machinery at Irantex 2017

The Swiss Textile Machinery Association (Swissmem), recently exhibited in the Irantex 2017 expo, the 23rd international exhibition of textile machinery, raw materials, home textiles, embroidery machines, and textile products, which was held from September 4 to 7, 2017, in Iran. A total of 13 Swiss companies took part in the global machinery expo.

The exhibition, at the Tehran fairgrounds from September 4 to 7, attracted wide international participation, and Switzerland's special pavilion – its first for a decade – helped its companies to make a strong impression on trade visitors.

Swiss firms exhibiting included Jakob Müller, Benninger, Willy Grob, G. Hunziker, Stäubli, Norsel, Retech, Heberlein, SSM, Luwa, Steiger Participations, Saurer, and Drop Chemicals. A highlight was the visit of Switzerland's ambassador to Iran, Markus Leitner, to the pavilion. He met with the Swiss exhibitors and discussed the opportunities and challenges of doing business with Iran.

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markets. As such, it is critical for us to continually evaluate and invest in new technologies. ITMA 2019, which will be held in neighbouring Spain, will be an excellent platform for our manufacturers to explore integrated solutions, ranging from textile and garment technologies to fibres, yarns and fabrics.”

Innovative garment technology showcase

To help garment manufacturers exploit technologies that optimise the manufacturing process for productivity gains, ITMA 2019 is expected to feature a wide array of innovative solutions. They range from garment making machinery to other textile processing machinery, auxiliary machinery and accessories, such as:

- Software and systems for product planning, design and related automation technology for garment making
- Equipment for product development
- Machinery for shrinking, fusing, cutting preparation, cutting and related automation technology
- Machinery for sewing, quilting and linking
- Sewing supplies and consumables
- Machinery and equipment for product finishing
- Auxiliary machinery for the garment making industry

“An exhibition such as ITMA 2019, where we can explore all the solutions, from textile to garment making, and even materials, in one location is ideal for our members. We will be organising a delegation of top garment manufacturers to study the latest trends and source new technologies that we can implement in our factories,” said Mr Giang of VITAS.

Besides a big display of technologies, fibres, yarns and fabrics, ITMA 2019 will be complemented by conferences and meetings that will add value to the visits of garment technology buyers, as well as brands and retailers.

ITMA Services' Mr Roberts explained: “The global textile and apparel supply chain is expected to see more integration and collaboration, both vertically and horizontally. There is a lot of ongoing dialogues among stakeholders in the fashion, textile and garment industry. ITMA can be a useful focal point for discussions on the

entire manufacturing value chain so that concerns can be addressed in an integrated and meaningful way.”

ITMA 2019 will be held from 20 to 26 June at Fira de Barcelona, Gran Via venue. Application for exhibition space has been brisk since booking started in May. Close to 50 per cent of the space has been booked. The exhibition will showcase an integrated textile and garment manufacturing value chain. In addition to machinery, exhibits will also include yarns, fibres and fabrics, and solutions for technical textiles and nonwovens, and garment making.

The last ITMA exhibition, held in Milan in 2015, drew the participation of 1,691 exhibitors from 46 countries. For more information on ITMA 2019, visit www.itma.com.



About CEMATEX & ITMA

The European Committee of Textile Machinery Manufacturers (CEMATEX) comprises national textile machinery associations from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. It is the owner of ITMA and ITMA ASIA. Considered the 'Olympics' of textile machinery exhibitions, ITMA has a 66-year history of displaying the latest technology for every single work process of textile and garment making. It is held every four years in Europe.

About ITMA Services

Headquartered in Brussels with a subsidiary in Singapore, ITMA Services is the appointed organiser of ITMA 2019 and future ITMA branded exhibitions. It is managed by professionals with extensive experience in organising ITMA and other major trade exhibitions around the world. It aims to maintain and expand ITMA's unique selling proposition and relevance to a global audience.



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release

ITMA 2019 GARMENT SECTOR ZOOMS IN ON AUTOMATION TO HELP MANUFACTURERS ACCELERATE PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY

21 September 2017 – The world's largest textile and garment technology exhibition, ITMA 2019, is spotlighting smart garment technologies as robots and artificial intelligence are set to revolutionise the industry.

Automation, especially in an integrated textile and garment manufacturing chain, will help address the fashion and clothing industry's current concerns of short production cycles and sustainable business practices, according to CEMATEX, the European Committee of Textile Machinery Manufacturers.

Mr Fritz P. Mayer, President of CEMATEX, which owns the ITMA exhibition, said: "The garment making industry is labour intensive and associated with low productivity. Things are set to change. Recently, there has been much publicity about 'sewbots', considered as a major breakthrough in garment automation. Manufacturers fast enough to ride the digital wave will find new opportunities and gain an edge over their competitors."

Mr Vu Duc Giang, Chairman of the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS), concurred: "The garment industry is very competitive and production cycles are now even shorter. Therefore, we need to think out of the box and leverage on new technologies to help us to be more productive and efficient. Many innovative solutions are being introduced, from processes to materials."

Mr A.E. Roberts, Managing Director of ITMA Services, organiser of ITMA 2019, elaborated: "The digitisation of

the fashion industry means that their suppliers will need to seamlessly integrate their design, material supply and production of the finished products. With integrated solutions, garment manufacturers will be able to respond well to fast and flexible production turnarounds, and cut costs by increasing productivity and reducing wastes."

With greater automation on the cards, industry players are seeing the resurgence of garment manufacturing activities in Europe and other developed economies.



Mr Paulo Vaz, General Director of the Textile and Apparel Association of Portugal (ATP) is upbeat about prospects for Portuguese manufacturers. He said, "We are glad that there is a resurgence of textile and garment making in Europe as this benefits the Portuguese textile and apparel industry. Our manufacturers can be more competitive by improving competencies through branding, innovation and R&D.

"By incorporating technological and creative innovation to differentiate our products, we can expand our

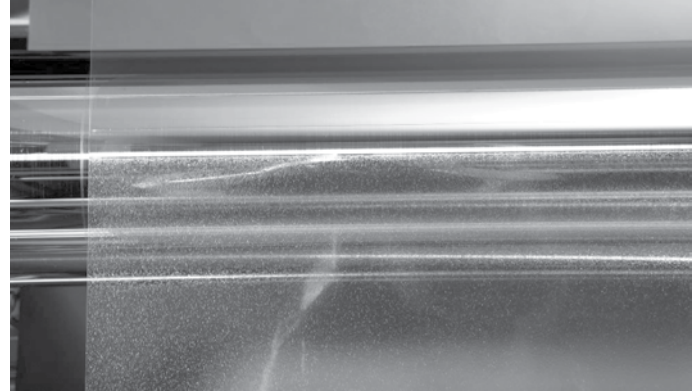
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Baldwin to acquire Ahlbrandt System GmbH

Acquisition will strengthen its market position and product portfolio in the print, film and textile industries

ST. LOUIS – September 8, 2017 – Baldwin Technology Company Inc., a world leader in providing process automation solutions, consumables and services to the print, textile and film industries, announced today that an agreement has been reached to acquire Ahlbrandt System GmbH. The acquisition is pending German government approval, with a target closing date of September 30, 2017.

Headquartered in Lauterbach, Germany, Ahlbrandt's 87 team members and top-quality Corona Treatment, Spray Coating and Hot Air Drying products complement the Baldwin team and their broad product and service portfolios. In addition, Baldwin plans to capitalize on Ahlbrandt's expertise and industry leading technology to enhance solutions for the rapidly growing textile and film industries.

"I am very excited that Ahlbrandt is joining the Baldwin team," said Holger Bätz, Managing Director of Ahlbrandt. "Not only is our expertise in developing and producing top-quality equipment and systems a nice complement to Baldwin's broad product portfolio, I am confident that Ahlbrandt's talent and passion for innovation in surface finishing will rise to new levels within the Baldwin family. This partnership presents a great opportunity for the Ahlbrandt team to expand our business to new geographical markets and customers, and I am convinced that this acquisition will have a very positive influence on Ahlbrandt's new 'Serviceplus' growth strategy."

"Bringing Ahlbrandt into the Baldwin family will strengthen our ability to provide value to our customers through broader technology and service offerings," said Brent Becker, CEO of Baldwin. "This exciting investment underscores our commitment to a strategy that blends organic and acquisition growth to enhance our global footprint and the technology we can deliver to our customers. We are also eagerly looking forward to expanding our footprint in Germany, and we expect both teams to realize many benefits from close cooperation between our Lauterbach and Friedberg production and assembly facilities."

Ahlbrandt is Baldwin's third acquisition since joining the BW Forsyth Partners' family of companies in 2012. In 2014, Baldwin acquired Web Printing Controls; in January of 2017, Air Motion Systems. Baldwin's continued focus on strategic acquisitions has positioned the company for even greater success and created enormous opportunity for the company's team members around the world.

ABOUT BALDWIN TECHNOLOGY COMPANY INC.

Baldwin Technology Company Inc. is a leading global manufacturer and supplier of process-automation equipment and related consumables for the printing, packaging and other industrial segments, including technical textiles, chip and fiberboard, and film extrusion. Through our global footprint, Baldwin offers our customers a broad range of market-leading technologies, products and systems that enhance the quality of industrial-produced products, with a focus on improving the economic and environmental efficiency of the production process. As a total solutions provider, Baldwin not only offers new equipment to our customers, but also dedicates extensive resources to maintaining and servicing existing equipment. Baldwin is privately owned by BW Forsyth Partners, a Barry-Wehmiller company. For more, please visit baldwintech.com.

ABOUT BW FORSYTH PARTNERS

BW Forsyth Partners is the investment arm of multibillion-dollar global manufacturing and engineering consulting firm Barry-Wehmiller. Established in 2009, BW Forsyth Partners blends Barry-Wehmiller's unparalleled legacy of value creation and people-centric culture development with keen investing experience to help companies realize their true potential. With a focus limited to areas known well, BW Forsyth Partners seeks to partner with leadership teams to acquire small- to middle-market companies in the capital and component equipment, and professional services sectors. In each of its operating companies, BW Forsyth Partners deploys operational improvements and strategy development without compromising the autonomy, strategic vision and entrepreneurial spirit of their leadership teams. For more information, visit bwforyth.com.

CONTINUOUS DYEING PROCESS WITH PIGMENTS



Since when pigments have been introduced into the Textile market there was a mutual interest to enlarge their usage in as many as possible fields of application. Furthermore it seemed that processes which involved pigment were more simple than processes that involved dyes. That was and still is . Nowadays pigment processes claim for almost 50% of the entire textile production widespread in many countries around the world.

Why pigments became so popular in a very short period of time ? Three reasons can easily answer to this question : simplicity ; reliability; cost effectiveness.

Even if printing with pigments on textile was firstly requested, no longer many customers were looking for an application of pigments also in a dyeing process. Since then many chemical producers started to develop their own system and Lamberti was and still one of them. Lamberti has been successfully developed auxiliaries and pigments preparation for pad-dry process since early 80's. Furthermore our R&D Team is still working to up to date all of our chemicals to the newest regulations, always with high technical strength as a first priority.

Which are the advantages of Lamberti's Continuous Dyeing Process with pigments :

- It is simple but with a very good shade reproducibility;
- It is an economical system but it can provide high quality standard articles;
- It is possible to print on fabrics dyed with pigments process and cure both in the same time ;
- It is possible to combine dyeing and finishing (ex. softners, anti-crease, etc) in one step;

- Great saving in water (no washing off process is needed after dyeing), energy and chemicals;
- Greatly increase the productivity;
- Greatly reduce the amount of wasted water disposal;
- Articles dyed with Lamberti's Continuous Dyeing Process with pigments showed good hand feel and satisfactory fastness properties;
- Very good levelness and very little migration alongside the stenter pins:

What kind of textile fabrics can be processed by Lamberti's Continuous Dyeing Process with pigments?

Home textile is the main segment in which pigment dyeing is involved. Woven or knitted fabrics composed of cellulosic (ex. Cotton) and other fibers (ex. Pes/Co) are commonly used. What kind of equipment can be used for Continuous Dyeing Process with pigments:



It's well known that differently from dyes , pigments have no direct affinity to textile material therefore exhaustion process cannot be done. The most common equipment are :

- Pad – Stenter (with or without IR pre-dryer)
- Pad – Thermosol

What kind of chemicals are involved in Lamberti's Continuous Dyeing Process with pigments ?

Recipe for continuous pigment dyeing system by pad-dry process consists of the following products:

Migration inhibitor : It guarantees dyeing levelness avoiding side to side and front/back change in color strength;

Dyeing Binder: purpose built thermally binder with a very high mechanical stability. Binder is thermally crosslinkable. Dyed fabrics in light to medium shades are fast to wash, dry and wet crock, light (selection of pigments have to be previously done);

Emulsifier: it mainly works as a liquor stabilizer and as an anti-sticky chemicals in order to avoid binder film formation on the pad rollers;

Pigment preparations: high concentrated water dispersion pigments selected in many hues for pigment dyeing. Issued by Lamberti's Textile Technical Assistance Team

New Alpha Series: GREEN PRINTING – Durst One-Step Soft Pigment Ink



The new developed Durst pigmented ink (Alpha Ink P) offers a universal solution to replace the Reactive Printing with a GREEN DRY PROCESS. Same Color yield and softness as comparable reactive prints with no water consumption for steaming and washing.

Durst, the industrial inkjet applications specialist, launched officially, during ITMA 2015 in Milan, the new generation of super-multi-pass inkjet printing systems for the digital production of home textiles and clothing. The new system is already in the installation phase in over 30 companies worldwide. Especially developed for the new Alpha Series is a new pigmented ink (Alpha Ink P) which can be used on a wide variety of textiles and which, after printing, offers an impressive feel. Alpha Ink P can be used on cotton, cotton blends, polyester and polyester blends in a single-step process. Therefore, the materials do not need any pre- or post treatment - this makes the digital production process significantly quicker and easier. As well as the cost effectiveness, which arises from this, the pigmented ink also convinces with its wet rubbing fastness of 3.5-4.5 If the textile product is pre-treated, the wet rubbing fastness is 4.5-5 and with pre- and post treatment, it is 5. The light fastness are higher and color space are identical to reactive ink. This means that pigmented ink can be used for both the low-price segment as well as for high-end applications (softness and grip). In addition, Durst pigmented ink is formulated with the binder, which

with the Durst circulating print heads, enables high-speed single-step print production.

"With the new developed Durst pigmented ink, we tried to offer a greater flexibility and efficiency in production to our customers," says Martin Winkler, Segment Manager Textile Printing, Durst Phototechnik AG. "Today two-thirds of all Alpha installations are a pigmented printing system, which shows us that the effort of investing in this direction was the correct choice."

Durst Alpha Series

The Alpha series offers print widths of 190-330 cm and can be configured with up to 8 colors and 64 Alpha-S print heads that achieve a native resolution of 600 dpi and a print speed of 460 lm/h. The Durst Alpha series provides continuous ink circulation in all ink circuits in order to guarantee constant ink quality and reliable stand-by availability. In the event of a print head failing, an automatic emergency mode will deactivate the affected print head row and continue printing with the greatest possible number of print heads. When necessary, Alpha-S print heads can be replaced by the customer within a very short time. A new intelligent feed system has been developed for the Alpha series that adapts automatically to different textiles and roll diameters. An integrated spray system allows materials to be chemically pretreated before printing. ■ ■