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from the editor...

The readymade garment industry in India has historically been one of the most important segments of the textile industry in India. According to a report, India's apparel Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in February 2019 was 171, which was 4 per cent higher than January 2019. The IIP index has continuously grown from a value of 136 in October 2018, indicating growth in apparel manufacturing in the country. The apparel Consumer Price Index (CPI) in March 2019 was 148, which is same for last 5 months, indicating that the prices have remained stagnant.

The apparel exports have declined to majority of the countries among the top 10 markets. However, the exports to the largest market, USA registered 7 per cent growth. The apparel imports in FY 2019 (Apr-Feb) stood at \$1,019 mn, which is 47 per cent higher than that in FY 2018 (Apr-Feb). Imports from Bangladesh, the largest apparel exporter to India has increased by 96 per cent in FY 2019 (Apr-Feb) as compared to FY 2018 (Apr-Feb). The analysis of financial fillings for Q3 FY 2019 shows that there is a growth in operating revenue as well as operating profit margins for all the considered fashion brands & retailers.

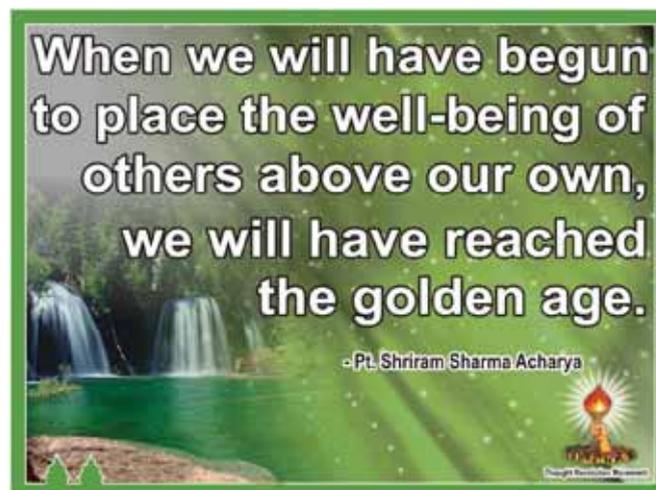
Meanwhile, knitwear exports from Tirupur are poised to surpass the ₹30,000-cr mark in the current financial year 2019-20, the Tirupur Exporters' Association has said. In 2018-19, exports from the knitwear hub are estimated to have grown by 8.3 per cent to ₹26,000 cr from ₹24,000 cr in the previous fiscal. Though the annual average export growth of 7 per cent was recorded in last year, in the last six months, the average export growth was significant at about 31.15 per cent over the corresponding period in 2017-18.

After struggling for two years, Tirupur exports have resumed back to the growth trajectory. With the continuance of positive growth trend coupled with the recent increase in RoSCTL rate and formation of stable Government, Tirupur exports is expected to cross ₹30,000 cr mark in 2019-20. Besides, in 2018-19, India's readymade garment exports stood at ₹1,12,715cr against ₹1,07,679 cr in 2017-18, registering a 4.7 per cent growth, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Further, Union Ministry of Textiles has amended hank yarn packing provisions decreasing the proportion of packing yarn for civil consumption in hank form from the previous 40 per cent to 30 per cent in each quarterly period. The new provision would come into effect retrospectively from January-March 2019 quarter. This will help the spinners bring down the cost and improve their competitiveness, thereby enabling ease of doing business for the entire cotton textile industry.



Arvind Kumar, Editor & Publisher



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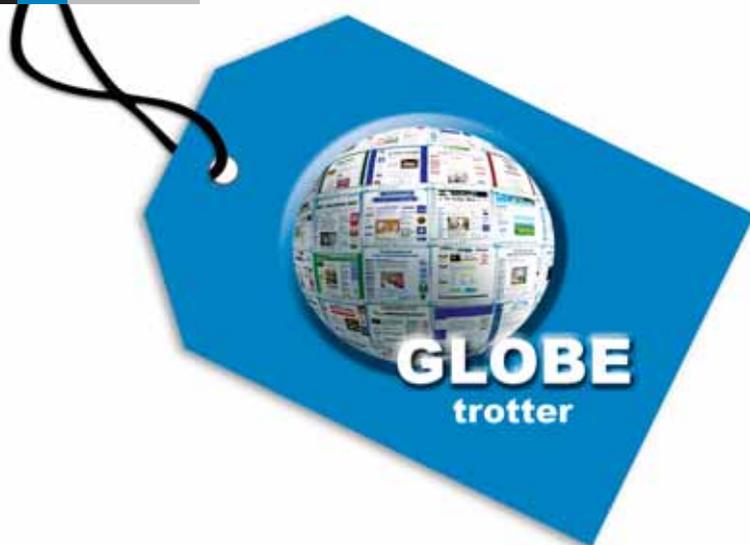
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Cameroon to dedicate part of EU budget support to cotton

Cameroon is planning to divert part of the next European Union (EU) Budget support to develop agricultural value chains, especially cotton. The European Investment Bank and the EU Delegation in Cameroon recently organised a meeting on cotton in Yaoundé that was attended by government officials, technical and financial partners, local banks and sector players. The exact amount to be injected into the cotton sector is yet to be known as negotiations are under way, according to a report.

The short-term needs of the cotton sector in Cameroon are valued at XAF60 bn. The Cotton Development Corporation (Sodecoton) has conveyed it needs XAF40 bn to raise production from 300,000 tonne in 2018 to 400,000 tonne in 2022, as part of its recovery plan. The company, in which the government has a 59 per cent stake, plans two ginning plants (XAF15 bn), a new oil mill (XAF20 bn) and a solar plant (XAF3 bn). Remaining XAF2 bn will strengthen site supervision teams. Cotonnière industrielle du Cameroun (Cicam) needs about XAF20 bn to cushion past two years' decline and intends to process 7,000 tonne of cotton seeds. Cotton is a major driver of the economy in Cameroon's northern regions which record highest poverty rate in the country. The crop is grown over 85,000 square km and directly sustains two mn people in the region. Cotton provides 2.5 per cent of Cameroon's gross domestic product (GDP) and 5 per cent of the agriculture GDP. It accounts for 4 per cent of overall exports, 15 per cent of agricultural exports and generates XAF30-40 bn per annum ■



Switzerland to lower textile industry customs duties

The Swiss Federal Council recently approved an ordinance on the temporary suspension of customs duties on textile input and intermediary materials. It will be effective from July 1. The specialised Swiss textile industry relies heavily on import of inputs and intermediary materials that are burdened with higher duties compared to inputs for other industries. This makes the finished products more expensive. The high duty rates originally set to protect the domestic textile industry are now having a detrimental effect, according to an official release. The Federal Council responded to a request from the Swiss Textiles Association. The thrust of the measure is also in line with the Federal Council's aim of abolishing industrial tariffs ■

France to lead global fashion sector sustainability drive

French President Emmanuel Macron is using Kering SA Chief Executive Officer Francois-Henri Pinault's help to lead a global fashion industry sustainability drive, seeking to reduce its environmental footprint by urging brands to commit to progress on issues like ocean health, biodiversity and climate change during this summer's G7 summit in Biarritz. Specific targets could include eliminating disposable plastics within three years or converting to renewable energy sources by 2030, Pinault told at a Copenhagen conference. Paris-based Kering SA owns luxury labels like Gucci, Saint Laurent and Balenciaga.



France also floated a plan to outlaw the widespread practice of destroying unsold clothes and luxury goods, with Deputy Ecology Minister Brune Poirson saying at the conference that the practice will be banned in France. Luxury labels mostly prefer to burn unsold items or bury them in landfills rather than risk damage to their image when their items are spotted in discount counters. Growing concern over the fashion industry's harmful impact on the environment has led to some brands banning the use of materials like fur or deploying new materials like mushroom leather for handbags.

LVMH, which owns Louis Vuitton and Dior, recently announced a partnership with UNESCO on protecting key ecosystems for supporting the luxury industry, like the habitat of black bees whose honey is used in its Guerlain skincare products ■

Africa turns largest cotton source for Bangladesh

African nations have left India behind to turn the largest source of cotton for Bangladesh as domestic spinners and millers aim to cut down their dependence on a single source for this raw material. Bangladesh, the largest importer of cotton in the world, met 37.06 per cent of its requirement for the white fibre from East and West African countries last year.

India accounted for 26.12 per cent of Bangladesh's total cotton imports, down from more than 60 per cent two years ago, according to data from the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA). Last year, 11.35 per cent of the cotton came from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, 11.14 per cent from the United States, 4.65 per cent from Australia and 9.65 per cent from the rest of the world, according to a report. The low quality of the Indian cotton is the main reason behind the falling imports from the neighbouring country, according to BTMA Secretary Monsoor Ahmed. A section of Indian cotton traders also cannot maintain timely shipment and deliver the right quantity of cotton as per agreement, said Bangladesh Cotton Association President Mehdi Ali.



The concentration of moisture in the Indian cotton is higher than in other countries, which makes it difficult to store in the warehouses for a long time. Last year, Bangladesh imported 8.28 mn bales of cotton (one bale equals to 282 kilogrammes). In dollar terms, the imports are worth \$3 bn.

The country produced 1.65 lakh bales of cotton last fiscal, which is less than 3 per cent of the annual demand of 10 mn bales. To boost domestic cotton production, state-run Cotton Development Board is looking for new farm lands in hilly and swampy areas in various districts along with existing cultivation areas in Jashore, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Gazipur and Mymensingh. The board hopes to produce 2.5 lakh bales of cotton by 2021, which will meet nearly 5-7 per cent of the domestic consumption ■

China hikes tariff on US imports worth \$60 bn

China will raise tariffs on \$60 bn worth US goods from June 1 in retaliation to the US tariff hikes and US plans to target almost all Chinese imports, China's Foreign Ministry announced on May 13. This followed the latest round of US-China trade talks that ended on May 10 without a deal and Washington raising tariffs on \$200 bn worth Chinese goods. The new rates will target a number of US imports with tariffs ranging from 5 per cent to 25 per cent, according to a statement by the Tariff Policy Commission of the State Council-China's Cabinet. The Chinese response came soon after President Donald Trump warned Beijing not to retaliate. "China should not retaliate-will only get worse!" Trump had tweeted.



President Trump had also ordered initiating a process to impose new duties on another \$300 bn worth Chinese imports. "China will never surrender to external pressure," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Geng Shuang said. In addition to tariff hikes, China may also use other measures to hit back as it imports fewer US products that restricts its ability to match tariffs dollar for dollar, Chinese experts feel.

Both sides have indicated that negotiations will continue, with Beijing's top trade negotiator Liu He saying recently that the talks would take place in Beijing at an unspecified date. White House Economic Adviser Larry Kudlow said President Trump and Chinese Counterpart Xi Jinping could meet next month on the sidelines of the G20 summit to iron out their differences on trade, although no new talks are scheduled ■

Mango reduces water consumption in jeans production by nearly 4 mn ltrs

Spanish fashion company Mango has introduced new techniques in the production of its SS19 season jeans which have cut down water consumption by up to 10 ltrs per garment. After analysing its water consumption, the company detected that cotton production and finishing processes accounted for 90 per cent of water consumption. In a bid to reduce its water footprint, Mango teamed up with experts in the field to develop two initiatives. The consumption of water, energy and chemicals has been reduced through the introduction of ECOWASH technology, by the company Jeanologia. The consumption of water and chemicals has also been reduced through the incorporation of the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) in garments, which encourages the use of sustainable cotton farming techniques, while additionally guaranteeing workers' health and safety.



The company has introduced the new techniques in the production of its SS19 season jeans and managed to reduce water consumption by up to 10 ltrs per garment, while for models such as Boy and Straight, water consumption has been decreased by up to 16.5 ltrs. The company now says 38 per cent of its SS19 jeans collection has sustainable characteristics and this figure is expected to increase to over 50 per cent for the coming season. Mango also announced the launch of its Committed 2019 collection, a capsule first introduced by the brand in 2017 made up of a selection of "environmentally-committed" designs using recycled fabrics and sustainable fibres such as BCI certified cotton, Greencel, and Tencel Lyocell.

The company said, "The desire to continue creating aware fashion has prompted Mango to endorse its pledge to increasing the proportion of sustainable fibres and to set the target of a 50 per cent sustainable use of cotton by 2022 ■




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Cambodian economy achieves robust growth



The Cambodian economy grew 7.5 per cent in 2018, according to the World Bank's (WB) recently-released Cambodia Economic Update, which said this better-than-expected growth was driven largely by the rapid expansion of exports and ongoing construction boom. The report called for filling skills gaps and investing in human capital to underpin long-term growth.

Exports of garments, footwear and travel goods, which account for more than two-thirds of total merchandise exports, recorded a five-year high, rising by 17.6 per cent in 2018, up from 8.3 per cent in 2017. The construction, real estate and tourism sectors accounted for about 60 per cent of total approved investment in 2018. To support the construction boom, manufacturing of building materials, furniture metals, and plastic products also increased rapidly, said the report. The European Union (EU) market, including the United Kingdom, currently accounts for more than one-third of Cambodia's exports, particularly garments, footwear and bicycles. The potential end of the country's duty-free access to the European market for exports—or the 'Everything But Arms' arrangement—will likely result in slower exports, it cautioned. The Cambodia Economic Update is a biannual report that provides up-to-date information on short- and medium-term macroeconomic developments in Cambodia ■

Two textile factories open in Morocco's Tangier



The Vita Couture-Diprints group has opened two textile factories in Morocco's Tangier at an investment of \$23,000. One will produce ready-to-wear clothing across 20 production lines and employ up to 2,200. The other, a joint venture with Spanish textile firm Santandarina, will specialise in digital fabric printing and will offer jobs to 110. The factories will cater to large orders by international fashion companies and compete with Spanish and Turkish Manufacturers. All the apparel will be for export, according to a newspaper report in the country. The textile export industry is one of the main contributors to national industry operations. The textile sector employs over 79, 000 people and exports to 75 countries ■

NEPC restores AGOA visa stamp to exporters

The Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) recently re-introduced the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) visa stamp to exporters to ensure their participation in the scheme before it expires in 2025. The scheme was extended till 2025 as many African nations performed better than Nigeria under the scheme, said NEPC Executive Director Olusegun Awolowo.

Awolowo conveyed this message through National Office on Trade Deputy Director Saave Nanakaan to the NEPC workshop on AGOA visa stamp utilisation in Lagos recently. AGOA was passed by the US Congress in 2000 and is meant to assist sub-Saharan African countries in improving economic ties between the United States and the region.

Visa stamp, which was introduced in January 18, 2016, took effect from February 8 the same year. It was another step to further simplify US market access for textiles and garments from AGOA-eligible countries. Under the process, the Office of the US Trade Representative has directed US Customs and Border Protection to permit importers to submit electronic images of appropriate export visas when claiming preferential treatment for textile and apparel products under the act ■



Nylon made from waste for activewear

Retail brand Free People recently announced three activewear styles made from ECONYL, a sustainable yarn developed in Italy. ECONYL is a 100 per cent regenerated nylon fibre made with discarded waste collected from landfills and oceans (fishing nets and fabric scraps). ECONYL allows new products to be made without ever revisiting new resources.



The material is created in three steps: First, waste is salvaged from landfills and oceans all over the world, then sorted and cleaned to recover as much nylon as possible. After, through a regeneration process, the nylon waste is recycled right back to its original purity. The nylon is then processed into textile yarn for cutting-edge activewear styles, like Free People's very own trio of eco-friendly styles. For every 10,000 tonne of ECONYL raw material, 70,000 barrels of crude oil are saved, and 57,100 tonne of CO2 equivalent emissions are avoided. It

reduces the global warming impact of nylon by up to 80 per cent compared with the material from oil. Free People Movement is excited to add these new styles to the collection just in time for spring. The brand is celebrating the launch by donating 1 per cent of all Movement purchases to non-profit partner Girls Inc. Girls Inc. inspires all girls to be strong, smart, and bold through direct service and advocacy. The collection features a sports bra, long-sleeve top and a pair of leggings. The 4th Annual Environmental Leader & Energy Manager Conference took place on May 13 – 15, 2019 in Denver ■

VITAS, WWF-Vietnam project promoting green garment sector

Vietnam is implementing a project to improve the eco-friendliness of the local textile and apparel industry. The Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) recently organised a meeting in Hanoi for the former's environment committee to find out modes to improve the sector's environmental responsibility.

VITAS Vice Chairman Truong Van Cam said the garment-textile sector raked in \$31.7 bn and \$36 bn in exports in 2017 and 2018 respectively and has an export target of \$40 bn this year. However, it is also among the biggest greenhouse gas emitters, apart from facing serious social and environmental problems that have affected its reputation, he admitted. WWF Vietnam and VITAS have been working together to carry out a project to improve water management and energy sustainability in the sector, according to a report. This project, being implemented from 2018 to 2020, looks to transform the sector into a sustainable and environmentally responsible industry ■



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Danish university helps improve Bangla garment sector



Researchers from Denmark's Aalborg University are now participants in a project to accelerate the internationalisation process, improve the occupational health and safety capability and ensure the sustainability of garment companies in Bangladesh. The programme has received 10 mn DKK from Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). Garment is the lifeblood of the Bangladeshi economy earning 83 per cent of the country's total export revenue. Bangladesh faces intensive competition from countries like Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar and Ethiopia as global brands search for cheap labour, low-cost location and shorter geographical distance, says Bakhtiar Rana Mohammad, Associate Professor of International Business and Strategy, who is one of the AAU researchers involved in the project. While foreign retailers continue to offer low price for sourcing, cost of production in Bangladesh is rapidly increasing, which is not only limited to labour but also involved with occupational health and safety (OHS) arrangement and cost of doing business, he says. This condition poses a big challenge for the Bangladeshi garment industry where firms do not tend to focus on managerial capability development and innovation across the activities in value chain, he says.

Rana is currently working on three research projects. The first one deals with how and why local garment suppliers are locked-in the upgrading process and what role institutions and business system play in this regard. The second deals with why Bangladeshi suppliers internationalise to Ethiopia and how institutions, buyers' business model and suppliers' entrepreneurial capability influence the internationalisation process. The third is on how garment suppliers' capability development is influenced by foreign buyers' business model and governance in relational mechanism.

On March 7 Rana and his fellow researchers organised an international scientific conference on 'sustaining garments' in Dhaka in collaboration with the Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, according to a report from the university. In Rana's opinion Bangladeshi garment firms cannot sustain for long if they continue to rely on cheap labour only. They should instead opt for ensuring other competitive advantages in the supply chain, design and production, such as innovation in developing special type of fabric, using green technology in production and recycling and developing own brands for international markets, he adds ■

Buyers concerned over labour, rights situation in Cambodia

A group of international garment businesses, including Nike, Adidas, and Levi Strauss, recently expressed concern over the labour and human rights situation in Cambodia. In a letter to Prime Minister Hun Sen, the group urged him to listen to the concerns of the European Union (EU) regarding labour and human rights violations in the country. The situation is posing a risk to trade preferences for Cambodia and many of the signatories have previously raised these concerns through multiple channels with the Cambodian Government. The success of the country's garment sector has gone hand-in-hand with its adoption and adherence to high labour standards, such as those set by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

In February, the European Commission launched the process that could lead to the suspension of the country's preferential access to the EU market under the Everything-But-Arms (EBA) trade scheme. The EU is concerned about democratic setbacks in the country, including the dissolution of



the main opposition party, the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), in 2017.

In January, US senators Ted Cruz and Chris Coons introduced the Cambodian Trade Act of 2019, which would require the US Government to review the preferential trade treatment Cambodia receives under the generalised system of preferences (GSP) scheme. Cambodia has around 1,200 garment and footwear factories, employing nearly 800,000 people, four-fifths of whom are women ■

Jiangyin BaoRui Textile to invest in Rwanda



Chinese textile company Jiangyin BaoRui Textile recently signed a deal to produce fabrics and apparel in Rwanda through a local partner, Apparel Manufacturing Group (AMG). The initiative is expected to reduce imports of high-end clothes. AMG Chairperson Dianne Mukasahaha and her counterpart from the Chinese side Hua Huang signed the agreement in China.

A delegation of Rwanda business operator's textile industry visited China recently to look for potential investment partnerships. Chinese Textile Experts will also provide new technology and capacity building techniques to the member companies of AMG, which are mostly small and medium enterprises, according to statement from Rwanda's Private Sector Federation (PSF).

"This is a great milestone for our sector. We have been facing the challenge of inadequate fabrics and importing finished clothes from different countries but now this will be done locally," said Dianne Mukasahaha, Chairperson of the AMG Company. PSF formed AMG to promote collective investment, according to Rwandan media reports. The manufactured garments will be sold in the domestic market and exported ■

RMG makers ask buyers to increase product prices in Bangladesh

Bangladesh readymade garment (RMG) exporters recently called on buyers and retailers to ensure a sustainable RMG sector by raising product prices. They also demanded a 5 per cent cash incentive for the sector for three years, saying the industry experiences huge pressure of wage hike, energy price rise, remediation cost and low prices of products. The demand was made at a meeting on sustainability of the RMG sector in the country organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Despite having a decent number of green factories, the country is not getting decent prices for its products, said Rubana Huq, President of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA). The sector is yet to gain maturity in price negotiation, she said.



Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said energy prices, cost of port and infrastructural weaknesses are reducing the competitive edge of the RMG sector, which needs some incentives and support for a certain period. Munshi said a free trade agreement with Sri Lanka may be signed within a month ■

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US retail imports to rise ahead of goods tariff increase

With retail sales rise and President Trump planning to increase and broaden tariffs on goods from China, imports at US's major retail container ports are expected to see very high levels the remainder of this spring and through the summer, according to monthly Global Port Tracker report released by National Retail Federation (NRF) and Hackett Associates. The rush to bring merchandise into the country that was seen through much of last year slowed down after Trump postponed a tariff hike from January to March and then put it on hold indefinitely as trade talks with China showed signs of progress. But Trump said that 10 per cent tariffs on \$200 bn worth of Chinese goods will rise to 25 per cent from May 10, and that he plans to impose new 25 per cent tariffs on most remaining Chinese goods at an unspecified date.

"Much of this is driven by consumer demand but retailers are likely to resume stocking up merchandise before new tariffs can take effect," NRF Vice President for supply chain and customs policy Jonathan Gold said. "Tariff increases and new tariffs will mean higher



costs for US businesses, higher prices for American consumers and lost jobs for many American workers. We encourage the administration to stay focused on a trade agreement, and we hope the negotiations will get back on track. It would be unfortunate to undermine the progress that has been made with more tit-for-tat tariffs that only punish Americans."

US ports covered by Global Port Tracker handled 1.61 mn twenty-foot equivalent units in March, the latest month for which after-the-fact numbers are available.

That was down 0.6 per cent from February but up 4.4 per cent year-over-year. A TEU is one 20-foot-long cargo container or its equivalent. April was estimated at 1.76 mn TEU, up 7.7 per cent year-over-year. May is forecast at 1.9 mn TEU, up 4.2 per cent; June at 1.92 mn TEU, up 3.7 per cent; July at 1.96 mn TEU, up 3 per cent; August at 1.98 mn TEU, up 4.6 per cent, and September at 1.91 mn, up 2 per cent. Imports have never before hit the 1.9 mn TEU mark earlier than July. And the August number would be the highest monthly total since the record 2 mn TEU record set last October.

Imports during 2018 set a record of 21.8 mn TEU, an increase of 6.2 per cent over 2017's previous record of 20.5 mn TEU. The first half of 2019 is expected to total 10.7 mn TEU, up 3.9 per cent over the first half of 2018. "Consumption is facing the potential of increased tariffs on Chinese imports if President Trump's tweets are anything to go by," Hackett Associates Founder Ben Hackett said. "One can only hope that this is a simple negotiating tactic that will run out of steam ■"

H&M discontinues catalogue business



Swedish clothing giant H&M Hennes & Mauritz AB has discontinued its catalogue business with immediate effect stating that "shopping from a catalogue simply isn't relevant to today's consumers." The H&M catalogue—which dates back to the Swedish mail-order business Rowells acquired by H&M back in 1980—was currently being published in 6 of its 72 markets. "We want shopping at H&M to be relevant, convenient and inspiring. Shopping from a catalogue simply isn't relevant to today's consumers and we have therefore decided to discontinue our catalogue business. Our final catalogues are published during the week starting April 29," H&M said on its website.

"At H&M we are dedicated to sustainability and we are constantly improving our business to reduce our impact on the environment. This is a gradual work and now the turn has come to the catalogue business which we have decided to discontinue with immediate effect," the company added.

Customers choosing to shop online instead of through catalogues are the main reason for H&M's decision to say goodbye to its catalogue. However, with more than 4,400 H&M stores in 72 markets across the world and online shopping in 48 markets, the company still offers fashion fans plenty of fashion inspiration in other channels that are more relevant to today's consumers ■

US to impose duty on polyester yarn from China, India

The US department of commerce has announced the affirmative preliminary determinations in the countervailing duty (CVD) investigations of imports of polyester textured yarn from China and India. The investigations found that exporters received countervailable subsidies ranging from 32.04 to 459.98 per cent and 7.09 to 20.45 per cent, respectively. Based on the preliminary rates, the department of commerce will instruct US Customs and Border Protection to collect cash deposits from importers of polyester textured yarn from China and India. The investigations were carried out following a petition filed by Unifi Manufacturing, Inc. (Greensboro, NC) and Nan Ya Plastics Corp. America (Lake City, SC).

Polyester textured yarn is synthetic multifilament yarn that is manufactured from polyester (polyethylene terephthalate). It is produced through a texturing process, which imparts special properties to the filaments of the yarn, including stretch, bulk, strength, moisture absorption, insulation, and the appearance of a natural fibre.

The scope of investigations includes all forms of polyester textured yarn, regardless of surface texture or appearance, yarn density and thickness (as



measured in denier), number of filaments, number of plies, finish (lustre), cross section, colour, dye method, texturing method, or packing method (such as spindles, tubes, or beams). Excluded from the scope of the investigations are bulk continuous filament yarn that: (a) is polyester synthetic multifilament yarn; (b) has denier size ranges of 900 and above; (c) has turns per meter of 40 and above; and (d) has a maximum shrinkage of 2.5 per cent.

The merchandise subject to these investigations is properly classified under subheadings 5402.33.3000 and 5402.33.6000 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and

customs purposes, the written description of the merchandise is dispositive. In 2017, US imports of polyester textured yarn from China and India were valued at an estimated \$35 mn and \$19.6 mn, respectively.

The petitioners have requested that the final determinations of the CVD investigations align with the final determinations of the concurrent antidumping duty investigations. Accordingly, the department of commerce is scheduled to announce its final determinations on or about September 10, 2019, unless the statutory deadline is extended. If commerce department makes affirmative final determinations, and the US International Trade Commission (ITC) makes affirmative final determinations that imports of polyester textured yarn from China and/or India materially injure, or threaten material injury to, the domestic industry, the department will issue CVD orders. If either the department's or the ITC's final determinations are negative, no CVD orders will be issued. The ITC is scheduled to make its final injury determinations approximately 45 days after the commerce department issues its final determinations, if affirmative ■

Nike scoops Retailer of the Year Award at World Retail Congress

US sportswear giant Nike has been named Retailer of the Year at this year's World Retail Congress in Amsterdam. Presented recently, the award was given to Nike for its "ability to adapt and thrive amidst changing consumer expectations and trends" and for its ability to maintain "authentic and sustainable relationships with its customers, through creativity, effective communication and continued innovation."



Accepting the award on behalf of Nike, Joris van Rooy, Vice President and General Manager Nike Direct (retail) EMEA, said: "At Nike, we exist to serve all athletes. From creating store concepts that blend the digital and physical, to redefining how consumers experience the brand through our app ecosystem, our goal is to make sport a daily habit for everyone. We're delighted to have won this prestigious award as we continue to innovate and serve the marketplace."

Ian McGarrigle, Chairman of World Retail Congress, added: "This year, we have seen that the retail sector is in a state of flux with many revealing in this year's High Velocity Retail report that they are going to need to make some big changes to survive. Nike is an outstanding example of a retailer that has been able to sustain customer relationships, while evolving and remaining relevant. This is undoubtedly thanks to a compelling combination of expertly curated products mixed with an unrelenting commitment to the consumer experience."

Other winners on the night included Walmart International CEO Judith McKenna, who was recognised as Woman of the Year (sponsored by Clarity); Allbirds was declared Retail Start-Up of the Year; Cotton On Group scooped Responsible Retailer Initiative of the Year for their Kenyan cotton project; and RYU Apparel Inc won the award for Customer Experience Initiative for its customer experiential centres ■

Uganda formulating plan to revamp textile-apparel sector

Uganda is formulating a strategy to revamp its cotton, textiles and apparel (CTA) sector to tap into the global market and has identified the sector as a development priority, given its potential for foreign investment and jobs. The plans follow similar efforts to exploit the US African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA), where Uganda's earnings have been modest.

The CTA sector ranks high among priorities under the third edition of the National Development Plan that is scheduled for launch later this year. Over the coming months, a comprehensive sector development strategy for the cotton value chain will be developed.



Although AGOA offers a big opportunity, Uganda's prospects have been hampered by a number of policy and market issues. Exports have been dominated by low volume products like handicrafts and interior décor, according to a report.

According to figures shared by Msingi East Africa, a not-for-profit organisation that supports economic sectors with high potential to drive large-scale growth, during a recent Uganda CTA strategy development meeting organised by the National Planning Authority, the global apparel manufacturing market was worth \$785.9 bn in 2018. But Uganda's CTA earnings totalled just \$22 mn, with the European Union being the main destination.

Lint dominated exports and only 12 per cent of the 37,000 tonne of cotton lint that Uganda produced during the 2017-18 season was consumed in the domestic market. Msingi East Africa is optimistic that Uganda's CTA goals are achievable because with a quarter a mn growers and surplus ginning capacity, Uganda is capable of producing 185,000 tonne of lint annually ■



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Eastman Kodak, Digital Ink Sciences working together

Eastman Kodak Company and Digital Ink Sciences are working together. Under the partnership, Eastman Kodak Company's newest ink formulations for Direct to Garment and Wide Format Printers are available through Digital Ink Sciences, the company which has industry-wide, cross-market, independent hardware knowledge of how the digital printing industry works.

Grant French, Business Development Manager for Digital Ink Sciences, said: "We're so excited to be working with Kodak on this. There's no better R and D inks company to work with in the world." "They're the ideal combination of engineering history and current innovation, and these new ink sets are much better than manufacturers expect. We're getting better colours, deeper blacks, and the custom ink formulation is significantly reducing maintenance on the print heads," French said.

Kodak Digital Ink General Manager Kenneth Kraft reported, "We're very happy to partner with Digital



Ink Sciences. They have the perfect, complementary expertise to bring our nano-pigment ink technology to the market." The Kodak powered DIS inks are 100 per cent domestically sourced and manufactured. "We have rigorously tested these new inks and are thrilled with the performance," said French.

The company develops the best colours available for aqueous textile inks. They do this by concentrating on what DIS calls the "Perfect Drop."

Focusing on the perfect drop means more of the ink lands on the shirt and less ink gets dispersed into the air, or onto unwanted areas. Optimising drop shape and size also helps the printer hit the same spot on the textile repeatedly, which means users can lower the resolution and print faster without compromising print quality.

Scott Colman, President of ColDesi in Tampa, Florida added his comments to the announcement. "The new G4 DTG Printer from Impressions Technology and DTG Digital will be powered by Kodak DTG Inks. And our tests prove out just how beautifully they print, and what a tremendous impact they have on reducing maintenance." The DIS-250 series inks support lower maintenance in a mid-viscosity ink because of better stability, jet ability, and nozzle integrity. The inks deliver less printer downtime, more shirts printed, and fewer issues ■

Prym Fashion unveils functional & sustainable snaps



Prym Fashion has announced the launch of its new environmentally friendly snaps in two options, ecoWhite and ecoGreen. Prym Fashion's L.I.F.E (Low Impact Fastener Ensemble) certified snaps are made using less material inputs, and are designed to provide the solution to a total eco-package. Prym Fashion is a Leading Manufacturer of garment accessories. The new snaps are the first eco-friendly alternative available to various market segments of the apparel and textile industry, including activewear, children's wear, and babywear. "We understand that today's consumers expect brands to offer products that are completely sustainable, including the fabric and the trim. These eco-friendly snaps allow our customers to consider every detail and increase the overall sustainability of their products," Brian Moore, Chief Executive Officer of Prym Fashion said.

Made from recycled plastic bottles, Prym Fashion's ecoWhite snaps eliminate the use of crude oil and associated processing compared to plastic snaps made with virgin raw materials. One recycled plastic bottle can produce 13 snaps. Prym Fashion's ecoGreen snaps are made from plant-based renewable resources, such as potato starch, and reduce fossil resources and greenhouse emissions. EcoGreen snaps are biodegradable and recyclable. Coming soon, Prym Fashion will also offer ecoBlue plastic snaps that will be made from recycled ocean plastic. "As brands and retailers in the textile industry continue to raise their sustainability goals, details like trim will become increasingly important. Prym Fashion is committed to making snaps that make a difference," Moore said ■

Alliance brands launch Bangla safety platform Nirapon

Twenty-one brands and buyers from North America, who were the signatories of Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety, recently launched a new platform, Nirapon, for safety monitoring in the Bangladesh readymade garment (RMG) units that supply them. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of the University of Asia-Pacific in Dhaka, is the Chairman of Nirapon board.



Chowdhury clarified that Nirapon is in no way a regulating body, but will use a brand-led approach to safety monitoring, oversight and reporting services for its members based on Bangladesh laws to help the factories build their own self-sustaining culture of safety, according to a report.

Factories would provide regular updates, including documentary evidence, to the brands and to Nirapon of their performances in those areas and work with vetted, local training and engineering firms who would conduct regular safety and training audits. Nirapon Chief Executive Officer Moushumi Khan said more than 600 factories are part of the initiative. All Nirapon member factories are required to continue to meet the National Action Plan harmonised standards for structural, fire, and electrical safety and all the factories would have to implement standardised training programmes focused on worker safety, she said. While Alliance had worked directly with factories to drive remediation and training programmes, Nirapon's role would be of oversight and independent verification of safety and training compliance and reporting those results to its members, she added ■

Govt. approves setting up of textile factory in EPZ in Kenya

The Kenyan Government recently approved setting up of a big textile factory by Mas Holdings Singapore, a Sri Lankan apparel and textile Manufacturer, in the export processing zone (EPZ) in what is being projected as a big boost for President Uhuru Kenyatta's employment generation plans. The unit will create jobs for 3,100 once operational in Machakos County.

With an investment of Sh1.5 bn, Mass Holdings Singapore Pte EPZ Ltd will leave behind Hela Clothing, which employs 1,500 workers, as the largest apparel and textile Manufacturer in the country. The unit in the Athi River textile hub is expected to start operations in June. Mas Holdings will export products to the United States, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

Mas Holdings has a presence in 16 countries. It has received financing of Sh1.1 bn, including Sh900 mn in foreign loans, Sh181 mn in paid-up capital from shareholders, and a similar amount of money in authorised capital. The President aims to create over 500,000 cotton jobs and 100,000 apparel jobs ■

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Pak making efforts to achieve target of 15 mn cotton bales

The Pakistani Government is making efforts to enhance cotton production and achieve the target of 15 mn bales set for next year, according to Abdul Razak Dawood, Advisor to the Prime Minister on commerce, textile, industry and production, and investment, who recently chaired a meeting during his visit to the Cotton Research Institute (CRI) in Punjab's Multan.



Urging farmers to produce contamination-free cotton that would fetch better prices in the international market, Dawood said policies are being revised so that growers do not shift to other crops. CRI Director Saghir Ahmed said high temperature and shortage of water are two main factors that

reduced cotton produce. Duties on raw material imports would be reduced in the upcoming national budget and more relief would be provided to farmers and the business community, Dawood said in the city while addressing a ceremony at the Industrial Estate Area ■

BBC Earth debuts 'circular' fashion collection

Following on from the huge success of the BBC's Blue Planet series, presented by Sir David Attenborough, the corporation has teamed up with apparel manufacturer Teemill to produce a range of 'sustainable' garments. BBC Earth says it has established the collaboration in order to "disrupt the fashion industry and propose a solution to one of the greatest environmental problems caused by fast fashion – landfill."

The collection is designed so that, once worn out, the garments will be returned via a newly-established take-back scheme. The recovery system enables consumers to scan their worn out product with a smart phone and activate a freepost code and triggering a 5 pounds off voucher for a new item.

BBC Earth explains: "Every product from the BBC Earth store is designed to be sent back to us when it is worn out. We're releasing this special edition print made with organic cotton that's been remanufactured from that recovered material." The collaboration's flagship 'Sustainable Me' Circular Economy Organic Cotton T-shirt is made using 50 per cent post-consumer remanufactured organic cotton and 50 per cent organic cotton – certified by GOTS. The product specification also details that the apparel is made in a factory powered by renewable energy.

The website on which the garments are sold sharing each step of the supply chain in an accessible way, including details of: rain-fed organic cotton cultivation, CSR initiative-compliant factory processing, 'low-waste' printing, and even packaging and delivery methods. The range includes T-shirts and Jumpers retailing at prices between 20-35 pounds ■

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New standard for merchandising T-shirts at Greenpeace

Beginning April, Greenpeace started testing a new standard for making T-shirts, bags and other merchandise that eliminates the use and discharge of hazardous chemicals. Eighty Apparel firms have committed to the organisation's 'Detox My Fashion' campaign started in 2011 by eliminating the use of hazardous chemicals and their release to waterways by 2020.



The campaign till now used third-party tools and standards for textiles manufacturing facilities to address hazardous chemicals and ensures full supply chain transparency. In 2018, the organisation started a pilot project to show that textiles can be produced in keeping with its ambitious Detox requirements. While its 2012 suspension on the merchandising and gifting of textiles will remain broadly in place, Greenpeace offices are going to start using selected suppliers, who meet the new trial standards for merchandising ■

Hasina urges Brunei entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh

Prime Minister Sheikh Ha-sina invited entrepreneurs and businessmen from Brunei to forge partnerships with Bangladesh enterprises while addressing the opening ceremony of Bangladesh-Brunei Business Forum in Brunei. Bangladesh offers cent per cent foreign equity, unrestricted exit and full repatriation of dividend and capital, she told the delegates. Bangladesh is establishing 100 special economic zones throughout the country and has set up a number of industrial parks as well, she said. With the growing environment concern, biodegradable jute and jute substitute products from Bangladesh have huge potential, she said.



The Prime Minister also urged Bangladeshi businessmen to invest in Brunei. Some business-level instruments signed at the forum include one between the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Brunei Darussalam (NCCIBD) ■

Denimsandjeans to debut in Japan

Denimsandjeans is going to organise its first edition in Tokyo, Japan on March 4-5, 2020. The show will be an innovation hub where key global players from fibres, chemicals, technology, mills, washing, garmenting, etc. will come together bringing their latest developments and inspire the visitors. Japan is a very important part of denim innovation globally.

"Japan has a long history in indigo and denim and has been able to teach a few lessons to the global community in terms of technological and fashion directions that the industry takes. It is a pole of attraction for designers from brands around the world who go there in search of inspirations from the perfectionist fashion creations of the Japanese designers," show organisers said.

At the two-day fair, local Japanese craftsmen, brands, mills, etc. will be involved and will enable fusion of fashionable innovations to surface from the show. "Companies will be carefully selected and curated to enable only those companies to be involved who can add value to the innovation hub that this show will aim to create. The involvement of some key fashion designers and technologists from across the world as speakers will enable the show to also serve as a knowledge sharing platform," the statement added ■

EFI acquisition bolsters digital print offering

Electronics For Imaging (EFI) has announced the acquisition of Turkish reactive inkjet inks supplier BDR Boya Kimya as it looks to bolster its EFI Reggiani textile printing capabilities. BDR reportedly serves a number of leading textile and apparel manufacturers around the world with its expertise in digital printing. The company claims to have grown at a remarkable rate since its inception in 2016, and will now benefit EFI's digital print offering particularly with its outreach in Turkey.

BDR will be integrated with EFI Reggiani and as part of this will continue to operate from its existing sites in Turkey. While financial terms of the agreement have not been disclosed, it's expected that it will be finalised by EFI's Q2 or full-year 2019 results.

"We are excited to have the BDR team on board and to fully support their industry-leading customers," said EFI Reggiani Vice President and General Manager Adele Genoni. "The synergies arising with BDR and the world-class portfolio of EFI Reggiani textile printers will be a key point of emphasis for us to continue providing high-quality products and innovation. EFI Reggiani is also significantly strengthening its presence in Turkey with this acquisition, which brings us to the heart of an important and growing textile hub."

Serra Saatçioğlu Yildiz and Ibrahim Demir, BDR's Co-Founders added, "BDR has always been very focused on the growing worldwide opportunity with digital to increase sustainability in the textile industry using high-performance and quality inks.

"EFI's global, best-in-class Reggiani portfolio fits exactly with our own key goals for innovation and growth. We are excited to be joining EFI to work together on advancing the industry's analogue-to-digital printing transformation," they added ■

Timberland to make 99 per cent clothing with organic cotton

With a goal of using 100 per cent organic cotton in its apparel by 2020, lifestyle brand Timberland has reached 99 per cent in 2018, the corporate social responsibility report of the brand said. The report has highlighted steady progress towards its 2020 sustainability goals in support of better products, stronger communities and greener world.

Timberland continued its work with the Smallholder Farmers Alliance (SFA) in Haiti to bring cotton back as an export crop for the country. The SFA planted its first commercial crop in 30 years in August 2018, and Timberland has committed to purchase up to one-third of its global cotton supply from the SFA, once sufficient volume and price and quality requirements are achieved, according to the report. In 2018, Timberland incorporated over £717,519 of recycled PET – the brand's largest source of ROR materials – into its footwear. To date, Timberland has given the equivalent of over 345 mn plastic bottles new life in its shoes.

The report has revealed that Timberland has sourced 99 per cent of its footwear leather, and 96 per cent of its leather overall (including apparel and accessories) from tanneries that are rated gold or silver by the Leather Working Group, for environmental best practices. The brand's goal is to achieve 100 per cent by 2020. The brand has also announced that it has reached one of its key sustainability goals two years early – to plant 10 mn trees by 2020. Timberland has a longstanding commitment to tree planting, with more than 10.2 mn trees planted worldwide since 2001, and is now working to set aggressive new targets for its next reporting cycle.

"At the heart of the Timberland brand is the core belief that business can and should be a force for a better future," said Jim Pisani, Global Brand President, Timberland. "We're very pleased with the progress we made in 2018, and hitting our tree planting goal two years early. But that doesn't mean we'll rest on our laurels. In fact, it only energizes us to think about how we can make an even bigger positive impact in the future. And we see trees playing a crucial role" ■



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Ethiopian garment workers are world's lowest paid



Ethiopian garment industry workers are, on average, the lowest paid in any major garment-producing company worldwide today, according to a report by the New York University Stern Centre for Business and Human Rights that says eager to attract foreign investment, the government promoted the lowest base wage—\$26 a month—in any garment-producing country. In comparison, Chinese garment workers earn \$340 a month, those in Kenya earn \$207 and those in Bangladesh earn \$95, say Paul M Barrett and Dorothee Baumann-Pauly, the report's authors.

The report is based on a visit earlier this year to the flagship Hawassa Industrial Park that opened in June 2017 in Southern Ethiopia and currently employs 25,000 people, according to report. Ethiopia is now inviting global garment manufacturers to set up shop in its mushrooming industrial parks. Most young Ethiopian workers are hardly able to get by to the end of the month and are not able to support family members, according to the report. The minimum monthly living wage in Ethiopia is reportedly about \$110.

With very little training, employees have protested by stopping work or quitting altogether. Productivity in the Hawassa factories is typically low, while worker disillusionment and attrition are high, the report says. Blaming Ethiopian politics for unexpectedly disrupting factory operations, the report urges the government to implement a long-term economic plan for strengthening the apparel industry and establish a minimum wage that ensures decent living conditions ■

Nepal's first garment processing zone invites investors

Nepal's first garment processing zone in Simara in Bara district in Province 2 recently invited investors to submit applications to build production plants in the zone. The zone is part of the government plan to build a special economic zone (SEZ) in each of the seven provinces, said Chandika Prasad Bhatta, Executive Director of the SEZ Development Committee. The zone was built with an investment of ₹2.5 bn to facilitate exports of Nepali readymade garments (RMG). The newly amended SEZ Act has reduced the mandatory export provision from 75 per cent to 60 per cent to ensure sustainability of firms inside SEZs, while 40 per cent of their production will be allowed to be sold in the domestic market.



The government amended the act after investors in SEZ expressed their lack of ability to export a majority of goods immediately after beginning production, according to a report. The Nepali Government recently also claimed that the garment processing zone started operations six months ahead of deadline. According to Garment Association Nepal, there are 52 readymade garment factories operating in the country with an annual production capacity of 6-7 mn pieces. The total investment in the industry is Rs 6 bn. So far, only one SEZ has been built in Bhairahawa of Province 5. The government plans to open an SEZ each in Biratnagar of Province 1, Panchkhal of Province 3, Gorkha of Province 4, Jumla of Province 6 and Dhangadhi of Province 7 ■

UK retail sales up 3.7 per cent in April 2019



In April, UK retail sales increased by 3.7 per cent on a like-for-like basis from April 2018, when they had decreased 4.2 per cent from preceding year. The 2-year average like-for-like change was -0.3 per cent per annum. The April figures are positively distorted by timing of the run-up to Easter, which is in April this year compared to March in previous year. On a total basis, sales increased by 4.1 per cent in April, against a decrease of 3.1 per cent in April 2018. This was above both the 3-month and 12-month average

increases of 1.2 per cent and 1.4 per cent respectively. The 2-year average growth, which corrects for the Easter distortion, was 0.4 per cent per annum, a slowdown from March's equivalent of 0.9 per cent.

Over the three months to April, in-store sales of non-food items declined 1.7 per cent on a total basis and 1.8 per cent on a like-for-like basis. This is in line with the 12-month total average decline of 1.8 per cent. Online, the 3-month and 12-month average growths were 4.1 per cent and 6.2 per cent respectively.

Over the three-months to April, non-food retail sales in the UK decreased by 0.2 per cent on a like-for-like basis and by 0.1 per cent on a total basis. This is below the 12-month total average increase of 0.2 per cent. This is the first time the long-term non-Food trend turned positive since October 2017. Online sales of non-food products grew 4.3 per cent in April, against a growth of 6.7 per cent in April 2018. The 2-year average growth, was 5.5 per cent per annum, in line with March's 5.4 per cent but below the 12-month average of 6.2 per cent. Online penetration rate increased from 28 per cent in April 2018 to 29.7 per cent last month ■

Lenzing speciality fibre revenue rises

Continuing its solid development in the first quarter of 2019, the share of speciality fibres in the total revenue of Lenzing has been 47.3 per cent. The rise has significantly exceeded the prior-year value of 42.1 per cent – and more favourable exchange rates. Despite a much tighter market environment, Lenzing has recorded a slight increase in revenue.

During the reported period, EBITDA dropped by 9.5 per cent to 92 mn euro. In addition to the market environment for standard viscose, this was primarily caused by currency effects, which burdened material and personnel costs. The EBITDA margin dropped from 18.5 per cent in the first quarter of 2018 to 16.4 per cent in the reporting period. EBIT fell by 21.1 per cent to 54.4 mn euro, leading to a lower EBIT margin of 9.7 per cent. Net profit for the period declined by 14.5 per cent from 50 mn euro in the previous year to 42.8 mn euro.



"Our speciality fibre business is still developing very well, which has made us significantly more resilient today than only a few years ago. In order to become even more resistant to market fluctuations, we continue to advance the implementation of the sCore TEN strategy and the planned major projects in Brazil and Thailand with

great discipline," said Stefan Doboczky, Chief Executive Officer of Lenzing.

For Lenzing, sustainability is not only a core value of the corporate strategy but also a key business driver and stimulus for innovation. The focus of the Sustainability Report 2018, which was published in March of this year, is on the wide range of activities the company is engaged in pursuing its mission of greening up the value chain.

Based on the current exchange rates, Lenzing continues to expect its results for 2019 to reach a similar level as in 2018 despite a much tighter market environment for standard viscose. These developments reassure Lenzing in its chosen corporate strategy sCore TEN. Lenzing is very well positioned in this market environment and will continue its consistent focus on growth with speciality fibres ■

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Automated GST refund for exporters soon

Exporters of goods and services and suppliers to units in special economic zones (SEZs) in India are reportedly expected to get goods and services tax (GST) refunds automatically from June with plans for faceless scrutiny of refunds and faster claim settlement. Automatic refund is available now only for exporters who have paid integrated goods and services tax (IGST).



Under GST, every person making a claim of refund on account of 'zero-rated' supplies has two options. Either he can export without payment of integrated tax under a letter of undertaking and claim a refund of accumulated Input Tax Credit (ITC) or he may export on payment of integrated tax and

claim refund thereof. Since the GST Network (GSTN) systems are integrated with customs, refunds are generally transferred to the bank accounts of such exporters within a fortnight. However, manufacturing exporters and suppliers to SEZ, who want to claim a refund of ITC, have to file an application on the common portal and thereafter manually submit a printout of the form along with other documents to the jurisdictional officer. Once implemented, the time period for such refunds will come down to about a fortnight from months at present, according to a report ■

India, Peru to hold next round of FTA talks in August

India and Peru will hold the fifth round of negotiations for the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) in August to boost bilateral commerce and investment. In the fourth round of talks, held between March 11 and 15 this year in Lima, both sides discussed issues like customs procedures, trade facilitation, market access for goods and movement of professionals. The main chapters of the agreement include trade in services, movement of professionals, investments, dispute settlement, technical barriers to trade, trade remedies, rules of origin of goods, customs procedures and trade facilitation, according to a report.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President Ganesh Kumar Gupta said Peru holds enormous opportunities for domestic exports and the FTA would help boost exports between the two countries. Peru ranks third among export destinations for India in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region. Bilateral trade between the two nations rose to \$3.13 bn in 2017-18 from \$1.77 bn in the previous fiscal. India's exports to Peru include cotton yarn and fabrics, motor vehicles, auto components, tyres, dyes and iron and steel products. Imports include bulk minerals and ores, gold, fertilisers, aluminium, coffee, crude oil and zinc ■

Apparel exports to UAE decline 33%

India has lost over a third of its apparel and garments exports to the UAE in FY19, due to the 5 per cent import duty levied by the Gulf nation to restrict trading activity and encourage local manufacturing. Data from global consultancy firm Wazir Advisors suggests India's cumulative apparel exports to the UAE declined by a steep 33 per cent to \$1.78 bn from April 2018-February 2019, versus \$2.66 bn in the corresponding period last year. As a matter of practice, exporters were shipping their consignments to the UAE for repackaging and distributing to neighbouring countries.



"Indian exporters were using the UAE as a gateway for apparel shipment to the Middle Eastern countries, Africa and Europe. However, the UAE government levied import tax a few months ago on all merchandised products, including apparels. On the contrary, apparel exports to the US and Europe are increasing. Therefore, the decline in apparel exports to the UAE was majorly compensated for," said HKL Maghu, Chairman of the Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL). India's overall exports of apparel or readymade garments were marginally lower at \$16.1 bn, compared to \$16.7 bn a year ago, according to data from the Commerce Ministry. According to industry sources, Indian exporters enjoyed a robust banking system between the UAE and African countries. Now, individual countries in Africa have developed their own strong banking systems.

Consequently, importers in African countries have started approaching Indian apparel exporters directly. "Thus, India's direct apparel exports to African countries have improved. With this, India's direct shipments of apparels have jumped significantly to African and European countries, at the expense of the UAE. This trend is likely to continue," said Rahul Mehta, President of the Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI). Direct shipment to consuming countries, however, leads to lower delivery time, said Mehta. Most important is the fact that there has been no major cost advantage or arbitrage of India's apparel exports directly to importing countries in Africa or Europe ■

Robust textile exports help India reduce trade deficit with China

Robust export of cotton textiles to China has helped India reduce its trade deficit with that country. The recent government move to reimburse all State and Central levies on textile exports boosted shipments to major consuming countries. Cotton textile exports to China increased 69 per cent between April 2018 and February 2019 to \$1.55 bn, against \$920 mn in the previous year period.



KV Srinivasan, Chairman, Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council, said exports can increase further if the Centre addresses the tariff disadvantage of 3.5-10 per cent that the Indian industry suffers vis-a-vis textile exporters in Vietnam, Pakistan and Indonesia. He added that higher exports of cotton textiles — including fabrics and

made-ups — will not only help reduce the trade imbalance but also attract investments from the labour-intensive industries shifting out of China. China is an important trading partner for India with imports of \$65 bn and exports of \$15 bn in the period April 2018 to February 2019. This marked an all-time high in exports and a sharp decline in imports from China. The trade balance between the two countries in FY18 was \$63 bn in favour of China, which has now shrunk to \$50.13 bn.

Textile policy: In January, the Centre had unveiled a new textile policy to include State-level taxes in the computation of duty drawback. It also granted duty drawback for import of fabrics under Advance Authorisation to make exports cost competitive. Last month, it extended the refund of State and Central taxes on shipments of apparels and made-up goods ■

Cotton yarn margins may shrink

The operating margins of Indian cotton yarn spinners may shrink by 100-150 basis points (bps) in fiscal 2019-20 owing to lower cotton output, rising cotton prices and moderating demand, reversing the recovery seen the previous fiscal, according to rating agency CRISIL. That, however, is unlikely to materially affect the credit profiles of spinners, it said.

The unlikelihood results from the continuation of three major spurs of fiscal 2019—modest capital expenditure intensity, prudent working capital management, and strengthened balance sheets. India's cotton production is expected drop by over 5 per cent in cotton season 2019—from October 1, 2018, to September 30, 2019—because of low water availability and inadequate South-West monsoon in key cotton producing states and lower yields owing to increase in incidents of pest attacks. Lower cotton production is expected to shrink India's cotton stock to a two-year low of 1.2 months by the end of cotton season 2019, leading to firming up of domestic cotton prices to ₹128-140 per kg this fiscal, marking a rise of 7-8 per cent over 2018-19. Global cotton prices, meanwhile, are expected to remain steady at ₹128-134 per kg as lower production in India, the United States and Australia will be offset by higher production in China and Brazil.



This would narrow the gap between domestic and global cotton prices, said CRISIL. Demand for cotton yarn is also seen turning south due to moderation in domestic as well as exports demand. CRISIL estimates that overall cotton yarn demand (volume terms) will grow at a slower pace of 4.5 per cent in 2019-20 compared with 5.6 per cent in the last fiscal. The slowdown will be mainly driven by tepid growth in domestic demand at 2.9-3 per cent in this fiscal. Growth in exports is also expected to be slower at 9-10 per cent in this fiscal, compared with 13.5 per cent last fiscal, amid trade tensions between the United States and China and commissioning of yarn capacities in Vietnam, which enjoys preferential access to Chinese markets ■

Indian KPR Mill opens factory in Ethiopian industrial park

Coimbatore-based integrated textile manufacturing company KPR Mill Ltd recently inaugurated its first overseas garment unit in Ethiopia's Mekelle Industrial Park. The factory will have an annual capacity of 10 mn items. Seven hundred people have been employed at the unit and export shipments have commenced to Europe and the United States. The opening of the factory is the result of a collaborative partnership with Geneva-based International Trade Centre's (ITC) Supporting Indian Trade and Investment for Africa programme (SITA), which works to build trade and investment linkages between India and East Africa.



ITC is a joint agency of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the United Nations (UN). The inauguration of the factory—KPR Export—was attended by ITC Executive Director Arancha González and KPR Mill Chairman KP Ramasamy, according to an ITC report. Funded by the United Kingdom's Department of International Development (DFID), ITC's SITA programme aims to improve the competitiveness of selected value chains, including textiles and apparel, in five East African countries—Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania—through the provision of partnerships with institutions and businesses from India.

The decision to by KPR Mill to open the production unit in Mekelle followed a visit to Ethiopia by its Ramasamy and senior management team in April last year. KPR Mill made an initial investment commitment of \$20 mn. By July 2018, KPR Export Plc was registered as a subsidiary in Ethiopia. Training of the workforce took place in both Ethiopia and India. At full capacity, the company will employ 1,500 machine workers who will produce 50,000 garment pieces per day ■

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Raymond's branded apparel sales climbs 21 per cent



For financial year 2018-19, the Branded Apparel segment of Raymond has recorded sales of ₹489 cr, up by 21 per cent against the previous year. The growth was driven by strong performance in MBO channel & well supported by EBO and LFS channels. LTL EBITDA margins rose to 7.0 per cent, mainly due to better sales channel mix and operational efficiencies. The sales of Branded Textile segment was posted at ₹832 cr, higher by 4 per cent over previous year, led by 3 per cent growth in the suiting business and 9 per cent growth in the shirting business. LTL EBITDA margins (excluding common cost allocation) were 16.7 per cent as compared to 19.5 per cent mainly due to higher advertisement and sales promotion spends and channel stock correction in shirting business.

As on March 31, 2019 the retail stores count stood at 1,444 across all formats covering about 2.4 mn square feet of retail space. In-line with stated asset light network expansion strategy, Raymond opened 275 stores on franchisee model during the year. Garmenting segment sales stood at ₹212 cr, up by 5 per cent over previous year led by exports growth in US. LTL EBITDA margins lower at 4.3 per cent over 6.9 per cent in previous year mainly due to lower utilisation of Ethiopia plant capacity and initial cost of B2B Made-to-Measure services in US.

High Value Cotton Shirting segment sales were ₹156 cr, growth by 7 per cent mainly on account of yarn sales from Amravati plant. LTL EBITDA margins improved to 13.8 per cent as compared to 9.1 per cent in the previous year mainly due to better product mix and increased efficiency on account of stabilisation of Amravati operations.

"We are delighted to report the continued strong profitable growth in FY19 as the organisation is challenging itself to achieve larger goals that we have set through our vision of Raymond Reimagined. In the process of capturing the untapped potential in semi-urban and rural areas, we achieved yet another milestone by opening 280+ Raymond stores in FY19. I am happy to state that our Amravati plant has stabilised with optimal utilisation and is contributing positively to the overall margins. Building capabilities and creating tech enabled platforms has been the key highlight as we continue with our growth momentum having tomorrow on our mind," Gautam Hari Singhania, Chairman & Managing Director, Raymond Limited, said ■

WPI inflation for apparel up 0.4 per cent in April 2019

India's annual rate of inflation, based on monthly wholesale price index (WPI), stood at 3.07 per cent for the month of April 2019. The index for textiles rose by 0.6 per cent while for apparel it was up by 0.4 per cent in April, according to the provisional data released by the Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The official WPI for all commodities (Base: 2011-12 = 100) for the month of April 2019 rose by 0.8 per cent to 120.9 from the previous month's level of 120.0, the data showed. The index for manufactured products (weight 64.23 per cent) for April 2019 remained unchanged at its previous month level of 118.3. The index for 'Manufacture of Wearing Apparel' sub-group rose by 0.4 per cent to 138.5 from 138.0 for the previous month due to higher price of knitted and crocheted apparel (2 per cent).



The index for 'Manufacture of Textiles' sub-group rose by 0.6 per cent to 119.4 from 118.7 for the previous month due to higher price of manufacture of cordage, rope, twine and netting (2 per cent) and cotton yarn and weaving and finishing of textiles (1 per cent each). However, the price of woolen yarn declined by one per cent.

The index for primary articles (weight 22.62 per cent) rose by 3.3 per cent to 139.2 from 134.7 for the previous month. The index for fuel and power (weight 13.15 per cent) declined by 0.5 per cent to 102.8 from 103.3 for the previous month due to higher price of LPG, naphtha, petrol, kerosene, and ATF. However, the price of petroleum coke, furnace oil and HSD declined. Meanwhile, the all-India consumer price index (CPI) on base 2012=100 stood at 2.92 (provisional) in April 2019 compared to 2.86 (final) in March 2019 and 4.58 in April 2018, according to the Central Statistics Office, Ministry of statistics and programme implementation ■

Descending labour-intensive export sectors not good

Reacting to the April 2019 trade data, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) president Ganesh K Gupta said the export figure of \$26.07 bn with a growth of 0.64 per cent is discouraging as most labour-intensive sectors, including leather and leather products; both cotton and man-made yarns, fabrics and made-ups; and carpets are into negative zone. These sectors are still facing the problem of liquidity, apart from various other challenges, including global trade war, protectionism, fragile global conditions and constraints on the domestic front, according to an FIEO report.



Only 14—including petroleum, organic and inorganic chemicals; readymade garments; and handicrafts—out of 30 major product groups were in the positive territory during April 2019, Gupta said. He also expressed concern over the rising trade deficit, primarily on account of swelling crude import bill with further northward movement of prices and ban on Iranian imports along with rising gold import. Domestic issues, including access to credit, cost of credit especially for merchant exporters, interest equalization support to all agri exports, benefits on sales to foreign tourists and exemption from Integrated goods and services tax (IGST) under the Advance Authorization Scheme with retrospective effect should be seriously looked into ■

Indian delegation attends silk buyer-seller meet in Vietnam

A delegation of 30 Indian firms led by Chairman of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council (ISEPC) Bimal Mawandia recently met Vietnamese silk industry representatives at a buyer-seller meet in Ho Chi Minh City. The trip was the first to the country for all of the participating companies. A similar buyer and seller meet will be held in Hanoi on May 23.

The visitors at the meet were from companies producing silk, fabrics, readymade garments, silk scarves, stoles, Pareo shawls, evening wear, beachwear, fashion accessories, tops, bottoms, trousers, jackets, kaftans, bags, embroidered shawls, silk-blended products and natural silk carpets, according to a report.



According to the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association, there are 7,000 enterprises in the industry, offering jobs to three million. The country's garment and textile exports increased by 12 per cent last year to reach over \$36 bn and exports is expected to top \$40 bn this year ■

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Anisha Silk Mills invests in Orange O Tec machines



Anisha Silk Mills has expanded its reach by investing in MS & Colorix Digital Printing machines from Orange O Tec. This year Anisha has entered into digital textile printing market, said Director Karan Juneja adding that they have invested in Colorix Subpro I a dye-sublimation machine from the Orange Group due to higher production at lower running cost. "We are one of the largest garment manufacturers in the country. Our objective has always been to produce the best products and focus on customer

satisfaction; we have always firmly adhered to our morals and principles. For our customers, design and qualities are of utmost importance," said Juneja. "Due to in house consumption and a complimentary to our embroidery, we have recently decided to purchase two direct to fabric digital printing machine, MS JP7 from Orange O Tec," added Karan.

Configured with 2 or 4 industrial proven Kyocera print heads, Subpro I has print speed up to 120 lmh/hr. Its built-in 3 dyers will prevent the paper wrinkle and has auto paper detect sensor. It has automatic periodic purging & wiping system and anti-scratch system with a laser sensor. "The Subpro I prints with the new Flotec inks at a maximum output of 120 lm/h. Subpro I has edge over the competition as it provides better results at a reasonable cost," Aayush Rathi, Director, Orange O Tec, said ■

India ITME 2020 registration breaks previous records

Breaking past records, online registrations for India ITME 2020 have begun. On the first day itself, more than 15,000 sq mtrs of the area have already been booked. This 11th edition of the ITME series shall host more than 1,800 participating companies and over 1,50,000 visitors, to be held in Greater Noida, India during December 10-15, 2020.

A complete spectrum of 21 exhibiting chapters from fibre to finished goods shall showcase at India ITME 2020. The six-day long fair aims to promote integrated services through exhibitions for setting a benchmark in textile machinery industry through continuous improvement.

"India ITME Society has strived to spearhead innovative technologies for textiles not only in India but also in the neighbouring countries. It is exciting that this pivotal business event has established its trust among the industry members and has proven beyond doubt, its commitment towards industry growth and business prosperity," Hari Shankar, ITME India Chairman, said. India ITME 2020 will offer unmatched business to the exhibitors as the Indian textiles industry is set for strong growth, buoyed by strong domestic consumption as well as export demand. It will open windows to various business verticals in form of leads, contacts enquiries on a massive platform ■

Arvind joins Fashion for Good

The latest organization joining Fashion for Good is Arvind Limited, the global leader in apparel manufacturing and trailblazer in advanced materials. With Arvind, the Fashion for Good Innovation Platform gains a well-experienced partner that is committed to testing and implementing sustainable innovations.

"By having Arvind join Fashion for Good, all of the innovators and stakeholders are gaining indepth knowledge and support from a unique pioneer in manufacturing. We are immensely proud to see the entire fashion ecosystem come together, to implement and scale innovative solutions across the fashion value chain." – Katrin Ley, Managing Director; Fashion for Good.

"Sustainability & Innovation are our key strategic growth pillars and we have always attempted adoption of innovation in textile manufacturing. We are pleased to partner with Fashion for Good and are committed to promote the Sustainable technologies originating from the FFG platform. We are looking forward to work with these



technologies to fuel next set of growth in manufacturing for us with the aim of growing with drastically less environmental impact." – Punit Lalbhai, Board of Directors; Arvind Limited.

From fibre innovations to sustainable manufacturing processes – Arvind is powering highfashion brands across the world, while delivering unmatched excellence across the garment value chain. Pioneering vertically integrated apparel solutions, increasing the use of sustainable yarns and testing innovative recycling solutions are only some of the ways in which they are creating a future of immense possibilities ■

India losing cotton export market to Brazil



India is fast losing its cotton export market to Brazil due to a sharp increase in the fibre prices over the last six weeks which makes Indian shipments uncompetitive in world markets. The benchmark Shankar 6 variety of cotton jumped more than 10 per cent to trade at ₹12,907 a quintal recently as against ₹11,698 a quintal. With the Cotton Association of India (CAI) forecasting that India's cotton output will remain lower during the current season, its arrivals have started declining gradually. Cotton harvesting ended early this season due to reports of crop damage in major fibre producing states including drought-hit Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Apart from rising domestic cotton prices, the appreciating rupee has made actual realisation lower than the depreciating Brazilian real. While the rupee appreciated by 2.27 per cent to close at ₹69.18 against the dollar recently compared to ₹70.75. In the same period, however, the Brazilian real – has depreciated by 3.88 per cent to 3.88 against a dollar from 3.76 against a dollar recently. "Indian cotton has become uncompetitive in the world market. The largest importer, China, has started importing cotton from Brazil as it has become a cheaper substitute," said MB Lal, former Chairman of the Cotton Corporation of India.

India's shipment of nearly 400,000 – 500,000 bales of cotton is under serious threat of delivery default as Indian exporters face higher procurement prices than contracted for cotton exports. The CAI in its latest report estimated the cotton crop for 2018-19 at 32.1 mn bales of 170 kgs each which is lower by 0.7 mn bales than its previous estimate of 32.8 mn bales made in March. "Rising cotton prices may restrict India's exports this year. India has exported around 4 mn bales so far this year," said Arun Sakseria, a Veteran Cotton Exporter.

Meanwhile, K V Srinivasan, Chairman, Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) has urged the government to emphasise the need to boost exports of textile products not only to compensate the decline in cotton exports, but also to narrow the trade deficit with China.

"Exports of cotton textiles had contributed to the reduction in trade deficit with China, the largest importer of India's cotton. India's exports of textiles and apparel posted an increase of 69 per cent to \$1.5 bn between April 2018 and February 2019 compared to \$919.76 mn in the corresponding period last year. Export of cotton textiles can be increased further if the tariff disadvantage of 3.5 - 10 per cent suffered by India in comparison to Vietnam, Pakistan and Indonesia on textile products is addressed by making further special efforts," Srinivasan added. China is an important trading partner for India with an import of \$65.22 bn worth of goods and export of \$15.10 bn for the period April – February 2019, recording an all-time high in exports and sharp decline in imports from China ■

Denimsandjeans India to highlight changing denim market

Denimsandjeans India, which is bringing its third edition of the International Denim & Supply Chain Show on July 17-18, at Bangalore, will hold its first panel discussion on July 18. The topic 'The race to the bottom: Who are the winners?' aims to discuss the changing patterns of denim business, the problems being faced by the industry and their solutions. The panel discussion, to be moderated by Stefano Aldighieri, Ex-Creative Director of Levis, will discuss the change in pricing, sourcing, quality, geographical influences, margins and sale strategies over the period of time. Senior representatives of denim supply chain companies will participate in the discussion and share their views. The discussion will be followed by a Q&A session.



"Inflation has been rising globally and the price of most of the consumer goods have increased in the same proportion. However, when it comes to a pair of jeans, one realises that the prices of jeans have been going down over the period of time. One of the objectives of the panel discussion is to identify the root cause of this

problem as to why in the past decade, the denim industry failed to align with the fundamentals of inflation and how it has affected the businesses so far," the fair organiser said.

The panel discussion will also bring light on the changes which happened during the period of early 2000 and 2008. "2000 was the year when the premium segment of jeans found its space in the market and was able to sell jeans at the price of \$300. However, this could not hold its ground for long and there was a crash in mid-2008 when recession hit the US. The post-recession era opened the market for fast fashion and the retailers who entered into the market started selling jeans even at ridiculous prices of less than \$10," the release added. The impact of e-commerce business affecting the eco-system of traditional business and the challenges ahead will also be discussed by the panel ■

International Lace Trade Centre in Narsapur



India's Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) has set up an International Lace Trade Centre [ILTC] in Narsapuram in Andhra Pradesh under the Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) of the Ministry of Textiles to help craftsmen, artisans, producers and exporters in the State's East Godavari and West Godavari districts.

Help will be offered to develop new designs, to adopt production techniques of lace products, and to market and export through exhibition and craft bazaar. The centre will enable the producing and exporting community to interact with foreign experts, designers and buyers on product development and exports. The centre has exhibition halls, an auditorium, an open air theatre, meeting rooms, ample facilities for craft bazaar, and accommodation for buyers and designers. More than lakh women artisans are estimated to be involved in making of lace products in India. More than 80 per cent of the exports of lace products originate from the East and West Godavari region. EPCH is also going to set a dyeing unit at ILTC as artisans have to travel long now for such services. The exports of lace and lace products was to the tune of ₹17.75 cr in 2013-14, which reached ₹26.57 cr in 2017-18 ■

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11 companies in race for Pepe Jeans India

The fight to acquire the Indian arm of Pepe jeans is intensifying with about a dozen suitors in the fray including some big domestic retailers like Reliance Retail and Kishore Biyani's Future Group besides various global private equity (PE) giants. "There are multiple players looking to acquire Pepe," according to a person with direct knowledge of the situation. Another person familiar with the development said there are 11 companies looking to snap up Pepe Jeans India, a fully owned subsidiary of Barcelona-based Pepe Jeans Group, which counts LVMH-owned L Catterton and Lebanese investment firm M1 Group as majority shareholders.

"As a policy, we do not comment on media speculation and rumours. Our company evaluates various opportunities on an ongoing basis," a Reliance Retail spokesperson said. "We have made and will continue to make necessary disclosures in compliance with our obligations under Securities Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015 and our agreements with the stock exchanges." Kotak Group's investment banking arm is advising Pepe's global



parent on the sell-off and has so far received 11 bids from potential buyers, one of the sources said.

Pepe, which operates more than 200 branded outlets in India — most of them franchisee run — was founded by Indian origin siblings Arun, Nitin and Milan Shah in London in 1973, but has changed hands since. In February 2015, Pepe Jeans and Hackett London — both part of the Pepe Jeans Group — were bought by L Catterton and M1 from Torreal Funds, Arta Capital and L Capital Europe. Spanish entrepreneur Carlos Ortega owns 20 per cent stake in the global clothing company where he is also the CEO.

Before Biyani's Future Lifestyle entered the fray in October, five global funds, including KKR, Carlyle, General Atlantic and Malaysia's sovereign fund Khazanah, had submitted non-binding offers for the company and conducted due diligence. Pepe's owners at that time were seeking a valuation of ₹2,000 cr for the Indian business. It is, however, unclear how many of the above mentioned PE players are still in the fray for Pepe.

While Future Lifestyle is looking to merge Pepe with its own Lee Cooper portfolio to create one of the country's biggest casual wear brands, Reliance is adding muscle to its fashion portfolio for its sprawling retail business as well as its upcoming "new commerce" initiatives that seeks to merge offline retailing with an ambitious e-commerce venture.

Reliance fashion portfolio, spearheaded by Reliance Trends, has crossed ₹10,000 cr in revenue in fiscal year 2018-19. In March, Reliance Retail announced that it had acquired John Players fashion and lifestyle brand from ITC ■

VOI Jeans India to double its revenue to ₹100 cr

UK-based denim maker VOI Jeans' Indian partner, is aiming to double its revenue to reach ₹100 cr by 2021, said the top executive of the brand. VOI Jeans has a global presence with outlets in the UK, Germany, Russia, Holland, and Austria with retail sales of \$2 bn. In India, the company is a joint venture between VOI Jeans UK and VOI Jeans India. The JV consists of predominantly funding along with production support in terms of increasing the product categories like winter wear, footwear, and accessories and expansion support.

"Currently, VOI Jeans India has a 50-cr retail sale and it looks at hitting the 100-cr mark by 2021. The brand's strategy for achieving the same consists of expanding its presence in Tier 2 towns across the country," said Vimal Kumar Kamnani, CEO, VOI Jeans India. The company will also invest ₹20 cr in the next two years to open 20 exclusive outlets as well as for growing the business.

Denim and casual wear are among the high revenue categories in India's growing domestic apparel market. The market size of the Indian denim segment was estimated at ₹23,076 cr in 2017 and is projected to reach ₹41,947 cr by 2022 and ₹76,258 cr by 2027 with men's denim accounting for the largest share, expected to grow at a high CAGR of 12.7 per cent over the next decade. At present, VOI Jeans India has 18 exclusive brand outlets and over 100 shop-in-shops along with a presence on major e-commerce platforms. The brand is looking at expanding the business by increasing the number of counters.

"Our design-centric approach and unconventional methodologies have helped us to bring constant newness in the market. We always keep consumers in focus and deliver high European fashion products that are easy on Indian pocket," said the executive.

The brand is currently present in Hyderabad, Bangalore, Vizag, Vijayawada, Pune, Delhi, Amritsar,



Ludhiana, Kolkata. The brand which sells primarily through large-format retail stores generates only around 10 per cent revenues from the online channel. "It is only 10 per cent for us. We have noticed more than fresh season sales it is about discounted sales trend. So, online is more of old season stock clearance for us at the moment," said the CEO ■

Arvind starts project to offer personalised experience to shoppers



Arvind Fashions Ltd, a licensee of numerous international fashion brands, has signed an MoU with Nucleus Vision, an IoT & blockchain company, to start a pilot project aiming to offer

personalised experience to shoppers. Arvind will implement Nucleus's proprietary sensor technology in its Gap, Unlimited and US Polo Assn stores to strengthen customer analytics.

The current Indian retail market amounts to an approximate of \$800 bn and is estimated to reach \$1.1 tn by 2020. Personalisation plays a major role in the gigantic market as 63 per cent of Indian consumers prefer personalised experience, according to a report by Forrester-Epsilon. Through this association with Nucleus Vision, Arvind Fashions Limited intends to offer its consumers a more personalised retail shopping experience and therefore tap into new opportunities.

"We see tremendous interest from the customers for a more evolved and personalised shopping experience. Nucleus Vision's revolutionary technology will give us valuable insights into our customer behaviour, which will help us improve customer satisfaction and increase revisits," said Rukaiya Rangwala, COO, Digital Centre of Excellence, Arvind Fashions Limited.

"We look forward to expanding the scope of our relationship with Arvind Fashions Limited. This is a big step towards our goal to associate with the leading players in the Indian retail market to help them create better shopper experience," said Abhishek Pitti, Founder & CEO of Nucleus Vision ■

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Alpha Capital invests ₹80 cr in Shree



Mumbai-based private investment firm Alpha Capital has invested ₹80 cr (\$11.5 mn) in women's ethnic and casual wear label Shree, whose owner SHR Lifestyles Pvt. Ltd will spend the money to expand its reach in existing markets and penetrate new regions, especially in South India. The company is run by the husband-wife duo Sandeep and Sheetal Kapoor.

Started in 2009, SHR Lifestyle primarily operates through its stores in North India with a few outlets in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra. It also sells online. For Alpha Capital, founded by Vishal Ootam and Vivek Anand and backed by Sat Pal Khattar of Singapore's Khattar Wong group, Darshan Patel of Vini Cosmetics, former Infosys finance Chief TV Mohandas Pai and Manipal Group Chief Executive Officer Ranjan Pai, this is the second known deal in 2019, after it reinvested in existing portfolio company InCred ■

Sale of khadi increases during Indian polls



The demand for khadi apparel has witnessed a surge due to elections, with its sale registering a record high of ₹3,215 cr, up 29 per cent, in the fiscal ended March compared to the previous fiscal. According to Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Chairman Vinay Kumar Saxena, the khadi business registered a four-fold growth in the last five years. The sale figure was ₹811 cr in 2013-14. During summers, politicians and their supporters have to spend a lot of time under the sun because of which they prefer khadi. He said the demand for khadi is growing across the country, especially in Delhi National Capital Region, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Out of the total sale in the last fiscal, 40 per cent was of raw cloth, while the rest was of readymade apparels, he added ■

Indian Terrain signs MS Dhoni as brand ambassador

Menswear brand Indian Terrain has signed MS Dhoni as its Brand Ambassador on a two-year contract, a bid by the Chennai-based company to parlay the cricketer's appeal among youngsters into a branding push as it pursues a wave of growth through multi-channel retail strategies. The company's Founder Chairman Venky Rajagopalan, at an event in Chennai said, "Our brand is represented by the 'Spirit of Man' logo and we believe that Mahendra Singh Dhoni truly exemplifies all the attributes that our brand stands for."



Menswear maker Indian Terrain is pursuing increased online sales through multi-brand e-tailer platforms and on its own website launched recently even as it doubles up on physical, franchised stores in an omni-channel retailing strategy push, top executives said at an event in Chennai. Charath Narasimhan, CEO of Indian Terrain Fashions, said online platforms contributed to 14 per cent of company revenues during the fiscal year 2018-19. He expects the proportion to reach about a fifth of revenues over the next three years.

Narasimhan said platforms such as Myntra-Flipkart, Amazon, Jabong, PayTm currently retail Indian Terrain garments. Additionally, unique web sites catering to clothing for kids have also retailed the company's wares. The company's own website, begun in March this year, will also enable Indian Terrain raise its digital presence. "Still early days but it is picking up fast," Narasimhan said about sales on the company's website ■

A.T.E. ties-up with Lüscher Technologies AG, Switzerland



A.T.E. Enterprises Private Limited, India, has joined hands with Lüscher Technologies AG, Switzerland, for sales and marketing of UV laser direct exposing units for rotary screens in India. Lüscher Technologies, Obstalden/Switzerland, founded in 1946, is a leading global manufacturer of state-of-the-art imaging systems for various printing technologies, and caters to the graphic arts and textile industries. Backed by around 73 years of experience, Lüscher manufactures many kinds of cutting-edge equipment.

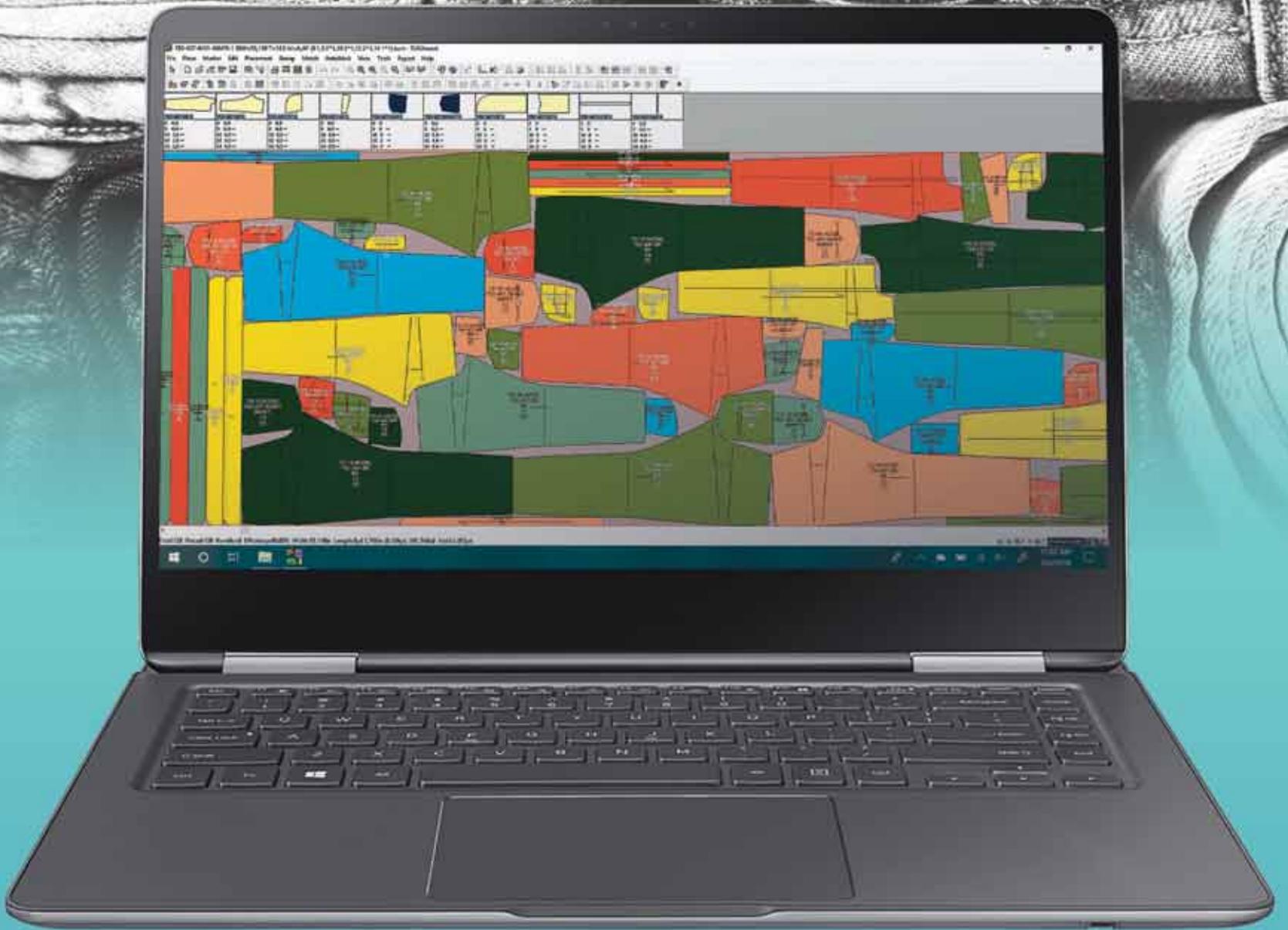
One of these is the state-of-the-art UV laser diode direct exposing system, model – JetScreen DX round. It uses the latest technology – UV laser diode 405nm, having an optical system with resolution from 600 -1200 dpi. These diodes are designed to consume low energy and are long lasting with an average life of 20,000 hours. A.T.E. with over 80 years of experience in the Indian textile industry is a domain expert in textile processing providing end-to-end solutions. With this partnership, A.T.E. brings yet another innovative technology to the Indian textile industry, which will provide a sustainable competitive advantage in their business ■

DHL SmarTrucking becomes Singer's logistics partner

German firm DHL SmarTrucking recently announced a partnership with Singer India Limited, a leading manufacturer of sewing machines and home appliances, to transport their products across India and reduce delivery time through an organized driver relay system. DHL SmarTrucking was incorporated under Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group's corporate incubations division. The partnership will optimise Singer India's supply chain and increase their growth in the local market, DHL SmarTrucking Chief Sales Officer Sanjeev Sharma said in a statement. DHL SmarTrucking works in India with more than 1,900 drivers, 745 trucks and 12 hubs. DHL, part of the DPDHL Group, is the leading global brand in the logistics industry ■

Bangladesh requests India to withdraw anti-dumping duty

Bangladesh's Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi recently requested his Indian counterpart Suresh Prabhu to take suitable measures to withdraw anti-dumping duty on Bangladeshi products. Both met on the sidelines of the two-day WTO Ministerial Meeting in New Delhi. Munshi pushed for more apparel import to India from and more Indian investment in Bangladesh. Prabhu assured all necessary measures to address the issue, according to a report citing a Commerce Ministry. Despite a general duty-free access of Bangladeshi products to India, several Indian States often impose taxes if the volume of imported products appears to affect their local enterprises ■



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Lectra's annual event demonstrates power of data in fashion

Lectra cements its position as a fashion industry opinion maker by leading a much-awaited discussion on new consumer behaviour at its latest fashion event, "Winning Over the New Fashion Consumer" in Bordeaux-Cestas, France. More than 75 industry insiders and market experts from 14 countries convened at Lectra's International Advanced Technology and Conference Center (IATC) for two days to examine how the digital age is bringing about major shifts in consumer behaviour. Today's digitally attuned consumers have become co-creators in the production process, changing the fashion landscape entirely.

The keynotes, live demonstrations, and customer testimonials highlighted the importance of process digitization and data analysis for meeting new consumer needs. The event kicked off with two keynote speakers. Peter Jeavons, Managing Director of First Insight Europe, stressed the importance of using data to understand the hyper connected fashion consumer. Craig Crawford, Strategist and Founder of CrawfordIT, outlined the arising challenges and opportunities from these changes, and urged fashion companies to embrace digital transformation internally by cultivating a conducive environment for it.

Beyond just understanding the new fashion consumer, the event stressed on the importance of leveraging data to deliver customer-centric services and products. Lectra presented their responses to this challenge in the form of two new major solutions, Kubix Link and Fashion on Demand by Lectra.



Kubix Link, a cloud-based platform that has the combined capabilities of PLM, PIM and DAM, which enables companies to deliver the ultimate product experience through unparalleled collaboration powered by data. Big-name company representatives from jewelry brand, Pomellato, and outdoor performance footwear manufacturer, Tecnica Group, were there to share their experience. "Kubix Link was exactly what our company needed—a platform to gather, process and share consistent product information across our entire fashion eco-system and all marketplaces. And Kubix Link provides just that, with so much ease," said Cristiano Simonetto, the IT Director of Tecnica Group.

Attendees were treated to a live demo of Fashion On Demand by Lectra, the industry's first end-to-end personalization solution. There, they saw how a data-driven, automated on-demand production process from order reception to final cutting stages could deliver garments customized according to consumers' specific demands. Charline Fasquel, Production Manager and Stéphane Quinou, Industrial Director of Balsan and Groupe Marck respectively, provided testimonials on the effectiveness of Fashion On Demand by Lectra. "We were producing hundreds of uniforms

every day, and reaching our maximum capacity. We had two options—either to hire more manpower or modernize our tools. And so we did (the latter)," said Charline Fasquel. "Fashion On Demand by Lectra is a dream come true for us. Thanks to this solution, we managed to increase production output, achieve the perfect fit, reduce cost of consumables, save time on preparing orders and minimize human errors."

On the product development side, Mariam Bennis, Head Patternmaker of luxury brand Balenciaga, shared on Quick Estimate, Lectra's latest application that allows users to make fabric consumption estimates via the cloud. "It takes us just one minute to estimate our fabric consumption during our collection planning stages with this application," she attested. She described the technology as efficient and intuitive, saying, "Thanks to Quick Estimate, we managed to pre-order our materials for this season and were already fully prepared four days before our fashion show."

"Today's fashion world is not just about gathering big data; it is about cultivating a big understanding of it. Fashion companies will unearth big business opportunities if they manage to unlock the power of their data. Our newest generation of Industry 4.0-compliant solutions, Kubix Link and Fashion On Demand, both powered by the cloud, enables them to do just that, whether it's for managing information and content or delivering customized products. Our technology helps them understand their consumers, produce the right product and deliver it to them at the right time. And that's how you win them over," says Celine Choussy, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer, Lectra ■

Social & Labor Convergence Program launches Operations in India

India is one of the largest suppliers of the textiles and apparels to the world. As the largest employment generator in the country, there is a need to ensure that the textile value chain is transparent and sustainable. Acknowledging Social and Labour Converges programme (SLCP) as a step in this direction, AEPC has partnered with Social & Labor Convergence for the launch of its operations in NCR & Tirupur.

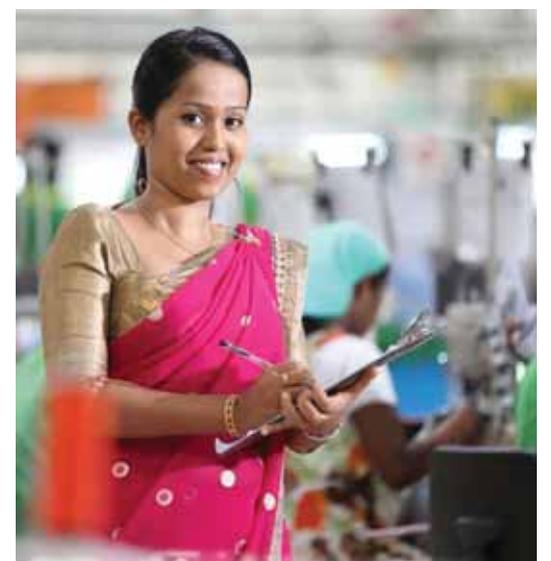
The Social & Labor Convergence Program (SLCP) is an initiative led by the world's leading manufacturers, brands, retailers, industry groups, (inter)governmental organizations, service providers and civil society organizations, to eliminate audit fatigue by replacing current proprietary tools with a standard-neutral Converged Assessment Framework. The mission of the SLCP is to improve working conditions by allowing resources that were previously designated for compliance audits to be redirected towards the improvement of social and labour conditions.

The SLCP is not a code of conduct or compliance program. The Converged Assessment Framework provides a data set with no value judgment or scoring. It is however compatible with existing audit systems and codes of conduct. This means that the same data set can be used by a wide-range of stakeholders & interpreted according to their interests and criteria.

This eliminates the need for repetitive audits to be carried out on the same facility.

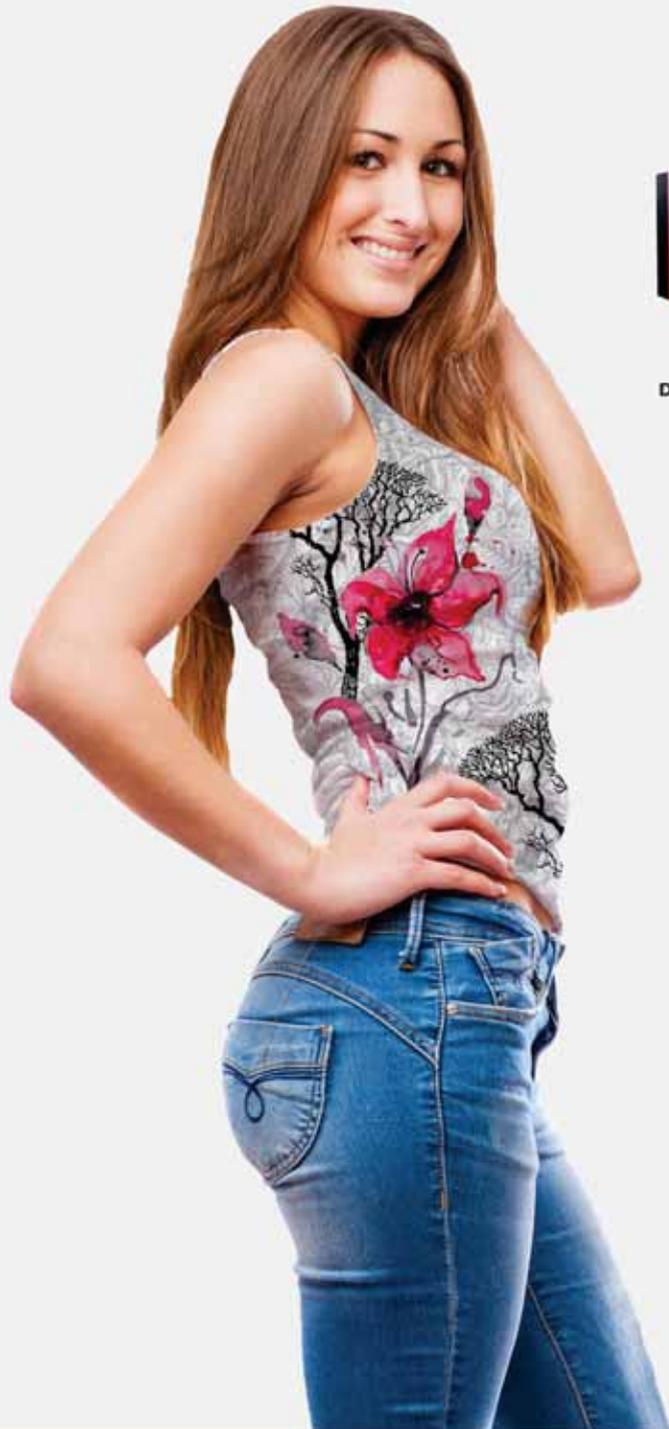
After three years of development, including three prototypes, two pilots, a public consultation and a successful "Light Operation" in 2018; the SLCP's Converged Assessment Framework is now ready for use. Findings from research conducted by SLCP in 2018 show that adoption of SLCP could unlock resources worth over \$1.5 mn spent on duplicative audits in 2019 alone, rising to \$200 mn by 2023, for re-deployment to improve working conditions.

The 190+ SLCP signatories are now preparing for wide-scale adoption across apparel and footwear supply chains. In the first roll-out phase in late-May 2019, SLCP will launch operations in India as well as China, Sri Lanka and Taiwan. Towards the India launch, SLCP will be holding one-day seminars in Bangalore, Tirupur, Mumbai & NCR to introduce facilities and their business partners to the SLCP process. SLCP will be sharing 2019 Operations plans during the launch, while manufacturers associations will talk about the benefits SLCP brings to facilities, and signatory brands and retailers will present their SLCP adoption plans. Participation is open to representatives from facilities, vendors and brands that operate in the home textile, apparel and footwear industry.



The launch will be holding in NCR on 7th June, 2019 at Apparel House, Gurugram. "A productive and competitive business leads to healthy and happy workers. I wish this programme all the success and hope initiatives like this will encourage sustainable and innovative management systems which ensure holistic growth of all the stakeholders," said HKL Magu, Chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) while welcoming the SLCP programme in India ■

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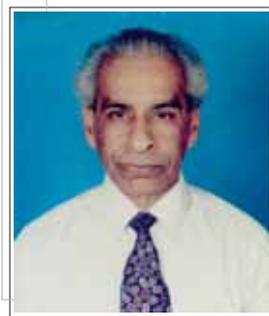
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Rebating Central, State taxes To boost garment exports



S.VENKITACHALAM is a senior economic journalist with more than 40 years of experience, covering Industry, Commerce & Textile Ministries. In this article the author discusses how exports can be boosted by rebating Central & State taxes.

For the readymade garment sector, reeling under a slump for some time, things are rather looking up. A revival of exports during the current fiscal (2019-20) is on the cards. The trigger is the recent announcement of a new scheme for rebating all Central and State embedded taxes levied on various inputs such as coal, electricity, fuel etc., that add to the cost of exports of garments and made-ups. Thus, a long-standing demand of the textiles and clothing industry has been met. In overall terms, the decision is expected to bring in an additional benefit of about 3.5 per cent to 4 per cent to the garment segment, as per the current reckoning. On the flip side, however, is that the scheme does apply to yarn and fabrics – critical sub sectors of the industry's growth engine.

Called the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (ROSCTL), the Scheme, effective from April 7, 2019, will remain valid till March 31, 2020. The benefits under the scheme can be availed of along with duty drawback. It will be operated through a scrip system, similar to that of Merchandise Exports India Scheme (MEIS).

Going through details of the scheme, it is seen that for cotton T-Shirts. The new rate of rebate is 4.90 per cent up from 1.70 per cent before, those with blend it is 3.80 per cent from 1.16 per cent and for those with man-made fibre (MMF) it is 3.80 per cent from 1.16 per cent. In regard to night dress or cotton made apparel the new rate is 6.06 per cent against 1.45 per cent 4.93 per cent from 1.30 per cent for those of blend and 3.80 per cent from 1.16 per cent for those made of MMF.

As regards briefs, those of cotton made, the new rate is 4.90 per cent against 1.60 per cent earlier, those of blend it is 4.35 per cent against 1.38 per cent and for those of MMF, it is 3.80 per cent against 1.16 per cent before. The new rates under the advance authorisation scheme are 1.37 per cent and 1.08 per cent.

In a nutshell, the rebate applies to VAT on fuel used in transportation, captive power, manditax, electricity duty, embedded state GST paid on inputs such as pesticides, fertilizers used in the production of raw cotton. The rebate is also applicable to embedded Central GST and compensation cess on coal used to produce electricity, stamp duty on export documents, Central excise on fuel used for transportation, purchases from unregistered dealers and inputs for the transport sector.

On inclusion of fabrics under the new scheme as reported these columns earlier industry association argue that the segment suffers from high transaction cost, besides high interest rates unlike Chins. Their plea is for providing a 5 per cent rate for 5-7 years, noting that the blocked / embedded taxes / levies/surcharge of about 5.33 per cent in the export consignments are not refunded at any stage. China gives a 17 per cent rebate on exports which, in effect, amounts to an implied subsidy for its fabrics of 8-10 per cent. Bangladesh grants a 5 per cent subsidy to its garment exporters, if fabrics are made from yarn sourced locally to promote the domestic value chain.

▣ Cotton yarn exports rose by 8.57 per cent to \$3255.87 mn in April – January 2019 from \$2745.85 mn in the same period last year, as per the latest provisional estimates. These exports had been falling continuously since 2013-14 with a decline in Chinese imports of the product.

Indian cotton yarn has been losing out on exports because of taxes, as all taxes are not being refunded to exporters. The embedded taxes / levies which remain unadjusted account for about 7-8 per cent of the export price of yarn. Our competitors enjoy full tax refund. Even Vietnam and Bangladesh have preferential duty access to many large markets, putting India at a double disadvantage.

The MEIS is crucial for the cotton yarn industry as it helps it sell surplus production at competitive prices. It compensates the impact created by raw cotton cost and decrease in imports by China. Ideally, therefore the two per cent incentive under MEIS should be restored. As has been reported in these columns the advantage of two percent Incremental Export Incentive (IES) and Focus Market Scheme had helped the industry penetrate into alternate markets other than China (South America CIS Countries, far East Countries etc.) This also had helped in compensating for high transport cost involved in exports to such countries. These incentives were withdrawn in 2014 due to same inexplicable reasons. These should be restored.

Moreover, the high interest rates in India have forced spinning mills to maintain high inventory as China and Bangladesh buy yarn for 90-120 days L/C. The high amount of inventory requires higher working capital which needs to be financed by working capital loans.

On the export front, there is a reason to cheer. Cotton yarn exports rose by 8.57 per cent to \$3255.87 mn in April – January 2019 from \$2745.85 mn in the same period last year, as per the latest provisional estimates. These exports had been falling continuously since 2013-14 with a decline in Chinese imports of the product. Moreover, Vietnam had emerged as a major competitor. It has attracted sizeable Chinese investment in its spinning segment. What is more, Beijing buys back yarn produced in Vietnamese factories. And no customs duty is levied by China on the yarn supplies.

There also exists an unfavourable duty structure. Indian yarn attracts higher rates of duty in Bangladesh and Pakistan, while they enjoy duty free access or concessional duty access in India. Pakistan has raised customs duty on yarn from 5 per cent to 10 per cent recently China too, has slapped a 3.5 per cent duty on Indian.

REBATING CENTRAL AND STATE TAXES ON GARMENTS

Description	Before Revision	After Revision (From 07.03.2019)				
		State Rates (in %)	State cap per unit (in Rs.)	Central Rates (in %)	Central cap per unit (in Rs.)	Total Rates (in %)
Night Dress (6108)						
Cotton	1.45	3.60	21.10	2.45	14.30	6.05
Blend	1.36	2.85	16.50	2.08	12.10	4.93
MMF	1.16	2.10	12.90	1.70		3.80
T-Shirts (6109)						
Cotton	1.70	2.90	13.80	2.00		4.90
Blend	1.16	2.10	9.80	1.70		3.8
MMF	1.16	2.10	10.10	1.70		3.80
Briefs (610702)						
Cotton	1.60	2.90	6.10	2.00		4.90
Blend	1.38	2.50	4.50	1.85		4.35
MMF	1.16	2.10	3.60	1.70		3.80

According to the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, there are a few short comings which need to be addressed by the government to promote the industry's growth. It is admitted that GST is the ambitious scheme for collection of taxes implemented by the government from July 2017. It is expected to eliminate the cascading effect of taxes, which used to trickle down to the end-consumers. A merchant has to pay tax only on the value addition of the product and allows manufacturers and retailers to reclaim input tax credit paid during the purchase of raw material, thus setting off the indirect tax burden.

CITI notes that a total of ₹9,303 cases of non-payment TUFs funds amounting to ₹6,000 crore pending which need to be resolved, which has deterred fresh investment in the industry. Another issue is the under performance of the amended TUFs. The disbursement under the scheme is less than ₹3 cr, covering only 30 beneficiaries at present.

On the manmade fibre (MMF) sector, CITI wants the GST rates on the fibre and other raw materials to be reduced from 18 per cent to 12 per cent and excess input tax credit to be refunded due to inverted duty structure of goods and supplies. There is also a need for continuation of GST exemption on capital goods imports under, the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPGG) scheme.

At the same time, CITI welcomes the decision on integrated GST and compensation exemption under the advance authorisation scheme. Further, CITI notes that the comprehensive scheme for the development of knitting and knitwear sector will enhance the sectors contribution to the nation building. This is because it is one of the major segments of the textile value chain and contributes about 27 per cent of cloth production and about 15 per cent of knitted fabrics being exported, besides exports of knitted apparel. The share of knitted apparel, in value terms, is about 38 per cent of overall export of clothing. The main clusters to benefit are Tirupur, Kolkata, Ludhiana and Kanpur.

It is to be noted that the textiles and clothing sector has attracted. Investment to the tune of ₹3 lakh cr for expansion and modernisation in the last two decades. India has emerged as the world's top producer of cotton. The industry is supported by a strong textile engineering sector, especially in short staple spinning machinery. It also has become the top exporter of cotton yarn in the world. Our vocational educational institutions such as the textile engineering institutions NIFT and textile research associations provide skilled human resources and R&D facilities to sustain the growth and improve competitiveness. Considering the importance of the textile industry several government policies, at macroeconomic and sectorial level, provide a conducive framework for improving the industry's competitiveness ■



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TIMTAS appoints Magnum as agent for Indian market

Timtas Konfeksiyon Malzemeleri, one of the leading complete warehouse solution provider in the world, has appointed Magnum Resources Pvt. Ltd. as its agent for sales and after-sales services of its products in India. Magnum will be marketing its rack system, hanger system and cutting tables with pins in the Indian market. Besides, the company also manufactures cutting, spreading and fabric inspection machines in Turkey.

Timtas has been serving industrial and commercial customers since 1995. Its goal is to offer the best quality product to customers with reasonable prices within short time and to be their solution partner. According to Ridvan Ismail, Timtas, "By appointing Magnum as our agent, we are trying to get more involved with our Indian counterparts. To complete a project, we need teamwork. Our target is to provide the right solution at the right price on the right time to the Indian customers."

"When compared to other competitors, our system is manual. Of course the labour cost is cheap here and we don't need to invest in such system but I don't agree with that. I think we need to train the people and make them more knowledgeable. When we install new systems, we teach the people how to use them, to increase their knowledge and their quality. We are also saving time not only for the production but also for them. The workers' lives will get easier," says Ridvan Ismail.

Speaking about their presence in world market he said, "We have been present in China, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan and in Europe for last so many years. We've been late in coming to India but I think that this is a good opportunity to start. Factories in India are accepting our technologies, they have been asking about the system. For me, India is important because it gives me a chance to bring my knowledge, to share it with my colleagues. Also, in term of business, India is the next country with big opportunities. The power of India is the availability of raw materials and knowledge of workers here. The country is more organised than Bangladesh," says Ridvan.

When asked about the ROI for the factories who are investing in this system he said, "In Turkey, it's between 14 and 20 months. In India, I don't exactly know the labour costs but I believe that it won't be more than 30 months. I check the productivity in all the systems. The lowest productivity that you can get when you sell this kind of system is 35 per cent, which is really good to invest for."



(From Left to Right) Bayram Gultekin, Ridvan Ismail from Timtas with Akshay Sharma from Magnum Resources

Commenting on the association Akshay Sharma, of Magnum Resources says, "Our company is duly recognized in the apparel and home textile for world best brands we represent. For achieving client satisfaction, we bring technology as per the future need of garment manufacturers. There is need for economical material handling and warehouse solutions and this is the reason why we have associated with TIMTAS from Turkey. It offers economical solution with simple to install system. We are focusing on providing sales and after-sales service for Timtas product. Their systems are ideal for Indian factories and very easy to handle by the operator," says Akshay Sharma.

Magnum Resources Pvt. Ltd. India provides service and solutions along with technology and consultation to apparel and home textile industry. Established in 2004, Magnum Resources Pvt. Ltd offers manufacturing machines that includes industrial sewing equipment, industrial cutting equipment, embroidery, finishing and processing equipment ■

TÜV SÜD & IGFA join hands for testing & certification

TÜV SÜD, the German training, auditing, testing and certification giant, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the International Garment Fair Association (IGFA). Through this partnership with IGFA and its members, TÜV SÜD will offer an extensive knowledge repository and be deemed as the partner of choice for testing and certification services. After signing this association, TÜV SÜD will be regarded as the preferred quality and technical partner for IGFA and its members for their quality assurance requirements.

Through this alliance, TÜV SÜD will also extend its support to IGFA and its members and further enable them to leverage technical guidance to upskill their members. Capitalising on its global expertise, TÜV SÜD will support IGFA and its members in the areas of quality assurance, inspection and auditing. The partnership will enable IGFA to leverage technical guidance provided by TÜV SÜD. Similarly, TÜV SÜD will be the technical partner of IGFA for its various awareness events and programmes on quality, sustainability, energy, infrastructure and lean management.

"TÜV SÜD, with its world-class laboratories, technical resources and auditing capabilities will



further support IGFA in assisting their members and to align requirements of the buyer community, in terms of updating their system compliance or technical capabilities or even benchmarking their product quality to be the best in the industry. Globalisation has shrunk boundaries for trade which have come even closer with online retail. Brands that offer genuine quality apparel consistently are primed to be preferred by consumers who look for consistently high standards of quality. IGFA and its members are well placed to benefit immensely from this partnership as they have the opportunity

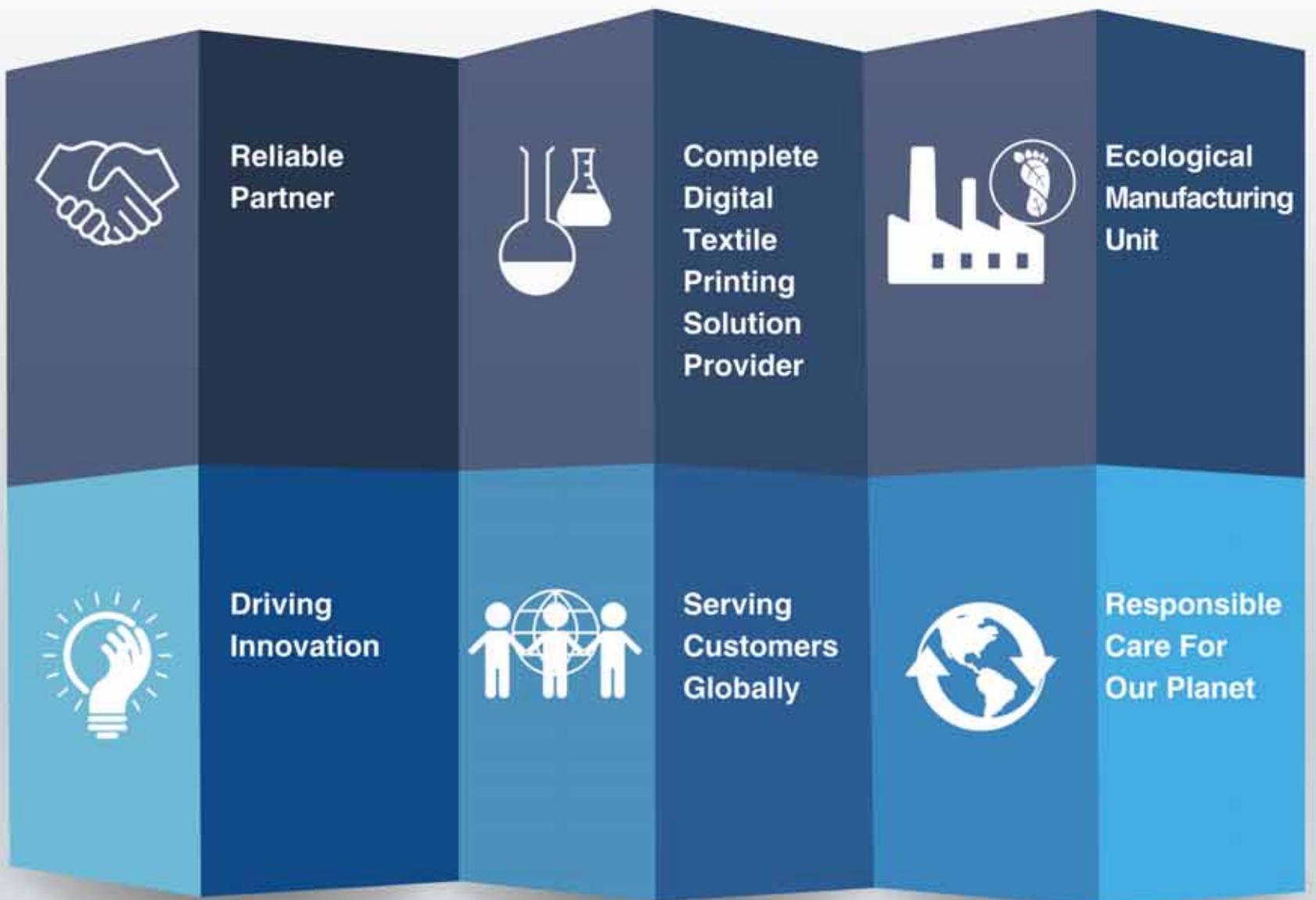
to steadfastly maintain reputation and consumer trust," Lalit Thukral, Chairman EAC (AEPC) & Chairman IGFA, said.

"We are proud to partner with IGFA and extend our services. The apparel industry in India is huge - hence, manufacturers are constantly under pressure to deliver consistency, quality and safety. Further, cost-cutting, ever changing trends and complex interactions ladder up to the pressure. It is necessary to address these challenges with technical knowledge and expertise. Through this association, TÜV SÜD affirms its commitment to help the apparel industry deliver the best quality products.

Through our collective effort we are confident that all the members will be immensely benefited," said Ezhilan Neelan, Senior Vice President, Product Services, TÜV SÜD South Asia, said. With its wide network of labs and Experts across key markets including ASEAN, European Union, the US and UK, and South Asia, TÜV SÜD has in-depth familiarity with compliance in exporting and importing nations. Across the globe, TÜV SÜD works with leading international brands of repute to help them focus on quality and consistency ■



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Lycra's Advanced Textile Innovation Center opens in China

The Lycra Company, a leading provider of fibre and technology solutions for the global apparel and personal care industries, officially opened its new Advanced Textile Innovation Center (ATIC) in Nanhai, China on 16 May 2019. The new 4500 sq mtr Research & Development (R&D) laboratory, which is the company's fourth, represents a significant increase in the US based firm's global R&D capabilities.

Scientists at the R&D centre will help mills, brands and retailers throughout Asia, as well as Western-based companies with local sourcing offices, create innovative fabrics and garments using the company's branded textile solutions, which include LYCRAfibre, LYCRA HyFitfibre, COOLMAX fibre and THERMOLITEfibre. The research team will also engage with customers in opportunity identification, as well as the development and commercialization of new polymer, fibre and textile technologies.

"Developing ground breaking innovations and creating new garment categories are part of our company's heritage and critical to our success going forward," said Bob Kirkwood, Chief Technology Officer. "Our investment in ATIC not only enhances our global R&D capabilities, but also demonstrates our commitment to providing exceptional service to our customers based in Asia."

ATIC is fully equipped with commercial equipment to simulate real world manufacturing processes including knitting, weaving, dyeing and finishing. This will enable the company to deliver unmatched technical support to its customers, ensuring consistent product quality and helping to reduce risk. In addition, the lab has garment engineering, fabric certification and analytical testing tools to help customers achieve desired performance attributes for their fabrics or garments.

As part of the company's Virtual Lab network, ATIC researchers will be able to collaborate seamlessly with colleagues in labs located across the globe to develop world-class innovations and apply best practices. "By integrating science with apparel market research, ATIC staff will help guide the development and commercialization of innovative garment solutions designed to meet global apparel market needs," said Julien Born, President, Apparel. "Co-locating ATIC and our South China sales office, will enable tighter integration between R&D and our commercial team and help our customers accelerate speed-to-market."



(L to R) Vincent Hu, Greater China Commercial Director, The LYCRA Company/ Jack Yang, R&D Director, Asia, The LYCRA Company/ Wu Zhiqiang, Member of Standing Committee, Nanhai District, Foshan, Guangdong/ Steve Stewart, Apparel Vice President, Asia/ Bob Kirkwood, Chief Technology Officer, The LYCRA Company/ Wang Jue, Deputy Director, Bureau of Commerce, Foshan City/ Hu Defang Managing Director, Derun/ Wu Jianguo, General Manager, Weiyi.

"The Lycra Company, formerly INVISTA's Apparel & Advanced Textiles business, has operated as an independent subsidiary of Shandong Ruyi since 31 January. The company has retained its leadership team, and with the support of its primary shareholder, now has the ability to take The LYCRA Company to new heights," the company said in a statement.

"Renowned for its history of transforming apparel and revolutionizing the fashion industry, The Lycra Company's customers can expect the same focus on compliance, quality, innovation, branding and marketing they have experienced in the past."

The company has operations in 14 countries including four R&D labs, eight manufacturing sites and 17 offices to serve its customers around the world. Its assets include over 1,000 patents and applications, over 2,300 registered trademarks and nearly 250 unique logos and brands ■

LIVA promotes sustainability through Livaeco plantable garment tag

Taking another step towards sustainability, LIVA, ingredient brand by Birla Cellulose launches a unique plantable garment tag (tag attached to each garment across retail stores of W). With the launch of their eco-enhanced variant Livaeco, Birla Cellulose's plantable tag wishes to create a positive environment footprint by introducing and engaging consumers with eco-friendly practices right from sourcing to the final degradation of the garment. It is as an initiative to be in the forefront of sustainable business practice and also instill awareness amongst consumers about sustainable fashion. The tag is created using seed paper which is made from recycled biodegradable fibres. Post soaking in water for 5-6 hours it gets ready to be sowed in soil and placed under sunlight to ensure it sprouts in 5-6 days.

Livaeco enhances fluid fashion through the use of 100 per cent sustainable forestry, lowest water consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, fastest bio-degradability and traceability of source. The goal of Livaeco is to engross customers with end-to-end eco-friendly and sustainable practices to safe guard the future of fashion.

Manohar Samuel, Senior President – Marketing, Birla Cellulose said, "It has become challenging for industries to retain millennial attention towards the



current state of the environment. Being a part of the eco-system, we have to work on all tangible and intangible aspects to bring in sustainability and conscious living at every stage. We are launching our newest offering Livaeco exclusively with W, which has created an exquisite collection that embodies our focus on sustainability and high fashion to delight the consumers. At Birla Cellulose, sustainability is a continuous journey towards the wellbeing of all stakeholders and conserving nature."

Despite LIVA being an ingredient brand, Birla Cellulose has always found innovative ways of connecting with the end consumer through activations and initiatives like these. With green tag, they have provided a great opportunity to the customers to contribute to the environment and be a part of the global cause of sustainable fashion. LIVA is a new age fabric from the Aditya Birla Group. Unlike other fabrics, that are boxy or synthetic, LIVA is a soft, fluid fabric which falls and drapes well. A promise that is delivered through accredited value chain. The new-age naturally sourced fibre made into fabric in pure or blended form, transforms not just the garment but also the person wearing it. It is comfortable, soft, natural, and eco-friendly. The brand recently launched their eco-enhanced version of the fabric, called Livaeco, which made of wood pulp sourced from FSC certified forests.

Birla Cellulose represents the Pulp and Fiber business of the Aditya Birla Group, is India's pioneer in Viscose Staple Fiber (VSF). Birla Cellulose fibers are of 100 per cent natural origin, highly absorbent, have an especially good feel, and are completely biodegradable. As an extremely versatile and easily bendable fibre, VSF is widely used in apparels, home textiles, dress material, knitted wear and non-woven applications. Birla Cellulose commands a major world market share in the Manmade Cellulose fibre domain ■

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Indian apparel Industry To achieve rapid growth in future



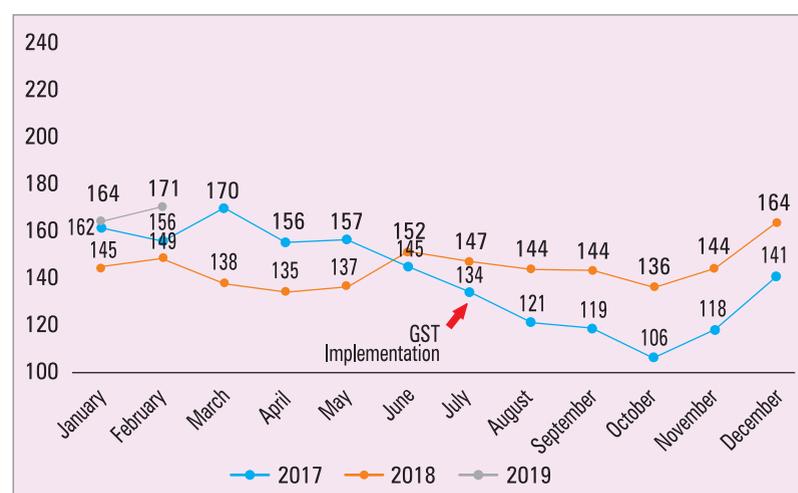
The readymade garment industry in India has historically been one of the most important segments of the textile industry in India. The readymade apparel market is one of the largest contributors to India's economy, providing millions with employment while making significant contributions to India's annual GDP and export earnings. Today, India is the world's 6th largest exporter of readymade garment products, registering over \$17 bn in readymade garment export value annually. Combining global demand that is at an all-time high, with much stronger support and preferential policies from the government, India's readymade garment (RMG) industry is set to achieve rapid growth in the future.

According to latest data, India's apparel IIP in February 2019 was 171, which was 4 per cent higher than January 2019. The IIP index has continuously grown from a value of 136 in October 2018, indicating growth in apparel manufacturing in the country. The apparel CPI in March 2019 was 148, which is same for last 5 months, indicating that the prices have remained stagnant. The apparel exports (excluding exports to UAE) posted a miniscule growth of 1 per cent in FY 2019 (Apr-Feb) as compared to FY 2018 (Apr-Feb). The apparel exports have declined to majority of the countries among the top 10 markets. However, the exports to the largest market, USA registered 7 per cent growth. The apparel imports in FY 2019 (Apr-Feb) stood at \$1,019 mn, which is 47 per cent higher than that in FY 2018 (Apr-Feb). Imports from Bangladesh, the largest apparel exporter to India has increased by 96 per cent in FY 2019 (Apr-Feb) as compared to FY 2018 (Apr-Feb).

The analysis of financial fillings for Q3 FY 2019 shows that there is a growth in operating revenue as well as operating profit margins for all the considered fashion brands & retailers. Shoppers Stop has shown a phenomenal growth in Q3 FY 2019 with an operating profit margin of 9.7 per cent as compared to 3.7 per cent in FY 2018. In apparel manufacturing, Page Industries, Kitex Garments and SP Apparels have registered operating profit margins higher than 20 per cent.

Apparel Index of Industrial Production (IIP) Update

The apparel IIP showed an increase in Feb. 2019 after remaining constant for the last two consecutive months. With a value of 171, the apparel IIP was 4 per cent higher than Jan. 2019. The index indicates continuous growth in apparel manufacturing since October 2018.



Source: Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

Apparel Consumer Price Index (CPI) Update

The apparel CPI in Mar. 2019 was 148, which is same for last 5 months. As compared to Mar. 2018 the apparel CPI increased by 3 per cent.



Source: Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

Monthly apparel exports update

In \$ Million	FY 2018	FY 2019	YoY Change	MoM Change
Apr	1,750	1,352	-23%	-9%
May	1,607	1,339	-17%	-1%
Jun	1,550	1,359	-12%	1%
Jul	1,276	1,275	0%	-6%
Aug	1,338	1,293	-3%	1%
Sep	1,663	1,105	-34%	-15%
Oct	830	1,132	36%	2%
Nov	1,037	1,131	9%	0%
Dec	1,337	1,377	3%	22%
Jan	1,397	1,528	9%	11%
Feb	1,442	1,546	7%	1%
YTD	15,228	14,437	-5%	
Provisional data for latest month				
March	1,493	1,717	15%	11%

Source: DGCI&S (except PIB for latest month data)

The apparel exports in Feb. 2019 stood at \$1,546 mn, which showed a miniscule increase of 1 per cent from Jan.2019. Apparel exports have been showing a positive growth on YoY basis since October 2018. However, the overall export sin FY 2019 (Apr-Feb) are 5 per cent lower than that in FY 2018 (Apr-Feb). Based on quick estimate data for March 2019, the apparel exports in FY 2019 were 3.4 per cent lower than FY 2018.

Country wise apparel exports update

In \$ Million	FY 2018 Apr-Feb	FY 2019 Apr-Feb	YoY Change	MoM Change
USA	3,478	3,722	244	7%
UK	1,548	1,432	-116	-7%
Germany	1,061	1,029	-32	-3%
Spain	763	690	-73	-10%
France	689	668	-21	-3%
Netherlands	406	425	19	5%
Italy	352	383	31	9%
Saudi Arabia	383	354	-29	-8%
Canada	208	213	5	2%
Others	3,681	3,741	60	2%
Total (without UAE)	12,569	12,657	88	1%
UAE	2,659	1,780	-879	-33%
Total	15,228	14,437	-791	-5%

Source: DGCI&S

■ The analysis of financial fillings for Q3 FY 2019 shows that there is a growth in operating revenue as well as operating profit margins for all the considered fashion brands & retailers.



Excluding UAE, the apparel exports have posted a miniscule growth of 1 per cent in FY 2019 (Apr-Feb) as compared to FY 2018 (Apr-Feb). The apparel exports have declined to majority of the countries among the top 10 markets. However, the exports to largest market, USA registered 7 per cent growth. Exports to UAE witnessed a significant decline worth \$ 879 mn (33 per cent lower) in FY 2019 (Apr-Feb) as compared to FY 2018 (Apr-Feb).

Monthly apparel imports update

In \$ Million	FY 2018	FY 2019	YoY Change	MoM Change
Apr	44	56	25%	-31%
May	45	67	50%	21%
Jun	50	73	45%	9%
Jul	56	101	81%	38%
Aug	79	131	66%	30%
Sep	73	113	55%	-14%
Oct	64	110	71%	-3%
Nov	62	94	51%	-14%
Dec	73	86	18%	-9%
Jan	72	101	42%	18%
Feb	74	87	17%	-15%
YTD	692	1,019	47%	

Source: DGCI&S

The apparel imports in FY 2019 (Apr-Feb) stood at \$1,019 mn which is 47 per cent higher than that in FY 2018 (Apr-Feb). The apparel imports have decreased by 15 per cent in Feb. 2019 as compared to the previous month.

Country wise apparel imports update

In \$ Million	FY 2018 Apr-Feb	FY 2019 Apr-Feb	YoY Change	MoM Change
Bangladesh	170	333	163	96%
China	272	288	16	6%
Spain	71	90	19	27%
Sri Lanka	35	77	42	120%
Hong Kong	17	46	29	171%
Vietnam	21	28	7	33%
Italy	18	19	1	6%
Cambodia	14	19	5	36%
Turkey	12	17	5	42%
UK	6	12	6	100%
Others	56	90	34	61%
Total	692	1,019	327	47%

Source: DGCI&S

Imports from Bangladesh, the largest apparel exporter to India, has increased by 9.6 per cent in FY 2019 (Apr-Feb) as compared to FY 2018 (Apr-Feb). Sri Lanka and Hong Kong have also shown a significant rise in the apparel imports of 120 per cent and 171 per cent respectively.

Financial health of select brands, retailers and manufacturers

	Company	Revenue from Operations (Rs. Crores)					Operating Profit Margin				
		FY 2018	Q1 FY 2019	Q2 FY 2019	Q3 FY 2019	Q4 FY 2019	FY 2018	Q1 FY 2019	Q2 FY 2019	Q3 FY 2019	Q4 FY 2019
Fashion & Lifestyle Brands and Retailers	Aditya Birla Fashion & Lifestyle	7,181	1,914	2,007	2,282		4.6%	4.1%	5.6%	6.1%	
	Future Lifestyle Operations	4,219	1,268	1,222	1,616	1,271	7.2%	6.9%	6.9%	8.3%	7.0%
	Shoppers Stop	3,591	827	865	999	791	3.9%	5.5%	6.2%	9.7%	7.8%
	Trent	2,066	591	616	656	669	10.3%	11.7%	10.0%	11.2%	4.8%
	V-Mart Retail	1,222	361	262	466		11.1%	12.2%	-1.2%	15.9%	
	V2 Retail	559	188	156	241		9.7%	11.0%	-18.1%	13.0%	
	Page Industries	2,552	815	691	738		21.4%	23.6%	21.7%	23.1%	
	Gokaldas Export	1,026	285	294	266		-1.2%	2.8%	1.9%	4.7%	
	Pearl Global	711	175	216	188		2.8%	0.9%	2.3%	11.4%	
	SP Apparels	628	176	178	211		14.6%	13.9%	14.3%	20.1%	
Apparel Manufacturers	Kitex Garments	557	123	168	136		23.5%	29.9%	28.8%	20.7%	
	Kamadgiri fashion Limited	332	67	83	81		4.5%	2.4%	3.9%	3.4%	
	Celebrity Fashion	204	47	58	40		3.0%	0.6%	4.5%	7.2%	
	E-Land Apparel	184	43	38	44		-41.6%	-24.6%	-22.2%	-30.6%	
	Bang Overseas	169	46	48	28		3.5%	0.6%	6.7%	2.8%	

Source: Bombay Stock Exchange



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Kornit Discover Event - Highlights business opportunities in digital textile transformation

Kornit Digital, a global market leader in digital textile printing technology, has successfully concluded the Kornit Discover Event in Hong Kong. Kornit Discover Asia Pacific was a three-day event, which began on April 15, 2019 at Kornit's Experience Center located in Hong Kong. An estimated 100 guests have joined and shared the excitement of the company unveiling the Kornit Avalanche Poly Pro as well as reviewing the latest product line-up from Kornit. The guests also enjoyed the privilege of a sneak preview of the company's yet-to-be-launched next generation direct-to-fabric solution, the Kornit Presto.

The event was kick-started by a welcome speech and overview of market trends by Gilad Yron, Executive Vice President Global Business of Kornit Digital followed by a presentation from the event's keynote speaker, Ron Gilboa, Group Director of Production Technology, Key point Intelligence. In Gilboa's presentation, he discussed the changing dynamics of the apparel industry and shared some trends that were favourable to digital textile printing. He further analyzed different suppliers and demands in the market; and concluded that selecting the right supplier was critical for success.

Kornit's latest technology & innovation was presented by Omer Kulka, Vice President of Marketing & Product Strategy from Kornit's headquarters. On top of the features and advantages of the two latest products, he deep-dived into the innovation and R&D capabilities of Kornit. In addition, he introduced the eco-system that has been built around Kornit's digital printing systems. These were the reasons why Kornit was able to stay ahead of its competitors.

Experts from different areas were invited to present at the event. On April 15, Jane Singer, Director of Inside Fashion Magazine, discussed the topic "Tech vs. Fashion – Becoming Faster, More Flexible and More Creative," sharing how the fashion industry was affected and at the same time progressed by the technology advancement. On April 16, Bruce Li, CEO of *www.zigeeer.com*, discussed the importance of content creation and customer engagement in E-Commerce. On April 17, Martin Tsang, Business Development Manager of Pantone, introduced the new extension to Pantone Fashion, Home and Interiors Collection.

Unveiling the Kornit Avalanche Poly Pro, Executive Vice President of Global Business at Kornit Digital, Gilad Yron, shared his enthusiasm about the expansion of the Kornit product line, stating: "Today, we celebrate a breakthrough technological innovation. Polyester is the second largest category in the overall T-shirt market, and it is growing in the athleisure and functional apparel. Currently, polyester is printed predominantly by analog solutions, which creates major technological, cost and sustainability challenges. The new ground-breaking Kornit NeoPoly Technology addresses these challenges with a new process and ink set implemented in the renowned Kornit NeoPigment™ process. Kornit's new process handles polyester applications without compromising on design, run size, substrate or labour. This is a huge leap forward, not only for Kornit, but also for the direct-to-garment industry as a whole."

The event also provided a tour of Kornit's Hong Kong Experience Center as well as several hands-on sessions for the visitors to experience the printing technology of Kornit. The guests were organised in small groups and had the opportunity to participate in hands-on workshops with Kornit Atlas, Kornit Avalanche Poly Pro, Kornit Avalanche HD6, Kornit Storm HD6, and Kornit Presto. The event was ended with success stories from Kornit customers from China (Macy Yau, CEO of Kanetop Group), Japan (Toshihiro Tanaka, General Manager of Operation Center, and Yusuke Masuda, Chief of Preprocessing Group from Retail Net Co., Ltd.) and Australia (Jared Fullinaw, Founder & Managing Director of The Print Bar). Guests found the event educational, practical and inspirational.

Andy Yarrow, Kornit's President for Asia Pacific, spoke in a media group briefing, highlighting the amazing growth opportunities in the region. "We are looking to expand the business in new segments that include brands and private labels, promotional printing, and more. We introduce new technologies and capabilities, like polyester printing which will for sure shake the market with a solution that answers a lot of the printing problems, same with Atlas speed and HD technology launched earlier this year. The digital textile printing revolution is set to transform one of the most exciting regions in the world. We're excited to bring advanced and innovative solutions that will make life better for businesses and end the customers in the area."



Andy Yarrow, President of Kornit Digital's Asia Pacific region, Omer Kulka, Vice President of Marketing & Product Strategy from Kornit's headquarters, Gilad Yron, Executive Vice President Global Business of Kornit Digital - Asia Pacific (L-R)

Kornit Avalanche Poly Pro

The long-awaited dark polyester solution, Kornit Avalanche Poly Pro, features an innovative ink set and a physical and chemical process specifically developed for low temperature curing, and polyester enhancing functionalities developed to maintain fabric characteristics and provide superior fastness. This unique process prevents dye migration on polyester. The inks are Oeko-Tex and Eco-Passport certified and do not contain PVCs or other toxic ingredients. The single-step Poly Pro is the perfect system for the industry, enabling easy and cost effective short-runs and on-demand printing on polyester garments.

Kornit Atlas

The Kornit Atlas is a heavy-duty system created for super-industrial garment decoration businesses. It was designed to deliver a typical annual production capacity of up to 350,000 impressions, optimizing production efficiency and cost of ownership. The Kornit Atlas is aimed at highly productive garment decorators, mid to large size screen printers and innovative businesses looking to combine state-of-the art technology with lowest cost of ownership. The system is equipped with new recirculating print heads and comes with a newly developed ink, NeoPigment™ Eco-Rapid. The Kornit Atlas is equipped with a unique printing engine, featuring an enhanced version of Kornit's HD technology, complemented by a professional RIP (raster image processing) software solution, and produces prints that meet the highest standards of retail quality and durability.

Kornit HD line of industrial direct-to-garment printers

Kornit's HD systems, now comprising the Kornit Atlas (highlighted in above paragraph), Kornit Avalanche HD6, Kornit Avalanche HDK and Kornit Storm HD6, enable new levels of print quality, well suitable for the fashion and retail markets. Kornit's NeoPigment™ Rapid ink, specifically developed for Kornit's HD technology, offers an improved hand feel, as well as increased opacity and saturation of white ink. The print quality is further enhanced by ColorGate's Professional RIP solution, adding advanced color management and screening capabilities, improved white base creation and pre-defined colour libraries for ultimate colour matching.

Kornit Presto

Kornit's next-generation direct-to-fabric printing system is an environmentally-friendly, all-in-one solution for roll-to-roll printing. Benefitting from its unique and advanced technology, Kornit's direct-to-fabric printing system eliminates the need for external process steps and enables users to achieve the best results from PFP (Prepared-For-Print) to finished digitally printed fabric in just minutes ■

Heelium offers innovative bamboo socks & towel range

Heelium is an athletic footwear and apparel start-up with primary focus on safety and sustainability. The company strives to push the sports equipment and technology development in India and create a brand deep-rooted in innovation that delivers high-quality products. The company is funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India and CIIE, IIM Ahmedabad, and incubated at Venture Center, Pune.

Heelium has received National Entrepreneurship Award (NEA), organised by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), under A1 Category (Young Entrepreneurs with Initial Investment up to Rs. 1 Lakh) in Textile, textile articles, leather and related goods segment. Besides, in March 2018, Heelium won the Economic Times' Power of Ideas award also.

Using a thorough research and development model, the company is working to create sportswear that's simple yet effective in yielding a high performance. Its first product, Bamboo Athletic socks was a step in this direction. The bamboo fibres make the socks breathable and quick drying. Its flagship product is high-performance sports footwear that helps to curb the majority of movement related injuries. All its products are available for men, women and kids at all major e-commerce websites in the country today.

The company uses bamboo fibre supplied by Ahmedabad based Spinning King (India) Limited (Kashiwala Group of Companies) for making majority of its products. Spinning King is the sole supplier of the China based TANBOOCEL® - JIGAO Bamboo Fibre to the textile industry, particularly spinning mills in India. Bamboo fibre was invented and manufactured by HEBEI JIGAO Chemical Fiber Co., Ltd, with a registered™ of TANBOOCEL since 2002. Certified for its excellent spinning and garment properties, the bamboo fibre product is currently in use by many medium and large-sized textiles and garment enterprises in both domestic and overseas markets.

Today, Heelium offers various types of products made from TANBOOCEL® - JIGAO Bamboo fibre. Its Bamboo Socks comes in Ankle Length and Calf length, which are extremely comfortable, more breathable and durable than cotton socks. Bamboo



gives the socks enhanced odour control. Bamboo has several advantages over cotton, being more breathable, durable and thermo-regulatory. The socks will also be anti-microbial which will resist the growth of odour causing bacteria and remain fresh for days. Bamboo is also a greener alternative. It uses no pesticides to grow unlike cotton and uses 3 times less water for cultivation. It also grows back from the same shoot after a harvest thereby preventing soil erosion on a grand scale.

Heelium Bamboo Sporting Socks has a cushioned base, better grip on the arch as well as on the achilles. It also has a larger knee hold that stops the stockings from slipping. They are available in three colours - White, Red and Blue and are suitable for football and hockey. Besides, the company also offers Diabetics socks, which are specially designed to decrease the risk of foot injuries, offer optimum blood flow and keeps the feet dry. These socks are also made of bamboo fibre, which is naturally anti-bacterial and resists the growth of bacteria and prevents foot infections.

Apart from this, it has Bamboo Sports & Bath Towel range, which also comes with anti-bacterial and odour control properties. The company has perfected the combination of softness and strength in a towel. Designed to be extra absorbent and fast drying, its super soft bamboo towels will be customers favourite. They come in two variations, Heelium Sports and Heelium Swim/Bath ■

FIEO becomes major partner of Australian apparel and textile sourcing show

The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) has collaborated as a major partner International Sourcing Expo Australia 2019 to showcase the strength of India's apparel and textile exporters at Australia's leading apparel and textile sourcing show for the seventh year running. Speaking on the announcement, Dr. Ajay Sahai, Director General & CEO, FIEO said their continued participation supports the body's international marketing initiatives including a major focus on Australia. "FIEO is committed to facilitating exposure for its members across the globe, and International Sourcing Expo Australia provides an unrivalled opportunity for this in the growing Australian and New Zealand markets," said Dr. Sahai.



"India is well-regarded in Australia as a quality and reliable supplier of textiles and apparel, and with a membership body of 100,000 exporters from every goods and services sector in the country, FIEO is uniquely positioned to showcase India's prosperous industry. We are thrilled to be returning to International Sourcing Expo Australia for the seventh time in 2019," said Dr. Sahai. Julie Holt, Exhibition Director at IEC Group said FIEO are a pivotal partner of International Sourcing Expo Australia.

"FIEO's commitment to developing export growth for the Indian textile and apparel sector through consistent attendance at the show provides welcome assurance to Australian buyers as they look to do business with Indian companies. The long-standing partnership plays very well for all parties and we are consistently striving to offer more opportunities for Indian exporters to reach Australian buyers," Holt said. Now in its 10th edition, International Sourcing Expo Australia attracts some of the world's leading apparel,

accessories, textiles and footwear suppliers over three days in November (12-14 November) at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

With registration numbers up 10 per cent at last year's International Sourcing Expo Australia and co-located Footwear & Leather Show Australia and China Clothing & Textiles and Accessories Expo, more than 4,000 trade visitors are again expected from Australia's large fashion retailers, niche fashion brands, start-up labels, online outlets and independent fashion designers. Following the successful launch of Global Runway in 2018 as part of the show, the popular runway program will return in 2019 to showcase the collections of emerging and established fashion designers. Positioned on the show floor, the runway shows feature designs from across the globe and are enjoyed by a fashion focused buying audience from Australia and beyond.

Another insightful series of the Global Sourcing Seminars will again provide valuable market insights and business tips to Australian buyers. The comprehensive three-day program led by international industry experts and keynote speakers is a major drawcard to the show and is consistently well-attended by visitors. Seminars focused on the Australian market also feature at the show and provide an opportunity for exhibitors to learn more about how to target the Australian market and understand more local trends and seasonality.

FIEO has led the very strong participation by Indian export organisations and exhibiting companies at the show. In 2018 participation included Apparel Export Promotion Council, Wool and Woollen Export Promotion Council, and Handloom Export Promotion Council. This strong and enduring presence confirms India's continued focus on the Australian market and opportunities. Council for Leather Exports India was a major draw card in the co-located Footwear and Leather Show ■



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TPCI urges India to not sign RCEP without safeguarding its domestic interest

Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) is apprehensive that the RCEP deal is expected to hurt India's export competitiveness as the trade balance is already skewed and there will be flood of goods imports in the Indian market, with relatively little gains on the export front.

Speaking on the RCEP, Chairman TPCI, Mohit Singla said, "India need to move with optimism and caution on this mega trade agreement. As the trade deficit of the partner countries of RCEP is not only skewed but also rising. Additionally, with growing protectionist trends and rising trade tensions, the global environment has become highly volatile for business. In such a scenario, India needs to keep a tight vigil before signing any trade agreement."

Speaking on the tariff Singla Said, "For India, issues of tariff rate are as important as other areas under negotiation, mainly because India does not have trade agreements into effect with all countries involved in RCEP. For instance, India does not have an FTA with China and the negotiations with Australia and New Zealand have not come into effect. Similarly, tariffs on many product lines are yet to be eliminated with the countries where India's agreements are already in effect." "If we take agri-products, the present tariff rate on the import of India from the rest of the RCEP countries is more than twice its export to these countries, he added.

Further Singla informed that, "At the commodity level, India's import is likely to experience the highest increase in machinery, electrical and mechanical equipment followed by ships, boats and floating structures, animal or vegetable fats and oils and wood and articles of wood from these RCEP participants."

Singla opined, "RCEP could have a negative impact on sectors like steel, pharma, e-commerce, food processing, etc. which the government wants to develop indigenously. India is already facing challenges from Singapore, Australia & New Zealand (in agriculture and dairy) and South East Asian countries (in plantations). Some of the RCEP proposals also put India's position on e-commerce and TRIPS at the WTO, under threat."



Mohit Singla, Chairman, Trade Promotion Council of India

One of the key concessions demanded by India is greater mobility for its services professionals through measures like visa fee waivers and an RCEP business travel card. RCEP countries have rejected these proposals due to fears of job losses and migration. India should strongly negotiate agreement on services which is crucial for export competitiveness of the country.

Trade Pattern with RCEP

Table 1 shows India's trade relation with the RCEP countries since the year 2000. India's total trade with these countries taken together accounted for more than one third of its total trade in the year 2017.

India's Average Export to RCEP countries (in US\$ mn)					
Countries	2003-05	2006-08	2009-11	2012-14	2015-17
Australia	682	1,106	1,719	2,541	3,359
Brunei	5	23	306	39	39
Cambodia	19	49	64	134	125
China	4,616	9,138	14,843	14,860	10,329
Indonesia	1,212	2,136	4,653	5,342	3,254
Japan	2,004	3,231	4,538	6,499	4,285
Korea, Dem. Rep.	116	619	304	182	75
Korea, Rep.	1,051	2,853	3,986	4,456	3,817
Lao PDR	3	3	16	51	33
Malaysia	992	2,072	3,626	4,643	4,876
Myanmar	102	175	312	713	1,021
New Zealand	104	277	225	307	317
Philippines	390	641	835	1,342	1,454
Singapore	3,515	7,124	10,507	12,473	8,907
Thailand	883	1,512	2,206	3,699	3,222
Vietnam	516	1,309	2,592	5,391	6,477
Average RCEP (16 countries)	1,013	2,027	3,171	3,917	3,224

India's Average Import from RCEP countries (in US\$ mn)					
Row Labels	2003-05	2006-08	2009-11	2012-14	2015-17
Australia	3,495	7,917	12,739	11,245	10,832
Brunei	1	262	467	883	555
Cambodia	0	2	7	13	45
China	6,611	23,934	42,449	54,669	64,670
Indonesia	2,442	4,961	10,420	14,746	14,109
Japan	2,991	6,120	8,724	10,939	9,971
Korea, Dem. Rep.	4	251	55	62	74
Korea, Rep.	3,395	6,227	10,172	13,180	13,798
Lao PDR	0	0	35	105	188
Malaysia	2,182	5,948	6,697	10,251	9,038
Myanmar	420	806	1,189	1,368	946
New Zealand	128	346	596	666	557
Philippines	165	203	396	435	568
Singapore	2,506	6,797	7,187	7,298	7,117
Thailand	829	2,136	3,924	5,552	5,808
Vietnam	78	228	997	2,518	3,309
Average RCEP (16 countries)	1,578	4,134	6,639	8,371	8,849

Average import tariffs imposed and faced by India during 2015-17

Countries/ RCEP partners	Import tariff imposed by India (Avg. 2015-17)	Import by India in \$ mn (Avg. 2015-17)	Import tariff imposed by RCEP countries on India (Avg. 2015-17)	Export from India to RCEP countries in \$ mn (Avg. 2015-17)
Australia	11.0	10,822	3.0	3,601
Brunei	2.3	555	0.9	43
Cambodia	1.0	45	11.1	89
Canada	9.8	4,098	2.4	3,114
Indonesia	5.3	14,101	4.2	3,419
Japan	6.5	9,732	0.7	4,938
Korea, Rep.	5.2	13,650	6.4	4,804
Lao PDR	3.2	188	4.0	26
Malaysia	4.7	9,022	4.9	3,999
Myanmar	2.1	946	3.3	860
New Zealand	11.6	552	2.7	420
Philippines	4.7	566	3.7	1,504
Singapore	4.9	7,094	0.0	6,284
Thailand	5.3	5,785	3.6	2,619
Vietnam	5.3	3,303	6.1	2,835

Source: Wits Database, World Bank

From the above table it is clear that at the present tariff rates, the import of India from the rest of the RCEP countries is more than twice its exports to these countries.



Commenting on services Singla stated that, "One of the key concessions demanded by India is greater mobility for its services professionals through measures like visa fee waivers and an RCEP business travel card. RCEP countries have rejected these proposals due to fears of job losses and migration. India should strongly negotiate agreement on services which is crucial for export competitiveness of the country."

According to the World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) simulator, India's imports may increase by a whopping \$29 bn annually during the post-RCEP period (WITS Simulator), implying a revenue loss by as much as 1.3 per cent of GDP. Correspondingly, India's imports are expected to increase by around \$30 bn post-RCEP.

In order to protect domestic interest, India had proposed a three-tier tariff reduction mechanism under which the RCEP countries were categorized into three tiers based on the level of trade imbalance and existence of free trade agreement with the member country. The first tier proposed 80 per cent trade liberalization for ASEAN countries of which 65 per cent would be implemented immediately and remaining 15 per cent would come into effect in the course of 10 years ■

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Importance of social compliance in garment industry



MAUSMI AMBASTHA

Founder and COO of ThreadSol. Winner of the esteemed Grace Hopper Celebrations Entrepreneur Quest 2013, is an established expert in the garment industry with over 10 years of experience. Mausmi holds a Masters degree in Fashion Technology from NIFT, Delhi and is also B.Tech in Computer Science. She has written over 15 publications for several leading apparel magazines and also writes her own apparel blog called StitchDiary on www.stitchdiary.com

Compliance can be defined as conformity to a given standard. The garment industry is expected to maintain certain standards or compliance to operate. Some of the common compliances required in garment industry include working hour policy, holiday compensation, and wage for leaves, equal remuneration policy, anti-discrimination policy, no child labour, health, and safety policy, etc. Compliance adherence in factories is crucial to ensure a favourable working environment.

Did you know?

In 2015, some of the big apparel brands including Nike, H&M, Timberland, Target, Adidas etc. along with Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC) launched a Social and Labor Convergence Project, with the aim of improving working conditions in apparel manufacturing across the world.

In this era of globalized economies, the garment industry is specially required to provide lowest possible costs with fastest possible supply chains to survive. In this race, more often than not, factories tend to put their social responsibility or social compliance on the back burner.

Social compliance is how a business treats its workers, and the environment it operates in. It is simply the minimal code of conduct that guides the business in regards to how its workers and environment should be treated, in regards to the employee wages, working hours, conditions, and environmental laws. Social compliance basically intends to protect both labour and environment interests.

Do you know?

'Sustainable Textile Production (STeP)' is a certification system for brands, retail companies and manufacturers who want to communicate their achievements regarding sustainable production to the masses in a transparent, credible and clear manner.

Social accountability standards or social compliance have been developed by many international organizations like Fair Labor Association (FLA), Worldwide Responsible Apparel Production (WRAP), Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI), Business for Social Responsibility (BSDR), and Council on Economic Priorities Accreditation Agency (CEPAA). The guidelines from these organisations are widely being used by big brands to form their own social compliance standards. The basic core areas that social compliance should include are policies on child labour, health and safety, forced labour,

It is simply the minimal code of conduct that guides the business in regards to how its workers and environment should be treated, in regards to the employee wages, working hours, conditions, and environmental laws. Social compliance basically intends to protect both labour and environment interests.

compensation, discrimination, working hours, discipline, management systems and right to free association and collective bargaining. In addition to these core areas, local culture and government regulations also become a part of social compliance in the industry.

Do you know?

In 2006, The Global Social Compliance Programme (GSCP) was launched by the Consumer Goods Forum with the aim to improve the working conditions in the global supply chains.

Social compliance in the Indian garment industry

Indian garment exporters' deal with large global firms, hence the level of social compliance expected from them is comparatively higher than its neighbouring counterparts. There are some core labour standards or government guidelines that Indian garment manufacturers follow to adhere to social compliance, both within their operational domain and with their vendors, collaborators, and distributors; they are involved within the supply chain. These labour standards include ensuring no workplace discrimination is taking place, providing freedom of association, right to collective bargaining, and eliminating all forms of child labour and forced or compulsory labour.

SA8000 is one of the world's first auditable social certification standards for decent workplaces, across all industrial sectors. The 9 SA8000 social compliance requirements:

1. Child Labour: No child with age under 15 should be employed by a factory
2. Health and safety: A safe and healthy workplace environment must be provided by the factory that should also prevent any potential health and safety incidents and work-related injury or illness from occurring

3. Freedom of association and collective bargaining: All staff has the right to form, join and organize trade unions and to bargain collectively on their behalf
4. Discrimination: A factory is prohibited from engaging in discrimination in hiring, remuneration, access to training, promotion, termination or retirement
5. Disciplinary practices: A factory is prohibited from engaging in or tolerating the use of corporal punishment, mental or physical coercion or verbal abuse of employees.
6. Working hours: A factory must comply with applicable laws, collective bargaining agreements and industry standards on working hours, breaks and public holidays.
7. Remuneration: The right of staff to a living wage must be respected by the factory.
8. Management systems: Compliance must be reviewed and implemented to the SA800 Standard through developed policies and procedures.

There are some core labour standards or government guidelines that Indian garment manufacturers follow to adhere to social compliance, both within their operational domain and with their vendors, collaborators, and distributors; they are involved within the supply chain. These labour standards include ensuring no workplace discrimination is taking place, providing freedom of association, right to collective bargaining, and eliminating all forms of child labour and forced or compulsory labour.



Social compliance & labour productivity

To implement social compliance, businesses need to take care of their workers, listen to them, and empower them. A research project was conducted on 'humanization for garment workers'. The inferences from the project highlighted the importance of balance between benefits to the business, and benefits to the workers. The research mainly included the management helping and listening to their workers, enabling new workers to settle in quickly, and overall empowering them.

Businesses that take social compliance seriously pay more honest attention to worker health and safety, training and development and make efforts towards improving workers' communication with the management. Collectively, these efforts translate into better job satisfaction, loyalty, motivation, retention and eventually productivity.

Multiple studies and researches have time and again shown turnover rates falling up to half their previous figures as a result of a consistent commitment to social compliance. Commitment to ethical and humane treatment of workers, adherence to social compliance can be the factor that differentiates a business from its cut-throat competition in the apparel industry ■

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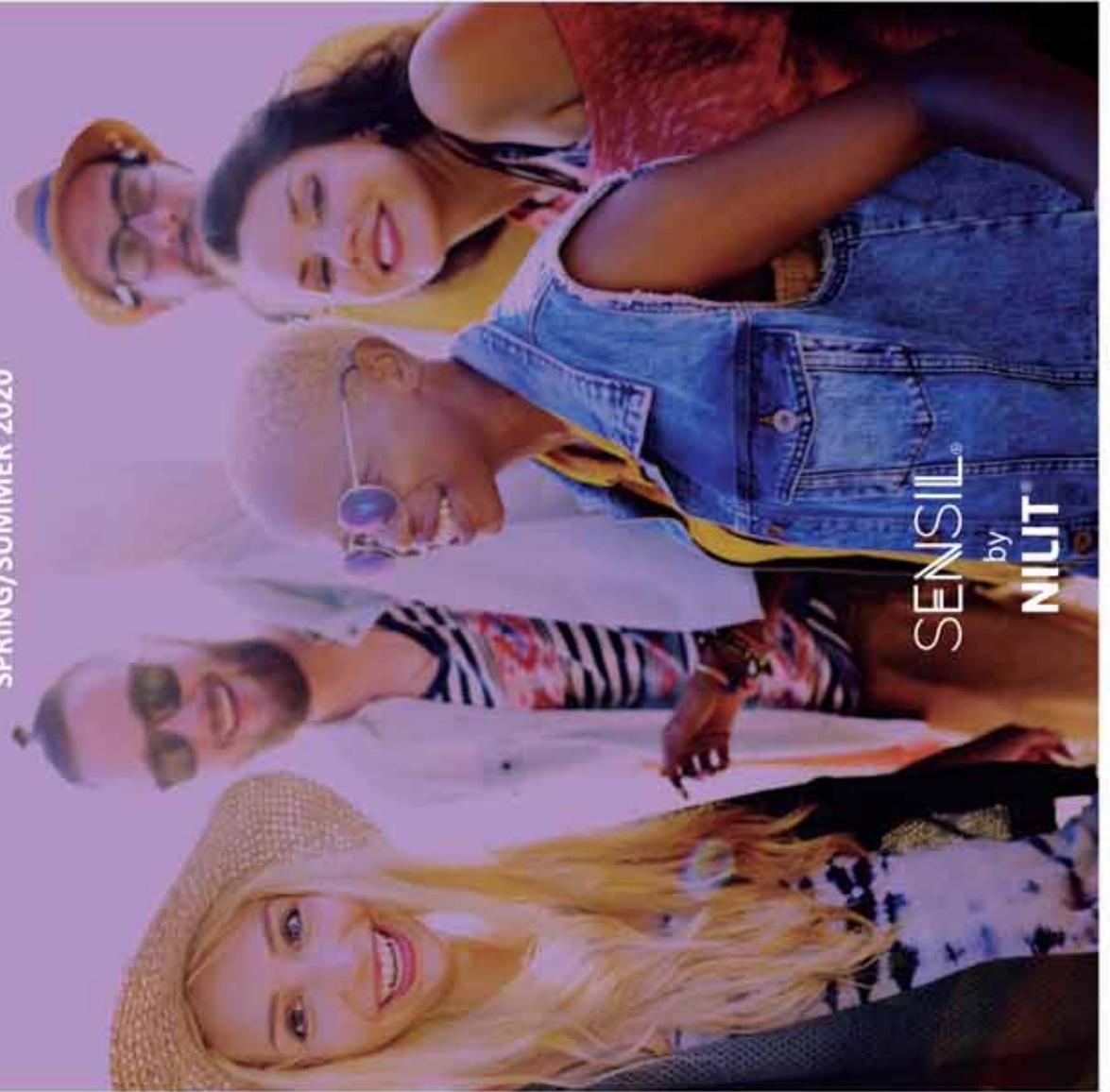
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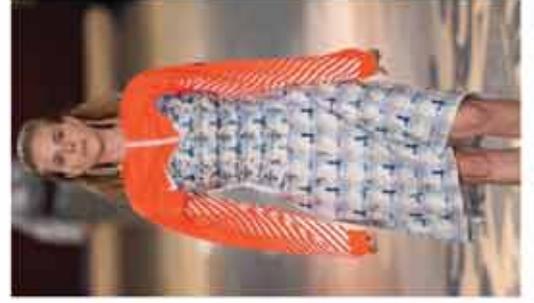
As we embrace a new decade, Spring / Summer 2020 demands more from fabrics in all applications. There is a confident, yet cautious approach — we need to take the dawn of this new era in our stride, since disruption comes so frequently these days. As Millennials continue to drive sales, and with the disposable income of Gen Xers on the rise, it's easy to understand what consumers want from their brands.

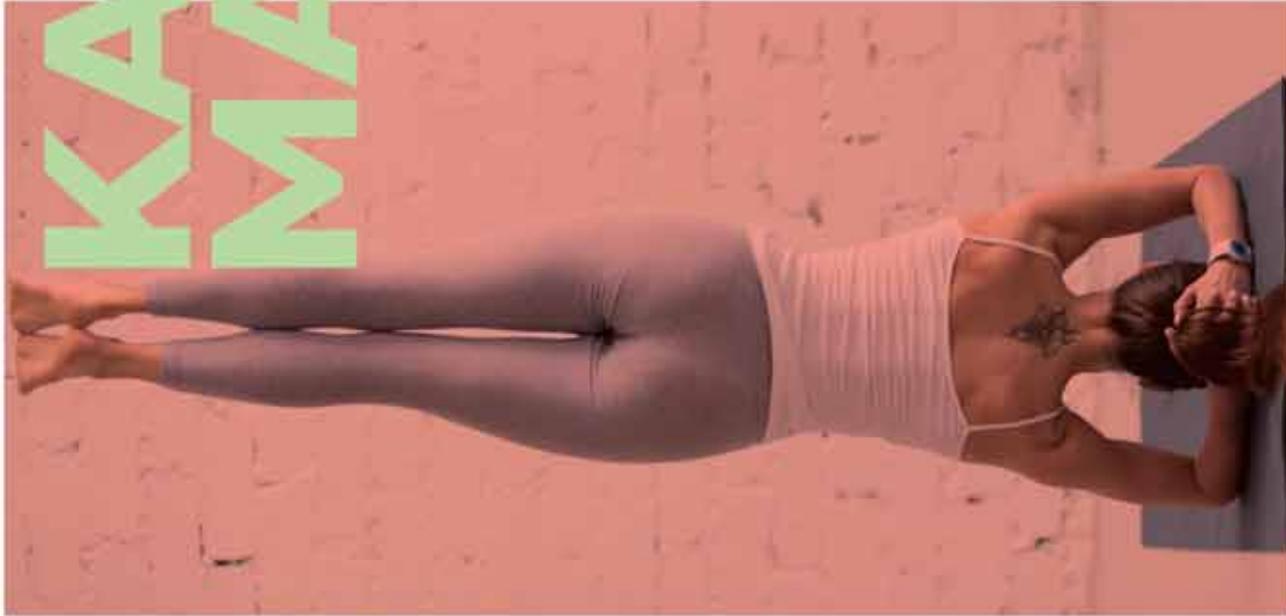
Multi-tasking garments with multiple purposes that are easy to maintain drive a more modern approach to 21st Century living. Time-strapped consumers continue the pursuit of that work/ life balance, the elixir of enjoying modern living. This is where Sensil's wide range of performance and fashion Nylon 6.6 yarns features, in enabling a high level permanent performance, exceptional optical aspects and sensational touch.

Seeking an antidote to the anxiety caused by overstimulation and being informed and connected 24/7, consumers seek out comfort, community, causes, and ways they can cope and make a difference. The active living attitude continues, embracing the juggling of professional and personal daily routines with quality and comfort neck-and-neck at the purchasing decision stage. Today's cutting-edge smart fabrics combine performance features of cooling, heating, freshening, energizing and other functions with feeling sensational to wear. Garments must be

able to fit into multiple sectors as a need for efficient garment design also comes into play. Sportswear transitions into the office, beach to street and gym to swim, with athleisure maturing across many categories.

Sustainability remains key as Millennials and GenZs place their trust in brands that deliver cleaner and more efficient textile processing and garment manufacturing. Recycled yarns are increasingly being sought, but it is an overall cleaner, more efficient and environmentally sound approach to the textile chain that also needs to be addressed. Sensil's fashion and performance features are permanent, inherently embedded within the yarns, eliminating the need for additional chemical finishing and using less water and energy in the fabric finishing stage. Sensil's superior quality and newness retention, along with easy care features that eliminate the need for dry cleaning, make it an eco-friendly wardrobe investment that will last for many seasons, if not years. For Spring/Summer 2020, we present on the following pages six emerging textile trends that will create a sensational approach to the season. Within each of these trends, Sensil's premium Nylon 6.6 emerges as the perfect answer to these intensifying needs for recycled, sustainable, fashionable and functional properties with the crucial addition of high level performance, ensuring that consumers will want for nothing.





ATTITUDE

Fabrics in the KARMA trend will move in a strong direction toward innovative blending, bringing the benefits of Sensil®. Nylon 6.6 to natural and manmade cellulose like cotton and modal or to merino wool. Relaxed and uncomplicated in appearance, fabric developments are in fact packed full of performance. Sensil® Ecocare is a wonderfully soft and beautiful recycled Nylon 6.6, and the Colorwise family of styling yarns are perfect for innovative surface effects with less water use. A reassurance infiltrates the mood, as the touch, like a hug, can range from light and delicate through to snug and embracing. There's a sense of satisfaction and calm but also performance, from the cool touch and anti-odor functions of Sensil® Breeze and Sensil® Aquarius. Consumers will appreciate how clothing can help them find balance as they take a step back and sensually feel the clothing while focusing on a particular activity. Sustainability features, teaming Sensil® Ecocare with merino wool or Tencel to deliver a natural luxe feel with built-in performance. From an organic dry touch through to subtle patina finishes, there is an uplifting yet calming mood. What you put it in is what you get, and through KARMA, the results are sensational.

COLOURS

A fresh and zesty colour palette, with sharp, natural brights creating a positive statement complemented by indigo and plum. Tone-on-tone development with white soften the vivacity, offering a more gentle and soothing direction. This palette can be worked in a very low level matte effect through to a natural patina.



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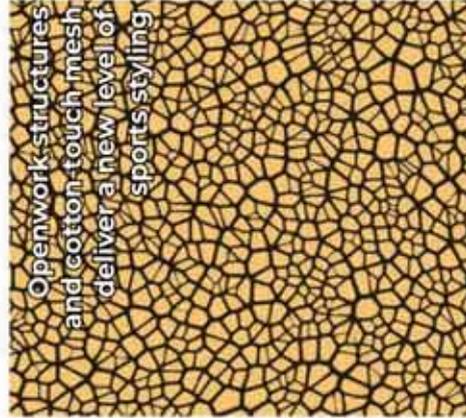
Micro porous structures in featherweight knits



Matte and opalescent contrast with a new level of technicity



Slub surface brings a new irregular, imperfect dimension to surfaces



Openwork structures and cotton-touch mesh deliver a new level of sports styling



Natural shine through patina finishes



Blurred fluidity comes through in yarn-dyed effects or prints



Chalky touch contrasts with opalescent finishes with fluidity

INTERPRETING

ACTIVEWEAR

Ideal for the ever-growing yoga market, a natural feel is required with a higher level of technicity. Hybrid blends feature as does the synergetic approach of recycled Sensil® Ecocare and spandex. Moisture management is key in all of the activewear sectors, delivered by Sensil® Aquarius, but Sensil® Breeze enhances the natural appearance of fabrics through its cool touch. High compression knits deliver support and shaping for yoga leggings, with prints adding a new dimension to fantastic base fabrics. For circular knits, the feel is airy and gauzy with good drapeability, as layering continues as an integral part of the garment design for vests and tops. The mood continues into the socks sector.

INTIMATE APPAREL

Seamless intimate apparel pulls in the natural inspiration, delivering a fresh and authentic look. There is a sense of innocence, with circular knits also delivering on the deceptive natural look. Hybrid blends also feature, working with cotton in particular and teaming with Sensil® performance yarns in taking this traditional intimate fabric development to a new level. Organic and free-spirited graphics feature in jacquards in heather and mélange finishes. Surfaces aren't all matte but also embark on natural patinas in solid or dull/bright combinations. This isn't just geared towards the women's market, but is also an opportunity to elevate the traditional menswear market to a new performance level.

SPORTSWEAR

A retro mood inspires the sports sector as the golf and tennis market in particular revive old classics with modern day performance in piqué, French terry and classic jersey structures. High performance wovens feature for grass sports, as lightweight stretch gabardine is enhanced with Sensil®. This is about maintaining a traditional look while incorporating today's technology.

ACTIVE LIFESTYLE AND TRAVEL-WEAR

This understated, calm mood influences active lifestyle apparel as we look to a raw natural touch in lightweight qualities with built-in performance. Classic jersey features, with a sense of simplicity in styling, paying homage to old favorites including traditional



Francis Montesinos



Babado Colerivo



V/Project



Uma Raquel Davidowicz

cotton sweatshirt fleece and French terry, reworked with innovative yarns in pure Sensil® or blends with cotton. Wovens feature, matte to touch, but lightweight and airy, giving a sense of freedom to the wearer.

BEACH TO STREET

With water sports increasing from surfing to stand up paddling, there is a growing direction in recycled yarns, as the mood of protecting the environment connects. What is key is the multi functionality of garments for beachwear and swimwear that can transition easily through to street. Sensil® Ecocare is key in driving this trend, delivering a strong sustainable message in pure and hybrid blends. Single jersey and double knits continue to develop, delivering a spongelike touch, giving a new super lightweight volume and clean cut function.

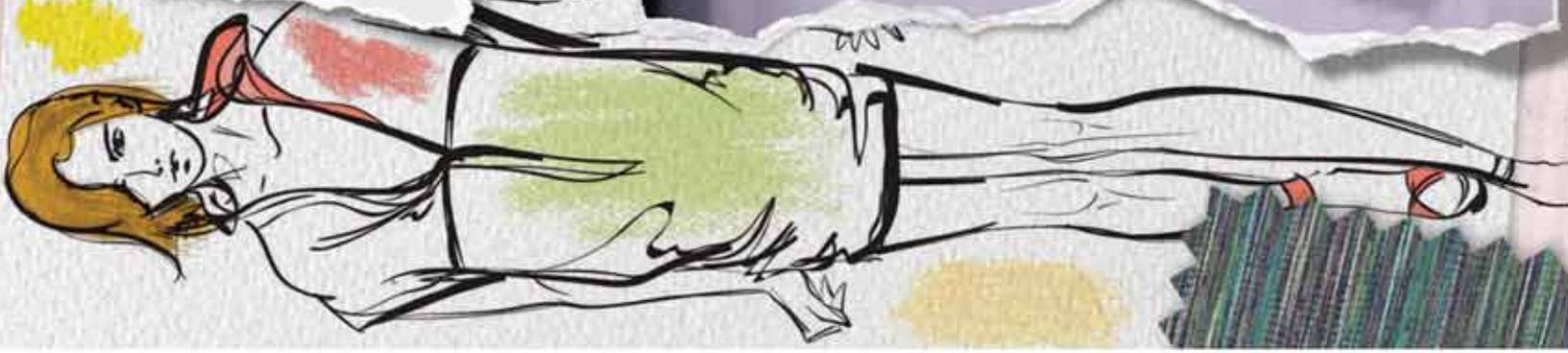
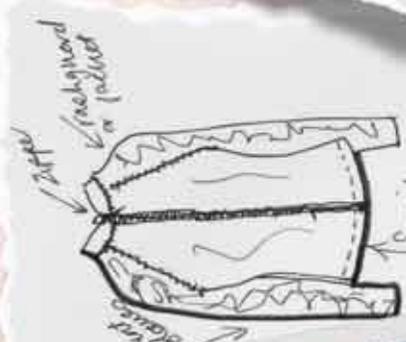
ACTIVEWEAR KARMA

KEYWORDS

- SUPER-NATURAL
- BIO-MIMICRY
- RECYCLED
- FLUID
- PATINA



SENSIL BREEZE WITH COTTON OR MODAL FOR COOL TOUCH CIRCULAR-KNIT JERSEY



BLURRED FLUIDITY COMES THROUGH IN VARI DIED EFFECTS OR PRINTS

SENSIL INTERFACES FOR WOMENS WITH KNUIT AND TEXTURED

SENSIL ECO-COME SUPER IMPORTANT FOR MESH AND CIRCULAR-KNIT MELANGE JERSEY

SENSIL

INVISIBLE PERFORMANCE AND ENHANCED NATURAL TOUCH

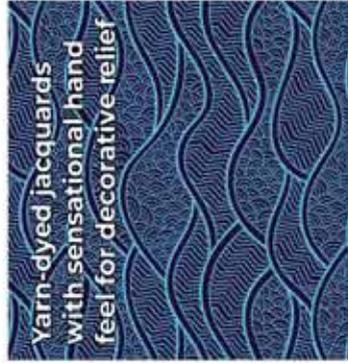


ATTITUDE

The social shift brought about by increases in human migration, travel, and technology connecting people from different cultures and backgrounds brings a myriad of influences that continue to impact consumer lives and preferences. As the global mood evolves, however, there is a need for a unique identity amongst consumers, allowing them to stand out from the crowd. The interest in authenticity and traditions from around the globe has seen the travel sector soar, as Millennials and GenXers embrace the unknown in experiencing something new. This trend direction is key for global brands in creating regular designer collaborations of limited collections and the emergence of niche start-up brands with low-volume collections, injecting a newness at regular intervals. The sense of tradition also instills a strong inspiration through classic textile construction, a feel of heritage and respect, working with Sensil® fashion and performance yarns in giving this respectful trend an element of modernity in today's savvy world. The respect aspect directly influences the inherent deference consumers are dedicating to environmental responsibility with a growing interest in more efficient textile processes that save water and energy.

COLOURS

A raw influence features as natural dyes are mimicked in creating sludge tones, enhanced with pewter gray and rose gold for contrast.



Yarn-dyed jacquards with sensational hand feel for decorative relief



Circular knits take on a very natural appearance



Aged, slub and cross-hatch surfaces



Raw and textured touch through cottoned Sensil blends



A new vibrancy in terms of silky-touch aspects feature through solid and authentic inspired relief



Aged aspects enhance the natural nuance — achieved through innovative yarn construction including Colorwise



Imperfect surfaces deliver innovative textures to complement compact raw structures



Double knits in varying weights deliver perfect sponge-like structures

INTERPRETING

ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

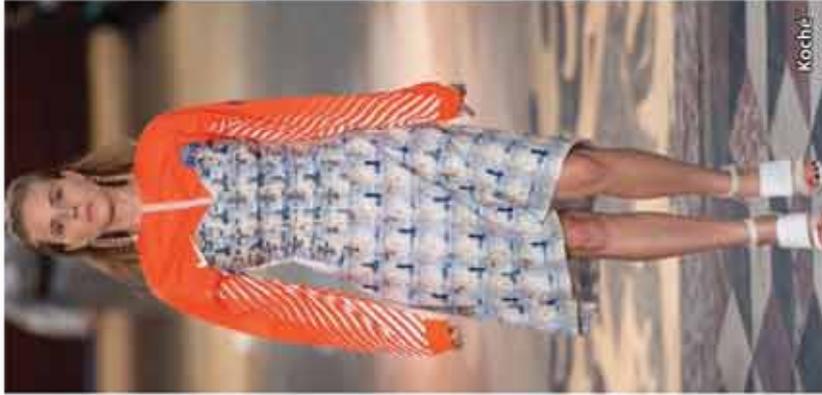
Multi functionality comes through, not just in the core of the fabrics but through garment design. A rawness features with frayed hems and exposed seams, as reversibility also comes into play. Hand loomed wovens inspire, as texture features, repurposed for modern-day living through the inclusion of Sensil® yarns. This is a unisex direction, combining the inherent functionality we can deliver without neglecting the value of traditional inspirational elements. Wovens and circular knits work this trend, as a sense of reassurance features in aged aspects, cushioned structures and tone-on-tone effects.

URBAN STREETWEAR

Incredibly soft to touch, the natural core of this direction will appeal for the urban streetwear sector, consumers looking for a more authentic style. With cotton a key contender on the blending front with Sensil®, both circular knits and wovens feature. There is a deliberate take on imperfection, an irregularity that features on surface effects. The ubiquitous hoodie sweatshirt gets reworked, and jersey dresses become a staple part of the look. Traditionally utilizing the sports sector in influencing design, it merges with authentic prints and jacquard effects in creating a new direction and global harmony for multicultural living. Slogans and messages feature, this is a perfect trend for sharing beliefs and pushing for a better world.

DENIM

The natural nuance of this direction, especially with the inclusion of cotton, leads to an exciting approach on the denim front. Natural dyes inspire the color palette, and infused with the metallic tones of pewter and rose gold for rivets and buttons, lend themselves perfectly to the denim market, as Sensil® enhances performance. Indigo blue is important but also embrace an alternative, a greater diversity on the denim front with sludgy green and gray tones. There is a raw touch to denim structures, as wovens mimic the authenticity of traditional loom denim with a selvage finish, with comfort and performance elevated as Sensil® Breeze and Cordura complement the cotton touch. Aged, slub and cross-hatch structures feature, as does the introduction of linen, to add a new dimension to touch and surface effect.



READY TO WEAR

A myriad of inspiration comes through, not just in textile applications but all the way through to apparel design. A new sense of femininity combined with modesty features, with longer hemlines and higher necklines. This influence is a new direction for the Womenswear market, as modest styling looks less 'old lady' and more on-trend. An eclectic use of circular knits and wovens in one garment creates a combo look, further enhanced through the color palette on offer. Dress silhouettes feature, multi-functional in their application while yarn-dyed wovens generate a new direction for shirting and suiting fabrics.

LEGGWEAR

An appealing inspiration for legwear is the array of graphic designs inspired by decorative elements from around the globe. Key to this direction for tights, knee highs and ankle socks are the great bases we can create with Sensil® premium Nylon 6.6, leading the way for an exciting and elaborate decorative effect. For socks the focus is on the naturally authentic feel of cotton, enhanced by performance, with the final product geared toward streetwear. Bi- and multi-colored jacquards feature, as we embrace the vibrancy and design inspired by this multi-cultural moment.

URBAN STREETWEAR DIVERSITY

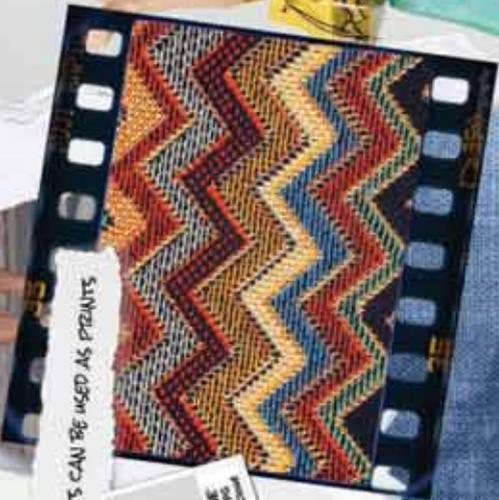


KEYWORDS

- HARMONIOUS
- SYNERGETIC
- REASSURING
- AGED
- SPONGEY

WOMEN TALL COTTON/
SENSIL BREEZE/SPANDEX
- PERFECT FOR BOTTOMS AND PANTS

3D EFFECTS CAN BE USED AS PRINTS



WOMEN RECYCLED COTTON
SENSIL ECCOAZE



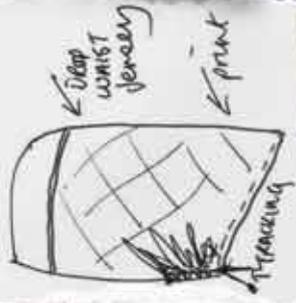
MODAL/SENSIL ECCOAZE TALL TEE



AGED SUNS AND
CROSS-HATCH
SURFACES



SENSIL
SWEAT TEE



SENSIL



COLORS

An interesting tonal approach features, where the density of color is determined by the matte or bright surface effects in the final look. An injection of subtle sludgy tones complement the best-selling black and white that are absolutely essential season after season. Take note of navy and indigo tones, offering an alternative to black and the subtle warm embrace of yellow hues.

ATTITUDE

To cope with the erratic tendencies of this constantly changing techno-driven world we have to look to a definite. ABSOLUTE delivers on this, with its protective, secure, reliable and reassuring trend direction that embraces a myriad of applications. This is where we look to basics, compact and reassuring in their delivery, enhanced through fabrics made of Sensil® premium

Nylon 6.6. An incredible push to lightweight fabrics combined with a new level of intensity through depth of tone through to varying levels of luster feature. Circular knits come through in super featherweight qualities and have an almost liquid touch to them, from milky through to silky fluidity to encompass all occasions. This is the ultimate in second skin, embracing yet with a sublime touch, through to high density lightweight woven structures for outer shells. Structures are incredibly compact, and allow for clean cut finish on the finest deniers.

Hosiery-inspired knits feature, and not only for the intimate apparel sector. There is a push into many more sensational cool touch knits in activewear and swimwear. The lightweight aspects of these fabrics also lead to reversible options, developing super light doubleknits with a spacer feel, offering solid/print effects through to development of reversible garments combining contrasting fabrics.



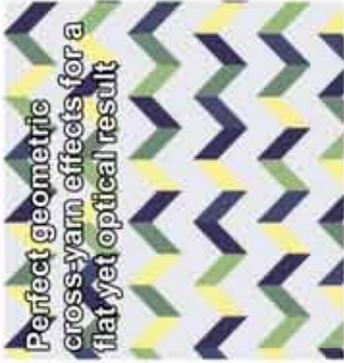
MATERIAL INSPIRATION & TEXTURAL APPEAL



Micro constructed woven and circular knits — invisible fabric structures for a perfect surface effect



Opalescent dense bases — super lightweight and sensational to touch



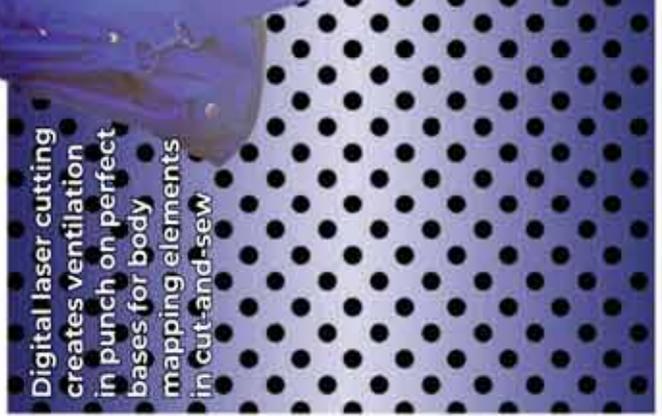
Perfect geometric cross-yarn effects for a flat yet optical result



Perfect structures are invisible to the eye for a seamless appearance



Semi-bright waxed appearance



Digital laser cutting creates ventilation in punch on perfect bases for body mapping elements in cut-and-sew



Finish woven bases with performance membranes for an added level of protection



Opt for full bright and trilobal flat yarn for this essential compactness and inherent gloss

INTERPRETING

INTIMATE APPAREL

A divine delivery in terms of touch for intimate apparel, this is the ultimate in new generation circular knits, taking on a super light featherweight direction. A natural touch delivered from Arafelle and cool touch technology from Sensil® Breeze create a new level of performance in the shapewear category, with perfect levels of luster providing contrast. High compression, paper touch through to new lustrous high density circular knits offer a precise base for body mapped control. Essential intimate apparel takes up this direction, delivering opalescent perfection to contrast with understated function in matte form. The inclusion of Sensil® Aquarius and Bodyfresh delivers a controlled performance level for a longer lasting fresh experience.

ACTIVEWEAR

A divine delivery in terms of touch for intimate apparel, this is the ultimate in new generation circular knits, taking on a super light featherweight direction. A natural touch delivered from Arafelle and cool touch technology from Sensil® Breeze create a new level of performance in the shapewear category, with perfect levels of luster providing contrast. High compression, paper touch through to new lustrous high density circular knits offer a precise base for body mapped control. Essential intimate apparel takes up this direction, delivering opalescent perfection to contrast with understated function in matte form. The inclusion of Sensil® Aquarius and Bodyfresh delivers a controlled performance level for a longer lasting fresh experience.

ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

A reassuring and understated elegance features in active living, as athleisure embraces this direction in luxurious ways. A new sense of fluidity features, especially teaming fine denier Sensil® with modal for a sensational touch. Featherweight circular knits are embracing and also manipulated into fluid effects with drape. A refreshing approach in how we can take this next generation of performance basics to a new level, moving away from the traditional option of ubiquitous yoga pants and taking on a more ethereal look through fit and flare. For the men's market, shirting fabric is important, compact and precise in structure, with a new functional factor coming through with Sensil® performance yarns.



Fenty Puma by Rihanna



Gloria Coelho



I Am Glia



KIKO Kostadinov

OUTDOOR AND TRAVELWEAR

The increase in consumer mobility through work and leisure leads the ways for basic perfection and high-level performance in circular knits and wovens. High density, super lightweight woven bases feature in contrasting matte and brilliant combinations, paper-like to touch to sublime in an incredibly even shine. A basic feel dominates, but don't be deceived, the assurance from this understated delivery is achieved by incorporating Sensil® Nylon 6.6 yarns that ensure longevity, extended wearability, and a sense of convenience and efficiency. We are looking at 360° flexibility in four-way stretch woven fabrics for bottoms through to lightweight rigidity for protective outershells, easily packable and convenient.

LEGWEAR

Sensual to the core, understated, yet with a high level of quality features. Luxury touch comes through, embracing, soothing. Socks and hosiery pull this trend, adapting to a new level of luxury from the inclusion of Sensil® fashion and performance yarns. Bare-legged hosiery plays an important role for graphics and slogans that float and shout out from the transparent base, almost with a floating effect. For socks, precise and simplistic structures are enhanced through new performance levels with Sensil® Aquarius and Breeze as cool touch, moisture management and odor control become key in this sector.



DYNAMIC

ATTITUDE

No longer willing to evaluate multiple brands and retailers, time-deprived, multitasking Millennials and GenZs make purchase decisions in the time it takes to swipe across a touchscreen to open an app. DYNAMIC is about the role that fabrics can play in enhancing the consumer experience, either through improved performance, appearance or other experience aspect, making life better and easier.

The need for multi-functional applications features here, adding value in terms of end use, driven by how acutely apparel can connect with the wearer to enhance the appeal of a garment. Wearable technology in the health and fitness sector continues as we connect with our app-organized life, monitoring the levels of performance and delivering immediacy to how we perform. Sensil® Innergy Nylon 6.6 FIR yarns help wearers become the best versions of themselves by enhancing physical activity and promoting well-being. Fabrics range from second skin applications through to super lightweight outer shells that protect and enhance the comfort and well-being of the wearer. Touch is key, with softness that is not mushy but maintains a body to the structure. This trend has a toughness about it that belies the sensational touch that Sensil® delivers.

COLOURS

Dark shades dominate in this unisex trend, with rich tones coming through that can be interpreted into matte hues through to tough metallic-looking steel inspired tones.



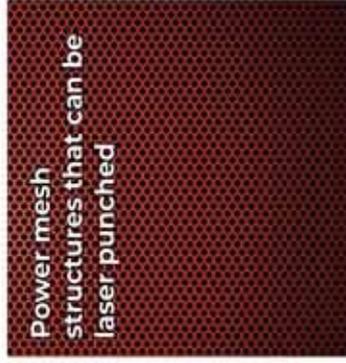
MATERIAL INSPIRATION & TEXTURAL APPEAL



A higher level of compression that embraces and supports



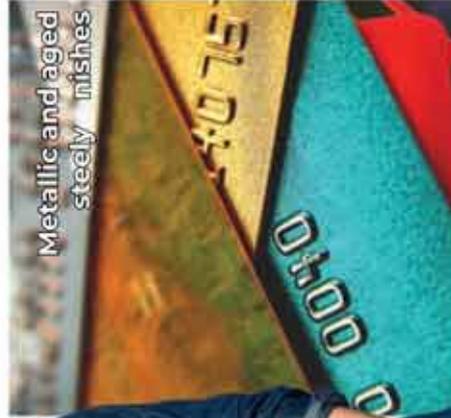
Aged aspects belie true performance underneath the surface



Power mesh structures that can be laser punched



Flexibility - fabrics move with the body, protecting and enhancing the wearer



Metallic and aged steely finishes



Geometric relief in compact surfaces



Super lightweight high tenacity circular knits in bright and dense matte applications



Super lightweight yet tough - the most important attribute of Nylon 6.6

INTERPRETING

ACTIVEWEAR - HIGH PERFORMANCE

Geared towards the high performance sports sector, this is about accelerating performance in high impact activities as well as bringing efficient designs through a reduction of seams. Body-mapping performance and compression zones bring a robot-inspired delivery, creating efficient systems for the wearer to achieve the best personal performance and recovery. Fabrics in this sector are for extreme workouts ranging from HIIT and cross training to swimming and running, and benefit from new super lightweight qualities and a renewed look of luminosity. Super soft micro mesh is a key contender in this area, delivering ventilation zones and added garment detail, but for a smoother uncompromising feel, the development of featherweight fabrics that can be digitally laser cut provides punch-out effects, eliminating seaming, for a seamless approach in cut-and-sew. Moisture management, anti-odor and UV protection feature.

LEGWEAR

Focus on compression socks for all sports applications, from leisurely hiking and other outdoor pursuits to intense workouts. Structures need to anatomically embrace and support, with weightlessness a key factor. A combination of Sensil® performance and fashion yarns mimics the cotton touch required, delivering a fresh feel and anti-odor attributes. For the hosiery market, the inherent well-being in terms of cool touch, anti-sweat and energizing results benefit both regular and shaping hosiery for all-day comfort.

INTIMATE APPAREL

Perfect for the shapewear market, the combination of moisture management and the cool touch of Sensil® delivers a new level of comfort for high-compression fabrics. High power circular knits are further enhanced with Sensil® Innergy, directly energizing the wearer, enhancing circulation, and improving the skin appearance. Intimate apparel also takes on the mood, for modern lifestyle pieces through to engineered high-impact sports bras that react and respond efficiently in ensuring fit and function.

PERFORMANCE DENIM

The growing interest in denim delivering a higher level of performance evolves from crossover garment technology. Hybrid

blends feature, not just with high tenacity yarns for lighter weight and touching denim, but also with a push toward performance denim for activewear. Sensil® Aquarius delivers the moisture management, quick drying and anti-odor benefits teamed with other fibres and spandex in creating a new look. Consider Sensil® Innergy for an approach to well-being in this sector. The appeal for lightweight four-way stretch denim is an exciting addition to the sports sector, as the original jog jean offers a wider appeal. It isn't just wovens that are taking up this development but also knitted authentic looking denim too.

OUTDOOR AND TRAVEL-WEAR

Tough and extremely lightweight ripstops feature with a super soft and anti-noise aspect, enhanced further through performance coatings and

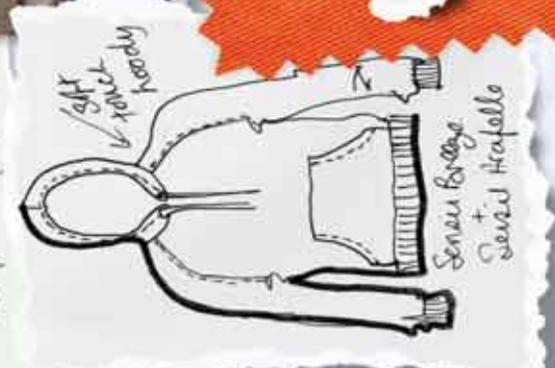
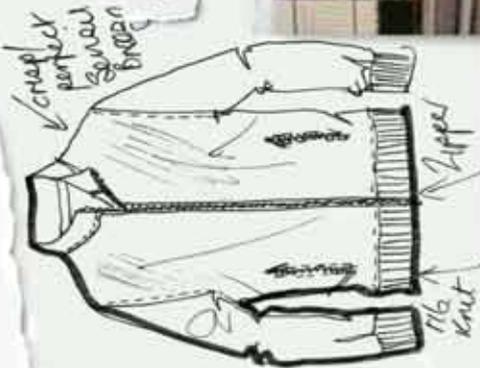
membrane finishing for a lock tight protective element. Micro compact stretch wovens with a clean and perfect surface are lighter in weight than they look, incorporating Sensil® Breeze for a cooling sensation that is inherently anti-odor. The durability and high-level tenacity of fabrics are packable and multi-functional.

ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

A deceptiveness appeals in this DYNAMIC delivery, with a luxurious aspect in terms of luster and touch. Sensil® fashion yarns deliver interesting surface effects, but don't neglect the performance benefits that continue to infiltrate this sector. Circular knits dominate, especially with the inclusion of shaping elements, delivering to the consumer a smoothing option and enhanced silhouette.



PERFORMANCE DENIMWEAR DYNAMIC



FRENCH TERRY KNIIT WITH SENSU APARILLE KITS

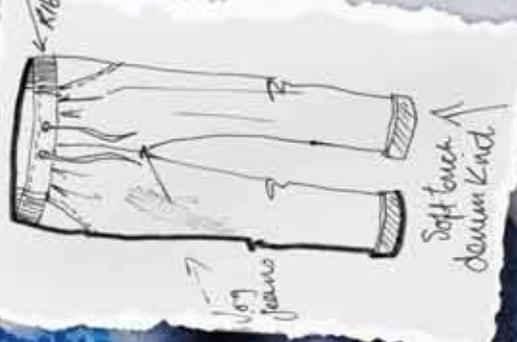
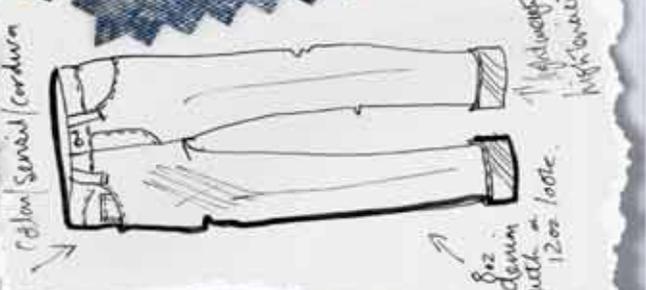
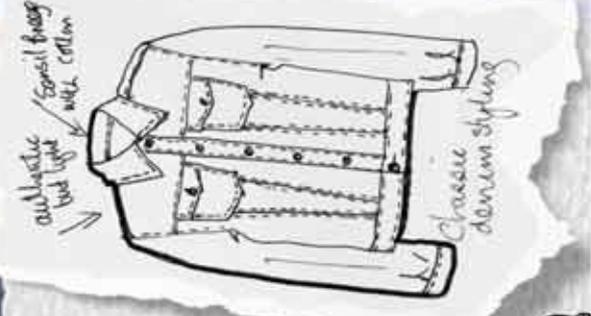


LET'S TRY COLOR - COTTON/SENSU APARILLE - PERFORMANCE DENIM WITH MOISTURE MANAGEMENT

USED ASPECTS BLEU TONE PERFORMANCE AND HEALTH THE SURFACE

KEYWORDS
 • TOUGH
 • TENACIOUS
 • LIGHT
 • FRESH
 • PAPER TOUCH

WOMEN DENIM SENSU BIZZE AND COTTON FOR COOL TOUCH - PERFECT STRUCTURES



METALLIC AND AGED STEELY FINISHES



ARTIFICIAL DENIM LOOK - KNIIT - COTTON/SENSU APARILLE FOR MOISTURE MANAGEMENT

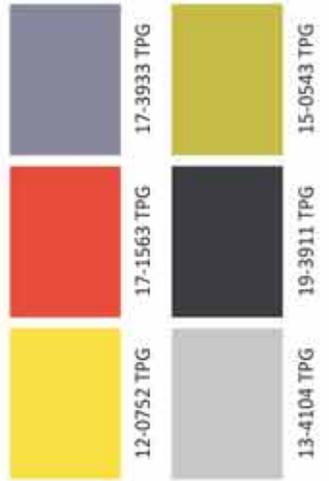
SENSIL



INTRIGUE

COLOURS

An edgy palette that allows for solid applications yet injects a rebellious spirit for an explosive use of multiple, clashing tones. The colours offer allow styles to stand out from the global crowd, enabling today's consumers to pursue a distinctive and erratic look. The colour palette adopts an aged direction that will take on an eclectic and kitsch vibe. Solid tones vibrate through to working the entire palette in an explosive layered-up look.



ATTITUDE

There is a return to storytelling, to sharing a narrative that looks both to the artisanal heritage of textile production and to its evolution into a more efficient process creating engaging textures for brands to captivate their consumers. In a world of unified design and domination by global brands, we see increasing desire from consumers for a sense of unique style and customization. As much as Millennials and GenZs want to be part of the global crowd, they also want to attain a unique identity. **INTRIGUE** is perfect for brands pursuing an injection of distinctive difference through small limited edition collections, ease of personalization, and an archival feel with a twist.

E

MATERIAL INSPIRATION & TEXTURAL APPEAL



Irregular openwork jacquards



Blistered surface effects



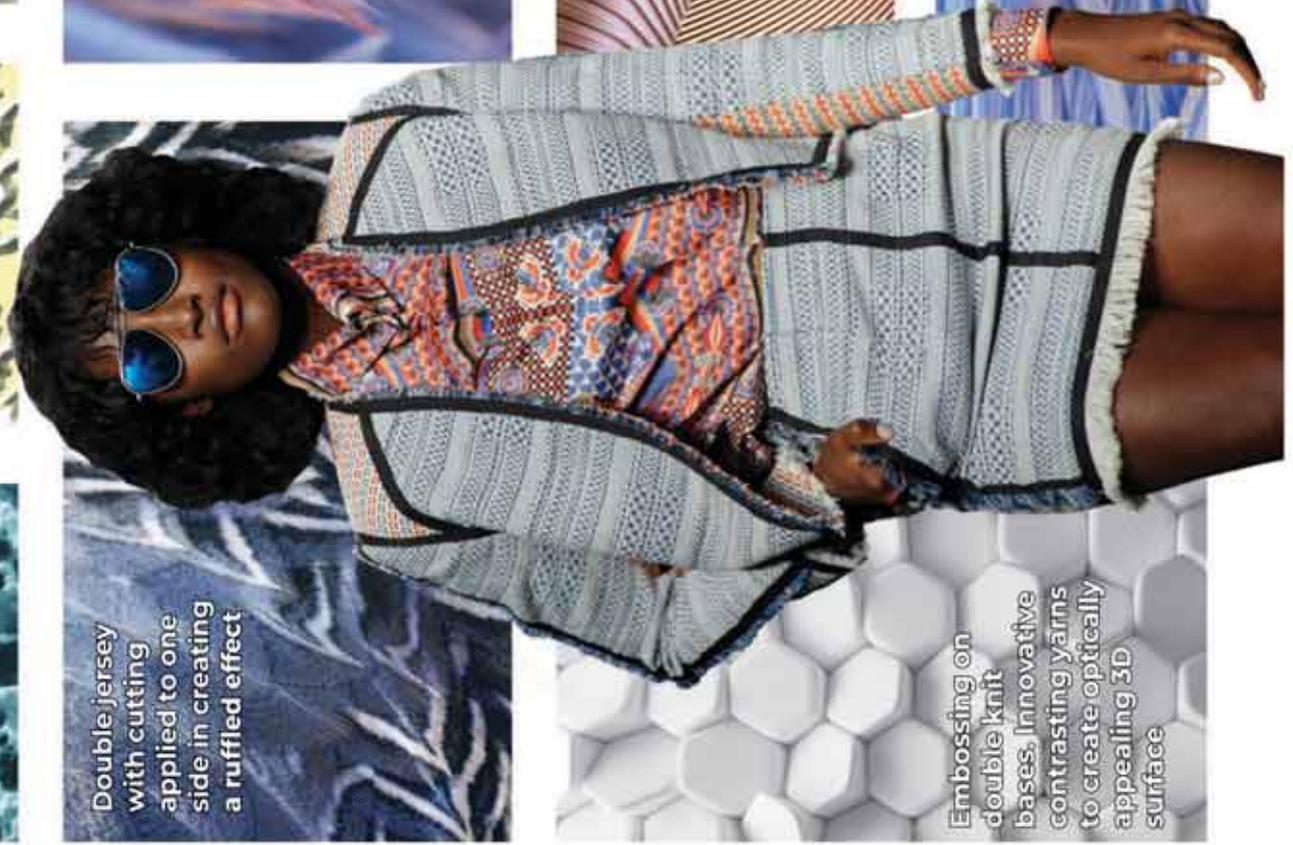
Compact and perfect surfaces act as a canvas for 3D print relief — opt for a brilliant sheen.



Double jersey with cutting applied to one side in creating a ruffled effect



Featherweight single knits — light and frothy



Embossing on double knit bases. Innovative contrasting yarns to create optically appealing 3D surface



Raised rib surfaces — create intrigue through contrasting yarn use for a changeant effect



Loose weaves inspired by classics teamed with plain or fancy cotton yarns / Sensil® — reinvented through modern yarn technology

INTERPRETING

INTIMATE APPAREL

From second skin with an optically enhanced surface through to physical manipulation or body-sculpting in the construction of the fabric. Plissé and irregular raised surface effects feature in jacquards. Performance features, but the focus is against the skin, as the benefits of Sensil® Breeze are immediate felt as soon as it is touched. The gaudy appearance of prints and jacquards is deliberate, this is very much directed towards the unthinkable in terms of style, but pulls it off through its unique element. Sensual fabrics of Diamond, Sensil®'s dyeable sparkly Nylon 6.6 will feature, giving the outrageous tones a kick through soft, glistening effects without metal.

LEGGWEAR – SOCKS

Legwear takes a strong direction as socks take on a frisson of surface excitement. There is a nostalgic mood back to retro modernity, as texture comes into play, specifically with openwork structures and a strong sense of femininity. A luxury touch features, with cotton being the preferred blending partner. More solid structures come through with a sensational lightweight but highly dense structure. Also appealing for the soft sportswear market are sneaker liners, mimicking the style but incorporating a higher level of performance. This is about creating fabrics that entice and intrigue the consumer. Ankle and kneehighs on the hosiery front feature, as jacquards and prints take the traditional base surfaces to a new and exciting level combined with a strong novelty aspect.

ACTIVEWEAR AND OUTDOOR

Old school styles continue to intrigue the consumer as performance fabrics for the active and outdoor sector mimic the nerdiness of old time classics. This is where we will see traditional piqué and airtex structures come through, especially in sports and outdoor garments that can do double-duty as streetwear. Expect a reworking of the classic gym sweats, not just in traditional gray but also in new colors from the palette. With Sensil®, we can replicate the past while delivering the future in super lightweight, not neglecting the desired structure and texture, mimicking natural touch through a state-of-the-art yarn offering.



READY-TO-WEAR

Delve into the archives and revisit woven classics as tweed structures and yarn-dyed suiting fabrics come to the forefront. There is a movement based on a return to the traditional aspects of later years, a return to dressing for occasions, in both menswear and womenswear. This revival sees an intriguing use of colors and yarns in creating the wow factor for jackets and skirts. For ready-to wear, a renewed lightness features as comfort is key. Surfaces are lively, again through structured knits and wovens, taking on a matte appearance, with textured Sensil® yarns delivering added intrigue. Classic weaves inspire in new hybrid blends, as yarn-dyed effects and fancy yarns develop.

DENIM

Denim also raids the archives, not opting for a heritage look, but rather a more focused take on

the fashion faux pas looks of the 1970s Country and Western influence. A rough-and-tumble approach to denim with laser finishing creating innovative creases gives a fresh approach to the old styles. This is also evident in the jeanswear silhouettes as we move away from skinny and embrace a more fluid and flared silhouette, perfected by Sensil®-enhanced cotton in innovative blends, as performance yarns help this remake meet today's efficient lifestyle. Defiantly offbeat in appearance, the actual yarn content and performance are intelligent, with denim offered not just in bleached indigo but also in tones from the colour palette for an alternative appeal and multiple applications.

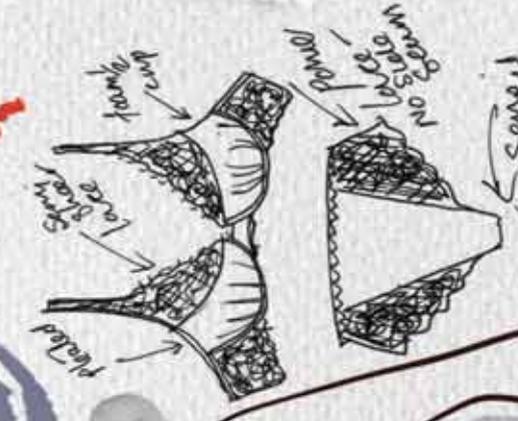
INTIMATE APPAREL

INTRIGUE



LACE TRIMS FOR CONTRAST

- KEYWORDS**
- AUTHENTICITY
 - SUPER SOFT
 - TACTILITY
 - HEIGHTENED
 - IRREGULAR



SENSIL DIAMOND

TONED-ON-TONE PRINT ON SENSIL BREEZE FOR 3D EFFECTS - SUBTLE IMPRESSION SENSIL IN THE BREEZE FABRIC

No Side Smoother

Green power mesh Sensil/Sensil

Jacquard fabric for extra reinforcement + shaping

LET'S ADD DEFINITION THROUGH 3D PRINTS ONTO THE FINE GAUGE KNITS

GREAT TOUCH SENSIL BREEZE KITS

SENSIL

FEATHERLIGHT SINGLE KNITS - LIGHT AND FLOTTY

RAISED SURFACES - CREATE INTERLUDE THROUGH CONTRASTING VARI USE FOR A CHANGEANT EFFECT

Folded waistband

USE PLANNED BY CONTRAST ON MODERN BLUES

NO SIDE SMOOTHER



WONDER

ATTITUDE

WONDER explores the sensational touch and appearance that can be achieved with Sensil® yarns, through to high levels of permanent performance that can be utilized in creating a futuristic appeal and garments that befit our hyper-connected society. Performance is pushed to new levels, as a sense of modernity features through super lightweight structures and new levels of luminosity featuring from the inclusion of bright Sensil® performance yarns through to the shimmer of sparkly Diamond yarn in ingenuous new colorways. There is a higher level of sophistication achieved both optically and physically through yarn combinations that create smart fabrics. Cleaner fabric technology also comes into play, reducing water and energy by incorporating the performance and fashion yarns from Sensil®. Cross yarn technology, next gen double-knits and soft, fine dpf jacquards with lightweight volume feature, creating a new structural approach with a malleable feel. Wovens follow suit with modern acetate-like surface effects that impart a fine, compact waxed paper feel. Pushing performance to legendary new levels, WONDER is about mystery meeting modernity, and a new generation of alternating lusters plus sensational touch.

COLOURS

A sharp palette that can be worked in a variety of ways depending on the level of luster required. Ultra-violet teams with interpretations on neon tones. The modern and clean textile surface in this trend allows for colors to shine, even in a matte or milky-touch delivery. A new level of luster to these tones can also be achieved through the exposure of artificial white synthetic yarns pushing through & further elevating the color in a very futuristic way.

	12-2905 TPG		13-0650 TPG
	19-3815 TPG		13-4909 TPG
	17-3628 TPG		
	19-4340 TPG		

MATERIAL INSPIRATION & TEXTURAL APPEAL



Sponge-touch and malleable double knits for tops and bottoms



Innovative yarn combinations create ethereal surface effects



Iridescent shimmer features through contrasting base colors



A new take on brilliance features in knits and wovens



Lightweight woven with high-tenacity and the look of a coated finish



Smart fabrics with multiple functions — clean cut — reversible plus inherent performance



Super featherweight circular knits



Layered transparency effects through light stimulation in creating moving surface effects



INTERPRETING

ACTIVEWEAR

Packed full of performance, the cooling, anti-odor and moisture management benefits of Sensil® Breeze, Bodyfresh and Aquarius are crucial in delivering a boost of function to the already inherently comfortable and odor-resistant Sensil® Nylon 6.6. For running tights, lightweight protection is key, circular knits combined with innovative surface effects through yarn application appeal to reflective prints. High compression knits deliver the added value of anatomical support but also tummy and butt shaping, pulling the technology from the shapewear sector. Doubleknits replace spacer fabrics in creating a lightweight protective spongy touch, malleable in design. Clean cutting characteristics also feature for smooth anti-chaffing finishes and heat-bonded seams. The modernity of this trend also triggers a hybrid evolution, as cut-and-sew features alongside seamless in creating comfortable yet supportive garments. A new level of technicity features combines inherent performance with the new levels of luminance.

LEGWEAR

Enhanced wearability comes into play, as WONDER heads up a new direction in legwear. Socks and sneaker liners take on performance factors like anti-odor, cooling, circulation enhancement, cushioning and compression. High-gloss hosiery with cushioned insteps and a construction that enhances circulation also fits this trend.

INTIMATE APPAREL

Sensil®'s dazzling Diamond yarn with spandex in super sheer circular knits allows for varying levels of compression. Sensorially soft, super soft ultra-fine-filament yarn is essential in getting the sublime touch, perfect when worn against the skin. For the shapewear market new techno advancements will deliver high performance and also comfort. From an intimate apparel fashion view, ultra fine gossamer fabrics pave the way forward. Sublimely modern and superbly sensual to wear. Lace and lace narrows pick up the luminosity too, delivering a new dimension through clever yarn combinations.



READY-TO-WEAR

Fast-paced living lends to the continuing influence of the sportswear sector, not just through styling but also through performance factors. Lighter in weight, the ready-to-wear market is eager to try new fabric constructions in creating dynamic new looks. A sensational level of luminosity features, coming through from the core of the yarn, engaging the consumer with a superb touch too, perfect pieces to contrast with matte coordinates. This is about looking for an alternative to complement the abundance of matte effects

that dominates as new levels of woven stretch sateens through to ethereal shines feature. Lyocell becomes a key contender on the blending front, complementing the provenance of Sensil® yarns with the added aspect of additional fluidity. Futuristic and feisty, both knit and woven qualities achieve an unprecedented lightweight level

without losing any of the performance required. A deliberate modern appeal features for both men and women in flawless qualities.

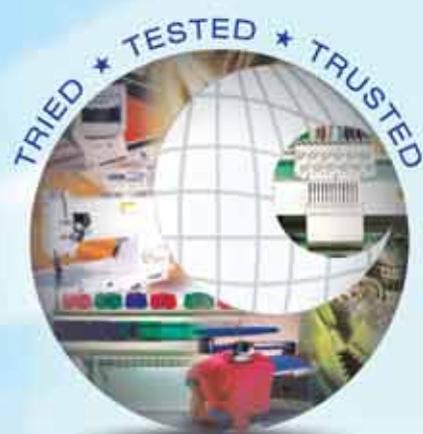
DENIM

Ubiquitous dark denim tones get illuminated as compact weaves embrace the performance and appearance on offer from Sensil® premium Nylon 6.6. Synthetics continue their foray into the cotton-dominated denim market, delivering electrifying results. Surfaces are smooth and compact in lighter weight qualities through to visionary gloss aspects. Chambray makes a return, as denim developed in this sector is destined for the non-jeanswear market too. The added value of incorporating performance yarns including Sensil® Breeze and Sensil® Innergy is essential in differentiating denim from the masses and adding value for the consumer.

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ITMA 2019

Gears up for vibrant technological showcase

The world's leading textile and garment technology exhibition, ITMA 2019 is gearing up for another vibrant showcase of the latest trends, technologies and materials. The show will be held from 20 to 26 June at Fira de Barcelona, Gran Via venue. The exhibition will feature over 1,600 exhibitors who will be showcasing their latest technologies and sustainable solutions for the entire textile and garment manufacturing value chain, as well as fibres, yarns and fabrics.

"The response for ITMA 2019 is so overwhelming that we have not been able to meet the demand for space despite adding two more exhibition halls. ITMA is a show for the industry, by the industry. Hence, we are of the opinion that ITMA should feature a wide spectrum of cutting-edge solutions from as many solutions providers as possible, whether established or new-to-market," says Fritz P Mayer, President of CEMATEX.

Charles Beauquin, Chairman of ITMA Services, which organises ITMA 2019, elaborated, "As an international platform, our priority is to accommodate as many eligible applicants as possible to participate in the exhibition. It is heartening that the CEMATEX associations are supportive of this approach. Currently, we were only able to accommodate some 1,660 exhibitors from 47 countries on the show floor."

Federico Pellegata, Director of ACIMIT (Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers), commented, "We understand the space constraints and appreciate that the organising team's priority is to try to maximise the admission of companies so that ITMA 2019 can be a more vibrant and trendsetting platform that will benefit the entire industry."

One of the top sectors in terms of space applied is spinning. An exciting sector at ITMA 2019 is printing. Previously part of the finishing sector, printing as a standalone chapter has garnered very strong interest as the industry embraces digital transformation. The number of exhibitors in the printing and inks sector has jumped some 30 per cent from ITMA 2015.

Besides printing, another sector that is undergoing vast transformation and rapid development is the garment making sector. Previously labour-intensive, the garment industry now sees a gamut of solutions utilising artificial intelligence, robotics, vision systems and other advanced automation.

Besides, ITMA 2019 will demonstrate the 'inventive DNA' of Switzerland's machinery producers. For textile machinery manufacturers and their customers, ITMA is the 'greatest show on earth' – attracting huge numbers of delegates eager to discover the latest technology trends and the newest machinery developments.

The 2019 edition of this four-yearly event takes place in Barcelona in June, and there will again be a strong presence of Swiss textile machinery companies, whose participation at any ITMA is always the focus of enormous visitor interest. The majority of the 63 exhibitors from Switzerland at ITMA 2019 will attend under the organisation of their national representative body, the Swiss Textile Machinery Association (Swissmem), whose President, Ernesto Maurer, promises an exciting and dynamic showcase of genuine innovation, "Swiss machinery manufacturers always provide some of the headline presentations at the big exhibitions," he says.

"Barcelona this year will be no exception, as our members will certainly demonstrate the power of Swiss innovation, a tradition rooted in our national DNA across numerous ground-breaking inventions in textiles and the wider world." At ITMA every major sector along the textile value chain will be covered by Swiss exhibits, ranging from fibre and yarn manufacturing through knitting, weaving, nonwovens, dyeing and finishing. In many of these disciplines, such as textile testing and quality control and yarn spinning, Swiss firms lead the world. Tradition provides the essential background to the Swiss innovative spirit, but progress today sees companies which are in the forefront of modern and future trends in areas such as digitalisation, sustainability and energy efficiency, with data handling and interpretation underpinning practically every aspect of their work.

As the textile and garment industry trends towards an integrated manufacturing value chain, many new-to-ITMA solutions providers have been attracted to take part in ITMA 2019; some of them have chosen to co-locate their booths with their industry partners to offer integrated solutions to buyers. Among the new applicants are Borsoi, Bullmer, Card Clothing & Services, Han's Yueming Laser, Juki, Serkon Tekstil and SoftWear Automation. Successful ITMA 2019 applicants will be receiving their certificate of admission and details of their booth space this month. The show will now occupy all nine exhibition halls at Fira de Barcelona, Gran Via venue. As a result of the expansion, changes have been made to the sector allocation plan.

ITMA 2019 forums draw strong industry support

ITMA 2019, will be complemented by several key forums, two of which are the ITMA-EDANA Nonwovens Forum and Textile Colourant and Chemical Leaders Forum. Fritz Mayer, President of CEMATEX, said: "As technological developments are happening at breakneck speed, and collaboration is becoming increasingly necessary in a globalised economy, the industry has to stay abreast of the latest developments and trends. Hence, ITMA will be staging several forums to help participants be ahead of the competition curve."

"The forums also offer a valuable platform for various associations and professionals to connect and network with the right players. This is especially important as collaboration and partnerships from research institutions to technology, chemical and raw material providers and users are increasingly more critical to business success."

ITMA-EDANA Nonwovens Forum: The Nonwovens Forum is jointly organised by ITMA and EDANA. To be held on 21 June 2019, it will highlight the latest innovations in nonwovens. The theme of the forum is 'Nonwovens Manufacturing Processes for the 21st Century: More Flexible, More Efficient, More Sustainable'. Providing the latest industry insights will be keynote speaker David Allan, Editor, Nonwovens, RISI (United States). His presentation is titled 'Global Trends in Nonwoven Processes under Economic and Sustainability Constraints'. The forum will feature three sessions:

- Circular economy/challenges & opportunities for processing bio-based & recycled materials on nonwovens machinery
- Latest trends and innovation in nonwoven processes—including hybrids and composites
- Innovations in nonwovens technology.

In addition, there will be a panel discussion with experts from leading centres of excellence in nonwovens who will exchange their views on the nonwoven processes of the 2030s.

Textile Colourant and Chemical Leaders Forum: The 3rd Textile Colourant and Chemical Leaders Forum @ ITMA 2019 on 23 June will focus on the circular economy and resource sustainability strategy and how innovation will drive future industry success. Launched at ITMA 2011, the forum, is an industry initiative that draws lively participation from dyestuff, colour and chemical professionals from around the world. Themed 'Meeting Resource Challenges in the Circular Economy', the 2019 forum explores how textile chemicals and innovative and cleaner technologies can help create a more sustainable future for the textile and garment industry. Presentations at the forum are clustered into three sessions:

- Resource management and Industry 4.0
- Responding to sustainability challenges with innovation
- Envisioning the future of the colourant and chemical industry

Chairing the forum is Andrew Filarowski, Technical Director of Society of Dyers and Colourists.

Speakers confirmed for the forum include Christina Raab, Global Implementation Director of The ZDHC Foundation. She will speak on the role of chemistry for circularity in textile, leather and fibre production. She will also elaborate on ZDHC's approach and tools to drive the transition and uptake of safer and more circular chemistry, as well as the current state and findings of circular implementation projects from the sector.

Another speaker is Dunja Drmac, Sustainability Officer of the European Apparel and Textile Confederation (EURATEX). Her presentation will enlighten participants on resource sustainability and relevant strategies in the journey towards a circular economy.

In addition to the forums, other knowledge sharing activities include the ITMA Innovation Lab. An important element of the lab is the ITMA Speakers Platform where all ITMA exhibitors have been invited to participate.



ITMA 2019 - TECHNOLOGY PREVIEW

In next few pages we are covering some of the latest printing, testing, CAD/CAM, chemical, material handling, inks, softwares, embroidery, spare parts, finishing etc. technologies that will be on display during the show. In the next edition of Apparel Views, we will be covering remaining technologies alongwith ITMA post show report....

SPGPrints to display new textile printing machines

SPGPrints is set to display new, innovative textile printing machinery at ITMA 2019, in hall 3, stand B203. SPGPrints, headquartered in Netherlands, is the global leading provider of integrated solutions for textile, label, and industrial markets.

For printing companies who are ready to embark on a digital textile printing journey, a visit to ITMA Barcelona 2019 will definitely be worthwhile. SPGPrints will be giving live demonstrations of its second generation Pike single-pass digital textile printing machine printing on viscose fabric with reactive inks. Based on the Pike's established image quality performance combining the industry's highest resolution of 1200 dpi with the smallest droplets and lowest ink consumption, visitors at ITMA can see the new Pike printing at considerably higher speeds than before while producing the best deep black blotches ever created in the industry, the company said.

Also, from the established Javelin multi-pass printing machine, a second generation will be showcased at ITMA 2019. Besides the extension with an acid and a direct sublimation application, this new Javelin will have additional functionality that boosts both the top printing speed as well as the average speed to print every design, resulting in a higher print capacity per day or month.

Visitors wanting to learn more about the company's world-renowned consumables can visit the unique Experience Centre at their stand. In the Digital Ink Experience Centre, SPGPrints will take the visitors behind the scenes of the development and production of their high-quality digital inks and launch two new versions of their deep black ultra HD in the Nebula reactive ink series for Kyocera print heads.

In terms of conventional printing systems, SPGPrints will take the opportunity to showcase its latest generation of the nine colour Pegasus EVO rotary screen printing machine at ITMA 2019. Visitors can learn about the innovative construction and technology and learn how both the Pegasus EVO as well as their RD8 rotary screen printing machines can help them enhance their printing process. The company will be launching two of its latest, most innovative screen technologies, the new Ortascreeen and the new Randomscreen Eco, at the Screens Experience Centre at ITMA 2019.



In the Screens Experience Centre, visitors can learn more about which screen type helps them create the best output. At the Screens Experience Centre, SPGPrints will give the opportunity to actually see, hear, and experience why their rotary screens are unique in its kind and the visitors can see and touch its high-quality output.

High-quality printing output starts with selecting the excellent screens. But a good screen is useless when it's engraved in a bad way. The BestLEN direct laser engraving machine is the benchmark equipment for engraving high-quality screens for textile printing process. At ITMA 2019, visitors will be able to see the BestLEN direct laser engraving machine and learn about the different engraving techniques.

With hundreds of BestLEN engravers currently being operated, the direct laser engraving machine helps printing companies worldwide to produce a consistent level of high-quality screens with minimum interference of their operators. Since the BestLEN has a dry process, a minimum amount of water is used and the engraving process is very short, while human interference is brought back to a minimum.



Mimaki presents printing machine and pre & post treatment machines

Mimaki is a leading manufacturer of wide-format inkjet printers and cutting machines for the sign/graphics, industrial and textile/apparel markets. Mimaki develops the complete product range for each group; hardware, software and the associated consumable items, such as inks and cutting blades. The company excels in offering innovative, high quality and high reliability products, based upon its aqueous, latex, solvent and UV-curable inkjet technology. In order to meet a wide range of applications in the market, Mimaki pursues the development of advanced on-demand digital printing solutions. Mimaki Engineering Co. Ltd., Nagano (Japan), is publicly listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, Inc. Mimaki Europe will be showcasing the Tiger-1800B MkII and the TR Series at ITMA 2019, Hall 3, Stand B110.

TR series

Rimslow Series - A complete line of textile pre-treatment and post-treatment machines

With this one-stop solution for coating, printing, steaming and washing machines, companies in the textile industry now have complete control over their production process. Customers have a single point of contact for all support for their textile production process, allowing them to save a lot of time, effort and money. This is how you really make use of all the advantages of digital textile printing.

- Choose the set that benefits you the most
- Ink and corresponding pre-treatment machine for consistent results
- Colouring test before the production run
- One-stop source for your textile production

Belt-Type Inkjet Printer High Speed range Model - Tiger-1800B MkII

- Selectable print mode to suit the production (from high-speed to high-quality)
 - Maximum print speeds of up to 385 m²/h in high-speed mode.
 - For the realization of higher quality of print, 1,200 dpi print mode is added and the multi-pass is applied
- Mimaki Advanced Pass System (MAPS) delivers stable high-quality printing
- Droplet print mode selection suitable for print data: Depending on ink type and



- printing mode, there are 4 different droplet sizes. Droplet print mode can be choose to match the print data from high speed and standard mode
- Nozzle recovery system (NRS): Consecutive operating solution to maintains the productivity (* NRS is to be applied from December 2018.)
- Stable and reliable mechanism secures high-speed printing
 - Stable textile transportation mechanism (Twin pressure roller shafts, Jam sensor, Wrinkle sensor)
 - Degassing module and ink circulation mechanism maintain optimum ink conditions
 - Automatic wiper cleaning
- Extensive optional units for accommodating various applications: Extensive lineup of optional devices to be selected according to the type and status of fabric and transfer paper, including the storage after printing
- Large-sized ink tank (10 kg) ensures cost-effective print operation: The bulk ink supply enables effective long-hour printing while reducing the operational cost
- High-performance software RIP "TxLink3 Standard": The TxLink3 Standard offers simple RGB and CMYK color replacement on raster and vector data, as well as the ability to produce different colour patterns. Moreover, various colour replacement functions can represent desired colours

Kornit presents Single-Step Industrial Solution for Digital Direct-to-Fabric Printing



The innovative technology addresses the growing need for on-demand textile design and production Kornit Digital, a global market leader in digital textile printing innovation, has announced the introduction of the new Kornit Presto, the only industrial single-step solution for direct-to-fabric printing. The Kornit Presto solution eliminates the need for pre and post treatment of fabric and allows for high quality printing on an extraordinarily broad variety of fabric types and applications. The Kornit Presto does not consume water in the printing process, making it the most environmentally friendly solution available for direct-to-fabric textile printing today.

The new Kornit Presto comes with the ground-breaking Neo Pigment Robusto, the best Pigment-based ink available in the industry. Implemented into the renowned Kornit Neo Pigment™ process, the Robusto provides above industry standard wash and rub results and exceptional colour fastness across a wide fabric and

application range. The Robusto enjoys faster physical and chemical bonding characteristics, enabling a significantly shorter curing time, while providing industry-leading quality and a wide colour gamut. The Neo Pigment Robusto ink was developed with sustainability priorities and is Eco Passport and GOTS V5 approved.

The Kornit Presto solution suits a wide range of business and application needs in a variety of industry segments, including fast growing segments within the on-demand fashion and home décor markets. It is a highly productive solution, available in multiple configurations and able to print 450 sq mtr per hour.

Gart Davis, CEO at Spoonflower, the world's first web-based service for custom, on-demand fabric and design creation and a long-time Kornit customer, commented, "We were thrilled to be able to test the new system and found the Presto to be in a class by itself; it prints beautifully on all kinds of fabrics, in a single-step, with an environmentally friendly dry process, and now at a multiple of productivity. Its partnership with Kornit continues to be fundamental to its mission to make custom fabric accessible to designers, creative individuals and small businesses all over the world. We can't wait to get going."

Kerry King, Senior Vice President of R&D at Spoonflower, added, "The unique integration of the pre-treatment step into the printing process enables a level of efficiency that's key to our web-to-print business."

Omer Kulka, Kornit's VP of Marketing and Product Strategy, also commented, "Kornit is on a mission to reinvent the textile printing industry with gamechanging sustainable technologies for growing market segments. It continues to see demand growth for on-demand production in fashion and home décor. This revolutionary technology is further proof of Kornit's commitment to address the textile industry's most urgent needs."

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■ Epson to display latest digital textile printing innovations



The Japanese company, together with its For.Text. and F.lli Robustelli subsidiaries, will display the latest digital textile printing innovations and trends at ITMA – the key world exhibition dedicated to digital textile printing. The Japanese pioneer in digital textile printing technology Epson, with its For.Text. and F.lli Robustelli subsidiaries, will display (at Hall 3 - Stand C210) the latest innovations and solutions for the textile market. For.Text. provides dyes, thickeners and products for pre/post treatment of fabrics and F.lli Robustelli is a leading company in the engineering and production of textile printers.

ITMA 2019 will be an opportunity for Epson to show its unique Total Solution, a turnkey, integrated system for the textile printing world. Total Solution helps operators seize digital textile market opportunities. The all-inclusive textile digital printing system features Precision Core printheads which are a state-of-the-art

textile printing technology. Genesta inks have been developed to offer their maximum results using Epson technology and fabric treatment expertise. This system finds its maximum expression in Monna Lisa series, the successful range of industrial printers and a reference for the high-quality textile printing sector.

At the stand, you will experience state-of-the-art Epson technology for direct to fabric printing and for the sublimation printing. "Our ITMA 2019 presence confirms Epson's commitment to the continuous high-quality ink and printer development," states Paolo Crespi, Direct to Fabric Sales & Marketing Director EMEAR & Americas. "Our goal is to become an indispensable technological partner in the high-quality textile printing sector. This includes the DTF market, we developed by launching Monna Lisa together with our partners of excellence F.lli Robustelli and For.Text. The sublimation solutions where Epson is recognised in every market segment, is part of our complete offer for the printing sector."

Focus sustainability

The sustainability issue is a focus for market consumers and operators in the textile industry as well as for ITMA, "Innovation for industry sustainability." Inkjet printing is a sustainable alternative to traditional printing. The advantages are not only financial and organisational but also ecological. Today's fashion industry is increasingly sensitive to sustainability issues and is finding in digital textile printing a powerful ally, so that an increasing amount of fabrics are printed using this technology.

■ Sensient highlighting new water-based sublimation ink

Sensient Imaging Technologies, a subsidiary of Sensient Technologies Corporation, will demonstrate its commitment to a safer and more sustainable future for the textiles industry with its range of digital inkjet technology at stand H3-C107 during ITMA 2019. Sensient will be highlighting its new water-based sublimation ink ElvaJet Coral at ITMA, which has been developed to reduce water usage, without compromising on quality or colour. Vast amounts of energy and water are used during the production of textiles, and with the industry under pressure to improve its environmental credentials, there is a growing demand for solutions that help manufacturers and brands reduce the water footprint of their processes and products.

The latest addition to Sensient's portfolio of sublimation inks, ElvaJet Coral, is a high-performance ink for direct printing onto polyester fabrics commonly used in sport and apparel applications. ElvaJet Coral offers an environmentally low impact solution for textiles by



printing directly onto the substrate, removing the waste from transfer paper and residual ink.

Tests have shown that the ink can reduce CO₂ emissions by up to 90 per cent, and overall energy use by up to 60 per cent. When it comes to reducing water usage, ElvaJet Coral requires just 1 liter of water compared to the 50 liters required for direct disperse printing.

Sensient's dispersion technology was harnessed during the development of the ink to deliver improvements in colour, sharpness, stability and

performance. ElvaJet Coral has been formulated to include colour-free materials to remove the risk of staining when wet. The ink also demonstrates excellent stability over long production runs, minimal maintenance and an increased open time of more than an hour, helping to streamline the production process and eliminate downtime. Other water-based inks including Xennia Amethyst, Xennia Agate and ElvaJet Opal will also be featured at the show.

"With our expert understanding of the chemistry of colour, the textiles industry can trust Sensient to deliver digital inkjet solutions that are environmentally responsible, high-performance, safe, protect the integrity of their brand and ultimately add value to their business," said Jérôme Jeanneret, Managing Director at Sensient Imaging Technologies. "Having listened to the needs of our customers, our latest inks have been developed to address the need to reduce the use of chemicals, energy and water in the textiles printing process."

■ Xaar to introduce 5601 Printhead

Xaar, a world-leader in industrial inkjet printing, will introduce the Xaar 5601 printhead to the textiles market at ITMA 2019. Displaying on stand C205 in Hall H3 as part of Xaar's range of printhead solutions for the textile sector, together with a variety of stunning textile samples, the Xaar 5601 will also be incorporated in a technology demonstration on the stand of a leading digital textile printer manufacturer.

The Xaar 5601, with 5680 nozzles, sets new standards in digital textile printing with its market-leading print quality and productivity – up to 80 linear mtr of textiles can be printed per minute. Exceptional colour uniformity and repeatability are ensured through Xaar's AcuDrp Technology alongside tight colour-to-colour registration, thanks to the Xaar 5601's unique Z-profile. Unparalleled usability is also provided with

a number of alignment features that enable quick and easy Plug & Print installation with no mechanical adjustment required. Xaar's TF Technology ink recirculation further minimises any downtime whilst optimising print quality. The Xaar 1201 printhead will also be on display. Its high print quality, compact design and ability to jet 1, 2 or 4 colours makes it a versatile option for a wide range of small and mid-range scanning textile applications.

Jason Remnant, Head of Product Management says, "As the leading textile and garment technology show ITMA 2019 is the ideal forum in which to introduce the Xaar 5601 and our range of printheads for the textiles sector. We are extremely excited to be working with a leading OEM in the textiles market who will soon be making their announcement. I look



forward to visitors to the show being able to see the versatility of Xaar's printheads for textile printing and learn how they can get ahead and achieve more with Xaar's technology."



■ HOMER presents high speed digital belt-conveying printer

Shenzhen HOMER Textile Tech Co., Ltd was established in 2012 and became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hanglory Group in 2015. A state-level high-tech enterprise, HOMER Textile has always been focusing on R&D, manufacturing, sales and service of digital textile printers. The unique Employee Stock Ownership Program has attracted top talents from digital printing and textile industries, enabling us to grow into a company with industry-leading strong capability on research and development, including driver board design, mechanical design, software development and digital printing technologies.

During ITMA's 7-day exhibition, you will witness the innovative printing technology of 3 digital textile printers, HM1800R, HM3200R and HM1800B—K32. HM1800B-K32 is the latest ultra-high-speed digital belt-conveying printer that HOMER Digital will launch at ITMA 2019. Based on the previous digital belt-conveyor printing models, it has made a lot of technological innovation. Below is a brief introduction to the main features of HM1800B-K32.

HM1800B-K32 - Ultra-high-speed digital belt-conveying printer

Highlights:

- Ultra-high-speed belt continuous conveyor, the max. Productivity up to 900m²/h;
- Equipped with Kyocera nozzles for 1-pass high-resolution printing. The max. resolution is 600 x 2400 dpi;
- Industrial wide-format design with a maximum print width of 1900mm, applicable to materials with various sizes;
- Relying on the strong R&D team of Hanglory Group, HOMER has rich experience in the digital printing industry, as well as stable performance in production;
- Equipped with a high-precision belt conveyor system, the data error during the transmission process can be greatly reduced, and the high degree of reproduction of original images can be better realized;
- With strong after-sales service system, HOMER has a world-wide technical support team, offers 24/7 after-sales service for customers.



HM1800B-K32

HM3200R

- Up to 360 m²/hr Printing Speed
- Symmetrical Colour Alignment
- High-strength steel rail beam
- Anti-scratch printhead protection design
- Industrial ink supply system
- Integrated software control system

HM1800R

- Up to 320 m²/hr Printing Speed
- Symmetrical Color Alignment
- High-strength steel rail beam
- Anti-scratch printhead protection design
- Industrial ink supply system
- Integrated software control system

■ LÄSSER AG presents latest embroidery solutions

In spite of its position as a market leader, LÄSSER AG is not a large company. With 220 employees, the company is still manageable and remains extremely agile and flexible. Numerous renowned references all around the world are evidence of the company's capabilities. Countless major international embroidery collections bear its signature. Many products that have enjoyed success on the catwalks of international fashion were created on LÄSSER embroidery machines.

Lässer Lsh2 - Schiffli Head 2



The Lässer Schiffli Head 2 is the further development of the world's first flat-bed embroidery machine based on Schiffli-embroidery technology – the LÄSSER LSH. By contrast, all of the other existing multi-head machines are built with sewing machine technology. The Lässer LSH 2 machine combines the advantages of a conventional Schiffli embroidery machine with the flexibility of a multi-head machine.

Components

- Servo feed device, thread tension is adjusted according to the design
- LSH cockpit, tailor-made and user-friendly software
- Borer system with 12 different steps for perfect boring holes
- Schiffli technology for excellent embroidery results and huge yarn capacity
- Embroidery head with 5 needles/1 borer or 8 needles/1 borer
- Embroidery head distance: 165 mm, 240 mm, 330 mm
- Embroidery length: 15 yd, 10 yd, 7.2 m, 6.6 m, 5 yd, 3 yd, 2 m, 1.3 m
- Variable flat frame (85 cm - 145 cm) or roll frame (80 cm)
- Manufactured and designed in Switzerland by LÄSSER

MVD71 - The ultimate embroidery machine - The new LÄSSER MVD71 Multi V Drive - one step ahead



In a world of rising competition it is important to counteract with the right kind of tools. The LÄSSER MVD71 MULTI V DRIVE is the ultimate working equipment to be one step ahead in quality and performance.

Lässer features:

- L-Pilot: Sophisticated and customised machine software
- Multi V Drive: The new dimension of running smoothness and precision
- Multi Cam Drives: Highest precision due to synchronised CAM drives needle and shuttle side
- Ergonomics: Ergonomic design which improved the access and control, easy to handle
- V-Cut: Individual thread cut with single clamping device
- STG: The patented LÄSSER single thread guide system
- Main Double Drive: No strain due to the balanced shaft system
- Servo Feed: Thread roller drive with pattern storage
- V-Feed ATC: Individual thread feeding system
- V-Feed MTC: Optional individual thread feeding system
- Frame Drive: Moment optimized drives for highest performance and excellent embroidery quality
- Spanning: Constant fabric tension and flexible fabric fastening
- SSL: the ingenious shuttle stop device
- Folding Shaft Spoon: Optional automatic of opening and closing of the shaft soon
- Auto Set+ Carriage Width: Optional fully automatic carriage width setting
- Auto Set+ Cloth Pressure: Optional adjustment of the cloth pressure distance
- Auto Set+ Shuttle Time: Optional setting of shuttle time / shuttle Position



Twine to launch digital thread dyeing system

Twine Solutions, an Israeli technology start-up, will officially launch its digital thread dyeing system, which dyes raw and off-the-shelf white thread, during live demonstrations at the ITMA 2019 show. Twine's system digitally dyes white thread from different manufacturers that can be used for a range of applications, such as apparel, activewear, shoes, accessories, home decor, vehicle upholstery and more.

"Our Twine Digital Thread Dyeing system unleashes the power of thread, at the touch of a button. The fast-paced digital transformation of the textiles industry is challenging both for production and its environmental impact. We are excited to bring solutions that will have much needed and crucial economic, social and sustainability benefits," commented Alon Moshe, Twine CEO and Co-Founder.

Twine will be exhibiting at Hall 3, where visitors will be able to see the systems digitally dyeing various thread types, including Coats thread. The strategic partnership between Twine and Coats was announced



last November and will include future capabilities of Twine's system, to feature inbuilt colour software, integrated with Coats ColourStitch. Coats will also be represented on Twine's booth at ITMA. "This is yet another step in reinforcing the joint work on the future technology for the textiles industry," the company says.

Twine will also showcase its digital colour matching mobile application. The SnapMatch application captures an image of a sample using a mobile device

and Twine's proprietary algorithms analyse the colour immediately and accurately, according to the company. The user then sends the captured colour to the TS-1800 system for immediate thread dyeing in the desired colour.

Twine's products create a virtual inventory, with any colour and any length needed, reducing stock management, inventory and deadstock costs. Twine's sustainable digital waterless thread dyeing process is also said to save 70 litres of clean water per 1 kg of dyed thread. The process also reduces waste and emissions. "In many of the industry sectors today up to 50 per cent of dyed thread is disposed of before even being used. Twine's system dyes exactly the amount you need when you need it, in a highly sustainable process," the company explains. Twine Solutions was founded in 2015 in Israel by brothers Alon and Erez Moshe. It is based in Petah Tikva, near Tel Aviv, an innovation hub for digital printing.

Groz-Beckert presents product and service innovations

Groz-Beckert will be presenting its product innovations in Hall 8.0, Booth C101. ITMA Europe is held every four years as a meeting point for the sector and is the ideal technology platform for forward-looking innovations in the textile world. Approximately 1,600 exhibitors from around 50 countries will be presenting their highlights from research and development – including Groz-Beckert.

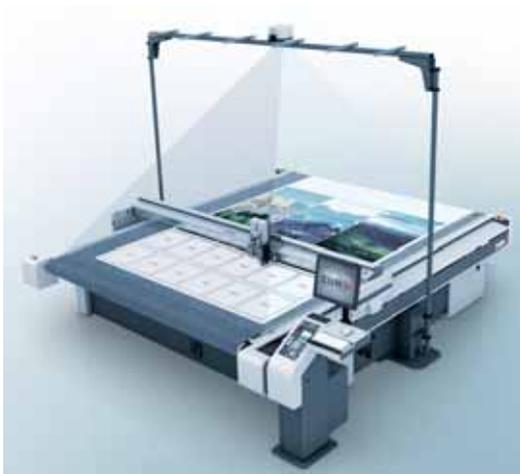
The company will be present with all six product areas and the Groz-Beckert Academy and the Technology and Development Center (TEZ) will also be represented with their service range spanning across all fields and product areas. While the TEZ will be presenting its wide range of options for problem solving, optimizations and new developments, the Academy will be showing its comprehensive training

range. A new feature: The plans for digital expansion of the analog range – to help it remain independent from the event time and location.

Apart from other areas, the sewing product area is presenting various innovations that meet various requirements. Because the variety of materials is immense: From the finest knitted goods to the thickest leather. The process of sewing is faced with different challenges at every turn. To ensure that we have the right product for every situation, Groz-Beckert offers an extensive product range and provides support far beyond the actual sewing process with additional services. Further exciting innovations and new products and services await visitors at the Groz-Beckert booth during the ITMA Europe – live on-site in Barcelona.



Advanced technology in digital cutting automation by Zünd



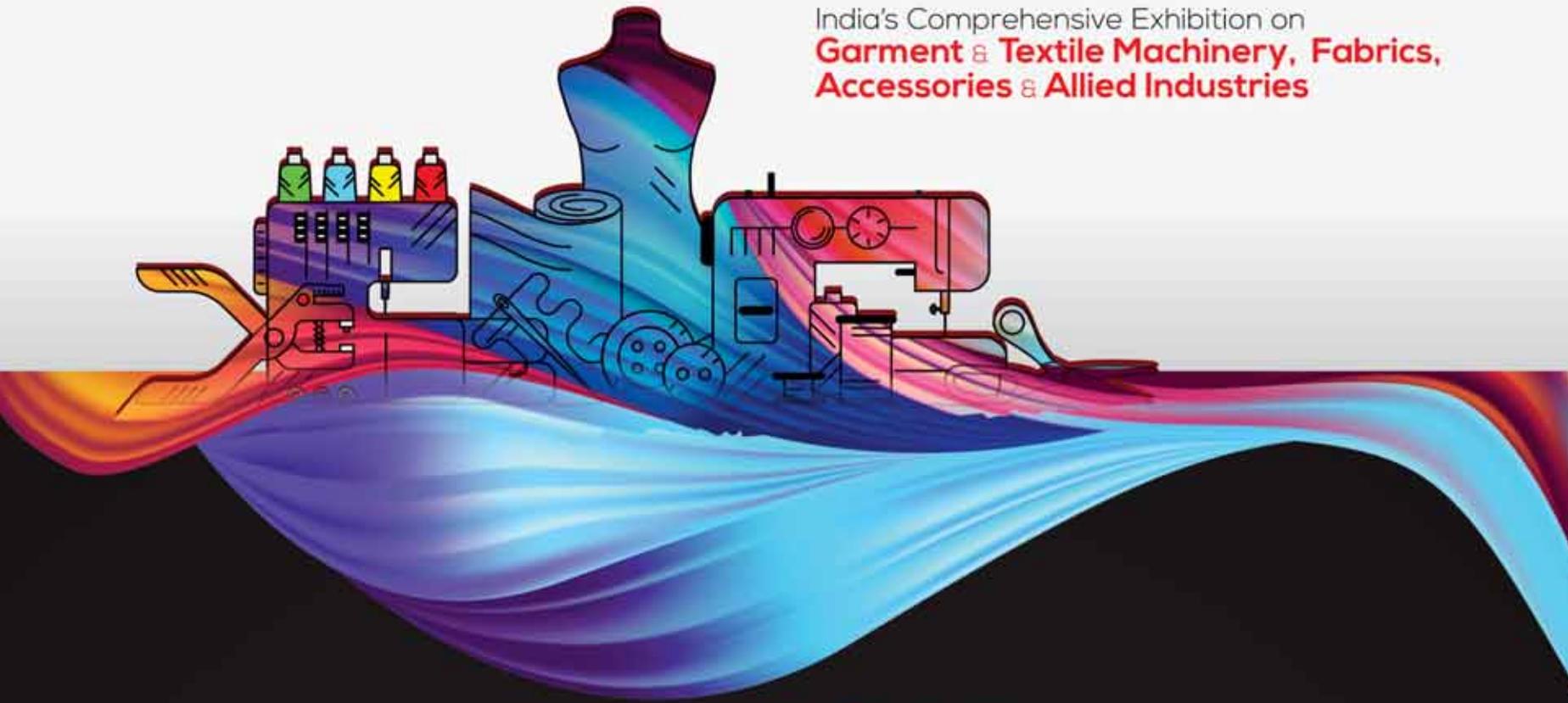
The textile industry is in the midst of a digital transformation with value chains that are becoming increasingly interconnected. In a digital chain, automated cutting constitutes an important link. At ITMA Zünd presents efficient, high-

performance automated cutting workflows with state-of-the-art software tools that illustrate the breadth of its digital know-how.

As in so many other industries, digital technology has long since taken hold in the textile industry. Consumers are demanding individualized offerings and flexible solutions, tailor-made clothing and furnishings to measure – all at "off-the-rack" pricing. Design and configuration options are increasingly diverse as manufacturers become more agile and faster to cope with increasing market pressures and ever-shorter product life cycles. To accomplish all this, however, manufacturers need appropriate production processes. At ITMA (Hall 3, Booth B227), Zünd is exhibiting state-of-the-art digital cutting systems with comprehensive production workflows that cover everything from pattern matching to projection-supported removal of cut parts. Integrated, intelligent, digital – from start to finish.

With the Over Cutter Camera OCC and its advanced optical system, cutting patterned and digitally printed fabrics is just as precise and easy as cutting non-printed or solid-coloured textiles. The OCC captures all register marks at once. If no register marks are available, the Over Cutter Camera can determine the position of the printed image by capturing a corresponding outline that was printed along with it. The system can also automatically detect patterns and any material distortions that may have occurred. When compensating for distortions, the system perfectly maintains dimensional accuracy of the cut parts and their correct position on patterned fabric. Based on reference points, the software also automatically determines the most efficient parts layout and nesting. Cutting, pattern matching, and nesting occur simultaneously to ensure uninterrupted processing. And in a final step, a projection system facilitates the removal of cut parts.

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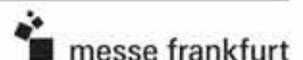
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■ Eton Systems to present future production concept

With more than 5,000 tailored installations for a range of industries installed in over 60 countries, Eton Systems, headquartered in Gånghester, Sweden, has established a reputation as a clear leader in the field of complete material handling systems. At ITMA 2019, the company will be demonstrating a complete installation based on a future production concept, with advanced software providing real-time information covering every aspect of the process.

“Our systems are a natural fit with the major Industry 4.0 networked manufacturing plants that are now being constructed worldwide for sectors such as the garment and home textiles manufacturing and automotive industries,” said Eton’s Sales and Commercial Director Roger Rylén. “We have had a very busy last 12 months, with more major projects in the pipeline. We understand, however, that one solution does not fit all situations, which is why we think in terms of custom-made solutions matched to specific customer needs. Buying a system from us, is buying a solution and a partnership. Each system includes support, service, training and knowledge built on more than 70 years of experience. When a customer invests in an Eton System the increased efficiency normally results in savings of between 40-60 per cent.”

A typical system consists of overhead conveyors with individually-addressable product carriers which automatically steer their way through programmed operation sequences. They are monitored by a computer providing all the necessary data for optimally measuring and managing processes. The systems are also highly flexible and can be rapidly modified to changes in the production line or the need for expansion.

Options for smart factories

Eton’s Flexible Productivity Concept (FPC) is based on two system platforms with a wide range of options, including:

- Multiple rails for sorting at workstations
- Buffering
- Automatic loading devices, pick-ups and work delivery robots

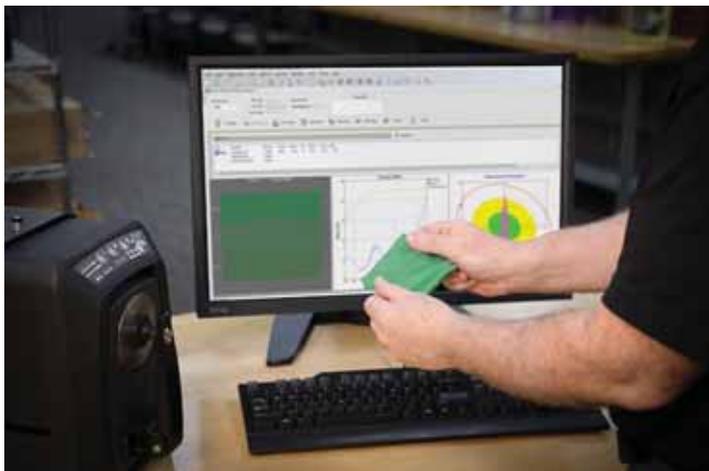


- Bridges and elevators that link systems and floors
- Historical links to products after completion
- Module-based software
- Via an addressable product carrier, an Eton system transports all the components of a complete product through the manufacturing process

“The result is fully automated flow with complete control of every component for the end product — where they have been, where they are now and where they are going,” Rylén explains. “These are real Internet of Things installations and every component has its own unique identity due to the integrated transponder in each carrier.”

Eton is a member of TMAS — the textile machinery association of Sweden which will have a significant presence at ITMA 2019 in Barcelona. “Eton Systems is truly embracing the latest Industry 4.0 concepts for fully automated work flows that are now revolutionising the textile industry,” said TMAS Secretary General Therese Premler-Andersson. “There will be many more innovations on show from our members at ITMA 2019.” Eton Systems will be at stand A214, in Hall 2 at the Barcelona exhibition.

■ X-Rite showcases new colour formulation software



X-Rite Pantone to show colour expertise color iMatch has the unique ability to intelligently process color data to account for dye behavior under current process conditions, helping textile suppliers reduce wasteful dye attempts and support a sustainable manufacturing process.

X-Rite Incorporated and Pantone LLC, global leaders in color science and technology, announce the availability of its latest release of Color iMatch formulation software for the textile industry. The company will showcase the software at ITMA, June 20 – 26 in Barcelona, Spain. Color iMatch accelerates recipe creation for the textile industry through better initial matches and fewer corrections for faster dyeing times, cost savings and reduced waste.

“Today’s apparel and textile manufactures work with a number of natural and synthetic materials as well as a diverse colour palette that can lead to longer colorant recipe creation times and multiple lab dips,” said Richard Knapp, Product Manager, X-Rite and Pantone. “At ITMA, textile suppliers will see how easy it is to access spectral data for a brand’s colour palettes through PantoneLIVE and immediately begin the formulation process in Color iMatch. Attendees will also

learn how to dynamically update dye characterizations to significantly improve match performance and meet tight manufacturing deadlines while reducing environmental impact.”

Color match performance in textiles is a function of how accurately dye behaviour in a formula reflects dye behaviour under current conditions and processes. The new release of Color iMatch improves colour matching by addressing this interdependence. It intelligently processes color data to provide optimal initial colour matches and reduce wasteful formulation attempts. With a high return on investment, Color iMatch streamlines complicated textile workflows, improves formulation efficiency, and reduces material waste.

The latest release of Color iMatch offers textile and apparel manufacturers:

- Increases match rate up to 50 per cent and cuts correction steps by more accurately identifying likely dye combinations and accounting for current process conditions
- Ability to dynamically update dye characterizations to maintain dye behaviour, which may shift over time due to variations in ambient conditions, procedures, equipment or materials
- New matching technology to gain insights from historical data and optimize the formulation process
- Fully-integrated Colorant Editor for improved database performance by providing specific guidance that guarantees match prediction confidence
- Digital specification of Pantone standards, including Pantone Fashion, Home + Interiors System for cotton and nylon, through PantoneLIVE™, which provides the official spectral values for Pantone standards
- Easy transition between jobs by applying dynamic Formulation Rules that include process, material and customer specifications
- A gamut viewer to visually evaluate achievability by offering a unique target overlay to help lab professionals make educated formulation decisions

Color iMatch is compatible with current and future Microsoft Operating Systems and offers support for X-Rite and non-X-Rite instruments.



Atlas displays its latest colour fastness instruments

For more than 100 years, Atlas has been a leader in materials durability testing, offering a complete line of weathering testing instrumentation, laboratory, and outdoor testing services. Atlas products are designed and manufactured to conform to international and industry standard test methods, including ISO, ASTM, DIN, JIS and numerous others. Markets include automotive, paint and coatings, plastics and additives, textiles, pharmaceutical and consumer products, architecture, aerospace, photovoltaics, and packaging.

Atlas is a business unit of AMETEK Measurement, Communications & Testing, a Division within AMETEK's Electronic Instruments Group, a recognized leader in advanced monitoring, testing, calibrating and display instruments. AMETEK, Inc. is a global leader in electronic instruments and electromechanical devices. Atlas Material Testing Solutions, a global leader in accelerated light fastness testing equipment for the textile industry, will showcase its Ci3000+ and Xenotest® 440 instruments at ITMA 2019.

The Ci3000+ is recognized as the standard instrument globally for textile testing. With its advanced digital control system and optical technologies, the Ci3000+ delivers exceptionally precise and reliable control of all test parameters to accurately predict service life. The two-tier rack option provides a 50 per cent increase in capacity and a large graphic user interface allows for intuitive operation. It meets all primary internationally recognized standards for textile lightfastness, including AATCC, ISO, Marks & Spencer, and GB/T.



Ci3000+



Xenotest® 440

The Xenotest 440 sets the standard in economical, mid-sized, air-cooled xenon devices, with an array of options to meet global weathering and light fastness testing requirements. Combining a highly efficient design – including ultrasonic humidifiers to reduce water consumption – and XenoLogic™ twin-lamp technology, which enables high irradiance levels to significantly reduce test times. It is ideal for meeting common lightfastness standards such as ISO 105-B02, AATCC TM 16.3 and ASTM G155.

SDL Atlas to display newly redesigned instruments



During the show, SDL Atlas will display a variety of newly redesigned instruments, Vortex M6, Martindale, Autoburst and Launder-Ometer® along with their new line of high quality SDL Atlas Test Materials and RemoteAccess, a revolutionary remote instrument monitoring app for tracking real-time testing progress of instruments anytime, anywhere, on the go that works with both iOS and Android platforms.

On display for the first time, the newly redesigned Vortex M6 is now updated with a variety of features designed to increase efficiency and the user experience. The Martindale now features individual station lighting that gives a notification flash of the relevant station along with a beep to indicate the end of a test. The Autoburst is reengineered from the bottom up to provide unmatched performance for hydraulic burst testing for heavy duty samples. Some of the new features include station lighting, full-colour touchscreen control and the flexibility to operate as either a stand-alone instrument or paired with a computer.

The Launder-Ometer has also received a complete redesign adding a full-colour touch screen pre-loaded with standard tests and multi-language interface. It has an automatic door that opens and closes with the press of a button. Sensors automatically stop the rotor from turning when the door opens.

SDL Atlas is committed to providing customers confidence in standard based testing. With offices and experts in the United States, United Kingdom, Hong Kong and China, plus agents serving over 100 countries, SDL Atlas is ready to support its customers with instruments, test materials and services anywhere in the world.

Latest innovations in textile finishing from CIBITEX



Established in 1975, Cibitex srl is a highly specialised Italy-based manufacturer of textile finishing machinery, providing state-of-the-art consulting, pre and post-sales services. Cibitex designs its own products and select the best raw materials and components, with efficiency, reliability and ease of use. It spends all its efforts to be a sustainable company, it manufactures efficient technologies that reduces power consumption and allows environment and save money. During ITMA 2019, you will find two different Cibitex stands, so you will be able to see the latest innovations in its range of textile finishing machinery.

- In the Hall 1 it will show you the latest version of the singeing unit, with increased singeing power. Furthermore, there will be the possibility to see the potential of an integrated software system installed on its machines.
- In the Hall 3 the company will be proud to show the extraordinary quality of the compact and modular systems for pre-and post-treatment of inkjet printed fabrics.

All machines completely designed and manufactured in Italy according to the highest quality standards.

Atexco joins hands with True Colors for launching new printers in India

Atexco Digital China, a global market leader in digital textile printing technology has joined hand with True Colors India to launch position printer and high-speed sublimation printer. Incorporated in 2011, True Colors is a leading supplier of products and solutions in the field of digital textile industry. They are engaged in textile machinery trading industry. As a result of being in the industry since so long, true colours have developed an excellent track record of supplying high quality product from the best manufactures in the field. The products are running successfully all over India with minimal service & maintenance.

Established in 1992, Atexco has been focusing on the research and development and promotion of digital printing technology in the textile industry for more than 20 years. It has obtained 107 authorized patents, including 19 invention patents and 17 software copyrights. Moreover, it has twice won the second prize of national scientific and technological invention, 8 first prizes of provincial and ministerial level, and undertaken many national projects to establish the national digital printing engineering technology research center!

Machine vision delivers precision

"ATEXCO is a company specialized in R&D, manufacturing, sales and service of digital ink-jet printing technology and equipment. Up to now, over 15,000 units of ATEXCO digital textile, graphic and carpet printers have been installed throughout the world. We have tied up with them for launching their position printer and high-speed sublimation printer in the Indian market," said Sanjay Desai, Director, True Colors.

"To date, precision digital textile printing has been seen in the form of garment shapes and individualized images printed on plain fabric, and more recently inkjet printing on thread has enabled precisely coloured embroidery. But precision, being taken one step further by Atexco's new "machine-vision positioning printing" technology is a "revolutionary breakthrough in the existing digital textile printing field" this new technology enables precision digital textile printing on woven fabrics, including lace, targeting specific areas with an injection of colour," said Sanjay Desai.

Whilst woven fabrics are rich in surface texture Sanjay said, it is not possible to create the vivid colors that are available with printing, especially in half tone. And, digital textile printing enables garments to be produced in a very vivid colour pallet but lacks the depth of a weave.

With this new technology, which harnesses "computer-vision technology," Atexco's machine vision positioning printing enables perfect matching between the print and the surface topography of the woven fabric through on-time high resolution scanning, pattern recognizing, and manoeuvring?

This technology overcomes the almost inevitable deformation of the fabric during processing, True Colors added. In the printing process, Atexco's machine can quickly detect the intricacies of the lace, for example, and establish the precise positioning for the printing of each pattern. Discussing the details of the technology, he said that it can align the print and fabric structure to a degree of accuracy within 0.2mm, whilst printing at speeds of 90 sq mtr/hr.



■ Precision, being taken one step further by Atexco's new "machine-vision positioning printing" technology is a "revolutionary breakthrough in the existing digital textile printing field" this new technology enables precision digital textile printing on woven fabrics, including laces.

Sanjay Desai
Director, True Colors

As well as being suitable for lace, the technology can also be used in double-side printing and for medium and heavy fabrics. When printing on medium weight and thick fabrics, whether printed by screen or digital printing, True Colors noted that the print cannot be realized fully on the back side of the fabric. However, double-sided printing is achieved through accurate positioning, the company said, and based on the machine vision technology, and its crucial software, Atexco's new printer is able to accurately align the back side of a fabric for printing, after the printing of the front side.

This technology overcomes the deformation of the fabric that can occur, particularly when printing on the same substrate twice, True Colors said. For the direct double-sided printing, True Colors said it is accurate to less than 0.2mm in terms of position matching accuracy. Not only this, but the company claims that this technology can also be used to realize bronzing effects on fabric. Traditional bronzing fabric can only be realised by screen printing.

High speed Sublimation Printer

Model X from Atexco offers unsurpassed quality and value. High speed sublimation printer Model X is equipped with 8 industrial Kyocera print heads, it has capacity to print 480lm/hour with 4 colour single pass and 260l m/hour with 4 colour double pass. It can print fine lines as well as crisp geometric designs, uniform blotches and smooth half tones. Printer can hold 1000mm diameter (more than10,000m) jumbo paper roll where we can control wastage of paper as well as we can avoid time consuming process of changing paper roll to increase printer's efficiency, bigger advantage with Model X is we can use 30gsm paper to reduce production cost ■



VEGA-3160G



Model-X

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LUDHIANA

21st, 22nd, 23rd August 2019
Dana Mandi, Bahadur K Road,
Near Jalandhar Bypass, Ludhiana, Punjab

BHILWARA

18th, 19th & 20th December 2019
Hotel Ranbanka, Old RTO Road, Gandhi Nagar,
Bhilwara, Rajasthan

PANIPAT

6th, 7th & 8th February 2020
Anaj Mandi, Near G T Road,
Panipat, Haryana

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Brings latest technologies together at one platform

At Techtextil and Texprocess, the textile and apparel industries displayed their most progressive side and even in challenging times still inspired a positive mood throughout the sector as a result. Record numbers of exhibitors and the highest levels of international participation to date have once again confirmed Frankfurt as the sector's global marketplace.

With a total of 1,818 exhibitors from 59 countries and, in all, some 47,000 trade visitors from 116 countries, the two biggest editions of Techtextil and Texprocess ever to be held, ended in Frankfurt recently. Accordingly, for four days, the Frankfurt Fair and Exhibition Centre once again became the leading international platform for users of technical textiles from the widest variety of sectors, as well as for manufacturers of apparel, fashionwear, upholstered furniture and leather products.

"Over the last four days, Techtextil and Texprocess have brought together the entire world of textiles and their areas of application in Frankfurt. This double-barrelled trade fair had, in particular, three major things going for it: A larger number of top decision-makers, higher levels of international participation and a greater degree of satisfaction amongst exhibitors than ever before. Both exhibitors and visitors were extremely well prepared and actively took advantage of what was on offer at the two fairs, in order to drive their business forward in focussed ways," says Detlef Braun, Member of the Executive Board of Messe Frankfurt.

Techtextil scores highly for visitor quality and variety of users

"We were thoroughly inundated on the very first day, particularly with international visitors. On top of our already high proportion of existing customers, we got lots of new contacts during the course of the trade fair," says Dr. Günther Gradnig, Managing Director at Sattler Pro-TEX GmbH. The response of exhibitors to the high levels of technical expertise amongst the visitors has been extremely positive. "The nice thing about Techtextil is that the visitors you meet are 100 per cent specialists. The discussions we have had have been exclusively on a technical level – and a very high level at that. At the end of the day, this provides the foundation of good business," confirms Jörg Perwitzschky, Director of Marketing at Bayern Innovativ, speaking of visitor quality.

Performance, functionality, and smart textiles – in abundance

There was, amongst other things, strong representation at Techtextil for suppliers of fabrics for functional apparel and of smart textiles with integral lighting, heating and sensory functionality, which are used in sportswear, fashionwear, outdoor clothes and workwear. With these products, companies like Schoeller, Freudenberg,

RUDOLF and Lenzing attracted designers, product managers and buyers from a host of well-known clothing manufacturers. "We had loads of people at our stand, who were looking for specific things, including many well-known brands such as Alpha Tauri, Mammut, North Face and Tommy Hilfiger," confirms Hendrikus van Es, Head of Protection Textiles and Member of the Senior Management Team of Schoeller Textil AG. There were, moreover, numerous exhibitors for accessories and components including, for instance, international market leaders for zip fasteners, YKK. "Visitors came from all over the world, from the US, Pakistan, Asia, even Columbia. We are fantastically satisfied with the show," says, for example, Jan Cees van Baaren, Sales Manager at YKK.

Texprocess a huge boost for the sector

"Texprocess has inspired a very positive mood amongst suppliers. The manufacturers of sewing and apparel technology and of machinery for the processing of technical textiles and leather, have been reporting a certain reluctance to invest amongst their customers, caused by, among other things, current international trade barriers," says Elgar Straub, General Manager of the Textile Care, Fabric and Leather Technologies (TFL) division of the VDMA (Association of German Machine and Plant Manufacturers). "We look towards the future with a great deal of positivity."

Texprocess was also all about digital solutions for the sector – from fully networked production lines in the form of micro-factories and machines capable of autonomous learning to cloud-based collaboration between designers, product developers, manufacturers and retailers across national boundaries. "Digitalisation and interlinked networks in the sector are gaining traction and have now reached as far as the retail shop," says Straub. "An effect that we summarise as Impact 4.0, the direct effects of Industry 4.0." It is something Alexander Behm, Product Manager Technical Textiles at H Stoll AG & Co. KG also confirms, "I think that, in the not too distant future, things will go more and more in that direction and, in partnership with software suppliers and machinery manufacturers for other stages of the work, will eventually include the entire process chain." These particular knitting machine manufacturers showcased the 3D knitting of shoe uppers in the Digital Textile Micro-Factory at Techtextil and Texprocess.

Gemini CAD Systems were manifestly delighted with their own micro-factory: "With our 'Pixel to Product' concept, we were able to clearly show our many visitors the benefits of made to measure garments and the end-to-end workflow to produce them. The connection to the clothing and fashion industry plays a very important role for us. That is why we will show micro factory in July with several partners at the world's largest trade show for sustainable fashion, Neonyt, during Berlin Fashion Week," says Luca Traian, CEO Gemini CAD Systems.

Textile industry and textile processors increasingly committed to sustainability

With 'Sustainability at Techtextil and Texprocess' both trade fairs concentrated the focus on the approaches that its exhibitors are adopting to sustainability issues. A dedicated exhibition guide took visitors straight to the relevant exhibitors. Marc W Lorch, CEO of Zwissler Holding AG: "For us, the sustainability focus at this year's Techtextil was extremely important. We have our own Sustainability Manager, who consistently takes care of this matter and its ramifications in all areas. We not only talk about sustainability – we live it. We have been preparing ourselves for this appearance for a long time in the run up to the show and have also involved our customers and suppliers." And, for the first time, there were, in 2019, two winners of the Techtextil Innovation Award in the sustainability category. The next Techtextil and Texprocess will take place from 4 to 7 May 2021.

Texprocess Forum: Expertise for the textile-processing industry and trade

Digitalisation and sustainability were the dominant subjects at Texprocess Forum. Accordingly, Messe Frankfurt brought part of its Fashionsustain conference from Berlin to Frankfurt for the first time. Sustainability was the driving force for innovation, inter-connected textile processing, e-commerce and the next steps in the direction of Industry 4.0.

Focus on sustainability and conference première in Frankfurt

Within the framework of the Texprocess Forum, Messe Frankfurt brought an offshoot of its Fashionsustain conference to Frankfurt on 14 May. Fashionsustain is part of Neonyt, an event hub specialising in sustainable fashion during the Berliner Fashion Week. The innovative conference format adds pioneering, sustainable textile innovations to the dialogue and uses synergistic effects in the sector to revolutionise processes and production flows. The superordinate question, 'Is Sustainability the Key to Textile Innovations?', were discussed in round table sessions with key players, such as Lenzing, Perpetual Global and Procalçado S.A. A keynote lecture by Micke Magnusson, Co-founder of the Swedish 'We are Spindye' start-up, addressed the economic need for sustainable business models and give action impulses.

Subsequently, fibre manufacturer Lenzing, embroidery-machine manufacturer Santoni and shoe-component manufacturer Procalçado S.A. presented an innovation roadshow entitled 'The Future of Eco-Conscious Footwear Manufacturing'. The road show was supported by the Texexpertise Network of Messe Frankfurt. It illustrates sustainable shoe manufacturing and shows how a sustainability revolution in the fashion and textile industry can become reality today. The panel discussion was chaired by Marte Hentschel, Founder of Sourcebook, the B2B network for the fashion industry.

Additional contributions about sustainability at Texprocess Forum were given, inter alia, by GSM Global Sustainable Management GmbH on the recycling economy and its integration in the product-development process, textile manufacturer Vossen GmbH on vegan textiles and investment company Triple Tree on sustainable CSR management and audit solutions for complete transparency.

Impact 4.0: What comes after Industry 4.0?

Which changes triggered by Industry 4.0 are already part of the value chain? This was the main question of the thematic block organised by the VDMA Textile Care, Fabric and Leather Technologies association on the afternoon of 14 May and discussed in two round-table sessions by Andreas Faath, VDMA Forum Industry 4.0, Dr Yves-Simon Gloy, Sächsisches Textilforschungsinstitute.V., Dr Klaus Hecker, VDMA Organic and Printed Electronics Association and spokespeople from DESMA Shoe Machinery, Efka, Frankl und Kirchner and Expert Systemtechnik.

Digitalisation, product development, quality and environmental management

The subjects selected by DTB – Dialogue Textile Apparel – for the Texprocess Forum on 15 and 16 May spotlight those parts of the textile process chain most affected by digitalisation. With Holger Knapp, CEO of the Deutscher Fachverlag publishing company in the chair, Hans-Peter Hiemer of B4B Solutions opened proceedings with a keynote address on the digital transformation of the fashion business. This was followed by a panel discussion entitled 'Old hands, reckless young people – how to get the best from your team with 3D!' with Professor Michael Ernst of Germany's Niederrhein University, Dr Andreas Seidl of Human Solutions and other experts.



Award winning technologies



Thereafter, digital solutions for the fashion trade, e.g., digital showrooms and sales tools, were the focal point of contributions by MobiMedia and Assyst GmbH. Lectra discussed ways to fashion on demand, Sys-Pro looked at omni-channel solutions and Avalution GmbH at avatars in the digital development of apparel. In its contribution, the Hohenstein Testing Institute considered whether virtual prototypes are also suitable for resale products while WKS Textilveredlungs GmbH asked how quality assurance can go together with shorter lead times. Trade visitors also looked forward to contributions by PTC on product lifecycle management, by S.HE Business on e-commerce, by Spedition Barth & Co on automatic flat-goods stores, by EFIT e.V. on care labelling as a sign of quality and by zExur on qualitative colour measurement with multi-coloured textiles.

Individualisation and networked production

In the panel discussion organised by the World Textile Information Network (WTiN) on 17 May, Coloreel, the winner of the 2017 Texprocess Innovation Award, introduced its revolutionary thread colouring technology, the German Institute for Textile and Fibre Research, Denkendorf, spoke about micro-factories in the textile industry, KSL discussed sewing robots and WTiN looked at the influence of Amazon on investment, patents and the future.

Winners of the Texprocess Innovation Awards 2019

The Texprocess Innovation Award 2019 for new and further technological developments in the field of textile processing was presented to four winners recently. At official opening ceremony, four winners were presented with the Texprocess Innovation Award 2019 for new and further technological developments in the field of textile processing. All award-winning projects were displayed in a special exhibition at Texprocess until 17 May, 2019.

Award winners in the 'New Technology' category

In the 'New Technology' category, the jury was particularly impressed by the new M-TYPE DELTA sewing system made by Dürkopp Adler AG. The award-winning industrial-sewing concept can be integrated into a fully digitalised sewing production line for automotive interiors, home upholstery, leather goods and technical textiles. Using digital solutions to the maximum extent, the machine guides the operator and continuously augments its functions and 'knowledge'.

The second award in the 'New Technology' category went to Vetron Typical Europe GmbH for the Vetron Viper, an ultra-lightweight sewing system made using carbon components. The system weighs a total of six kg, including yarn corps and drive motor, which means a smaller and more cost-effective industrial robot can be used in the sewing process. Thus, the solution is compact, flexible and easy to install and remove.

Award winners in the 'New Process' category

The award winners in the 'New Process' category include Assyst GmbH for a 3D innovation process. For the first time, the company showcased at Texprocess how a digital process innovation can revolutionise the textile value chain, from design to development and sales. Assyst has developed a virtual decision-making aid for everyone involved in the process, from Designers in the creative phase, via Product Developers in the virtual fitting stage, to sales staff with a 3D in-store presentation. Moreover, the technology provides a completely new product experience for both B2B and B2C customers.

The second award in this category went to Lectra for its fashion-on-demand technology, the first end-to-end solution for personalising fashions. The turnkey solution automates on-demand production so that companies can now process several individual orders at the same time, including individualised apparel. In other words, individualized products can be delivered just as fast as standard articles.

The jury of the 5th Texprocess Innovation Award comprised Alexander Artschwager, German Institutes for Textile and Fibre Research Denkendorf, Centre for Management Research (DITF-MR); Claudia van Bonn, Deutscher Fachverlag GmbH; Prof Ives-Simon Gloy, Sächsisches Textilforschungsinstitut.V.; Iris Schlomski, textile network; Walter Wählt (Chairman of the jury), adidas AG; Prof Kerstin Zöll, Hochschule Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences, Textile and Clothing Technology Faculty.

The Texprocess Innovation Award has been honouring outstanding achievements and new developments for processing textile and flexible materials since 2011. The winning products were selected on the basis of criteria such as innovativeness, choice of materials and ecological quality ■



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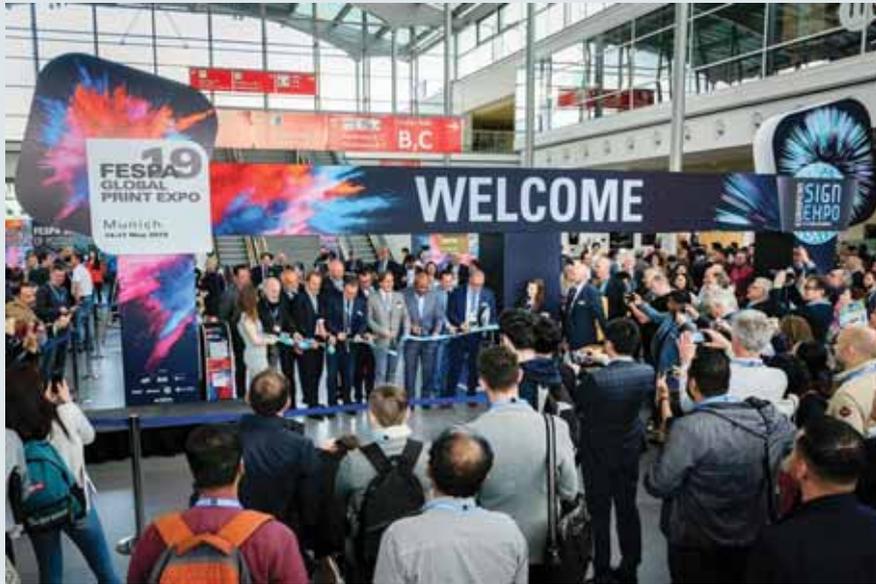


BOOK NOW



FESPA Global Print Expo 2019

New possibilities across speciality print come to life



Thousands of visitors travelled to the Bavarian capital from 14 to 17 May 2019 to attend FESPA 2019 to see the latest innovations from more than 700 exhibitors who highlighted technologies and consumables for digital wide format, screen printing, textile printing and garment decoration and non-printed signage. Visitors to FESPA Global Print Expo 2019 also had free access to European Sign Expo, the dedicated event for non-printed signage and visual communications. Visitors to European Sign Expo discovered the latest products from over 100 exhibitors showcasing solutions for channel lettering, illuminated signage, neon and LED, sign systems, engraving and etching and dimensional signage.

FESPA Global Print Expo is established as the sector's leading platform for launching innovations and a number of exhibitors already confirmed plans to introduce new products at the 2019 event. Announcements made to date include HP's first products for textile printing with the new Stitch S series of dye-sublimation printers, and swissQprint's first roll-to-roll printer, Karibu.

Colour L*A*B*

FESPA's newest visitor feature, Colour L*A*B*, helped visitors to improve colour management practices in their print businesses. The interactive showcase offered visitors an end-to-end overview of the individual elements that contributed to good colour management, including technologies from suppliers including Barbieri, CMA Imaging, EFI, Eizo, HP, Just Normlicht, Pantone, Techkon and X-Rite. Visitors to Colour L*A*B* also attended daily expert conference sessions and joined guided tours by Paul Sherfield, Laurel Brunner and Paul Lindström, providing more detail on the technology on show.

Printeriors

Printeriors, FESPA's interior décor showcase, highlighted the opportunities of print for interior décor. Within the feature, visitors discovered applications from a range of suppliers including: Adobe, Canon, Mad Chair, Mimaki, Mitwill Textiles, Off the wall coverings, Printfab, Rex Frame and many more. For the first time in 2019, Printeriors also featured exterior décor applications displayed in the outside hospitality areas of the Messe, showcasing the extensive scope of printed decoration.

Technologies and applications

Print service providers (PSPs) and sign-makers gathered once again in Munich to experience a wide variety of print technologies, consumables and materials from both leading brands and smaller businesses.

Textile Print

With Print Make Wear one of the key features at this year's Global Print Expo, textile was talking point at the event, counting over 160 exhibitors showing textile solutions. First time exhibitor Omniprint used FESPA 2019 as a platform for displaying its range of direct-to-garment (DTG) printing technologies, including its latest system, the Cheetah Industrial DTG. With quality prints up to 1800dpi, the Cheetah is one of the fastest industrial DTG printers on the market, boasting high print quality and compatibility with a wide range of materials, including 100 per cent polyester and cotton/poly blends.

Digital sublimation and direct-to-textile printers were also a key feature on the Mutoh stand. Visitors were able to see first-hand the high speed ValueJet 1948WX digital dye-sublimation printer, with print speeds ranging from 125 m²/h to 195 m²/h. The system is ideal for businesses looking for a printer capable of handling high volumes and intensive use.



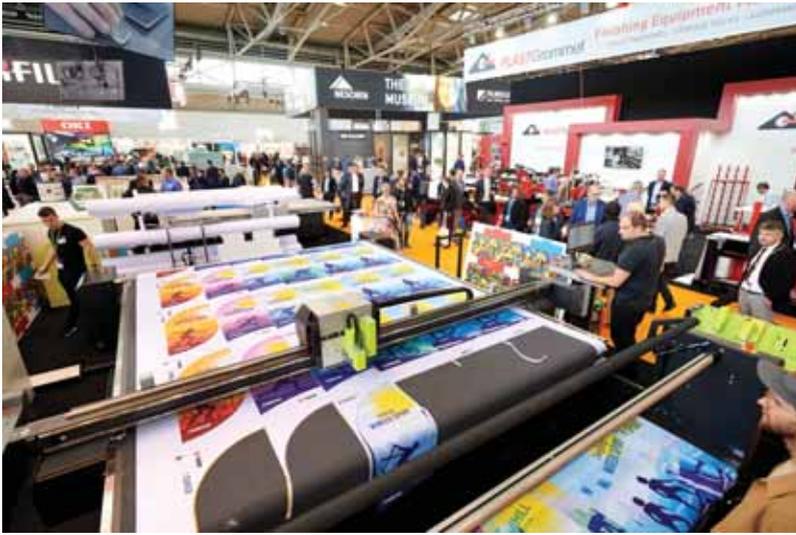
Screen print

SPS Techno Screen introduced the new SPS ASTRON QX, a full servo-driven cylinder machine designed for high-end industrial screen printing applications. The key features of the new system reflected the gradual introduction of camera control and registration systems that's been taking place in the screen printing industry for the past decade. The SPS ASTRON QX series can be equipped with a camera registration system that matches the image position within the screen frame to the image position on each individual sheet. It is available for a maximum sheet size of 550 x 800 mm and features a single sheet front-pick-up feeder.

Workflow and Colour Management

As a developer of software applications for sign-making, screen printing, garment decorating and digital printing, CADLink is promoting the latest version of its Digital Factory OKI™ Edition RIP software, which enables users to manage their print workflows more efficiently. The latest build of the software includes newly engineered custom printer drivers, along with modified colour profiles, supporting a wider variety of printers than ever before. The new driver architecture optimises RIP and print speeds, reducing job processing times by up to 2-3 times while also providing incredibly vibrant colours, including rich black reproduction.

The Epson Edge Print software for its S-series and F-series printers was a highlight on the Epson stand. The software supports Epson's Precision Dot technology, including its halftone module, look-up tables and micro-weave combining to make an instantly noticeable difference to the final print quality.



- The Micro Factory and Customisation, moderated by Jenny Holloway from Fashion Capital and including speakers from EFI, Mimaki, HP and Gemini
- Sustainability and Efficient Manufacturing, hosted by Elissa Decker of Moss Inc., and Lars Bech, CEO of Neutral, featuring speakers from Premier Textiles and Magna Colours
- Automating the production workflow, comprising speakers from Gemini, EFI and HP
- Designing for digital print and colour management, to include speakers from Adobe, AVA and EFI

Sustainability was the key theme at FESPA 2019 this year and FESPA champion a number of initiatives within the Print Make Wear featured to be more environmentally responsible. The garments used for the direct-to-garment textiles were provided by Neutral, a market-leading producer of sustainable apparel and accessories to the B2B market, which uses FairTrade cotton and have been awarded the EU Ecolabel for meeting high environmental standards. Water-based inks from Magna Colour were also used on the automatic screen printing press.

Graeme Richardson-Locke, Technical Support Manager at FESPA, commented, "Over the years FESPA's commitment to textile printing and garment decoration has developed and we've considerably expanded visitor proposition in this area in line with growing industry demand. For Print Make Wear 2019, we have put together a programme that represents the different facets of the garment manufacturing community and are confident that this will help garment manufacturers understand the range of technologies at their disposal."

Also announced at were the winners of the three following categories:

The Young Star Award, was presented to design student, Antonio Tsigonias, of T.E.I. Athens, Department of Graphic Arts Technology in Greece for his entry titled "Garden Team". The Young Star Award is marked across all print related categories and open to entrants aged between 16 to 25 working as a junior employee, trainee or student.

This year's People's Choice Award winner, which is voted for online by FESPA's global speciality print community, was presented to PVG'S Maharashtra Institute of Printing Technology in India for their entry titled "Screen Printing Graphics" submitted in the Young Star category.

The Best in Show Award is judged across all categories on the work that the judges felt represented the most outstanding example of print. This year the award was presented to two companies, Atelier fuer Siebdruck from Switzerland, for its screen printed entry "Creativ Verpacken" in the Serigraphies and Fine Art category and VGL from the United Kingdom for its digitally printed entry "Beefeater Gin Underground Poster Campaign" in the Posters category.

The winners of this year's FESPA Awards

Some of the gold winners of the application categories are:

Category	Company	Country
Decals and Printed Labels	Classic Stripes P. Ltd.	India
Special Effects on T-shirts, Garments & Other Textiles	Teximport Group	Russia
Printed Garments	iMaika	Russia
Roll-to-Roll Printed Textiles	The Look Company	Canada
Functional Printing	Permark Industries	New Zealand



Sustainability

As more print technology providers continue to embrace greener practices, Brand Management Group, the official partner of HP Large Format Media, placed special focus on HP's latest sustainable solution for printed canvases, a huge market segment in the wide format print industry. HP's Recycled Satin Canvas performs similarly to other digitally printable wide format canvases on the market, except it is made from 100 per cent recycled water bottles. One of only a few sustainable options available to designers today, the canvases can be used for residential and commercial décor.

Roz Guarnori, Exhibitions Director at FESPA, comments: "The best feedback we've received from our visitors in the past is that they learn something new at every FESPA event and we are confident that they will once again be inspired by what's on show. FESPA is known as a platform for product launches and innovation, and we'll be expecting more announcements from our exhibitors before the beginning of the event."

Highlights from Print Make Wear microfactory

The products highlighted within Print Make Wear were provided by 19 exhibitors and presented within two separate tours, one focused on roll-to-roll technologies and the second on garment decoration. The technology demonstrations were supported by a programme of talks and catwalks to enhance the visitor experience.

Roll-to-roll technologies

The roll-to-roll tour was split into two separate workflows, one on pigment printing and the other on dye-sublimation printing. The pigment printing workflow route included:

- Design software from Adobe Textile Designer and EFI Fiery DesignPro with Adobe CS
- Fabrics provided by Premier Textiles
- EFI Optitex pattern design and marker making
- Pre-press production files from EFI Fiery
- RIP and pigment printing inks from Mimaki
- A Klieverik dryer
- Cutting solution from Gemini

The dye-sublimation printing workflow included:

- Adobe Textile Designer design software
- Fabrics provided by Premier Textiles
- A selection of transfer paper from CANAPA
- Gemini will supply its product design and decoration software, Gemini CAD pre-press production files and a cutting solution
- RIP and dye-sublimation inks from HP
- Klieverik heat transfer machine

Running alongside the roll-to-roll tour were the garment decoration tour, which included digital printing technologies as well as automatic and manual screen printing solutions. The exhibitors on the garment decoration tour included:

- Grafco colour separation technology and inks for the Vastex manual screen printing press
- Fair Trade fabric garments provided by Neutral
- A Chiozzi e Cavazzuti dryer
- Folding and packaging system by Thermotron
- Easiway screen reclamation
- An MHM automatic screen printing press
- Magna Colours' inks for the automatic screen printing press
- A manual screen printing carousel from Vastex and a Vastex Little Red dryer
- A Tesoma tunner dryer will be used for the automatic screen printing

'Fireside Chats'

Print Make Wear also featured daily 'fireside chats' where visitors heard from experts on key industry topics including:

Forthcoming trade events

INTERNATIONAL

▶▶ CHINA YIWU INTL. TEXTILE PRINTING INDUSTRY FAIR 2019

16 – 18, May 2019
Venue: Yiwu Intl. Expo Centre, Yiwu, China
Organizer: Adsale Exhibition Services Ltd.
Tel: 86-852-28118897/25163552

▶▶ PITTI IMMAGINE UOMO

11 – 14, June 2019
Venue: Fortezza da Basso, Florence, Italy
Organizer: Pitti Immagine Italy
Tel: +39 055 3693408

▶▶ MILANO MODA UOMO

14 – 17 June, 2019
Venue: Milan, Italy
Organizer: Camera Nazionale della Modaitaliana, Italy
Tel: +39.02.7771081

▶▶ PITTI IMMAGINE BIMBO

20 – 22 June, 2019
Venue: Fortezza da Basso, Florence, Italy
Organizer: Pitti Immagine Italy
Tel: +39 055 3693408

▶▶ ITMA 2019

20 – 26, June 2019
Venue: Fira De Barcelona, Gran Via, Spain
Organizer: Cematex Associations
Tel: +34 (93) 4150422

▶▶ PITTI FILATI

25 – 26, June 2019
Venue: Fortezza da Basso, Florence, Italy
Organizer: Pitti Immagine Italy
Tel: +39 055 3693408

▶▶ LONDON TEXTILE FAIR

16 – 17, July 2019
Venue: Business Design Centre, London, UK
Organizer: Textile Events UK
Tel: +44 (0)20 8347 8145

▶▶ TEXWORLD USA

22 – 24, July 2019
Venue: Jacob K. Javits Center, New York, USA
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt Inc. USA
Tel: +1 770-984-8016

▶▶ INTL. FABRIC TRADE SHOW

03 – 05 September, 2019
Venue: MOC, Munich, Germany
Organizer: Munich Fabric Start Exhibitors GmbH Germany
Tel: +49 89 4522470

▶▶ DHAKA INTL. YARN & FABRIC SHOW

04 – 07 September, 2019
Venue: International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB), Dhaka, Bangladesh
Organizer: CEMS Bangladesh
Tel: +880 1817-044807

▶▶ FILO INTL. YARNS EXHIBITION

11 – 12 September, 2019
Venue: Palazzo delle Stelline, Milan, Italy
Organizer: Asso Servizi Biella Srl Italy
Tel: +39 015 849 2132

▶▶ INTERTEXTILE SHANGHAI APPAREL FABRICS

25 – 27 September, 2019
Venue: National Convention & Exhibition Center, Shanghai, China
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt (Shanghai) Co. Ltd
Tel: +886 2 8729 1099

▶▶ YARN EXPO – AUTUMN

25 – 27 September, 2019
Venue: National Convention & Exhibition Center, Shanghai, China
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt (Shanghai) Co. Ltd.
Tel: +886 2 8729 1099

▶▶ TEXTILE FORUM - THE FASHION FABRIC SHOW LONDON

16 – 17 October, 2019
Venue: One Marylebone, London, UK
Organizer: Linda Laderman PR Ltd UK
Tel: +44 7802 501913

▶▶ INTL. APPAREL & TEXTILE FAIR

04 – 06 November, 2019
Venue: Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai, UAE
Organizer: Nihalani Events UAE
Tel: +971 55 884 6186

▶▶ THE CHINA CLOTHING TEXTILES AND ACCESSORIES EXPO

12 – 14 November, 2019
Venue: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, Australia
Organizer: Minstar (Australia) Enterprises
Tel: 61-2-92353588

▶▶ INTEX SOUTH ASIA, SRILANKA

13 – 15 November, 2019
Venue: BMICH, Colombo
Organizer: Worldex India Exhibition & Promotion
Tel: +(91)-(22) 40376700

▶▶ INTEX SOUTH ASIA, BANGLADESH

17 – 18 November, 2019
Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka
Organizer: Worldex India Exhibition & Promotion
Tel: +(91)-(22) 40376700

▶▶ VIETNAM TEXTILE & GARMENT EXHIBITION

20 - 23 November, 2019
Venue: Saigon Exhibition and Convention Center, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam
Organizer: Chan Chao Intl. Co. Ltd. Taiwan
Tel: +886-2-2659-6000

▶▶ THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION ON TEXTILE INDUSTRY

25 – 28 November, 2019
Venue: Shanghai New Intl. Expo Centre (SNIEC), Shanghai, China
Organizer: ADSALE Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2811 8897

▶▶ HONG KONG FASHION WEEK FOR FALL/WINTER

13 – 16 January, 2020
Venue: Hong Kong Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong
Organizer: HKTDC, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 1830 668

▶▶ DHAKA INT'L TEXTILE & GARMENT MACHINERY EXHIBITION

20 - 23 February, 2020
Venue: International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB), Dhaka, Bangladesh
Organizer: Chan Chao Intl. Co. Limited Taiwan
Tel: +886-2-2659-6000

▶▶ INTL ISTANBUL YARN FAIR

27-29 February, 2020
Venue: Tuyap Exhibition and Convention Center, Büyükcemce, Turkey
Organizer: Tuyap Fairs and Exhibitions Organization Inc.
Tel: +90 (212) 867 11 00

DOMESTIC

▶▶ INDIA INTERNATIONAL KNIT FAIR

15 – 17, May 2019
Venue: India Knit Fair Association, Tiruppur
Organizer: India Knit Fair Association Tiruppur
Tel: 098431 48777

▶▶ YARN FABRIC & ACCESSORIES TRADE SHOW

30 May – 1 June 2019
Venue: Panchratna Sanskrutik Bhavan, Ganga Nagar, Ichalkaranji, Maharashtra
Organizer: Vision Communications
Tel: 9810872914, 9212707924

▶▶ SUPER JUNIORS

24 – 25, June 2019
Venue: Chennai Trade Centre, INDIA
Organizer: Peppermint Communications P. Ltd.
Tel: 7506399954

▶▶ FASHION CONECT

27 – 29, June 2019
Venue: The Lalit Ashok, Bangalore
Organizer: SS Textile Media Private Limited
Tel: +91 98454 46570, 93425 66532

▶▶ INDIA INTL. GARMENT FAIR

04 – 06, July 2019
Venue: India Exposition Mart, Greater Noida
Organizer: International Garment Fair Association India
Tel: 91-11-45859001

▶▶ SOURCE ZONE

04 – 06, July 2019
Venue: India Exposition Mart, Greater Noida
Organizer: Intl. Garment Fair Association India
Tel: 91-11-45859001

▶▶ GARMENT SHOW OF INDIA

08 – 10, July 2019
Venue: Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
Organizer: Saina Events
Tel: 09953214112, 09873925220

▶▶ YARNEX

15 – 17, July 2019
Venue: Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
Organizer: SS Textile Media Private Limited
Tel: +91 98454 46570, 93425 66532

▶▶ F&A SHOW

15 – 17, July 2019
Venue: Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
Organizer: SS Textile Media Private Limited
Tel: +91 98454 46570, 93425 66532

▶▶ DENIMSANDJEANS INDIA

17 – 18, July 2019
Venue: The Lalit Ashok Bangalore, Bengaluru
Organizer: DenimsandJeans India
Tel: 098156 30600

▶▶ GTE 2019 - AHMEDABAD

02 – 04, August 2019
Venue: Helipad Ground, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
Organizer: Garment Technology Expo
Tel: +91-9310029439

▶▶ KNIT SHOW 2019

04 – 06, August, 2019
Venue: Velan Hotel Fair Ground, Kangayam Road, Tiruppur
Organizer: Trade Exposition
Tel: 94437 92612 / 94439 06810

▶▶ GARTEX

10 – 12, August 2019
Venue: Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
Organizer: Mex Exhibitions Pvt. Ltd.
Tel: +91- 11-46464848

▶▶ YARN FABRIC & ACCESSORIES TRADE SHOW

21 – 23, August 2019
Venue: Dana Mandi, Ludhiana
Organizer: Vision Communications
Tel: 9810872914, 9212707924

▶▶ YARNEX

12 – 14, September 2019
Venue: IKF Complex, Tirupur
Organizer: SS Textile Media Private Limited
Tel: +91 98454 46570, 93425 66532

▶▶ TEX INDIA

12 – 14, September 2019
Venue: IKF Complex, Tirupur
Organizer: SS Textile Media Private Limited
Tel: +91 98454 46570, 93425 66532

▶▶ IITF INDIA INTL. TRADE FAIR

14 – 27, November 2019
Venue: Pragati Maidan Exhibition Center, Mathura Road, New Delhi,
Organizer: India Trade Promotion Organisation
Tel: +91-11-23379338

▶▶ TECHTEXTIL

20 – 22, November 2019
Venue: Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs (I) P. Ltd.
Tel: +91 22 6144 5900, 22 6144 5990

▶▶ ITMACH INDIA

05 – 08, December 2019
Venue: The Exhibition Centre, Helipad Ground, Gandhinagar
Organiser: K & D ITMACH Expositions LLP
Tel: + 91 9833977743

▶▶ YARN FABRIC & ACCESSORIES TRADE SHOW

18 – 20, December 2019
Venue: Hotel Ranbanka, Old RTO Road, Gandhi Nagar, Bhilwara, Rajasthan
Organizer: Vision Communications
Tel: 9810872914, 9212707924

▶▶ GARMENT TECHNOLOGY EXPO

10 – 13, January 2020
Venue: New Delhi, India
Organizer: Garment Technology Expo P. Ltd.
Tel: 9310029439

▶▶ YARN FABRIC & ACCESSORIES TRADE SHOW

06 – 08, February 2020
Venue: Anaj Mandi, Near GT Road, Panipat, Haryana
Organizer: Vision Communications
Tel: 9810872914, 9212707924

▶▶ INTEX SOUTH ASIA, INDIA

18 – 20, June 2020
Venue: BEC, Mumbai
Organizer: Worldex India Exhibition & Promotion
Tel: +(91)-(22) 40376700

(You are requested to reconfirm dates and other information from respective organisers prior to making your travel arrangements)

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