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THE TEXTILE MAGAZINE

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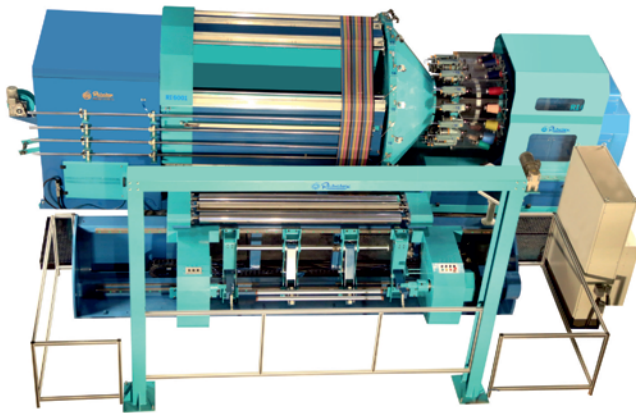
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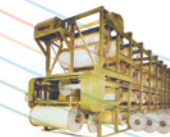
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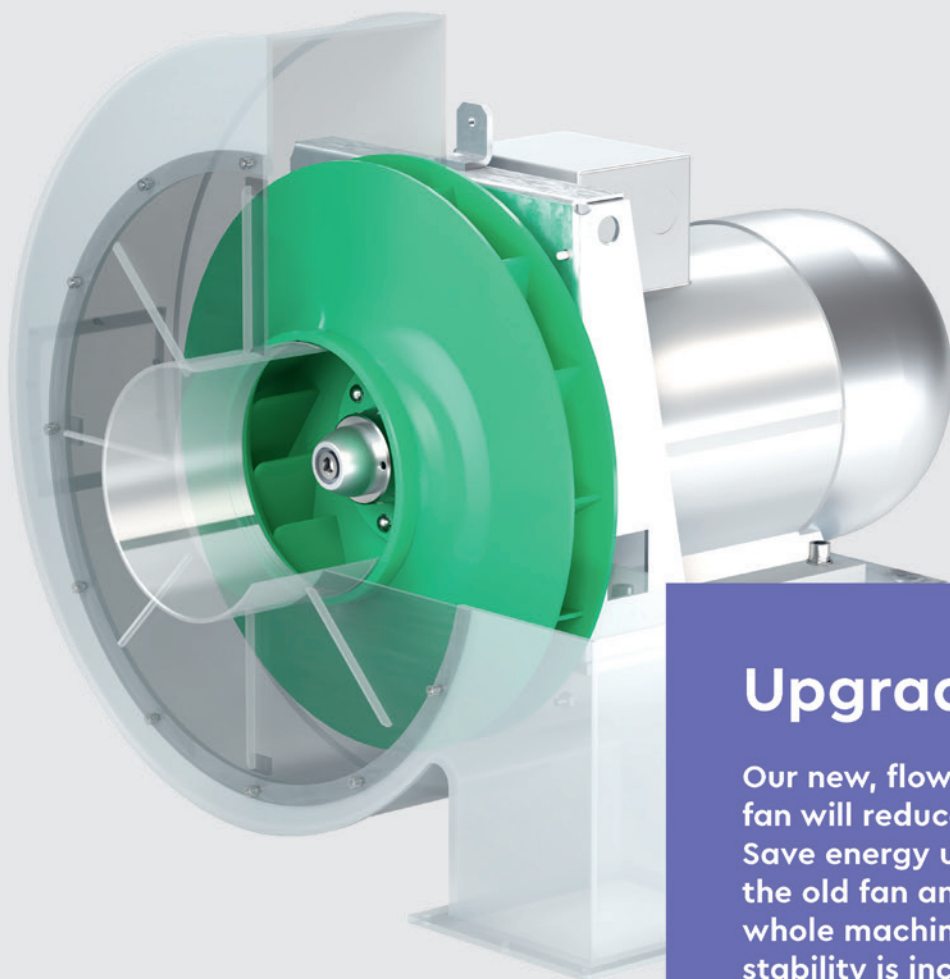
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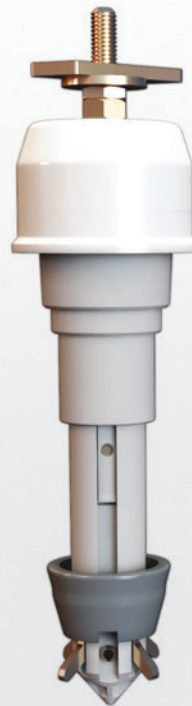


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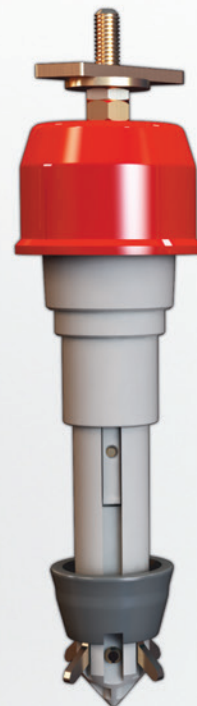


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A boom for the Indian textile industry

The recent Central Government's approval of PLI Scheme for Rs. 10,682 Crore Financial Outlay for Textile Industry has become a boom for the ailing Indian textile sector. Also, it is very heartening to note that the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi has given its approval to introduce the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme to 10 key sectors, including Textiles and Apparel Sectors for Enhancing India's Manufacturing Capabilities and Enhancing Exports – Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

The total approved financial outlay over a five-year period for 10 Sectors is Rs. 1,45,980 Crore and the approval for Textile Sector is Rs. 10,683 Crore.

The PLI Scheme will be implemented by the concerned ministries/departments and the final proposals will be appraised by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) and approved by the Cabinet.

Savings, if any, from one PLI Scheme of an approved sector can be utilized to fund that of another approved sector by the Empowered Group of Secretaries. Any new sector for PLI will require fresh approval of the Cabinet.

The PLI Scheme across 10 key specific sectors will make Indian manufacturers globally competitive, attract investment in the areas of core competency and cutting-edge technology; ensure efficiencies; create economies of scale; enhance exports and make India an integral part of the global supply chain.

The Indian textile industry is one of the largest in the world



and has a share of 5% of global exports in textiles and apparel. The PLI scheme will attract large investment in the sector to further boost domestic manufacturing, especially in the MMF segment and technical textiles. The scheme will also make India more competitive compared to other nations.

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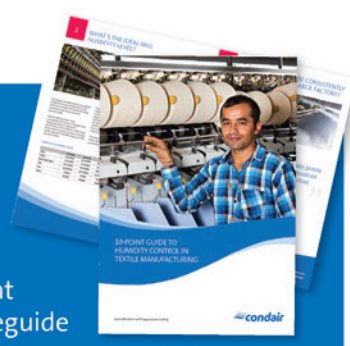
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Technical Textiles & MMF

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A big step in making India 'AatmaNirbhar' or self-reliant has come in the form of Production-Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) to 10 sunrise and labour-intensive sectors, including the technical textiles and man-made fibre segments. The Union Cabinet under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved to introduce the Scheme triggering a positive market sentiment.

The announcement has at its core the idea to augment India's manufacturing capabilities and exports. The Scheme has put away Rs. 1.45 tn for the 10 'champion' sectors incentivizing them to attract investments, encourage domestic manufacturing, pave the way for companies to become part of the global supply chain, and the biggest of all – to generate employment opportunities.

Big Boost to Technical Textiles & MMF Segments

The technical textiles and Man-Made Fibre (MMF) segments have received the financial outlay of Rs. 10683 cr for over a 5-year period. It will be implemented by the Ministry of Textiles within the overall financial limit prescribed. The final proposals of the PLI will be appraised by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC).

The Indian textile industry is one of the world's largest producers of textiles and apparel. Owing to the COVID times and necessities, India has become the second largest manufacturer of PPE in the world. The domestic textiles and apparel segments contribute 2% to India's GDP, bring in 12% of export earnings and has approximately 5% share of

global exports. In the MMF segment, India's share is low when compared to the global consumption pattern.

The PLI Scheme aims to fortify the two textile segments to pull investments in cutting-edge technology, enhance efficiency, and create economies of scale besides enabling them to get on par with global competition.

The Scheme facilitates the AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan vision to promote an efficient, equitable and resilient manufacturing sector in the country. Growth in production and exports of industrial goods will greatly expose the Indian industry to foreign competition and ideas, which will help in improving its capabilities to innovate further. It holds true for the textile industry too.

According to the official statement, promotion of the manufacturing sector and creation of a conducive manufacturing ecosystem will not only enable integration with global supply chains but also establish backward linkages with the MSME sector in the country. It will lead to overall growth in the economy and create huge employment opportunities.

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CITI Chairman T Rajkumar said, "PLI scheme is extended for 10 key specific sectors, of which Textile is one of the sectors and has been allocated Rs 10,683 crore of the total estimated outlay of Rs. 1.46 lakh crore, mainly for MMF and technical textile segment". He further said, "the objective of the scheme is to promote building of new facilities and attract investment in the MMF sector under Greenfield and Brownfield investments". CITI Chairman said, "the Focused PLI Scheme has come at an appropriate time when India's GDP is on a recovering mode and a V shaped recovery is expected in many of the sectors to bring the economy back on recovery track".

SIMA



Mr. Ashwin Chandran, Chairman, The Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA) stated that though India could become a major player in cotton textiles and exports, India has been lagging behind in the MMF textile trade due to expensive raw material and high tariff barriers apart from cheaper imports from neighbouring countries.

Mr. Ashwin also mentioned, "The country has proved its capability by becoming the second largest manufacturer of PPE within a period of two months and enable the country to protect the people of the Nation and the world from the COVID-19 pandemic. Under these circumstances, the scheme would greatly benefit the industry to attract huge investments and create jobs of millions of people. Around 40 HS lines in MMF garments and 10 HS lines in technical textiles account around US \$ 180 billion global trade

and therefore, the scheme would encourage the industry to make investment in the manufacturing of these high value added products."

TEA



Shri. Raja. M. Shanmugham welcomed the subsidy support from Central Government for two years in respect of new eligible employees engaged on or after 01.10.2020 and crediting upfront in Aadhaar seeded EPFO Account (UAN) of eligible new employee, contribution of both Employer and Employees, totaling 24% of wages in cases where establishments are employing up to 1000 employees and 12% of EPF wages in the case of employment provided more than 1000 employees. He noted that this will be largely helpful to Tirupur Knitwear exporting units as more employment will be provided by them in the coming days.

Shri. Raja. M. Shanmugham appreciated for extension of the existing Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 1.0) till 31st March 2021 and also launching of ECLGS 2.0

benefitting to Standard Maintenance Account 0 (SMA 0) as on 29th February 2020, with credit outstanding of above Rs. 50 crore and up to Rs. 500 Crore as on 29.2.2020.

Shri. Raja. M. Shanmugham welcomed the Production-Linked Incentives scheme and was hopeful that Tirupur knitwear exporting units would utilize this opportunity, make investment, increase exports and provide more employment.

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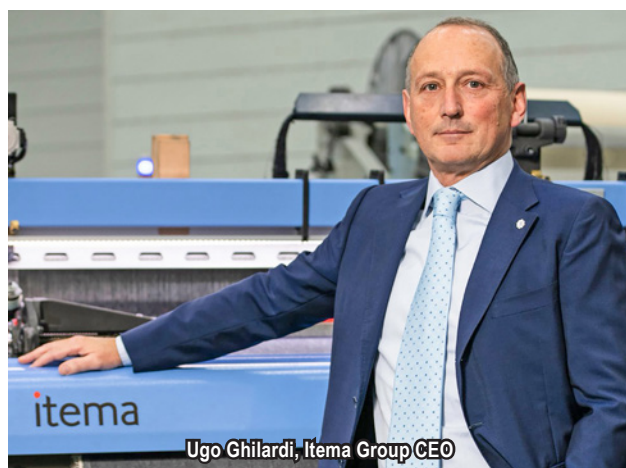
Itema has signed a contract with the Egyptian Cotton and Textile Industries Holding Company as a follow-up to the supply of weaving machines for the first phase of the Egypt Army Textile Park in Robbiki. This will further strengthen the leadership position of the company in the Egyptian market

Itema, a worldwide leading provider of best-in-class weaving solutions including weaving machines, OEM spare parts and integrated services, has been chosen as the weaving partner for the colossal modernisation program of the public sector of the Egyptian textile industry. The program, entrusted to the Cotton and Textile Industries Holding Company (CTIHC) and supported directly by President Abd El Fattah El Sisi and by the Minister of Public Enterprises Hisham Tawfik, consists in setting up a state-of-the-art, fully vertically integrated textile park encompassing spinning, weaving, knitting, dyeing, finishing, printing and confectation, which will represent the largest regional sourcing hub in the Mediterranean Region.

The project, worth approximately Euro 1 billion, will establish a new benchmark for the whole Egyptian textile industry by increasing the competitiveness of the country. In fact, the never-before-seen project is going to upgrade the Egyptian textile industry production capacity and will further unleash the value of one of the country real treasures, cotton, worldwide known as 'white gold'. The program was launched in 2019 and the first phase of the supply process was finalised during ITMA Barcelona when the Cotton and Textile Industries Holding Company announced the pool of suppliers selected to execute the project, which included Itema.

In October 2020, during an official meeting with Dr. Ahmed Moustafa, President, Cotton and Textile Industries Holding Company, Itema – along with its sole agent in Egypt, Fabtex Agencies and Trade represented by its owner and CEO Eng. Kamal Abbas – signed a contract for the supply of 654 weaving machines that will operate in the production plants of Mehalla El Kubra, Kafr El Dawar and Damietta. Commenting on the successful outcome for Itema, Ugo Ghilardi, Itema Group CEO, stated, "Itema is honoured to be part of this historic project that represents a real excellence centre not only for Egypt but for the whole Mediterranean Region."

"The Cotton and Textile Industries Holding Company will find in Itema a partner, and not a common supplier, who will ensure the supply of the most advanced weaving technology and a full range of solutions and services to make this project a real success. Actually, we recently celebrated the opening of the textile park in Robbiki, where Itema has been appointed as weaving machines' supplier by the



Egyptian Army and we look forward to seeing running live the Itema looms in this new epic project. These bulk orders make us feel proud and demonstrate to the textile industry that Itema is the ideal partner to maximise the return of investment." Itema is traditionally present in the Egyptian market where the Italian company has been providing weaving machines for the production of a wide range of fabrics for a long time, from furnishing to denim and shirting, passing through apparel and bed sheeting.

Ferdinando De Micheli, Itema Group Sales Director, commented, "Egypt is the cradle of the most precious cotton in the world and the textile industry represents one of the most important sectors in the country. As Itema, we historically value this market. Just consider that in recent years we have supplied around 1,000 weaving machines to the Egyptian private sector. We feature in our portfolio all type of weavers, from the smaller artisanal companies to the largest worldwide renowned mills providing to all of them the same excellent dedication. Now, with these important and colossal orders, we put our signature on projects that are set to change the shape of the textile industry in the area." The Cotton and Textile Industries Holding Company modernisation program will be implemented in 2021 and 2022, when the weaving plants in Mehalla El Kubra, Kafr El Dawar and Damietta will be equipped with the 654 weaving machines from Itema. ♦



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ITF launches #IndiaforSure for sharing SURE stories from the Indian textile industry

Indian Texpreneurs Federation (ITF) has launched hashtag #INDIAFORSURE on leading professional social media platforms, LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

'SURE' stands for Stable, sUstainable, Reliable and Ethical.

#INDIAFORSURE is a platform for textile entrepreneurs across the value chain to share what they have achieved through their exceptional leadership and focus on the areas of SURE. This hashtag is an open invitation for all Indian textile to come forward and share their stories that will be an inspiration to others.

There will be a website as well as sharing of information on all social media channels.

It may be recalled that earlier this year, on World Environment Day, ITF had launched this initiative, 'India for SURE'. This was the move forward towards a collective blueprint for sustainability and the work is in progress. ITF



Prabhu Dhamodharan, Convenor, ITF

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represents around 500 textile manufacturing companies covering the entire value chain of Tamil Nadu textile industry including integrated, standalone spinning, weaving, processing, home textiles and apparel companies.

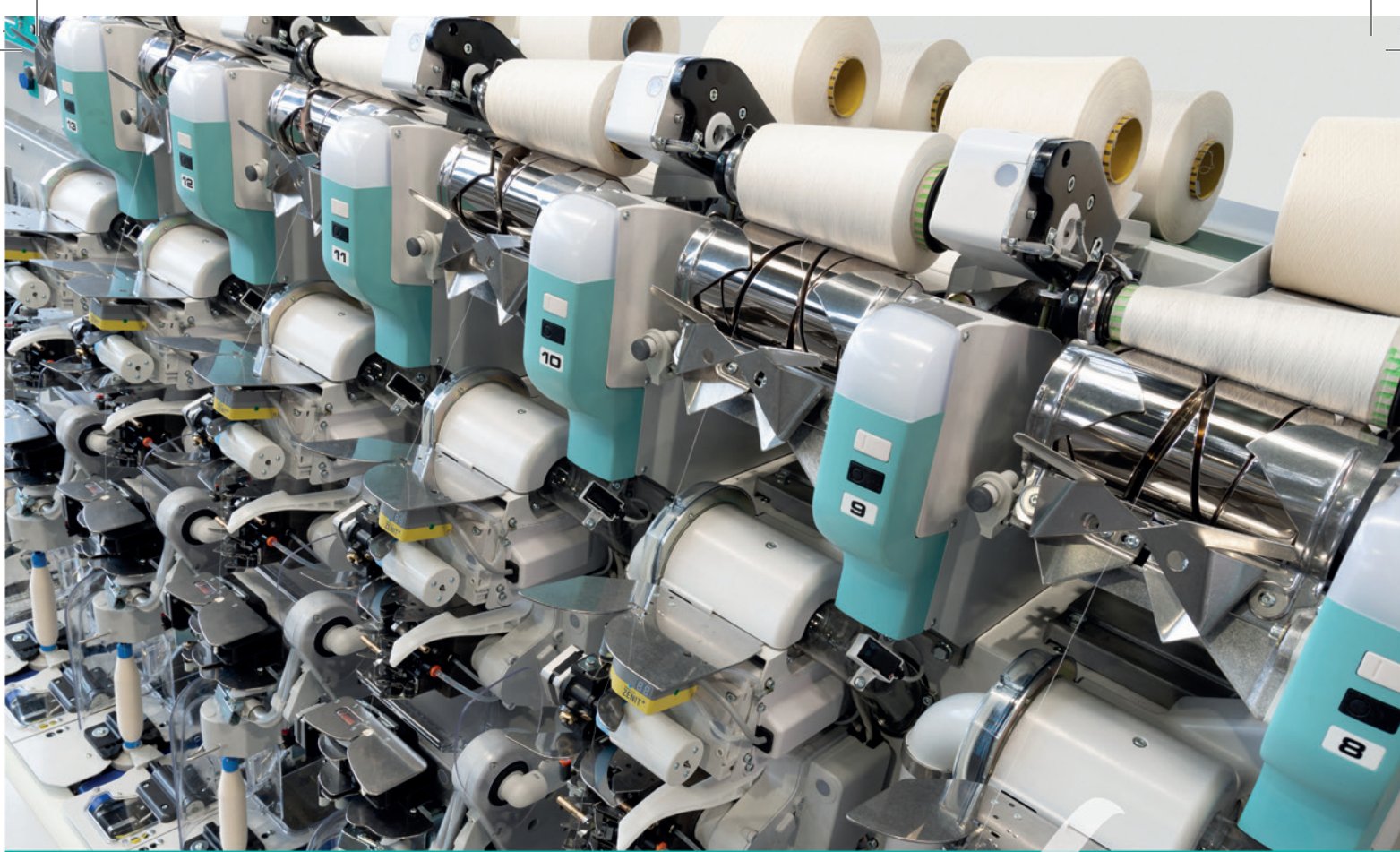
The Indian textile and apparel industry is highly diversified, is a major contributor to India's GDP and is also the second largest employer in the country, providing direct employment to 45 million people and 60 million people in allied industries. The Indian textile industry has strengths across the entire value chain from fibre, yarn, fabric, home textiles to apparels.

Post Covid, fashion brands and international buyers are showing great interest to focus on India as their preferred destination to source fashion goods and its right time to establish a platform to show our Indian textile manufacturing capabilities with SURE as a base. Indian textile entrepreneurs and clusters need a strong platform to connect with global audience and this platform will help to connect SMEs and brands.

The endeavor of this platform is to showcase the stories of change that provides an opportunity of cross learning for everyone in the industry.

"We already have stories pouring in from ITF members and we appeal to the textile entrepreneurs across India to share their unique journey and special achievements," says Mr. Prabhu Dhamodharan, Convenor, ITF.

ITF's #INDIAFORSURE initiative is aligned towards Government of India initiatives such as "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" to establish India as a most preferred destination for sourcing manufactured goods like fashion.



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U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol joins the Cotton 2040's platform and sustainability guide

Trust Protocol recognized for its verified farm-level data and constant improvement as Cotton 2040 aims to encourage the use of sustainable cotton



U.S. COTTON TRUST PROTOCOL SUSTAINABILITY

The U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol has been invited to join Cotton 2040. Convened by sustainability non-profit Forum for the Future, the Cotton 2040 coalition is a unique partnership that brings together representatives from standards, producers, brands and retailers, and existing industry initiatives specifically to build on and accelerate collective action to scale up and overcome barriers to sustainable cotton uptake across multiple standards.

The U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol is a new system for responsibly-grown cotton that provides annual data for six areas of sustainability aligned with the U.N. Sustainability Goals. This year-over-year data, available for the first time, allows brands and retailers to better measure progress towards meeting sustainability commitments.

The Trust Protocol also will be included in Cotton 2040's CottonUP guide, a toolkit to help sourcing directors make sustainable decisions. The CottonUP guide to sourcing sustainable cotton seeks to address one of the main barriers for companies looking to start sourcing or increase the amount of sustainable cotton they source: the time and resource required to research and implement the most appropriate sourcing approach for their organisation's sustainability priorities. The guide highlights the business case and main sourcing options for sustainable cotton, provides guidance on creating a sourcing strategy and on working with suppliers, and shares case studies from companies that have already navigated the complex challenges of sourcing more sustainable cotton.

"We are pleased to see the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol recognized by Cotton 2040 and listed on their CottonUP

guide," said Dr. Gary Adams, president of the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol. "The Trust Protocol is a unique tool for brands and retailers, and we will continue to partner with them in their efforts to demonstrate progress toward sustainability goals."

"The apparel sector is under huge pressure to reduce its social and environmental impact, and increasing demand for more sustainable fibres is key to securing future supply. The CottonUP guide addresses a long-standing need in the industry for clarity around cotton sourcing options, providing brands and retailers with the resources to help them go further, faster. It can be a key enabler for systemic change in the industry, and could be a blueprint for other commodities in the future," said Sally Uren, CEO at Forum for the Future. "We're happy to include the Trust Protocol as a new sustainability standard."

Cotton 2040's interactive CottonUP guide recognizes the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol as a sustainable cotton standard alongside BCI, CmiA, Fairtrade, myBMP, Organic and recycled cotton. The CottonUP toolkit is a comprehensive guide to help stakeholders within the cotton sector to navigate the complexity, and better understand the major sustainable cotton standards they could adopt, how they work, and select the best options for their business. Facilitated by sustainability non-profit Forum for the Future, with funding support from the Laudes Foundation, the Cotton 2040 envisages a sustainable global cotton industry which is resilient in a changing climate; uses business models that support sustainable production and livelihoods, and where sustainably-produced cotton is the norm. ♦

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India ITME Virtual Buyer Seller Meet, a global platform to bring back momentum in the textile industry

AI based technology to connect buyers and sellers

“A good cotton crop for the season combined with good markets for knits and woven goods have sprung growth to the spinning industry with a generally upward market trend. The whole textile chain has seen a positive trend month after month post lockdown.

- S.Harishankar, Chairman, India ITME Society

India ITME Society, a nonprofit apex industry body, has announced free Virtual Buyer Seller Meet (BSM) exclusively for India ITME 2021 Exhibitors on 4th & 5th December 2020. Since the flag ship textile machinery Exhibition “India ITME” scheduled in December 2020 had been postponed to 8th – 13th December 2021, in lieu of this postponed business event this interim Virtual Buyer Seller Meet is organized to bring back momentum to the networking & revitalize customer connect from the comfort of home / office. Meetings will be pre-fixed and both domestic and overseas buyers are confirming their interest for this unique opportunity to interact in a structured manner on their areas of priority.

“India ITME is the flagship state of the art exhibition of INDIA ITME Society that is conducted every 4 years. The Covid crisis simply has brought all large gatherings to a stand still for the time being. The INDIA ITME exhibition has regrettably had to be postponed to December 2021 as a result of the current epidemic,” states Mr S.Harishankar, Chairman, India ITME Society.

“Right now is the perfect opportunity for the India ITME Society to conduct this Virtual Global buyer/seller meet where we are able to facilitate a platform for networking when the market activity is strong; while at the same time face to face meetings is still prohibitive due to health and travel disruptions. Along with the virtual Buyer/Seller meet, various technical seminars with eminent global visionaries have been planned. India ITME Society strives to continue to push forward to inculcate information to young minds who are all craving for current/relevant information. Many technical institutions and formal learning has been impacted due to Covid



related restrictions,” he adds.

Revival signs

Mr.Harishankar observed that despite the setback caused by the Covid pandemic, things seem to be getting back on track, for the textile industry. According to him, the situation created by the global pandemic is a truly unique once in a century event, where in: there was a brutal slowdown to the whole economic system created by the twin shock: where both the production shut down and supply chain disruption created a massive blow at the same time.

“However, as the saying goes “crisis is also an opportunity”. It is remarkable that in just a short span of time, market revival has taken place in the

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textile sector. A good cotton crop for the season combined with good markets for knits and woven goods have sprung growth to the spinning industry with a generally upward market trend. The whole textile chain has seen a positive trend month after month post lockdown," he points out.

Restrictions on travel and personal meetings with clients, has brought with it a unique set of challenges to textile companies, with respect to connecting with its customers. However, Mr. Harishankar felt that companies have found out ways to stay connected. "Globally, companies have learnt to work efficiently through online meetings and Conference calls and this is much the same for the textile / textile machinery field. The pandemic has certainly taught us all the fine art of "time management" and the ability to utilise technology effectively. Strict Covid protocol is being followed in the manufacturing arena by following the local state and district jurisdiction guidelines. Sales or service calls by machinery/component manufacturers are also possible while ensuring strict social distancing guidelines. While it is still not possible to visit international clients face to face due to travel restrictions, but, that's where technology has really helped fill the void," he says on a positive note.

AI based technology

The buyer seller meet is for 2 days, with one day of technical seminar. The BSM will have 278 exhibitors from 18 countries. So far visitor registrations have been received from 31 countries. The technical seminar is expecting an audience of 1000+ for morning and afternoon session. Both the programs are offered fully complementary by India ITME Society with the intent of extending support to industry in this year of the Covid crisis.

"We hope the virtual BSM event shall provide the much needed platform for industry colleagues, business associates, suppliers and customers to connect and interact creating a stimulant and motivation for the upcoming new year," Mr. Harishankar says, before adding : " We also made an effort to bring to table most recent topics of interest for technical lecture and panel discussion allowing maximum industry members to catch up on latest information since this year many training programs and workshops could not be held. Sustainability is going to be key for growth in business in coming years and efficient manufacturing strategies while catering to varied customers is another brain storming topic for all textile manufacturers. "

For the first time, India ITME is using AI based technology to help exhibitors and visitors connect on a virtual platform. Explaining how this works, Mr. Harishankar mentions: " AI match making was offered to ITME BSM participants to ensure convenience and efficient virtual event and maximum exposure to every participant within his/her log-in time frame. In a virtual event, where members are connecting over from homes or workplace, a well informed and planned itinerary shall increase efficiency of interactions as well reduce online fatigue. What we offer participants are, meeting recommendations based on their profile, business interest and objective of attending ITME BSM using AI based on the information from registration form submitted by them. A matched itinerary with option to select your

convenient time shall help everybody to be focused during discussion and obtain optimum utilization of personal log-in time. "

Going into the key reasons for textile companies to exhibit their products in the meet and for industry professionals to visit the virtual show, the Chairman of the India ITME Society pointed out that a time when live exhibitions cannot be conducted due to the logistical restrictions in place, this virtual platform is a great opportunity for companies to showcase their latest innovations and network virtually with prospective clients across the globe.

"There has never been a moment in time where technology is as relevant simply because we've learnt to adapt and simplify the "networking" protocol," Mr. Harishankar says.

Learning initiatives

Elaborating on how the India ITME Society adapted its activities post March lockdown period to fulfil its objectives and goals for the year, Mr. Harishankar reveals: " It is my great satisfaction to share with readers that India ITME Society did not falter in its responsibilities even during the lockdown. Our secretariat adapted fast and team worked from home. We conducted joint seminar with ITC on Business opportunity in Africa in the month of June 2020. Besides, under "Nurture the future" program ITME Society supported education and students by coordinating internship and placement for students with Industry. This activity was coordinated successfully in May 2020 when students were facing tough time in getting internship and placement due to lockdown. ITME Society succeeded in getting international internship for students of VJTI providing an opportunity for 3 students to work with International Trade Centre-UN, Africa. "

"This activity was successful due to the much appreciated cooperation from Industry members who came together with goodwill and magnanimity to support our next generation. The industry leaders and companies which participated in this exercise are Mr. Aras & Mr. Navin Agarwal - A.T.E, Mr. Updeep Singh- Sutlej Textile Industries, Mr. Harishankar-LCC, Mr. Ketan Shanghai- Laxmi looms, Mr. Ashok Juneja-TAI, Mr. Dipesh Shah- GIFT city, Dr. Rajat Srivastava-EEPC, Mr. N.K. Brahmachari-Amritlakshmi Machine works, Mr. Vikas Saran- Saurer Textile Solution, Mr. Avinash Mayekar- Suvin Advisors, Mr. Yogendra Vora-Tecogis, Mr. Nitin Poddar- J. Sagar Associates, Ms. Pradnya Ponshe- MCCIA, Ms. Carolin Averbach-ITC, Kenya. Apart from coordinating the internship drive, India ITME Society also accepted two VJTI students for internship and intend to continue the tradition in future as well," he said while highlighting some of the initiatives of the society during the recent past.

Mr. Harishankar felt that for the robust future of the textile industry, strong education, exposure to latest technology, and learning experience are all absolute necessity. He added that through its various events and programs, the India ITME Society shall continue to diligently execute its responsibilities in supporting all round growth and success of textile and textile engineering industry of our great nation in all possible ways. ♦



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ELGi North America opens new headquarters

Employees in attendance at the ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrate the new location and reinforcement of ELGi's presence in North Carolina

Elgi Equipments Limited, one of the world's leading air compressor manufacturers, inaugurated the company's new, expanded North American headquarters, located in Charlotte, NC.

The event that held last Friday, November 20th was attended by ELGi employees and included speeches by David Puck, President, ELGi North America and, Dr. Jairam Varadaraj, Managing Director, Elgi Equipments Ltd. Puck and Dr. Varadaraj cut the ribbon to officially mark the business's relocation from Continental Blvd. to a larger space on Entrance Drive.

"2020 has been a year of change for so many companies. For ELGi, our forward momentum has never wavered and it meant spending time relocating to a facility that would allow us to further expand our air compressor business and create additional jobs in the community," said David Puck, President, ELGi North America.

"ELGi has worked diligently to be at this juncture, requiring more facility and manufacturing space, even in the light of business effects the pandemic has brought to the country. We are excited to be here, on the cusp of ELGi's 60th anniversary moving into a large, expanded space where we can further facilitate the manufacture and delivery of air compressors," said Dr. Jairam Varadaraj, Managing Director, Elgi Equipments Ltd.

A pioneer in cutting edge compressed air technology with presence across 120+ countries, ELGi offers customers across the world a complete range of compressed air solutions from oil-lubricated and oil-free rotary screw compressors, oil-lubricated and oil-free reciprocating com-



pressors and centrifugal compressors to dryers, filters, and downstream accessories. With state of the art manufacturing units and a product portfolio of 400+ compressed air systems, ELGi redefines reliability, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness across 2+ million installations globally. In 2019, ELGi won the Deming Award for excellence in Total Quality Management, becoming the first global air-compressor manufacturer, to have won the prestigious award in over sixty years.




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Strategic partnership between **Rieter** and **WW Systems**



The Rieter Group has concluded a license agreement with WW systems on November 5, 2020 and will integrate the Brazilian company's promising product into its digital spinning suite ESSENTIAL. "OptCotton" from WW System offers the only software system worldwide that enables an even blend of cotton for the spinning process. With this cooperation, Rieter is taking an important step forward in implementing its digital strategy and offering its customers further added value in yarn production.

Unlike any other system in the market today, "OptCotton" eliminates variations in quality between cotton blends

that are being prepared for the spinning process. In this way, standardized quality yarn can be produced efficiently in the spinning process. From the arrival of the bales in the warehouse to their use in the blowroom line, "OptCotton" manages the entire blending process with no need for categorization. This results in increased efficiency in storage and logistics, as well as machine performance.

Integration into the digital spinning suite ESSENTIAL By integrating this solution, Rieter strengthens its digital spinning suite ESSENTIAL. Access to bale-related fiber data and raw material information opens up new possibilities for controlling the spinning mill. In combination with the existing modules ESSENTIALbasic, ESSENTIALmonitor, ESSENTIALmaintain and ESSENTIALpredict, this optimizes the entire spinning process and raises digital intelligence to a new level.

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Bangladesh Textile & RMG Sectors receive US \$ 256 mn from global Green Climate Fund

Global Green Climate Fund (GCF) has granted aid worth US \$ 256 mn to the textile and ready-made garment (RMG) sectors in Bangladesh. The aim is to encourage private sector investment in ushering in energy enhancing technologies and equipment in the two segments.

In their 27th board, the GCF has approved over US \$ 1 bn in total to release to the developing countries to usher in and encourage low emission, and climate resilient development. The meeting also adopted the Updated Strategic Plan for the GCF 2020-23.

Of the total 16 projects that were awarded the funds, Bangladesh was one of the few other countries. Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) is the direct access entity (DAE) of the GCF and will receive the funds as concessional loan for a tenure of 20 years.

Fatima Yasmin – Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance says: "IDCOL can be a national role model for developing climate change responsive commercial projects in the country."

Dr. Rubana Haq – President, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA) congratulates: "Access to such concessional financing, and adoption of energy efficient equipment will make it affordable for the businessmen to do business and will further strengthen the competitive edge of Bangladesh RMG sector."

Abdullah Al Mamun – VP, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) feels: "The approval of the fund will accelerate industrial growth on the sustainable path."

Mahmood Malik – Executive Director & CEO, IDCOL Bangladesh states: "This funding allows us to fulfill our SDGs. It is a remarkable success for Idcol."



Dr. Rubana Haq, President, BGMEA

The textile and the RMG segments account for roughly 38% of the total energy consumption in the industrial sector of Bangladesh.

According to IDCOL, US \$ 100 mn out of the total amount will finance energy efficiency projects in the textile sector and US \$ 150 mn will get to finance the same kind of projects but in the RMG segment.




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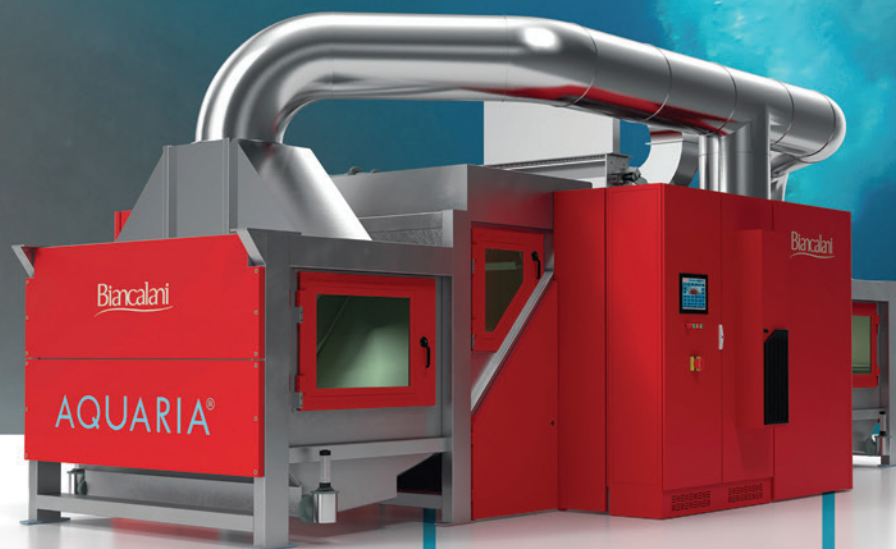





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MATEX

leads the way to make industries more independent

Matex is a company that deals in a wide array of textile and machinery solutions for clients. The company acts as a bridge between international resources and Indian clients. In this interview, Raghav Agarwalla, Managing Director, Matex, talks about the philosophy behind the formation of the company, his plans, and more



Raghav Agarwalla, Managing Director of Matex

EXCLUSIVE

A business journey can at times be a fascinating one, as has been in the case of Matex which was established 40 years ago by Raghav Agarwalla's father Anand Agarwalla and his uncle Brij Bindal. When Matex started its operations in the Eighties, the primary focus of the founders was to provide the best in machinery from all over the world to their clients all over India. Japan and Europe were a few of the countries with whom Matex started working during the initial stage. The company managed to bring in esteemed principals such as Toyota, Nissan and Marubeni. In that sense, Matex has dealt in a variety of plant projects and textile machineries right from its early days.

According to Raghav Agarwalla, Managing Director, Matex, during that time all that the foreign industries were looking for was potential long-term partners in India. The wish of the foreign giants was to collaborate with trustworthy Indian partners who were capable enough to represent their brand in the country. Moreover, the foreign clients wanted partners who would not only understand their products but their philosophy too. For example, when it is dealing with a company such as Toyota, Matex makes sure that the Indian partner speaks in a local language that the people here understand. However, the concept of selling, backup and more should maintain the Japanese touch.

In this context, Agarwalla says that there are times when the philosophies of the principal and Matex do not match. In that case, they refrain from going into any type of tie-up with such organisations. 'It is essential to mention that there is no fault of the country in these cases because it is just a clash of philosophies. Matex has always kept its primary focus on the quality of products irrespective of whether they are from Japan, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Spain or others,' he says.

Right Leadership

Presently, Agarwalla is taking the legacy of his predecessors forward. He has already been in the business for a decade and hopes to see Matex at the top shortly. Agarwalla is 35-years old with a clear focus and excellent understanding of the industry. He is a mechanical engineer and an MBA in Marketing. Moreover, his work experience with Curtiss Wright (USA) helps him identify new opportunities in the textile and machinery field with a more nuanced eye.

Brilliant Portfolio

For the past four decades, Matex has only become better at what it does. The primary focus of Matex right now is the textile industry, especially the weaving, spinning and processing segments. However, now the spinning wing of the company has become smaller with India becoming more independent in the manufacturing department. Due to the increasing demand of the market, Matex is now also focusing on air-jet technology and machinery. It is a comparatively large sector in India. Moreover, there is a



Vevey, Switzerland, 1819: François-Louis Cailler invents the now-familiar **tablet format for chocolate**. His simple idea makes chocolate available and **affordable worldwide**. Today, **one billion** Swiss-made chocolate bars are produced each year.



lot of scope in this industry to evolve, modify and change. Besides, for all the principal companies, Matex has never had a focus on sales only. Instead, it is a healthy combination of sales along with all the after-sales services.

Moreover, Matex believes in maintaining a long-term relationship with all its clients. In this context, Agarwalla says, "The textile industry is a sector where there is no one-time order. You have to connect with the customer for long periods because they would come back to you for service." And the fact that some machines run all the time makes them prone to technical issues at times. These are times when the customer requires a certain level of expertise and providing after-sales service is, therefore, a primary part of the portfolio of Matex. Toyota's air-jet looms are manufactured 100% in Japan, which is also one of the primary long-term associates of Matex.

A few of the other principals of the company include Todo Seisakusho (Japan) that deals in knotting machine, leasing machine and material handling equipment. Another Japan-based giant that has a tie-up with Matex is Zuiko. This company is into manufacturing machines for producing sanitary napkins, baby and adult diapers and face masks. Last but not least, there is Shima Sheiki (Japan) for the fantastic Apex-T design system to support the customers' fabric designing department as well as the weaving department in tandem. In Europe, the company's principals include Cubotex for hank, yarn, fibre, tow, top and pantyhose dyeing; Alea for hot air dryers suitable for fibre, tow and hanks; Testa for packing automation and inspection; and Macchine Caru for textile finishing systems.

These are all Italian brands along with which there is a Turkish partner, Ides Makina, another contributor in the soft flow dyeing sector. The top Indian clients of Matex in India include Shahi Exports, Vardhaman Group, Siyaram Silk Mills, Trident Textiles, LNJ Group, Pee Vee Textiles, Nahar and Oswal, Alok Industries and Himatsingka Seide Ltd., amongst several others. Altogether, including the accessories, 25-30 companies are part of the business portfolio of Matex. In the course of the interview, Agarwalla mentions that dealing in yarns or garments is still not a part of their portfolio. However, there are plans to diversify in the future.

Achievements and Future Goals

As Agarwalla puts it, "For us more than getting an award is when a principal wants to stick with you for four decades. It means that there is something right about the company and the philosophy which we follow. Along with that, customers rewarding us with repeat orders what we strive for." According to him, happy clients and goodwill is the reward that Matex works for. When it comes to plans, apart from participating in the ITME exhibition in December 2021, Matex is planning to expand its base across different regions of India.

Agarwalla is proud that Matex is a part of the 'Make in India' movement and is setting examples for several other organisations. His vision for the company is to be the first choice of clients in the field of textile machinery and technology in the coming five years. Besides, diversifying in the existing sectors is, of course, a priority, and Agarwalla believes that there is a lot of potential in the country for growth and development. ♦

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Lamiflex origins are inextricably linked to carbon fiber. With over 40 years of expertise in the field of composite materials, Lamiflex is a leading producer of **key components** for a wide range of **rapier weaving machines**, including best-in-class **flexible tapes** and **sprocket wheels**, with the guarantee of the highest quality of **100% Made in Italy products**.



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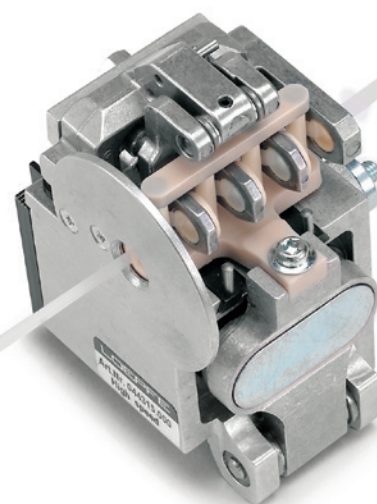
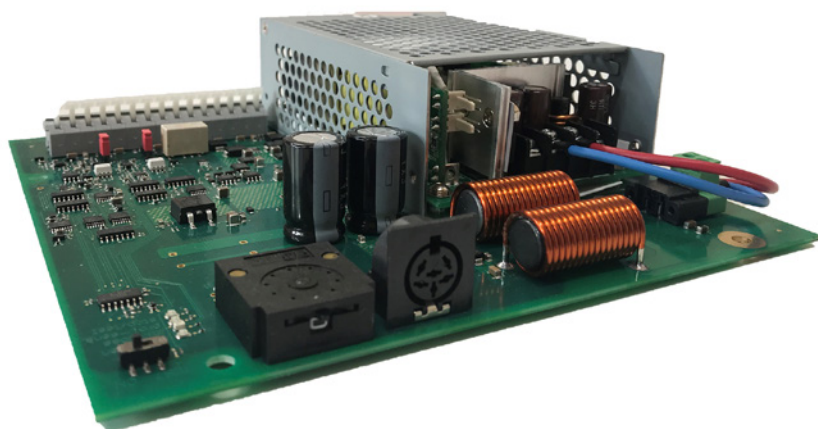
Redesigning our future - The new WeftMaster SFB from LOEPFE

Have you ever wondered how your parcels arrive safely? We know the answer! E-commerce has gained ground worldwide and – it's here to stay. Warehouses and trucks are working hard to ensure that a whole variety of goods are not only available for customers, but also that they are shipped in the fastest possible way. In this hectic online shopping world, tarpaulins are all around us.

Protecting goods from adverse weather and other factors helps to ensure satisfied end-customers. Loepfe's WeftMaster SFB-L yarn brake is the perfect system for producing these coated technical fabrics on projectile and rapier looms in the most economical way.

The WeftMaster SFB weft brake has been in use on projectile and rapier weaving machines worldwide for many years. Since its foundation in 1955, Loepfe has been a reliable, expert partner to the weaving industry. Loepfe remains totally committed to the further development of its various weaving products. For instance, the control electronics for the SFB weft brake were recently redesigned for the future. The new electronics can now control 4 brakes instead of the previous 3, which saves space and simplifies the brake deceleration setting. In addition, the inputs are now also galvanically isolated.

Projectile looms are designed for the production of a wide variety of fabrics and are considered to be space-saving, especially when producing heavy fabrics. Thus applications are almost endless, especially in the field of technical textiles. The focus is always on the high quality requirements of the various end-products. Especially when yarns with low tensile strength are used, weft tension is a decisive parameter. Too much stretching can lead to uneven fabrics or in the worst case, to weft thread brakes, which lead to expensive machine stoppages. Therefore, a constant, even weft thread is essential for all yarn types.



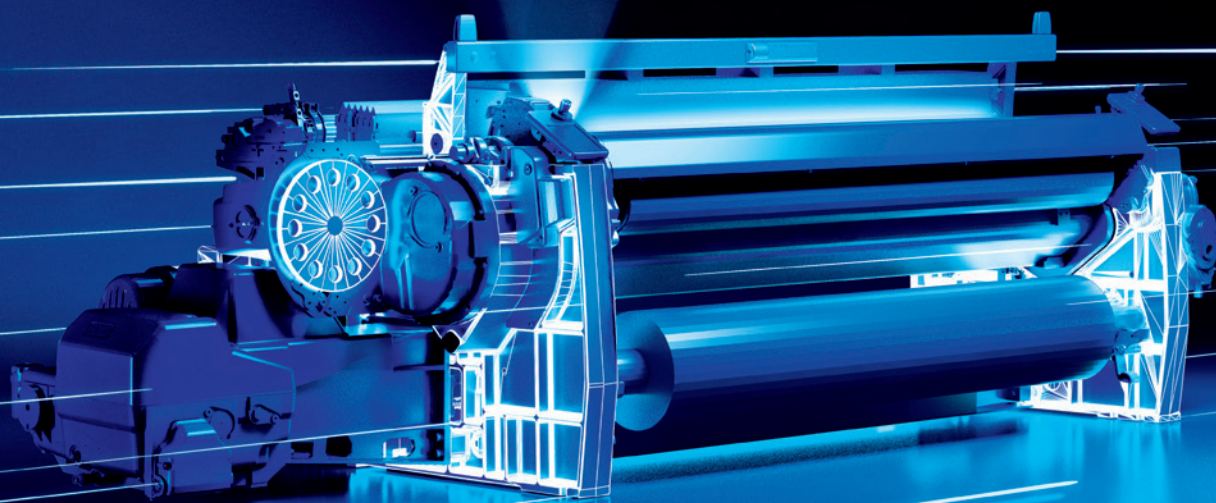
By using the WeftMaster SFB electronic weft thread brake, the number of weft breaks can be reduced by at least 50%. Its use pays off for the weaving mills within a very short time and significantly improves the quality of the fabric. Every weft break is a potential source of error (including start-up faults, the formation of stripes, etc.).

The WeftMaster SFB weft brake is in use for the production of:

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- Microphone filters for mobile phones
- Speaker filters for mobile phones
- Carbon fiber fabrics for auto parts
- Carpet backing
- Bigbags
- Potato bag fabrics
- Silk fabrics for underwear
- Wool fabrics for suits

The requirements of the different fabrics are highly varied and weaving mills often depend on individual solutions. In this awareness, Loepfe offers its customers suitable solutions for all types of projectile and rapier weaving machines. Furthermore weaving mills can always count on the straightforward and quick assistance of Loepfe experts. ♦

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SAFETY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Strategy to drive success in post Covid scenario for the textile industry

On 3rd December, a day prior to BSM, India ITME is organising a Virtual Technical Seminar which is expected to be attended by over 1000 industry from across the world. The topic is Safety and Sustainability - Strategy to drive success in post Covid scenario for the textile industry. The webinar will be moderated by Dr. Christian Schindler, Director General, International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF).

An impressive array of speakers will be deliberating on the topic on the occasion. The speakers in the panel include Mr. Uday Gill, CEO, Fibres, Indorama Ventures, Mr. Manohar Samuel, Advisor - Sustainability, Grasim Industries, Aditya Birla Group, Mr. Karun Tyagi, Vice President, Proklean and Mr. Anuj Bhagwati, Head, A.T.E. Group.

We caught up with Dr. Schindler for an exclusive chat during which he gave an insight into the relevance of the topic in the present scenario, the road ahead for the textile industry and the key takeaways for the participants.

Here are the edited excerpts.

Sharing his views on the importance of safety and sustainability for the textile industry, Dr. Schindler pointed out that safety is indeed an aspect that has become very important since the outbreak of the pandemic.

Elaborating why it is so he says: "While initially this aspect was limited to masks and PPE, health and safety aspects will play a more important role in the future. The pandemic is therefore not only a challenge to textile companies but is also offering new possibilities. This demonstrates that functional aspects of textiles will play a more important role in the future. Textiles that provide additional value and benefits offer new possibilities whether as medical textiles, functional textiles, geotextiles, transportation textiles, home textiles, etc. With the advancement of incorporating functions in textiles through finishes or mechanically, like for example, measuring temperatures, pressures, humidity, etc. textiles will find new applications. This will require textile companies to work together with traditional up- and down-stream partners in the textile value chain but also with new partners from chemical, electronic or IT-companies."

As the Director General of ITMF, which is an organisation of global textile manufacturers, how is the association and member companies handling the challenge of providing consumers safe and sustainable textiles?

Highlighting the steps that have been taken Dr.Schindler reveals: "At the beginning of the pandemic the focus was on providing enough quantity of essential safety and health products like masks and PPE. The suppliers of such products were concentrated heavily in China. Fortunately, these suppliers were able to ramp up production and to meet the enormous demand around the world. The 5th ITMF-Corona Survey revealed that around 35% of textile companies started from scratch producing either input material and/or finished medical textiles. In other words, many companies saw the demand and adapted quickly. Since this demand is going to stay for the foreseeable future, companies will continue to serve this market. Beyond increasing capacities of these essential products in the region, they are also developing products that offer certain functions."

Way forward for the textile industry

Dr.Schindler feels that sustainability is another aspect that is and will remain an integral part of the discussion going forward, while adding that



Dr. Christian Schindler, ITMF Director General

climate change is a global challenge which the textile industry must face head on.

"Innovation across all segments of the value chain are necessary. Whatever will be produced in the future must also meet sustainable aspects whether this relates to the type of sustainable energy is used, the amount of pollution that is caused, the type of fibre that is used, the way products can be recycled, etc. Consumers and governments across the globe are increasing the pressure on manufacturers to produce sustainably. Adapting today is a necessity. Realizing that meeting these requirements is not a burden but offers cost reduction and new products is key," he adds.

Dr.Schindler observed that participants in the seminar had a lot to gain, since they will be listening to a very knowledgeable team of speakers in the panel discussion.

"The speakers will shed light on the future of the textile industry post-Covid. From different perspectives, they will be able to highlight on-going development and efforts to meet the demand of the future. Fibre, textile, textile machinery and other producers within the textile value chain are sharing their perspective on how the long-term trends will impact the textile industry and what this means for the future of textile production," he says in conclusion. ♦

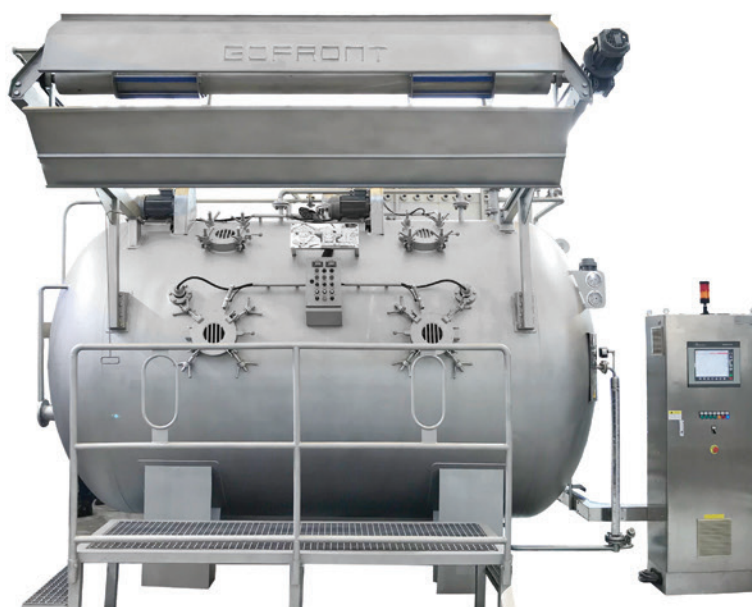
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LAMIFLEX growing its base in the Indian market



Davide Carrara, Lamiflex's Sales Director

Lamiflex, founded in 1976, is a leading global provider of advanced composite materials solutions. Part of Iteima Group since 2017, Lamiflex is engaged in further boosting a longstanding tradition of excellence in its sectors, leveraging on the new synergies derived from the cooperation between the two companies. Lamiflex's Sales Director Davide Carrara provides insights into their glorious journey so far and also shares details about their growing dominance in India

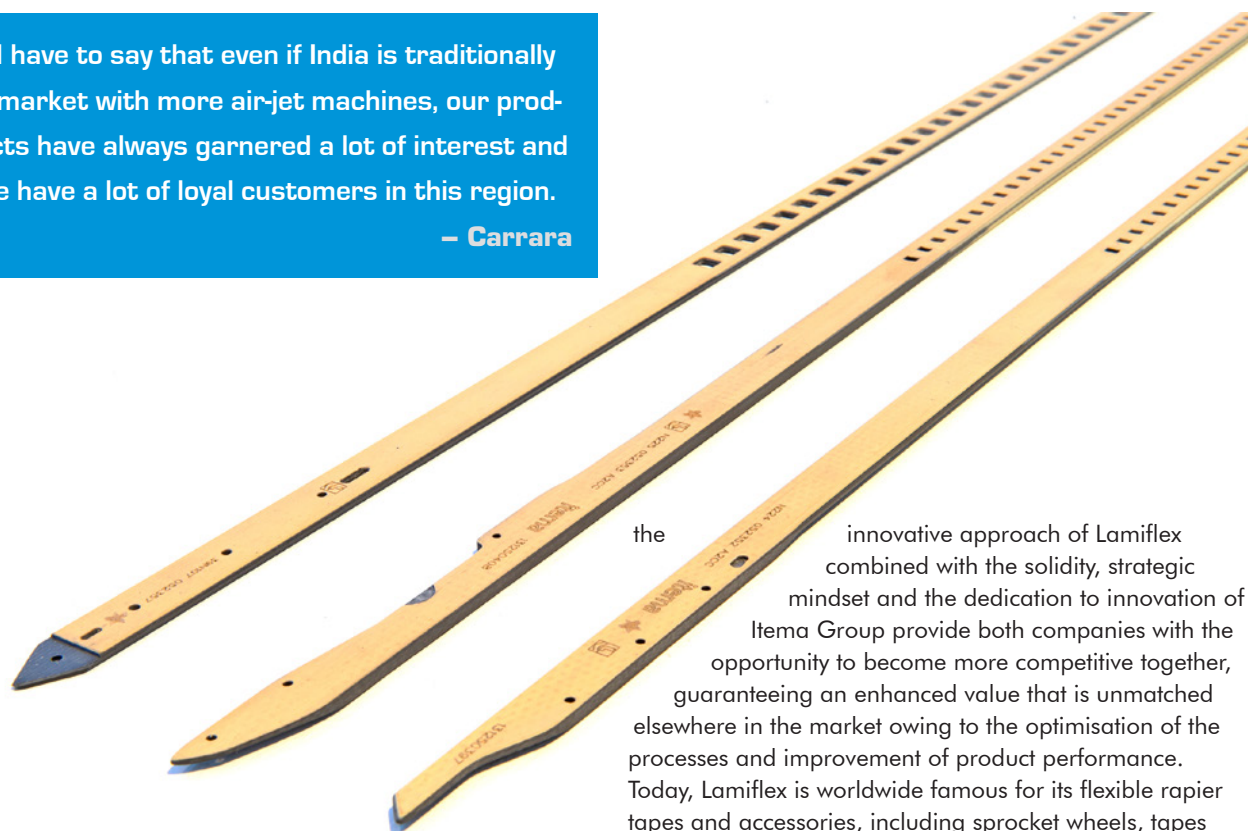
The core business of Lamiflex focuses on key components for rapier weaving machinery such as flexible rapier tapes and sprocket wheels and that is also what they started with. Lamiflex was born as a textile mill in the Seriana Valley, worldwide famous as the cradle of the Italian textile industry. It was established by Davide Carrara's mother Luigina Bernini and Luigi Castelli. To increase the company's productivity, the Italian company chose to invest in rapier looms, but had to face a technical problem: the nylon rapier tapes melted easily when the looms were running at high speeds. And that's how everything started. Luigina and Luigi, interestingly, introduced the first composite tape that, thanks to a cotton structure combined with phenolic resin, was able to bear the highest speed with no risks.

Entrepreneurial Journey

The entrepreneurial vision of the two mill owners, fully aware of the potential of the

“I have to say that even if India is traditionally a market with more air-jet machines, our products have always garnered a lot of interest and we have a lot of loyal customers in this region.

– Carrara



the innovative approach of Lamiflex combined with the solidity, strategic mindset and the dedication to innovation of Itema Group provide both companies with the opportunity to become more competitive together, guaranteeing an enhanced value that is unmatched elsewhere in the market owing to the optimisation of the processes and improvement of product performance. Today, Lamiflex is worldwide famous for its flexible rapier tapes and accessories, including sprocket wheels, tapes openers, grippers and supports.

Scope in India

Lamiflex has a strong presence in traditional rapier markets such as China, Turkey, India and Italy and Europe. Says Carrara: “I have to say that even if India is traditionally a market with more air-jet machines, our products have always garnered a lot of interest and we have a lot of loyal customers in this region.” What allows Lamiflex’s products to truly stand out is its deep and wide know-how on composite products and related manufacturing technologies.

emerging market of composite products, completely revolutionised the rapier weaving machinery world forever, taking Lamiflex to the pinnacle of the textile industry today with a turnover of more than Euro 20 million per year, more than 100 employees in Italy and Hong Kong, and a global network of distributors. But Lamiflex did not stop there. Over the past few years, the Italian company, based in Ponte Nossa, has diversified into different sectors, taking advantage of the technical know-how on composite products acquired over these 40 years.

Collaborative Effort

Lamiflex boasts of the widest technological in-house availability on the market, from pultrusion and pullwinding to wrapping, RTM and many others. In 2017, the company joined Itema Group to maximise market efficiency and competitive strength. Together, the two Italian companies work on a co-engineering platform to develop innovative solutions to make the lives of the weavers easier and to help them get the most out of their looms. Itema Group and Lamiflex aim to jointly develop and produce highly innovative and high-tech solutions, not only for the textile machinery industry but also for a wider range of industries.

The long-term vision, the forward-thinking mission and





"We have been working in this field for over 40 years and we feature the widest range of manufacturing technologies available on the market. We guarantee our customers the best quality thanks to the highest standards of 'Made in Italy' products," Carrara states.

"And thanks to our global network of agents and distributors we can satisfy customers in any corner of the world. Moreover, the experience gained by working in such diverse markets is a key advantage to develop tailor-made solutions according to our customers' needs. Beside this, the internalisation of the production processes and research and development, along with a globally widespread network of distributors, makes it possible to have short lead time to satisfy every request in a fast and reliable way," he adds. Carrara envisions huge scope of growth in the Indian market on account of the fact that an increasing number of Indian mills are investing in new factories. Records suggest great sales of high-speed looms such as the bestseller rapier machine from Itema – R9500 – and its second generation – R9500-2.

Post Pandemic Possibilities of Growth

Lamiflex participated in ITMA 2019 Textile and Garment Technology Exhibition. The exhibition was a success and generated leads and important new contacts for the company thanks also to the synergies with Itema Group. At the trade fair, Lamiflex launched with Itema Group the iBOOSTER. Developed for weavers who want to work extremely fast, the package literally boosts a machine's performance without compromising reliability. Thanks to a deep material study made by Itemalab® in close cooperation with Lamiflex, Itema Group and Lamiflex succeeded in developing new reinforced tapes, sprocket wheels and micro smart coolers to ensure extended lifetime.

With Lamiflex based in North Italy, and in particular in the province of Bergamo which was highly affected by the corona virus outbreak, the company had to close for some weeks as required by the Italian government in order to prevent the virus from spreading further. "When we had the authorisation to restart our activities we implemented the same stringent safety protocols introduced within all the Itema Group companies with the aim of protecting the health of our employees and their families. Despite the difficult situation across Europe, we attracted good response from many of its countries," Carrara informs.

"Unluckily, the second wave is still hitting hard many of our strategic markets, but we are working to find new ways to reach our customers and to make them feel supported even if we cannot be physically close to them. We want them to be sure that we are always ready to respond to their needs," he adds. Carrara strongly hopes that the second half of 2021 will be characterised by an improvement in the overall global situation and that the company will emerge stronger and with new competence developed in managing this unpredictable and never-seen-before situation.

"Regarding the Indian market, we see a very big opportunity. We need to develop fresh approaches and strategies to adapt to the new scenario derived from the pandemic. We will do all the needful to continue to support the growth of Indian textile sector and to always keep as a priority the requirements of our customers in India as well as all over the world," he adds. And while textile components for rapier weaving machinery will continue to be a priority, Carrara says that other areas and sectors will be explored too, including composite solutions for medical applications and aerospace. ♦



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Strategic Relocation of **AVGOL's** SMMS and Additional Meltblown Lines to India

In a strategic investment move, the global leader in non-woven fabric, Avgol, increases its capacity in South Asia by relocating its SMMS and an additional meltblown lines to India. The Israeli company is part of Indorama Ventures Limited and leads the global hygiene market with the most comprehensive range of ultra-lightweight spun-melt nonwoven fabrics.

Currently, the relocation of the 5 production lines from Barkan, Israel is underway with the expected deadline for completion of the installation set for the end of 2021.

Speaking about the move, Shachar Rachim, CEO – Avgol says: "This is part of our company's commitment to continue increasing our presence and services across India and South Asia. This establishes our facility right at the heart of the local market. There is a huge demand locally for hygiene products in India and across the South Asian region but going by the massive tariffs on imports, this move works positively for us."



"This is part of our company's commitment to continue increasing our presence and services across India and South Asia. This establishes our facility right at the heart of the local market. There is a huge demand locally for hygiene products in India and across the South Asian region but going by the massive tariffs on imports, this move works positively for us."

– Shachar Rachim, CEO – Avgol

Increasing Demand

The demand currently stands at 165% as against the local supply capacity, according to Rachim. He attributes the relocation to the projections that show regional organic growth, improved promotion on feminine health and increased awareness of hygiene owing to the COVID pandemic.

The hygiene segment, including baby diapers, adult incontinence and feminine hygiene products, is one where locally 'the demand is only going to go up'.

The investment in the new production capacity in India is a step in the direction of supporting Avgol's product development efforts under the company's Forward Innovative Thinking (FIT™) strategy. The company consistently invests in its R&D to continue to create value, flexibility, sustainability and reliability for brands and manufacturers.

With this relocation, Avgol aims to increase nonwoven fabric production and be in a strategic location to serve the increasing needs of the Indian subcontinent in the future. ♦



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The LYCRA Company appoints Rishi Suri as South Asia Export Market Business Development Director

The LYCRA Company, a global leader in developing innovative fibres and technology solutions for the apparel industry, has appointed Rishi Suri as Business Development Director for South Asia Export Market, a new position created to strengthen the company's presence in the region.

As Business Development Director, Rishi will focus on value chain management across South Asia, especially India, as it is a focal point for The LYCRA Company's global downstream organization and South Asian mills. Facilitating business activity between the South Asia, EMEA, and U.S. teams, he will be responsible for helping to drive increased downstream brand specification while also focused on generating topline fibre sale growth.

Rishi has over 20-year working experience in multinational organizations, Indian corporations, family-owned businesses and start-ups that operate across the global apparel/textile value chain. He has broad experience in Greenfield projects, team building, market development and innovation commercialization. Rishi joined The LYCRA Company in 2009 as Regional Business Head - South Asia where he was responsible for topline growth. In 2015, he moved to a global ready-to-wear market segment role and drove fabric technology innovations including LYCRA® dualFX® technology in the woven segment. His core strength has been working and nurturing ideas that create value for all the business stakeholders.

Rishi is uniquely placed in this new role to drive development of significant



export business opportunities given his expertise in the commercial and technical sides of our business, as well as his entrepreneurial mindset and strong regional sourcing network. ♦

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"Lot Size 1 – The wish to make it right for all customers"

– A dilemma for every manufacturer

India ITME Society, has announced free Virtual Buyer Seller Meet (BSM) exclusively for India ITME 2021 Exhibitors on 4th & 5th December 2020. Since the flag ship textile machinery Exhibition "India ITME" scheduled in December 2020 had been postponed to 8th – 13th December 2021, in lieu of this postponed business event this interim Virtual Buyer Seller Meet is organized to bring back momentum to the networking & revitalize customer connect from the comfort of home / office.



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Yves-Simon Gloy

On 3rd December, a day prior to BSM, India ITME is organising a Virtual Technical Seminar which is expected to be attended by over 1000 industry professionals from across the world. As part of the technical seminar, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Yves-Simon Gloy will be conducting the Knowledge Session on the topic "Lot Size 1 – The Wish to Make It Right for All Customers".

Prof. Gloy studied mechanical engineering with a specialization in textile mechanical engineering at RWTH Aachen, France and Canada. After receiving his diploma, he did his doctorate at the RWTH Aachen Institute for Textile Technology on the subject of "Self-optimization in the weaving process". Then he did research as a post-doc at the institute. Most recently, he was a member of the ITA's executive board, where he heads the textile machinery / production technology division. During 2018-2019 Prof. Gloy worked as Managing Scientific Director at the Saxon Textile Research Institute (STFI) in Chemnitz. At the RWTH Aachen, he habilitated in 2019 on the topic "Industry 4.0 in

textile technology". He is also active in numerous committees and as an expert. He is an Adjunct Prof at Clemson University in South Carolina, USA. He is the author of over 260 specialist articles. Since 2020 he has been active as a senior consultant for Gherzi van Delden GmbH, Chemnitz and as an entrepreneur is dedicated to the topic of Production on Demand in Berlin.

In an exclusive chat, Prof. Gloy spoke in detail about how changing customer preferences and the relevance of the Lot Size 1 approach for the textile industry.

Here are the edited excerpts.

Beginning the interaction by offering an overview of the topic and how it impacts the textile industry, Prof Gloy explains: "In order to produce textiles economically and successfully, modern and highly efficient means of production are usually used. Air jet looms z. For example, rattle easily at 1400 rpm in continuous operation. These means of production along the textile chain function in the sense of an economies of scale. A planning-oriented approach is



Performance optimization services boost mill efficiency and reduce yarn production cost to give customers a competitive advantage. They help customers unleash the full potential of their spinning mills by offering short to mid-term solutions with immediate results and long-term perspectives.

often used as a basis: centralized knowledge management and a strong use of resources. It's about synchronized processes, standardized products and high-frequency production."

"Lot size 1 runs counter to this approach. The means of production should be able to produce an individualized product every time. A lot of article changes and set-up times are associated with this.

Production scientists speak of an economies of scope. It's about aspects like one price flow, flexibility, dynamic and more complex product creation processes. This is often based on a value orientation approach: decentralized near-process decision making, elimination of waste, standardized methods," he adds.

"Both approaches are justified and offer advantages and disadvantages. It will be interesting to overcome this polylemma in the production of textiles and to manufacture them in batch size 1 using mass production methods. So, this promises to combine the advantages of the approaches."

Lot Size 1 is the complete opposite of mass production. Does Prof. Gloy think the change is already taking place? Answering in the affirmative he says: "Yes, it is already taking place. Companies are experimenting with the best way to resolve this polylemma. E.g. adidas with this approach has Storefactory - knit for you or MyZXFLux. Recently H&M jumped on this concept and is experimenting with individual denim production."

"All these implementations are accompanied by adaptations to the means of production in an evolutionary way. In production planning, product design and customer interaction, digitization and Industry 4.0 solutions are more and more used. As always, it is interesting to take a look at other industries. There are very successful solutions in the automotive or food (mymuesli) sector," he pointed out.

Driving factors

Elaborating on what is driving the need for such a change in production and consumption of textiles and apparels, Prof. Gloy reveals: "A big driver in B2C is the great desire to express individuality. In many cultures around the world, this is a strong value and driving force of the respective society. A nice example of this are row houses in Germany, which initially look more or less the same as desired. But as if by magic, the residents customize their house over the years and beautify it with additions and colours. In the B2B area, it is simply the large variety of different questions from a wide variety of industries for which textile products provide the right answers. For example, a narrow fabric that is used as a headband for protective masks, knee brace or retaining belt in the car."

Sharing some examples of product categories in which this concept is becoming increasingly relevant Prof. Gloy

"The consumer pays for your products, his demand is driving your business. It was never a bad idea to put the customer first. Besides that, a fundamental understanding of textile production technologies and ways for Lot 1 production will for sure help the students to give answers to upcoming question in textile production. The capability to design and evaluate technologies will help a lot. And I always advise be critical! Asks for! Check the premise! And then bring a better answer in the synthesis

– Prof. Dr.-Ing. Yves-Simon Gloy

mentions:" In my opinion, it is above all consumer goods, i.e. clothing, shoes, accessories, and home textiles, which are affected. In the field of technical textiles, it is about the fulfilment of technical functionalities and less about the satisfaction of needs for individuality. This area is also more strongly shaped and specified by standards."

"But exciting things are happening in the field of

special machine construction. Another exciting area is medical technology, where textiles enable customer-specific treatments. The trends described can already be observed strongly in high-wage countries, but are by no means limited to these countries," he adds.

Sharing his views on whether this approach will result in reduced need for mass production of textiles and garments and a move into more customer specific products, Prof. Gloy observed that many philosophies will certainly prevail on the market, in the extremes and in all the gradations in between.

"So, there will always be textiles that are mass-produced and which are strong and tailored to individual needs. Certainly, there will be solutions which reduce the polylemma described above, but not which can resolve it forever. Much can be successful in the market as long as it is based on a valid business model," he says indicating the possibilities.

Prof. Gloy feels that it is important for textile engineering students who are looking to enter the world of textiles to understand and estimate consumer preference.

"The consumer pays for your products, his demand is driving your business. It was never a bad idea to put the customer first. Besides that, a fundamental understanding of textile production technologies and ways for Lot 1 production will for sure help the students to give answers to upcoming question in textile production. The capability to design and evaluate technologies will help a lot. And I always advise be critical! Asks for! Check the premise! And then bring a better answer in the synthesis", he opines.

With specific reference to markets like India, does he think that the concept of Lot size 1 is already relevant? With the increase in ecommerce, does Prof. Gloy see this concept becoming more relevant? Replying to these key questions, he remarked that like a lot of developments, it will take it time, but it is becoming more and more relevant.

"Especially e-commerce is a booster for these developments. The customer can visit your shop 24 hours a day, worldwide and configure easily on a PC or a smart personal device his product. He can easily share his design with friends. And at the end he can even more quickly share pictures of the product over social media. Is there a better way for marketing?" he said highlighting the enormous opportunities that are possible with the concept.

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A pioneer in weft knit fabric manufacture in Sri Lanka, Hayleys Fabric has reiterated its commitment to superior waste water treatment.

With its modern waste water treatment plant, Hayleys boasts of a superior treatment process to purify and guarantee the quality of the water being discharged so that it meets the prescribed standards. About 4500m³ waste water is treated through their plant through screening, equalization, biological and chemical treatments. The purified water is constantly checked in-house, and by external parties such as the Central Environment Authority (CEA), the Water Board and the Board of Investment (BOI), prior to being released into the neighbouring river.

As per the company, Hayleys has earned another accolade confirming the consistent maintenance of superior standards of water quality in the form of GREEN status awarded to it by NIKE Since 2016 - the highest rating for compliance with stringent NIKE Water Quality Guidelines under the NIKE Sustainable Water.

Hayleys Fabric's pledge to build and adhere to good sustainability and environmental standards are shown through its partnerships with global movements such as the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) and by its commitment to the SBTis.

Hayleys has complied with the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) programme ahead of the granted timeline. In recognition of its award-winning achievement in complying with the ZDHC requirements ahead of time, Hayleys was invited to share their best practices at the 2020 ZDHC South Asia regional conference held in Bangladesh.





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Growing customer preference for **KARL MAYER's ISOWARP**

Machines to be Made in India

Sectional warping is one of the crucial processes in warp preparation to produce quality and defect-free warp beams. The ISOWARP sectional warping machine ensures quality warp beams for all types of yarns suitable for shirting, suiting, dress material, upholstery, etc.



KARL MAYER is a pioneer in manufacturing world-class machines for warp preparation. They have been producing many types of sectional warpers, and over the years have supplied these machines across the globe, including hundreds in India. For example, there are close to 150 machines of a single model, the ERGOTEC, running successfully in India! Based on market needs, KARL MAYER had also introduced the ISOWARP model sectional warper, which has been manufactured in Germany and China. Several ISOWARP sectional warpers are also working well in India and Bangladesh.

To meet the growing demand for the ISOWARP model, it

has been decided that this model will now also be manufactured in India by KARL MAYER Textile Machinery India Private Ltd., Ahmedabad. Sectional warping is one of the crucial processes in warp preparation to produce quality and defect-free warp beams. The ISOWARP sectional warping machine ensures quality warp beams for all types of yarns suitable for shirting, suiting, dress material, upholstery, etc.

ISOWARP has been proven to run at higher warping and beaming speeds and, in particular, with a substantial simplification of operation, resulting in improved production. Beam-to-beam reproducibility is guaranteed with



KARL MAYER's in-built KAMCOS system, which additionally has easy access to the teleservice network to remotely support machine maintenance. Only warps of the highest quality guarantee optimal efficiency and fault-free fabric in the weaving department. This modern sectional warping guarantees perfect warp quality at maximum productivity, which is a decisive factor for the weaving department.

So how does ISOWARP ensure the best quality warp?

- Optimum warp build-up on the drum with precise positioning of the reed headstock to the cone is achieved fully automatically and with the highest precision. The reed headstock feed movement is followed automatically.
- Uniform cylindrical build-up guaranteed through even roller ensures that the yarn count variations and yarn volume changes do not cause any density variations.
- The reverse rotation of the drum is important in ensuring a perfect warp sheet laying at its winding point on to the drum with maximum levelling effect from the even roller.
- The KARL MAYER system permits the optimal winding density while at the same time ensuring minimal yarn loading. Thus, an absolutely cylindrical build-up of the warp is achieved from the first to the last section.
- Thanks to a short distance between the measuring roller and the even roller, section spread is practically negligible.

ISOWARP is designed to produce production warps for all types of suiting, shirting, sheeting and furnishing applications with the most competitive price-performance ratio.

Unique Features

Its features include:

1. Uniform thread tension.
2. High residual elongation.
3. Exact thread array.
4. No crossed ends.
5. No missing ends.

Several factors are responsible for high productivity. A combination of high speed with minimal yarn tension and optimal operator ergonomic preconditions guarantees maximum productivity. The highest precision with long-term reliability is required to ensure the best warp quality while preparing warp beams on a section warping machine. Also, all ends are wound on to the drum with exactly the same length and uniform tension – this is a key assurance from KARL MAYER.

The ISOWARP further guarantees:

1. Exact cone alignment.
2. Precise section width determination.
3. Extremely precise feed calculation.
4. Even roller at the running-on point.
5. Automatic section alignment.
6. Automatic section tension control.

Need for Section Tension Control

Through the consistent application of electronic control engineering and the perfect position of an even roller, modern sectional warping machines can reliably produce a cylindrical material build-up on the warping drum. Equal end length over the whole width of the warp is thus guaranteed. It ensures that the ends are not only wound to be the same diameter, but also with the same thread tension.

Advantages of Section Tension Control

The section tension control measures the overall tension of the warp section immediately in front of the winding-on point on the drum, converts it into the value for a single end and then compares this figure with the specified figure entered in the system. When any divergence occurs, the CPU adjusts the thread tensioners on the creel until the specified tension range is reached again. Control is so quick and precise that the figure specified is held even in the run-up phase. This means it is possible to achieve fully constant thread tension conditions in every phase of the warping



process, independent of:

- Changes in speed, even in the start and stop phase.
- Diminishing package diameter.
- Any warp bobbin change in the middle of the warp.

Indian Scenario

A.T.E. Enterprises Private Ltd. is the sole selling agent for KARL MAYER in India and can guide customers in selecting appropriate technologies and machine configurations to meet their requirements. There are many customer testimonials, as for example, sectional warper ISOWARP from KARL MAYER India delights Rajapalayam Mills. The Rajapalayam Mills Ltd., Rajapalayam, is the textile arm of the Ramco Group and includes spinning mills with a total capacity of about 3,60,000 spindles and about 14,000 OE rotors. They manufacture top-quality compact yarns. Recently they also commissioned yarn-dyed shirting fabric manufacturing operations with 122 looms, weaving preparatory and yarn dyeing system. Ramco uses only high-tech machines to produce high-end products. KARL MAYER is the sole supplier of weaving preparation for their complete weaving production lines.

Rajapalayam Mills installed two ISOWARP sectional warping machines recently and N Mohanarengan, Chief Operating Officer of Rajapalayam Mills was all praise for the excellent performance of ISOWARP. "We are the first one to install the ISOWARP sectional warping machines manufactured by KARL MAYER Textile Machinery India. We have installed two ISOWARP machines with double creels. These machines are working at the highest production level and produce high-quality warp beams, enabling the successful performance of our weaving machines," he said.

"Since the commissioning of these machines, we are producing the best warp beams for almost all types of yarns, including the finest shirting, with minimum wastage of expensive, high-quality yarn. The machines are main-

tenance-free and require very few spare parts. The KARL MAYER ISOWARP made in India is real value for money and is on par with the machines made in Germany. We will continue to buy from KARL MAYER India for our future needs. We are proud to have contributed to KARL MAYER's 'Make in India' efforts," he added. Mohanarengan further said, "We also appreciate that A.T.E. Enterprises and KARL MAYER teams have guided and supported us in selecting the right machine configuration and in the smooth running of our greenfield project.

Similarly, Morarjee Mills is impressed with KARL MAYER technology. Morarjee Mills, Nagpur, focuses on the premium and high-value niche product segments with two divisions: premium yarn dyed shirting and fashion fabric. They produce approximately 25.4 million metres of premium and high-quality fabrics per annum with complete in-house quality yarns. They have a high profile list of clients that includes domestic and international brands across 44 countries. The mills installed many warp preparations machines from KARL MAYER that includes one KARL MAYER ISOWARP sectional warper.

Commenting on the performance of ISOWARP, Subrato Mukherjee, Plant Head, Morarjee Mills, said, "We are very satisfied with the KARL MAYER ISOWARP sectional warper installed in our mills. We have been processing all types of shirting yarns – from medium to superfine cotton yarn varieties – and it produces high-quality beams with almost no defects or wastage of material. We also find that ISOWARP's maintenance cost is minimal compared to other machines installed in our mills. We are glad to note that we will now get German technology made in India. We are very happy with the excellent support provided by A.T.E. Enterprises and KARL MAYER Textile Machinery India. Both are our suppliers of choice for all our future warp preparation requirements."



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Lenzing creates unprecedented supply chain traceability

Incorporating Lenzing E-Branding fabric certificates and blockchain-enabled traceability platform powered by TextileGenesis™

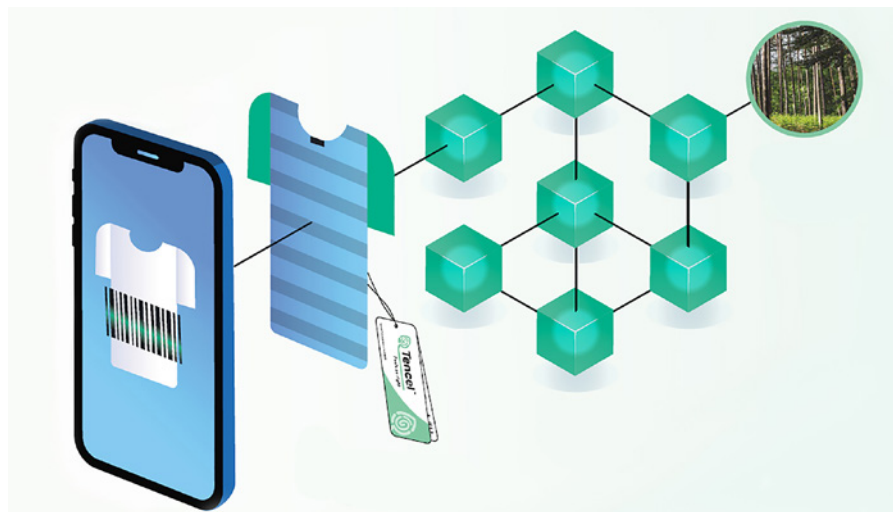
With the COVID-19 pandemic, more changes have been brought to the already transforming fashion and textile industries. To date, supply chain traceability has become a top priority for apparel and home brands¹. To address both consumer demand and compliance risks increasingly faced by brand partners, Lenzing is introducing a brand-new blockchain-enabled supply chain traceability platform powered by TextileGenesis™. The platform will go live from 5 November 2020 onwards, accessible by all brands using TENCEL™ and LENZING™ ECOVERO™ branded fibers, and supply chain partners globally across Asia, Europe and the Americas.

Phased onboarding and new digital certificates to ensure traceability and sustainability

A follow-up of a 12-month pilot program and field trials with four leading sustainable brands (H&M, ArmedAngels, Mara Hoffman and Chicks) and supply chain players from 10 countries in three regions, the global roll-out of Lenzing's blockchain-enabled supply chain traceability platform will be conducted in phases. During the first phase, Lenzing's supply chain partners based in South Asia (India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) will complete the onboarding process within Q4 2020. An estimated



Robert van de Kerkhof, Chief Commercial Officer & Board Member, Lenzing



300+ supply chain partners in China and Turkey will also join the program in Q1 2021. It is estimated that by Q2 2021, most eligible Lenzing supply chain partners will be onboarded into the platform, ensuring full supply chain traceability.

One of the core components of the platform powered by TextileGenesis™ is integration with the Lenzing E-Branding fabric certification system, which allows brands and retailers not only to access the full supply chain traceability for TENCEL™ and

LENZING™ ECOVERO™ branded fibers but also to view the results of forensic (physical) verification of fabric samples via the digitally signed Lenzing E-Branding fabric certificates.

“Over the past year, during the pilot program and field trials we have been receiving very positive feedback from brands and supply chain partners. Our brand partners have also been encouraging us to accelerate the global roll-out for traceability of Lenzing fibers. With this new system and the integration with Lenzing E-Branding fabric certificates, the entire Lenzing ecosystem will create an unprecedented level of transparency. This will provide consumers with the most sustainable and climate-friendly clothing and home textile products that are made of TENCEL™ or LENZING™ ECOVERO™ branded fibers.” says Robert van de Kerkhof, Chief Commercial Officer and Member of the Board at Lenzing.

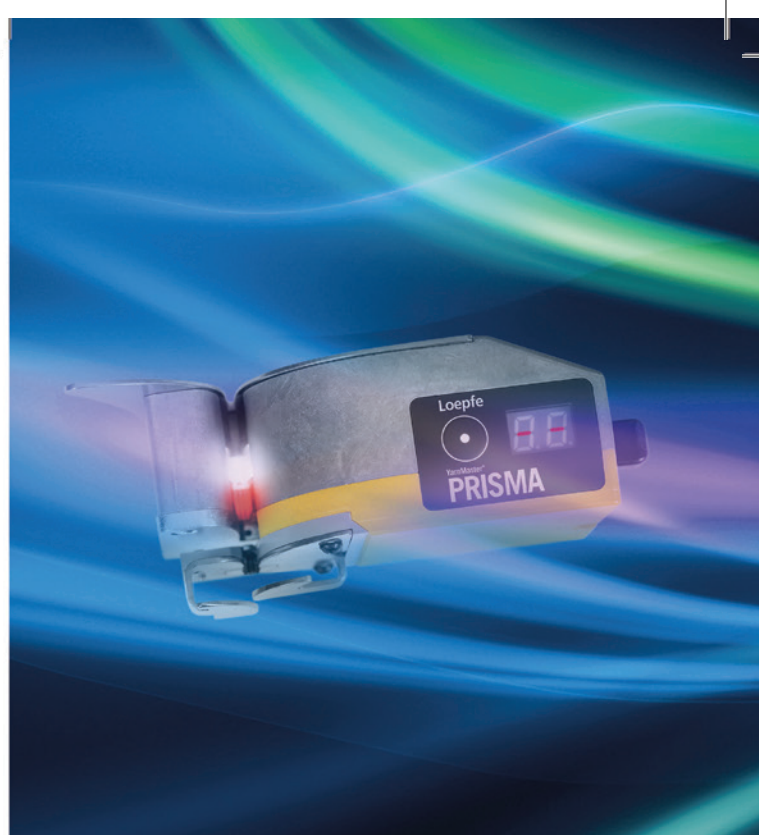
“With increasing compliance and reputational risks, CEOs and Boards of top 100 fashion brands have committed to using 100% sustainable and traceable fibers over the next 5 years, with transparency being a core part of business priorities². Sustainability and traceability are two sides of the same coin, and it’s great to see Lenzing paving the way for the entire fashion industry to follow. Our supply chain traceability platform will create digital accounting for Lenzing’s innovative and sustainable fibers across the entire supply chain using Fibercoins™ traceability technology.” says Amit Gautam, Chief Executive Officer and Founder of TextileGenesis™

Fibercoin™ technology to ensure traceability across supply chain

Through using the innovative Fibercoin™ technology of the TextileGenesis™ platform, Lenzing and other brand partners are now able to issue digital tokens (blockchain assets) in direct proportion to the physical shipments of TENCEL™ and LENZING™ ECOVERO™ branded fibers. These digital tokens provide a unique “fingerprint” and authentication mechanism, preventing adulteration, providing a more secure, trustworthy, digital chain-of-custody across the entire textile supply chain, and most importantly, ensuring the materials are sustainably produced.

For more information about the Lenzing Blockchain-enabled supply chain traceability platform and the Lenzing E-Branding Service, please visit <https://textilegenesis.com> or <https://brandingservice.lenzing.com/>

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TRADITION MEETS INNOVATION

MAHLO

Celebrates **75th** Anniversary

For 75 years Mahlo GmbH + Co. KG from Saal on the Danube has been setting worldwide standards in the measurement and control of web-shaped goods. In spite of the 'old' age, the machine manufacturer never tires of constantly developing in order to be one step ahead of the challenges of their customers

A portrait of Ralph Greenwood-Mahlo, a man with short reddish-brown hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a light blue shirt. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera.

“My grandparents laid the foundation for Mahlo’s success. Our task now is to lead the company towards an equally successful future without forgetting our core values. Mahlo is a family business that takes responsibility for its employees and values fair and respectful treatment of customers and business partners.

**– Ralph Greenwood-Mahlo,
owner of Mahlo**

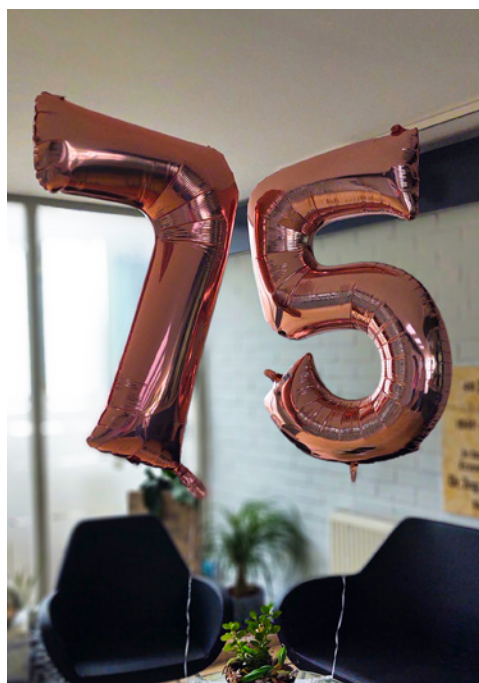
Mahlo GmbH + Co. KG belongs to the worldwide leading manufacturers of measuring, control and automation systems for the textile and finishing industry as well as the coating, film and paper sector. Mahlo is located in Saal on the Danube in lower Bavaria but operates worldwide – five branch offices in Italy, Belgium, Spain, China and the US serve as support stations for the key markets. Numerous international agencies and service stations offer customer support throughout the whole world.

If Dr. Heinz Mahlo could see what has become of his small company, which he founded in 1945 after the end of World War II, he would certainly be very proud. As a visionary engineer with a flair for technical innovation, Dr. Mahlo focused early on the development of measuring and control systems for the textile industry. His work culminated in the patent for the first automatic weft straightener at the end of the 50s and established Mahlo's position as the world market leader in the



“Our 75th anniversary marks an important milestone in the company's history. We see it as a confirmation of the continuous development of the company and at the same time as an incentive to further increase the competitiveness of our customers with technologically leading products and tailor-made services.

– Rainer Mestermann, CEO, Mahlo



industry. Today the name Mahlo is not only synonymous with straightening machines, but also describes quality and reliability.

Mahlo's weft straighteners and process control systems for textile finishing can be found in all the important markets. Countless products of many large and well-known brands have passed through a 'Mahlo' during their production. Says Ralph Greenwood-Mahlo, owner of Mahlo: "My grandparents laid the foundation for Mahlo's success. Our task now is to lead the company towards an equally successful future without forgetting our core values. Mahlo is a family business that takes responsibility for its employees and values fair and respectful treatment of customers and business partners."

Quality Control

In spite of an indescribable success story in the textile sector, the think tank from Lower Bavaria proved early on that it had the foresight not to rest on past laurels and its own showpiece product. In the mid-nineties, engineers at the company, who carried on the innovative spirit of the late founder, developed the Qualiscan QMS quality control system. The system enabled the nonwovens, plastics and paper industries to measure and control critical process parameters such as moisture, basis weight or layer thickness. It was a trend-setting decision. These markets are becoming increasingly important.

S RAJENDRAN, Senior Vice President, Textile Engineering - Processing, Accessories and Customer Support, A.T.E Enterprises



During the year 2006 we started working on providing a one-stop solution for processing. We mapped the gaps in our product portfolio and we started working for filling up the gaps by bringing in the market leaders. We signed an agreement with Mahlo during the year 2008 and started working on strategies for improving the business in India. We realised that there was scope for improving the after-sales services and we decided to focus on it. We trained our engineers at Mahlo, Germany and implemented many process improvements for strengthening the after-sales services.

At the moment, we have nine well-trained engineers across India who can provide services for Mahlo products. We conduct customer satisfaction surveys which confirm that all of our customers are highly satisfied with our services. We have established the business of weft straighteners and process control equipment very well across the Indian market. We have overall increased the population of Mahlo products in India, many of our products are being used for processing woven apparel fabrics, home textiles, knit fabrics and nonwoven finishing.

Mahlo is known for innovation. They introduced the concept of weft straighteners and they keep upgrading their products regularly for retaining market leadership. The Indian market is looking for suitable equipment for improving productivity as well as conserving energy. Mahlo has a package of products by which we can offer a perfect solution to our Indian customers. The team of Mahlo is very supportive and they have complete knowledge about the Indian business which helps us to meet the requirements of our India-based customers. It has been proved that the partnership between Mahlo and A.T.E has created a positive impact on business.

How strong has been proved in this 'special' year in which the nonwovens industry is growing but the textile industry is shaken by the crisis. This makes it all the more important for a company not to stand on just one mainstay. Elaborates Rainer Mestermann, CEO, Mahlo: "Our 75th anniversary marks an important milestone in the company's history. We see it as a confirmation of the continuous development of the company and at the same time as an incentive to further increase the competitiveness of our customers with technologically leading products and tailor-made services."

Industry 4.0

Changes are not only occurring in the markets, but also within industrial plants. The networking of production is

progressing in giant steps. Mahlo has therefore developed a digitalization concept that opens the doors to Industry 4.0 for customers. The data generated by the systems can thus be called up at any time to optimise processes and control equipment online.

International Presence

Technical know-how combined with renowned products and high service quality has bonded Mahlo with customers all over the world. In order to serve the international markets as reliably as its home country, the company has set up branches in the USA, Italy, Belgium, Spain and China in addition to the headquarters in Saal. In addition, Mahlo works with service stations and sales partners in over 100 countries. Despite the worldwide business, Mahlo's focus



Apprentice workshop 1991



Apprentice Workshop today

CUSTOMER TESTIMONIALS

Here is what some of the long-standing customers of Mahlo have to say about their products and after-sales service:

AMIT BHANDARI, Senior Vice President, Welspun India



Welspun has been using Mahlo products since the very beginning of our operations at Anjar around 2004. We have used various solutions including moisture-sensing equipment, PCS camera systems, weft correction systems for our terry towel, bed sheeting, carpets and nonwoven divisions, beta gauges for web thickness measurement and systems for energy conservation and steam saving on our drying ranges. They are a supplier of repute who can offer customised solutions for all kind of measurements and problems. The team led by Thomas Hoepfl has always been diligent in understanding the technical issues underlying every problem and have always come up with a proper scientific approach to solutions. The service levels are great and we do enjoy a very special relation with Mahlo since many years that has been fruitful to both the companies.

MOHIT JAIN, Managing Director, Indo Count

We have been associated with Mahlo ever since we started our processing facility in 2006. All our stenters are equipped with weft straighteners and moisture controllers from Mahlo. We also have temperature and moisture controllers from Mahlo on our VDRs. Mahlo products have certainly contributed towards achieving the high quality standards that we at, Indo Count, have been able to maintain over a period of time. We are very happy with services from Mahlo's Indian agent, A.T.E. Enterprises. They are responsive and quite customer-oriented.



RAJARSHI GHOSH, Vice President-Operations, Arvind Limited



We have been associated with Mahlo since the last 25 years and have had a very satisfying experience. We have been using weft straighteners and process control equipment like moisture controller on different machines and setups. Mahlo product offerings are wide, versatile and capable of handling a wider range of products like coarser to finer fabric, high GSM to low GSM fabrics, different weaves and structures. Mahlo has been providing very satisfying performance in products like yarn dyed checks, prints, solids, voiles, etc. It has been a great experience with Mahlo weft straighteners. Continuous innovation and refinement of technology keeps Mahlo ahead of competition.

We have started with hydraulic RVMC 9 and now are using electronic RVMC 15 with especially loaded software to handle finer fabrics with more accurate control of bow and bias. The combination of weft straighteners with front scanners at exit end of the stenter frame is a great help to control and deliver right quality products. The two-roll weft straightener at sanforiser helps to deliver the final product with more precision. The reliability and reputation of Mahlo is augmented by good technical support and service of A.T.E India starting from installation, commissioning to trouble-shooting. A big round of applause for Team A.T.E!

has always remained in Germany, or more precisely in Bavaria. All machines are developed and built at the headquarters with motivated, mostly self-trained employees. This guarantees the 'Made in Germany' quality and also creates independence from supply chains, which can be of great importance in times of bottlenecks.

Company Spirit

But what would have pleased company founder Dr.

Mahlo even more than the economic success is the fact that the family spirit that he planted right at the heart of his company is growing stronger than ever. Mahlo is still family-owned today and the cooperation between owner, management and staff plays a major role. Mahlo is more than just a workplace. It is precisely this combination that creates the best conditions for writing the next successful chapters together. ♦

KPR MILL

AN ICONIC SUCCESS STORY

From its modest origins more than three decades ago, KPR Mill has indeed come a long way and is now recognised as a leading manufacturer in the Indian textile industry. In fact, it has further strengthened its portfolio with diversification into other segments, including its most recent foray into garment retail. What applies here are the words of Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu who said, “The journey of a thousand miles begins with a small step”



K P Ramasamy, Chairman



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COVER STORY

The year was 1984. An enterprising young man in a small town in South India decided to set course on a new journey. He ventured into uncharted waters and set up a small textile company. He was none other than K P Ramasamy, Founder and Chairman of KPR Mill Ltd. Following him, his brothers, K P D Sigamani and P Nataraj joined the venture, and toiled with sweat on their brows and passion in their hearts. Their combined efforts bore fruit. In 1989, the company started manufacturing fashion apparel and carved a niche in the buzzing export market. The company then expanded its frontiers to encompass spinning and processing and set up state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities.

These are located at Coimbatore, Sathyamangalam, Perundurai and Tirupur in Tamil Nadu. In 1995, it set up its first spinning unit at Sathyamangalam with 6,000 spindles to produce cotton hosiery yarn. This was expanded to 30,240 spindles in 2000. The following year it set up a spinning mill at Karumathampatti with 30,240 spindles along with a knitting facility and a green power wind mill for captive use. In 2003, another spinning unit was established at Neelambur with 50,784 spindles along with a knitting facility and a wind mill.



The facility at Arasur was set up in 2005 with a spinning unit of 1,00,800 spindles and a garment manufacturing unit. KPR Mill is now a formidable group of companies that has earned it the title of being one of the top 500 listed corporates while the company's CEO has been counted among the top 100 corporate leaders of India. Today, KPR Mill manufactures and markets cotton yarn, compact and

LMW draws immense pleasure in continuing a long-term association with KPR Group for over three decades. The group is one of the largest vertically integrated business conglomerates globally and is a frontrunner in quality and operational excellence. Under the dynamic leadership of Chairman K P Ramasamy and the Board of Directors the group has grown from strength to strength and has set many standards for the textile industry. LMW through supply of advanced technological and innovative products has been a strategic partner in KPR Group's journey of excellence. We congratulate KPR Group and wish it the very best in their journey. We look forward to the company expanding their business activities.

- SANJAY JAYAVARTHANA VELU,
Chairman and Managing Director, LMW



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PRINCIPALS





KPR Mill is one of the largest vertically integrated manufacturers of high-quality yarn, fabrics and garments. It also is a large manufacturer and exporter of knit garments in India and has been equally successful in its foray into retail with its own FASO brand of innerwear and athleisure wear and also has spread its wings to Ethiopia with its first international operation. We, at A.T.E. Enterprises, are very closely associated with the KPR Group since more than a decade as a technology supplier. We have so far supplied 20 blow room lines, automatic blending installations and 240 high-production cards from Truetzschler Germany and India apart from 64 speed frames from Zinser India.

A.T.E. Enterprises has also participated in their knit processing project by supplying rotary printing machine from Zimmer (Austria), slitting machine from Corino (Italy) and fully automated dyes and chemicals dispensing system from Color Service (Italy). We are extremely proud to be a technology partner to KPR Group for a long time. KPR Mill always invests in

the latest and best technology without any compromise. It has one of the best manufacturing facilities and it maintains a high compliance standard towards quality and housekeeping.

One of the biggest success factors for KPR Group's strong position is the foresight of its Chairman K P Ramasamy. Today, KPR Group has one of the best facilities and excellent team of technicians on account of which they produce the best quality products on a consistent basis due to which many of the major global brands are their loyal customers. We wish all the best to the management and team of KPR Mill for its future endeavours and look forward to the continuation of an enduring relationship for decades to come.

– G V ARAS, Director (Textile Engineering Group), A.T.E Enterprises Ltd.

melange yarn, knitted fabrics, readymade knitted garments and sugar. Meanwhile, wind power coupled with co-gen power boasts of a healthy bottom-line.

The KPR Brotherhood

Chairman K P Ramasamy is a pioneer with more than four decades' experience in the apparel business. He is a hands-on leader formulating innovative ideas towards HR and new business avenues. He spearheads strategic

expansion initiatives with grit and gumption, but addresses employee needs with a personal touch. Managing Director K P D Sigamani is a dynamic entrepreneur with over three decades' experience in the apparel industry. He currently heads the apparel division of the company and its export business.

His strong leadership skills and immense focus on customer satisfaction has ensured KPR Mill an enviable



“ The secret of change is
to focus all of your energy,
not on fighting the old,
but on building the new. ”



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Quality is in their DNA

With a focus on innovation, quality and service and by combining latest technology and modernisation, KPR Group is one of the largest conglomerates in the Indian textile industry. With its futuristic thinking and rich experience in the textile industry for many decades, the group has successfully managed to acquire a prominent position under the visionary leadership of Chairman K P Ramaswamy. Uster Technologies is very proud to have had a strong business relationship with KPR Group for more than two decades. With quality as core in their DNA, they have established state-of-the-art quality labs from their emergence, and they have constantly driven their quality-testing efforts by equipping their lab with Uster Technologies' equipment in every spinning location.

Consistency and quality are the prima facie of KPR Group. With highly set benchmarks, they have continuously strived to meet top-standards, providing quality products to their customers. Uster Technologies takes pride in shouldering this responsibility with USTER®QUANTUM clearers installed in every winding room and USTER®JOSSI VISION SHIELD in blow rooms to deliver the required quality. With various departments like sales, marketing, after-sales support, training and electronic repair station, we are glad to provide comprehensive support to enable KPR Group deliver the right products made with the right quality every time. We thank KPR Group for their continuous patronage of our products. We wish to grow along with KPR Group by supplying quality management solutions.



position in the apparel exports market. Managing Director P Nataraj, who is also a Chartered Accountant, manages the financial aspects of the business, cotton procurement and yarn marketing. Armed with two decades' industry experience, strong interpersonal skills and sharp analytical skills, Nataraj has managed to create a strong rapport with clients and has helped the company sustain and succeed in a globally competitive market.

Consistent Growth

KPR Mill has witnessed steady growth in business over the last four decades. The company's attempt to export knitted

garments from Coimbatore has now established KPR Mill as a leading business conglomerate in India, engaged in textiles, sugar, ethanol, automobiles, power generation and education. The brothers' determination, untiring hard work, perseverance and team efforts have crossed miles to be where they are today. The Indian apparel sector with a history of fine craftsmanship and global appeal has emerged as the most preferred destination for international brands. The strong raw material base and availability of skilled labour carries huge opportunities for Indian textile players. The current market situation and global scenario offers a



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LCC has promoted values of integrity and ingenuity to create a culture of curiosity and openness within the organization. With this attitude and an environment where innovations are encouraged, we have spearheaded the creation of revolutionary products to enable clients to work effectively and produce better products. With our expertise in card clothing services, we not only know how a product works, but also know how each of our products work uniquely for each of our clients.



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lot of opportunities favouring the Indian garment sector.

In such a scenario, KPR Mill has demonstrated high level of quality consistency, commitment, best sustainable practices, deployment of green manufacturing practices and the empowerment of rural workforce, more particularly the women fraternity, all of which has helped garner trust and reputation among the international buyers. As the management puts it, the enquiries from the current clientele as well as from the new markets are encouraging and there exist bright prospects to be explored aggressively while focusing on the US and other potential markets.

Driven by Technology

KPR Mill has 12 manufacturing units equipped with advanced technology and over 22,000 dedicated personnel. It has the capacity to produce 1,00,000 MT of yarn per annum, 40,000 MT fabrics per annum and 115 million ready-made knitted apparel per annum, thus making it one of the largest garment producers in India. It also has a gar-

ment facility in Ethiopia, not to forget industry-acclaimed ETP embedded fabric processing capacity of 22,000 MT per annum equipped with advanced cold processing technology and sophisticated printing division with the capacity to print 7,500 MT per annum (1,00,000 high-fashion garments per day). It also has 66 wind mills with a total green power generation capacity of 61.92 MW, co-gen cum sugar plant with a capacity of 30 MW and 5,000 TCD and an ethanol plant with 90 KLPD capacity. Recently it has also ventured into the retail sector under its own brand 'FASO', producing first-of-its-kind 100% organic cotton men's wear.

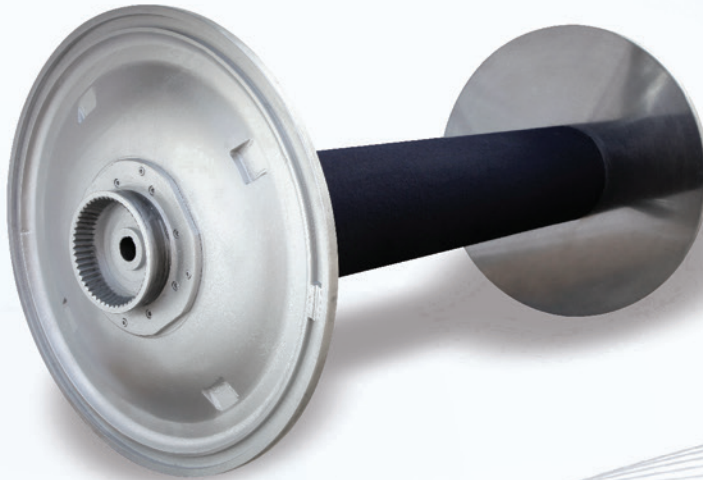
Outstanding Performance

In FY 2019-20, KPR Mill clocked total revenue of Rs 3,389.09 crore with profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 376.68 crore. Despite the ongoing pandemic, KPR Mill has clocked turnover of Rs 952 crore during the second quarter of FY 2020-21. Commenting on this performance, K P Ramaswamy, Chairman, KPR Group, says, "The entire world is



Warper Beams

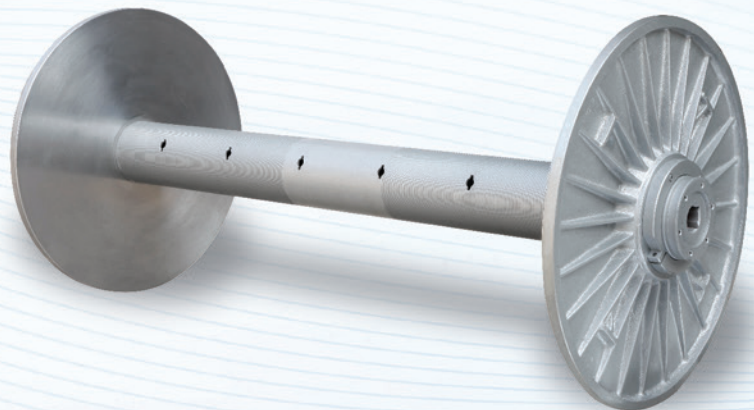
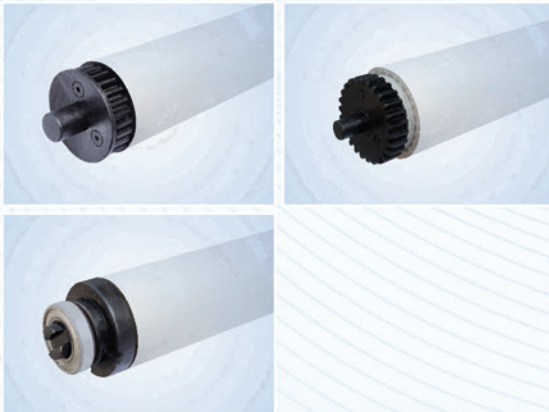
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COVER STORY

passing through an uncertainty it has never seen before due to the pandemic. Like many other sectors of the economy, the textile industry has been hit hard due to closure of business during the lockdown periods. During these challenging times, our priority has been the wellbeing of all of us."

"Our entire focus has been on supporting the government's public health initiatives and instructions regarding social distancing. I would like to assure you that we remain



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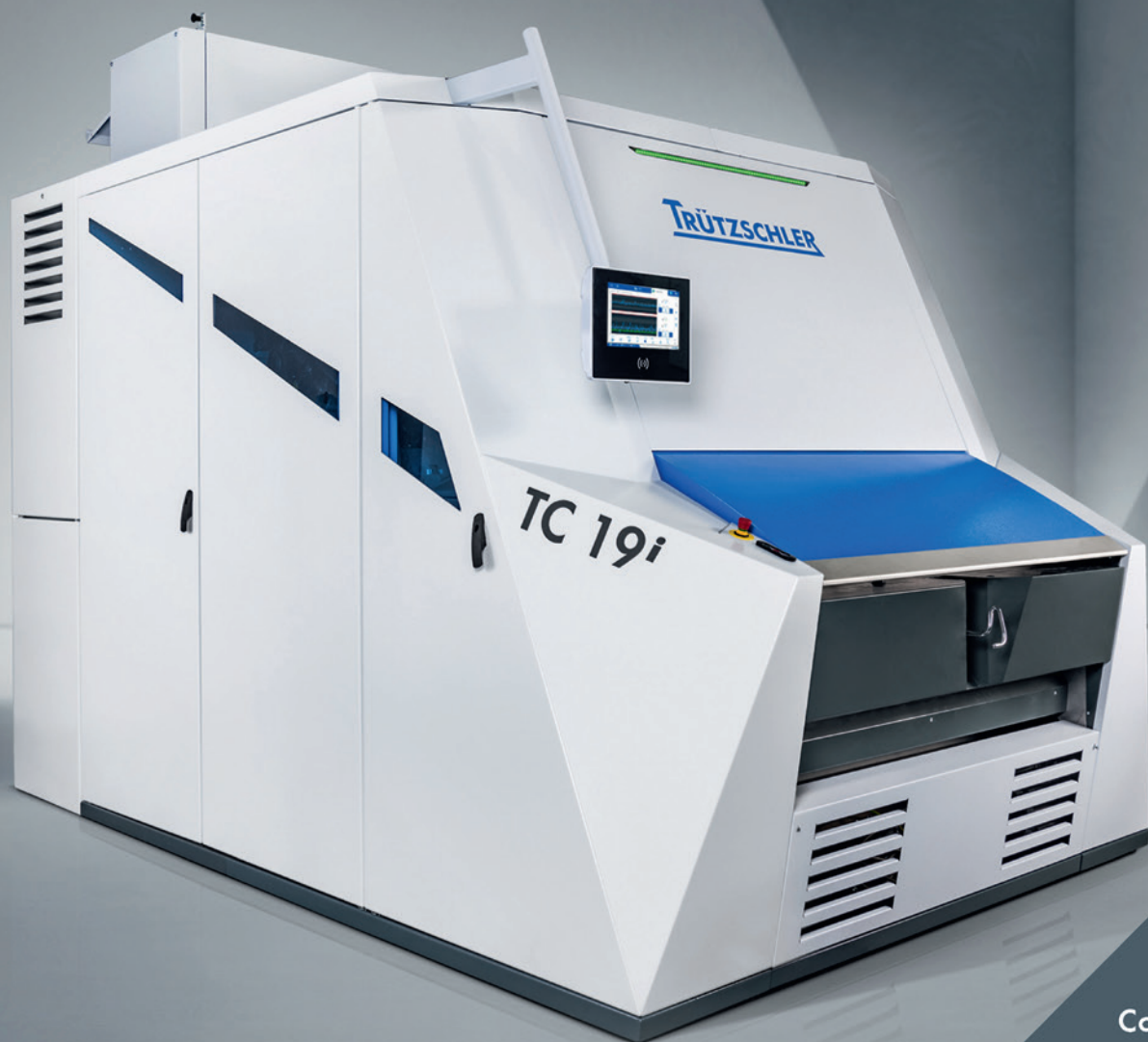
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operational and continue to serve all our stakeholders. In the face of this pandemic, KPR Mill has implemented systematic procedures to safeguard its employees while continuing to best serve our clients. Our executives have successfully re-positioned to ensure that our work progresses," he adds.

Expansion Plans

In order to cater to the growing market demand and taking a step towards increasing the efforts of tapping potential markets, KPR Mill is investing in garment manufacturing by establishing a new factory with a capacity to manufacture 42 million garments per annum at an estimated project cost of Rs 250 crore. The factory is currently under construction near Coimbatore, within the proximity of existing facilities so as to avail the benefits of integrated activities. As stated earlier, in totality, KPR Mill currently has the capacity to manufacture 1,00,000 MT of cotton yarn, 4,000 MT of viscose yarn and 40,000 MT of fabric along with 22,000 MT of fabric processing capacity, 7,500 MT of fabric printing and 115 million units of garment manufacturing. In FY 2019-20 the company erected the latest technology-aided vortex spinning machine which produces various blends and range of viscose yarns, creating a new wave of world fashion at its Neelambur unit.

It eliminates two major processes, thereby saving labour and power,



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besides producing an ideal structure of yarn. KPR Mill has also established a new advanced technology knitting factory housing contemporary imported knitting machines of Mayer and Cie at its Karumathampatti unit. The company has also added another most effective and technically advanced effluent treatment system at its processing unit in SIPCOT Perundurai, thus enlarging its wastewater treatment capacity. It has successfully established an ethanol plant with the capacity of 90 KLPD at its sugar factory in Karnataka. The ethanol plant has commenced production and its full-fledged commercial operation is expected during the current financial year.

Ethiopia Venture

KPR Mill has established a new plant in Ethiopia which has received approval from leading global buyers. The company is now ramping up its production capacity with the setting up of a garment unit with the production capacity of 10 million garments per annum. Employees were recruited and trained at its unit at Arasur. The required capital equipment and materials were imported and commercial production has already commenced while trial consignments have been shipped. In order to cater to the growing demands of international buyers, KPR Mill established an entity at Singapore, KPR Mill Pte. Limited. Singapore has substantial international brands and retailers well-connected to the international garment industry.

Retail Business: FASO

KPR Mill has introduced

first-of-its-kind 100% organic cotton men's innerwear and athleisure products under its newly launched 'FASO' brand, catering to three different premium ranges – comfort, style and supreme. This is in recognition of the fact that the need of the hour is nature-oriented fashion that is toxic-free. FASO as a brand has been curated after doing extensive research on customers' needs and comfort. FASO innerwear is 'Italian at heart' which means slick designs in trending colours and meticulous craftsmanship. FASO offers a collection of innerwear and athleisure wear designed with greater ecological integrity.

Organic cotton of the highest quality is used in a manner that is good for the environment. In addition to providing a stylish collection with bright trendy colours, the 100% superfine combed organic cotton products offer ultra-soft comfort that naturally makes it very skin-friendly. "Our major strength is the vertically integrated operations where we have end-to-end in-house manufacturing facilities for yarn,





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fabrics, processing, printing, embroidery and garment. This helps us to keep a check on the quality and enables producing organic cotton products that are skin-friendly and breathable. With these eco-friendly products, KPR Group hopes to make a stride in the retail segment. Our launch in South India has met with success," the management states.

Human Resources

Safe, healthy and happy workplace creates positive business culture. It drives employee engagement, job satisfaction and staff retention, and in turn defines business success. Good HR practice plays a key role in developing, reinforcing and changing the culture of an organisation. Having recognised the importance of human resources right from the beginning, KPR Mill has been concentrating on adding value to the employees by extending the best facilities for its work force. And in the current scenario of the pandemic, it is the 'feel at home facilities' provided by the company that has helped it retain its manpower at a time when the industry witnessed the return of migrated employees in large numbers to their hometowns.

"At KPR Mill, employees chose to stay back on the factory premises where they continued to enjoy comfortable accommodation, nutritious food and recreation and education facilities besides best health and safety measures. Higher education facility, an important aspect of the company's HR policy, continues to add bright prospects to the employees at large. So far over 27,000 employees of KPR Mill have benefited through higher education. The best educational facilities extended by KPR Mill can be manifest-

ed by the employees' continuous remarkable achievement in government examinations, securing medals, ranks and certifications every year," the management informs.

"The whole world is battling to curb the impact of the corona virus but all of us should try our best to overcome this challenge in solidarity. We should convert this threat into a new opportunity available to the nation to progress as regards its 'Make in India' aspirations and enhance its exports to the world. Business conditions must be conducive to position India as a viable competitive alternative to China which the Indian industry is fully capable of. The Indian textile industry possesses inherent and unique strength such as abundance of raw material, presence of entire value chains, competitive manufacturing costs and availability of skilled manpower," the management states.

"A large and growing domestic market, higher youth population, rising per capita income, higher disposable incomes and preferences for brands and increase in organised retail landscape and e-commerce are the other contributing factors. Besides, various governmental flagship programs are expected to further drive growth," the management adds. The success of KPR Mill is an example of a business that started from a humble beginning and eventually grew into a force to be reckoned with. The journey, however, has had its fair share of challenges but has also been one of dedicated and diligent efforts along with employing the right strategies to be able to survive and also grow in as competitive a sector as textiles.

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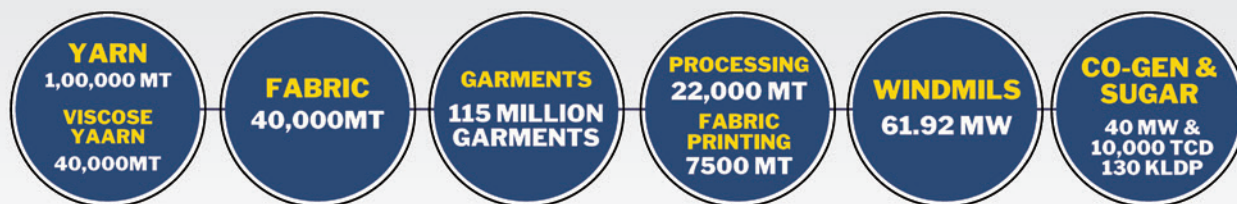
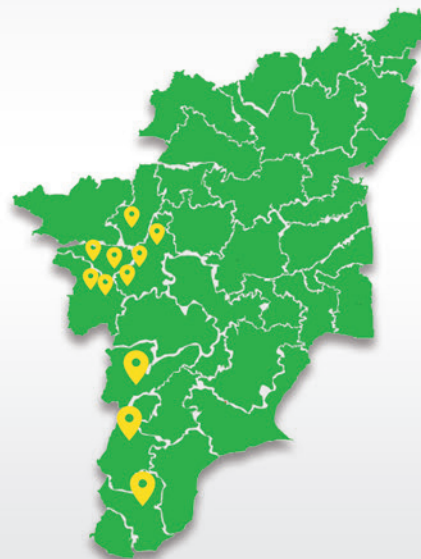
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Our journey with KPR Group is almost two decades old and it has been a pleasant experience working with them. The teams across all units are very professional, well-equipped and planned. They are always on the lookout for new technologies to improve. They clearly explain their requirements and understand our difficulties as a supplier and provide us enough space to cater to their needs. We take pride as their prominent vendor of electrical and mechanical accessories for all kinds of machines from blow room to automatic cone winding machines. Their cooperation is excellent in evaluating components for new developments with proper and focussed feedback. One can experience the ease of doing business with KPR Mill provided you give good quality products and cost-effective solutions.

Their immense support and cooperation during the uncharted times of the pandemic-triggered lockdown phase has improved our relationship, going from strength to strength and it definitely has been one of the highest points

in our relationship. Our experience in doing business with KPR Mill will not be complete without mentioning their responsibility on executing their commitments on commercial terms which is vital for sustainability of any enterprise and a long-standing relationship between us, built on the platforms of mutual trust and commitment. We feel content to be associated with them and wish them greater success in the journey ahead.

- VIKAS SHARAN, Director, India Operations, Saurer



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KPR MILL TIMELINE

1984
|
19992000
|
20052006
|
20092010
|
20112012
|
2013

1984 – Maiden business at Coimbatore, India

1989 – Knitted garment export at Tirupur.

1995 – First spinning unit at Sathyamangalam with 6,000 spindles.

Increased to 30,240 spindles by **1999**.

2001 – Spinning mill at Karumathampatti With 30,240 spindles; Knitting facility & Wind mill for captive use

2003 – Spinning unit at Neelambur with 50,784 spindles; Knitting facility & Wind mill

2005 – At Arasur 1,00,800 spindles; Knitting facility, Garment Unit of 26 Million garments and Wind Mills

2006 – Private Equity participation by leading US Corporate 'Brandot Investments' & Two others - \$ 25 Mn

2007 – IPO at a premium. Shares Listed at Bombay & National Stock Exchanges, India

2008 – Fabric Processing Unit at SIPCOT, Perundurai 9,000 MT per annum with trendsetter Effluent Treatment Plant

2010 – Exclusive value added Compact Spinning unit of 1,03,680 spindles at Karumathampatti & Wind Mills

2011 – Modernization & expansion of 21,216 spindles at Sathyamangalam

2012 – Another Value added product Melange yarn. 16,608 spindles at Karumathampatti.

2013 – Co-gen cum Sugar Plant at Karnataka - 30 MW & 5000 TCD capacity

We got an opportunity to present a brief seminar about our products to KPR Group's technical team in 2014. Before the seminar, the team analysed and compared us with our competitor's product. Finally, the technical department raised a pattern and gave a sample test on Slub over Slub parameters with SKAAT Slub machine. We took it up as a challenge and satisfied them with amazing results. A technical team from the group visited us and got trained at our customer training centre. After a week's time, we got an order for one machine. From that moment, our order for machines has been increasing year by year.

We are happy to state here that we have also developed a project on Lycra Colour Slub for their requirement. We are having a very good relationship with their entire team. They provide equal opportunity to all textile machine manufacturers and are open if there is any issue so that we can arrive at a positive solution. We admire the discipline and process followed by the KPR Mill team. We want to cite here a small example: Normally, we send an instruction manual with our machine. After four years, we found that the same instruction manual was pasted on the right side of the machine with a different maintenance person. The highly disciplined approach of their team, from bottom to top, is the same. My best wishes for all their upcoming projects.



– G RADHAKRISHNAN, Managing Director, SKAAT



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KPR MILL TIMELINE

2014
|
2015

2014 - Expanded Garment capacity at Arasur by 10 Mn garments,

2015 - New green field Garment capacity at Thekkalur with 12 Mn Garments

2016
|
2017

2016 - Established New green field garment facility of 36 Mn Garments at Thekkalur Plant III.

2017 - Established new Eco-friendly Processing capacity with Advanced Technology - 9000 MT.
Established Sophisticated high resolution printing division - 7500 MT

2018
|
2019

2018 - Established 10 Million Garment Manufacturing unit at Mekelle, Ethiopia.

2019 - Increased Processing capacity by 4000 MT

2019 - Brown field garment expansion by 10 Mn Garments

2019

2019 - Set up 130 KLPD Ethanol Plant along with 10 MW Co-gen power

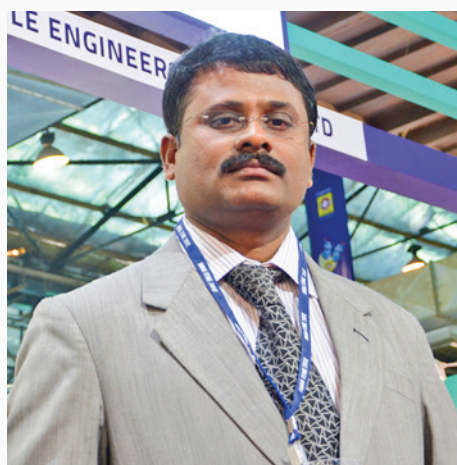
2019 - Retail segment : 'FASO' 100% Organic Cotton Men's inner wear Sports wear and Athleisure

2019 - To enlarge export activities in Asia, established a Wholly owned Subsidiary Company at Singapore

2020

2020 - Knitting facility of 13000 MT at karumathampatti

2020 - Vortex Viscose Yarn capacity of 4000 MT at Neelambur



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- R SUNDARRAJ, Managing Director, Naren Group



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Circular knitting machines from Mayer & Cie.



Abhay Sidham,
President, Batliboi Textile Machinery Group

Foundation of a lasting partnership

Mayer & Cie., the German manufacturer of circular knitting machines has become a key supplier of KPR Mill Limited in Coimbatore. The Indian textile company unites spinning, knitting, processing and confecting under one company roof. With its knitting mill comprising several hundred machines, it is one of the largest entities in the area.

KPR mills and Mayer & Cie. revived an existing relationship starting in 2018. In 2019, the premium supplier and their Indian sales representation Batliboi were able to convince KPR of the benefits of Mayer & Cie.'s Relanit machines. They are the manufacturer's signature products offering outstanding productivity and reliability with a wide range of yarn qualities. Since their market launch in 1987, the Relanit machines have remained unsurpassed in these respects.

Relative technology: gentle on the yarn

Relanit machines take their name from Mayer & Cie.'s relative technology. In contrast to conventional technology with its horizontal sinkers, relative technology knits by means of a contrary movement of needle and sinker. This movement has given the technology its name: contrary or relative technology. It is a technical refinement resulting in a gentler stitch formation process. Relative technology works with half the number of deflection points compared to conventional technology which results in considerably lower stress on the yarn.

Relative technology: tangible benefits

The benefits of this technology are tangible: they include less yarn breakage and fewer machine downtimes. Even when processing inferior yarn qualities, the machines maintain their high operating speed and still deliver the desired quality. For the most recent member of the Relanit family, this fact manifests itself when working with elastomeric yarn. The Relanit 3.2 HS features extraordinary reliability and productivity in this realm.

"It were those well-known benefits that convinced KPR mills of our Relanit machines", says Abhay Sidham, CEO of Batliboi. When extending their production facilities, KPR mills invested in a substantial number of Relanit 3.2 HS and Relanit 4.0. The latter is a league of their own in terms of productivity for cotton single jersey fabric, while the Relanit 3.2 HS is often used for knitting fabrics with elastomeric yarns.

Increased productivity pays off quickly

"KPR very quickly realised that increased productivity is far from being an end in itself", Batliboi CEO Sidham states. "Increased productivity indeed has an impact on the entire production." His reasoning is easy to follow: "If I can use fewer machines to produce a certain output, this means less space, less personnel, less wear and tear and less consumables. Therefore, a premium machine by Mayer & Cie. is prone to pay off very quickly."



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Voltas strong partnership with KPR Mill



Mr. C. Kamatchisundaram,
Vice President - TMD, Voltas

KPR Mill is a reputed and progressive organisation in the textile industry with its focus spanning across yarn, fabrics and garments. FASO is a leading brand of KPR Mill through which the group has also forayed into the retail space and created brand identity. Voltas TMD has always been a trustworthy business partner in the textile industry and our long-lasting association with KPR Group stands testimony to this fact. Our focus is on continuously enhancing this relationship not only by offering the



Mr. Nizar Ali, General Manager, Voltas

right products and solutions but also by providing end-to-end service support throughout the lifecycle of the products. Voltas TMD has been a preferred partner to KPR Group since inception for capital machinery as well as after-sales products. The details given below are some of the examples where we have been a valued partner to the KPR Group for the past two decades.

Fabric Dyeing Machine from THIES: We are privileged to be a partner to KPR Group in their dyeing project with a capacity of more than 30 tons per day by supplying a set of 10 Ecomaster machines with automatic dispensing MPS units from our principals, Thies of Germany. Subsequently we had also supplied a further set of two Minisoft machines in the year 2018. Excellent dyeing results with high reproducibility are continuously achieved in these machines for almost every type of fabric by KPR Group. Thies GmbH, Germany is a global leader in soft flow dyeing machines.

The current range of iMaster dyeing machines have a series of unique value propositions which include dyeing quality, consistency, repeatability, low liquor consumption and high level of user-friendliness. Exceptionally reliable fabric transport is guaranteed by innovative features, including internal winch, nozzle and plaiter delivery pipe in one unit and a two-dimensional adjustable fabric chamber. The amount of free liquor in the machine is reduced to a minimum, improving water consumption.



Finishing Machine from BRUECKNER: We are also privileged to be chosen by KPR Group for their finishing project through the finishing machines from our principals, Brueckner of Germany. Initially, we supplied one six-chamber and one eight-chamber stenters. Delighted with the performance of the machine, KPR Group favoured us for the supply of four more stenters, which were supplied in 2016. Brueckner has always been a preferred supplier of KPR Group when it comes to finishing and it demonstrates the confidence bestowed on our relationship and our deliverables.



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- ▶ One time investment. Life time quality improvement.
- ▶ Existing top arm will be Retained
- ▶ Startup end breaks are reduced while restarting machine after frequent power interruptions.
- ▶ Breaking of roller stands and slides are eliminated by avoiding over-loading of top arms.
- ▶ Guaranteed performance and ensuring consistence yarn quality.
- ▶ Uniform and consistent loading on all the top arms.
- ▶ NO compressed AIR required for DRAFTING ZONE.
- ▶ Possible to reduce break draft and spacer sizes.
- ▶ Uniform yarn strength and improvement in CV% of count & strength.
- ▶ Easy maintenance and easy pressure setting.
- ▶ Power saving by avoiding compressed air
- ▶ Even appearance of fabrics due to reduced incidence of drafting faults.

"SMT" Pressure Setting Gauge

- 'SMT' Pressure Setting Gauge is a specially designed device to set pressure on individual top arms.
- 'SMT' Pressure Setting Gauge is suitable for all types of top arms in spinning and speed frame.
- 'SMT' Pressure Setting Gauge is uniquely designed to operate easily without adjusting manually for the drafting angle.

Developed, Manufactured & Supplied by

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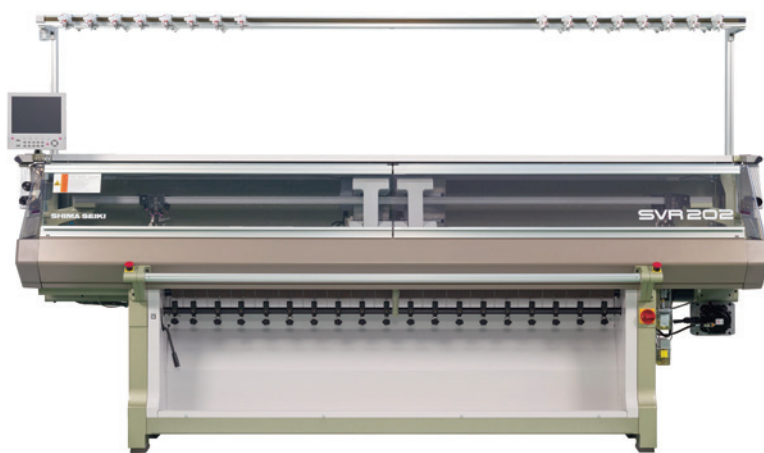




The stenter is the heart of textile finishing. It develops more and more into a multi-purpose line for the production of technical textiles and other web-shaped materials. Several thousands of Brueckner stenters are in use all around the globe. Every day they are stentering, drying, heat-setting, functionalising and coating uncountable metres of the most different fabric types. Since many decades Brueckner stenters stand for highest quality and performance and ensure production with sustainability and energy-efficiency.

Flat Knitting Machine from SHIMA SEIKI:

Our partnership with KPR Group got strengthened further by participating in their project for making flat-knitted fabrics. We were favoured for the supply of 20 SVR202® flat-knitting machines from our principals, Shima Seiki of Japan. By using this high-class latest technology in flat-knitting, KPR Mill is in a position to deliver the best-in-class finer garments to its buyers. SVR202 supports a variety of production needs with its wide 80-inch knitting width and tandem knitting capability. High productivity is achieved with a maximum knitting speed of 1.4 metres per second and the R2CARRIAGE® system that permits quicker carriage returns.



It also carries over established Shima Seiki technology such as the renowned digital stitch control system (DSCS®), spring-loaded full-time sinker system and stitch presser. Proven technology along with 'Made in Japan' quality, reliability, productivity, user-friendliness and cost-performance all combine to satisfy the high expectations of the world's fashion industry.

Apart from capital machinery arena, we have also been serving KPR Group for a range of after-sales products including: a) ring travellers from our principals, **LAKSHMI RING TRAVELLERS**, b) card clothing from our principals, **LAKSHMI CARD CLOTHING**, and c) speciality lubricants from our principals, **KLUEBER LUBRICATION INDIA LTD.**



Stenter infeed systems
ELFEED



Cutting systems
ELCUT

- BTA 2535 tube opening system -> FE 5204
- BTA 80 edge trimmer



Pick and course counting system
ELCOUNT

- no physical contact
- New CCD camera technology
- online detection



NEW DROP STITCH
MATRIX SENSOR

An adaptive sensor with convincingly simple operation and infrared LED light transmitter for optimal contrasts.



Weft straightener
ELSTRAIGHT

- for woven fabrics, knits and technical textiles



Web guiding systems
ELSMART

- SW 91 low tension, low speed
- SW 94 pedestal version, for dry materials
- SW 95 box version for dry and damp materials
- SW 96 for wet materials, stainless steel
- SW 97 flange version for wet materials, stainless steel and for steamers

*Guides **R**us*

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“We value KPR team’s feedback”

– Senthil Raja, JMD, MEC Growths Texmach P Ltd



S. Arunachalam, Managing Director, (right), and A. Senthil Raja, Jt. Managing Director, MecGrowths Texmach Pvt. Ltd.

KPR is amongst the most discerning clients that you can meet. The company has set exceedingly high standards in performance, quality, service and the entire vendor selection process. Once you meet their requirement, best rest assured of a long and mutually enriching association.

At MEC Growth, when our initial top arm trial was successful, it all looked so easy. But subsequently we realized that we had taken only the baby steps towards climbing Mount Everest! After the initial trial, then started the product analysis, technical clarifications, price negotiation, etc.

Though we supply to other OEMs, it is only KPR that has thrown light on our product. We value KPR team’s feedback, which can help further improvements on our product. This has boosted our confidence level to promote our product fearlessly throughout the world.

We started with two machines in October 2018, with the KPR Group, which further went to 0.2million spindle top arms by the beginning of 2019. We received another order in 2020. We can now say that our product is perfectly alright. Thanks to the entire KPR team and management for such fabulous support and advice. We truly cherish this relationship.

SETEX software to handle manufacturing performance.

To be sustainable, a textile production facility project typically demands a high level of both excitement and interest from all parties. For the automation part of the dyeing department, SETEX was involved in the turnkey project from the start in 2008 as a technology partner of the machine supplier THIES.

While the majority of textile finishing mills increased the efficiency of systems in small steps with embedded software in controllers, for KPR Mill it was about the whole factory. The OrgaTEX MES software is linking therefore operational and information technology by integrating multiple machines on a single platform.

With the goal of production excellence, KPR Mill wanted to use less chemicals and colorants from the start and run optimized dyeing cycles with the best possible “right first time”.

This was achieved with the synergistic effects of:

- Machine controllers with identical user interface and intelligent processing
- “Look ahead” functions for integration of dissolving and dosing systems to achieve the most efficient possible utilization and precisely fitting injection on the dye-machine process-step.
- Combining the recipe and process management information in a software module with dynamic optimization of standard treatments.

This system provides the relevant information on production order cost, consumption, and energy, including performance KPIs to make the manufacturing smart, streamlined and efficient.

Regular on-site inspections with equipment or software upgrades make KPR Mill’s focus on customer satisfaction intricately connected to the requirements for the systems up-to-date status, high availability, and fail-safe operation possible.

With full commitment from the customer’s staff and being always on the most recent software version, KPR Mill gains more meaningful information from the increasing flood of data in order to get even more out of the production and conserve important knowhow all at the same time. ♦



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FASO establishes a 'winning' presence

KPR launched its brand FASO innerwear and athleisure wear in 2019, which has received enthusiastic response in the market. In an exclusive interview, E K Sakthivel, Executive Director, KPR Mill Limited, provides detailed insights into the FASO brand, USPs and future plans

The FASO brand, which is the first foray of the KPR Group into the branded apparel segment, was launched in May 2019 and has already been creating ripples in the market. Providing details about the launch, E K Sakthivel, Executive Director, KPR Mill Limited, says, "We had launched the brand initially in Coimbatore, Madurai and Chennai. We started with 15 products of men's innerwear – basically briefs, trunks and gym vests. Within three months' time we expanded across Tamil Nadu. Right now we are offering 42 styles in men's innerwear. We have briefs, trunks, vests and athleisure wear consisting of jogger shorts, pants, gym vests and T-shirts." The company has been expanding its presence by steadily increasing its network of distributors.

Overwhelming Response

According to Sakthivel, the company is extremely satisfied with the response that the brand has got till date. "We feel overwhelmed. It is more than what we expected. Right from day one we were clear about our target audience. We are reaching out to consumers in the age group of 18-35, in other words 'millennial'. With respect to pricing we follow what is known as the leader pricing strategy, which means you can get premium quality and fashion at an affordable price," he states.

The Organic Factor

Elaborating further on the strategy, Sakthivel states, "We



E K Sakthivel, Executive Director, KPR Mill Limited

are perhaps the only brand in the country which offers a combination of being organic and fashionable along with affordability. While there are many brands which claim to be organic, if you were to take a closer look you will find that only a few of their products would be actually organic whereas, in our case, the entire range is organic. We are that way a truly organic brand. From day one we stand differentiated from other brands due to this reason." Continuing on the subject, Sakthivel says,

"Even in the case of athleisure wear, the price that we

COVER STORY

are offering is affordable, again without any compromise on the quality, comfort and performance front," he adds. So how does the brand manage this combination of affordable pricing while being an organic brand and at the same time placing itself at the forefront when it comes to fashion and feel? Is it an economically viable option? Replies Sakthivel: "It is possible for us because we are vertically integrated. We have our own infrastructure from spinning till garments."

"We have a team of experts who source cotton for our group companies. We spin our cotton and the yarn becomes fabric in our own processing division along with additional processes which give the feel and texture to the fabrics. We have always been known for our modern infrastructure, featuring the latest top-end textile making machinery," he adds. In terms of production infrastructure, the KPR Group has a capacity of 250,000 kg per day in spinning and an average of 250,000 pieces per day when it comes to garmenting. A few manufacturing lines have been exclusively allotted for the FASO brand in the group's factories.

Expansion Plans

When asked about when the company intends to launch its own exclusive FASO retail outlets, Sakthivel reveals: "We plan to spread pan-India by 2023. We want to add our range of ladies and kids wear and go pan-India. It is only after we accomplish this that we want to open our own exclusive retail outlets. For a family walking into any of our showrooms, we want to provide them with a complete shopping experience. There should be something for every



member of the family. Similarly, for women and kids too we want to have multiple product categories. You can say we are targeting having at least around 150 styles before we start our own exclusive FASO retail outlets."

Huge Potential

"As mentioned earlier, we offer a combination of an organic, fashionable and affordable product. The sheer feel and comfort of our products are sure to make them a favourite. This is how we have differentiated ourselves. With additions to our product range planned, we are sure that we will continue to surge ahead in this market segment in the future," Sakthivel says. ♦

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THE TEXTILE MAGAZINE

FUTURE OF TEXTILE

APROL System from B & R

Enables factories to implement energy monitoring, condition monitoring and process data acquisition in one system

With digitization, manufacturing industry in India is undergoing changes in all areas right from machine development to factory shop floors. Companies have understood the importance of IT / OT convergence and many have already started taking steps in this direction. Automation has long changed manufacturing and digitization is further changing the way factories operate. Textile industry too is looking at digitization as an enabler for quality improvement and cost competitiveness. This has prompted the use of connected equipment, software and advanced automation technologies in various areas such as yarn production, fabric production, finishing, production management, inventory management and other areas.

Impact of trends and technology

The labor-intensive textile industry is using automation for many processes like cotton picking, ginning, spinning, weaving, processing and even to some extent in garment making. Commonly attributed advantages of automation includes higher productivity, more efficiency, better quality, more customized products, improved safety and reduced lead times. Higher degree of automation lowers cost and increases quality at greater speed and higher output. However, human and machine safety, energy savings, less maintenance, self-diagnostics and predictive maintenance to increase machine and plant uptime are some of the challenges textile industry is facing. Cutting-edge automation solutions and technologies help tackle these challenges, achieve excellent performance and stay ahead of competition. New trends are not only reshaping manufacturing processes but also helping plants & factories become smarter, connected and more efficient. Adoption of these developments in textile industry ensures high return on investments and helps India leapfrog global competition. Increasing emphasis on governments "Make in India" campaign coupled with the need of meeting



global manufacturing standards makes it imminent for the Indian textile industry to adopt latest technologies and automation solutions.

Machine builders and end users are closely looking at leveraging next generation technologies to control and monitor machines, factories and processes. Textile being one of the oldest industry in India has its own challenges while adopting technology advancements. Many textile factories have decade old machines still running on the shop floor having legacy systems and networks and much of operations still being manual or semi-automatic. Within this environment, existing equipment, machines, devices and sensors are not connected. Operators collect data manually from every machine about production output, raw material consumption etc. to calculate Rols and OEE. Disconnected machines is one of the challenge associated with brownfield textile factories. Unavailability of real time

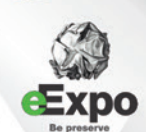


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data restricts and delays decision-making and thus hampers profitability. However, upgrading these machines for leveraging technology is not a solution as it involves huge capital investment. Textile factories are looking for solutions, which gives advantages of new trends with minimum investment and maximum RoI.

APROL – Adding smart to factories

Many textile mills running isolated legacy equipment are not able to monitor real-time data of energy usage, product quality and productivity. To get more out of digitally isolated legacy equipment and make manufacturing processes more transparent the solution is to make existing factories flexible and modular. APROL system from B&R satisfies all the requirements of brownfield as well as Greenfield sites with flexible and modular solutions without neglecting the high demands on availability and data consistency. APROL enables factories to implement energy monitoring, condition monitoring and process data acquisition in one system. This is a cost effective solution for factories, as they do not need different systems for satisfying different needs. This can make new installation as well as existing installation smart and Industrial IoT ready. In a single, consistently easy-to-use platform, APROL unifies process automation, factory automation and infrastructure automation. The B&R Edge Controller makes it possible to acquire data, evaluate it and then send it to the cloud. It also facilitates gathering data from various controllers on the field and moving it to the MES/ERP or the cloud. The powerful industrial PC can even be used for big data analysis and machine learning, while at the same time serving as a full-fledged industrial controller.

The enormous benefits of APROL – hardware, software, redundancy and out-of-the-box solutions coupled with open source communication standards such as OPC UA, Ethernet POWERLINK and openSAFETY enable factories to add value to their already available production processes by increasing profitability and reducing losses and wastage.

Data at your fingertips

Those associated with textile industry are very much familiar with the dilemma of improving product quality, increasing system availability while at the same time cutting back on maintenance costs. Equipment is a major investment for any company and keeping it up and running is critical. Predictive maintenance plays a vital role in monitoring the condition of equipment in the factories. Equipment condition monitoring helps to reduce machine downtime



and maintenance cost. APROL ConMon monitors the health of machinery making it ideal for implementing condition based predictive maintenance. APROL ConMon makes it possible to acquire, process and assess relevant condition parameters and can be set up with minimal efforts. It makes imple-

mentation of condition monitoring system and plant asset management solutions considerably easier.

Energy consumption in a textile mill is huge and with energy bills soaring, it makes monitoring energy consumption in factories the need of the hour for reducing operational expenses. APROL EnMon is an energy monitoring package allowing factories to measure, record and analyze energy consumption. Historical data allows detailed analysis of energy consumption, making it easy to identify cause and effect. By monitoring real time energy utilization, companies can reduce operating costs and eventually improve their competitiveness in the market.

Centralized acquisition of operating and process data from machines and equipment is much easier using B&R's APROL system. Centralized data acquisition with APROL PDA enables complete online performance monitoring and visual overviews. Powerful and extremely reliable long-term archiving makes it possible to track quality for the entire manufacturing process. Calculation of overall equipment effectiveness, line effectiveness and possibility to view reports and trends at the click of a button makes APROL PDA a highly sought for solutions in factories. Highly flexible reports and trends with integrated analysis functions provide support for production optimization. The combined display of ongoing data, alarms and events in the trend viewer provides management with a holistic view of their machine and factories across the globe.

Smart manufacturing with B&R

To remain competitive in era of Industrial IoT, digital transformation is the need of the hour. B&R offers complete hardware and software solutions, comprehensive service and expertise in automation and digitalization of textile machinery and factories. With next generation technologies and open source communication standards such as OPC UA, POWERLINK and openSAFETY as well as the powerful Automation Studio software development environment, B&R is the right partner for implementing Industrial IoT solutions in both new and legacy equipment. With solutions for machine to factory automation, B&R serves as a perfect partner to textile industry for sustainability, flexibility, higher productivity and profitability. ♦



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Danfoss India to champion 'Make in India, for India'

Expands production and product portfolio at its Oragadam campus



Vesa Laisi, President, Danfoss Drives

Danfoss Industries Pvt. Ltd., an industry leader in energy efficient solutions has announced its bullish stance on furthering the presence of its Drives segment in India, to further its localisation and support the Govt's mission towards an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. The Danfoss Group has made significant investments to the tune of INR 1000+ crores in last six years, to further the company's commitment towards strengthening its local manufacturing and powering its capabilities towards India-focussed R&D and innovation.

Being the world's first mass produced drive player and pioneer in

drives technology since 1968, Danfoss Drives has been an industry veteran in developing, manufacturing and supplying energy efficient technology & electrification solutions to meet the global demand for sustainable technology across key sectors including food processing, water, ports, chemical & pharma, metal, cement and paper among others.

By 2025, it is estimated that more than 5 billion people (over half the estimated world population) will benefit directly or indirectly from the value added by Danfoss Drives globally in their everyday lives. Additionally, the current installed base of drives is estimated to help to save the annual equivalent of 60 hours of global energy consumption.

Since the company began its independent operations in India, Danfoss India has quadrupled its localisation efforts in terms of production and supply chain capabilities and projects 90 percent localisation by 2022. Today, Danfoss Drives' India Design Center serves as a hub for Global High Power Designs, Application Development Center and Product Engineering Center and Center of Excellence in heavy industries.

Speaking on the Danfoss Global Drives business, Mr. Vesa Laisi, President, Danfoss Drives said: "At Danfoss Drives, we are focussed on generating value from our decades of experience to help drive the sustainability goals of national and international governments, in a bid to help engineer a better and more sustainable future. Backed by a strong understanding of the global megatrends that are powering the world's economic and social growth, we aim to push the boundaries of technology by innovat-



Palanisamy Lakshman P,
Director - Danfoss Drives, Danfoss India

ing solutions to tackle climate change, helps cope with rapid urbanisation and helps improve standards of living among the citizens of the world.

Going into details about Danfoss Drives in India, Mr. P L Palanisamy, Director – Danfoss Drives, Danfoss India said: “Since its inception, Danfoss India has viewed the region with vast growth potential. We continue to be the market leader across several verticals such as commercial buildings, chemical, power, textiles, cement, pulp & paper, etc. due to our continuous innovation and value addition to customers. With the wide-spread adoption of our drives across key Indian industries, we have increasingly strengthened our resolve to make our Danfoss Drives business self-reliant where ~80% of our supplies are produced from India Campus with an increasing focus on building a local supplier base and enhancing process innovation for our customers in India. We are optimistic that the move towards increasing investments in the Drive segments will stimulate continued growth for Danfoss in India.”

With a steady focus on building a strong global R&D & engineering function, Danfoss India has built fresh avenues for customer and industry collaborations within the country to enhance the product testing capabilities at global standards and increase the speed of innovation. The company has also made huge strides in achieving maximum self-reliance right from the sourcing of raw materials to the delivery of the finished products in India. Cur-

rently, the final products from the Danfoss India campus are also exported to key markets such as US, Middle East, ASEA regions.

“Danfoss India’s commitment to India has been unwavering from the start and the recent increase in India investments of our drives segment reinforces this commitment. The added step towards increasing our production lines is a testament to our success story in addressing the needs of our customers and the industry during these trying times. We remain steadfast in our journey towards complete localisation and stand in solidarity with the centre’s clarion call for “India for India” and the “Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan.”, said Mr. Ravichandran Purushothaman, President, Danfoss India.

As part of Danfoss’ commitment to India, the company had made extensive investments to further enhance the drives assembly and manufacturing facility in 2019 and commenced the manufacturing of P600 platform Drives from the Chennai campus, which is currently also exported to global markets. The current investment allows for further expansion (since August 2020) for the assembly of the FC51/FC360 range of drives to cater exclusively to the Indian market and further expand the P600 manufacturing line in the coming months. The new range of drives will create a significant impact towards improving energy efficiency and maximising energy productivity. The latest additions to the drives portfolio to assemble in India will drive up the percentage of sales of ‘Made in India’ drives to over 80%.

Danfoss Drives find extensive applications across a range of industries in India such as food & beverages, plastics, HVAC, air compressor and textile OEMs, chemical, cement, steel, water, oil & gas, marine, paper to name a few. The 50 Acre Platinum rated Danfoss’ Chennai factory is equipped with two state of the art assembly lines for drives, full load & harmonics testing facility up to 1MW including EMC labs. Additionally, all the necessary regulatory and customer approvals have been procured for the Chennai site.

Since March 2020, with the implementation of the nationwide lockdown, Danfoss India has demonstrated extreme business resilience and agility, ensuring minimal disruptions to its operations. While select production lines have already been ramped up to 100% capacity, a sizeable portion of the staff continues to work from home. Danfoss has ably leveraged its digital capabilities to conduct complex functions such as R&D and product inspections along with ensuring continued interaction with their customers and other stakeholders.

In its continued efforts towards sustainability, the company has committed to reduce the company’s energy intensity by 50% and double the company’s energy productivity before 2030 – both measured against the base year of 2007. It is also set to change its company car fleet to become all electric latest by 2030. In the coming years, Danfoss also aims to implement numerous measures to further reduce our energy consumption and drive greener technology investments in its buildings and processes.

Cables weighing tons guided by quickly mounted **igus** energy chain

Harnessed and tested e-loop energy supply system increases safety and reduces procurement and installation time

It guides cables safely at a defined bend radius and even withstands shocks and impacts: the e-loop. The energy chain system is specifically designed for hanging applications, such as in deep drilling rigs and is already replacing service loops worldwide. In order to offer users a complete ready-to-connect system from a single source that operates safely even in extreme application scenarios, such as in explosion zones, igus now offers its energy chains with special connectors and cables as tested readychains.

To guide cables safely in hanging applications, igus has developed the e-loop as an alternative to the service loop. This is because the service loop often causes a number of problems: the cables have no guide, have no defined bend radius, cannot move and, in the worst case, break. When servicing or repairing the service loop, the complete system must be replaced, as the cables are sealed together. "With the e-loop we have developed an alternative to the service loop. The three-dimensional energy supply system combines the advantages of a polymer energy chain with a high strength pull rope. The rope absorbs the tensile forces inside the chain and transmits them to the mounting brackets. This means that the cables remain completely strain-relieved", says Tim Schneebeck, Industry Manager Oil & Gas at igus GmbH. The modular e-chain made of high-performance polymer offers a defined bend radius at all times and withstands vibrations and shocks thanks to PU protectors.

Save procurement time and costs

The e-loop successfully replaces the service loop, especially in deep drilling rigs. But the e-loop is also used in shore power supply or open-cast mining: "We have already won many projects. Customers often wanted a complete energy supply system with the appropriate essential tests in accordance with VDE and IEC", says Schneebeck. "For low voltage cables, for example for top drive systems, we were able to supply a completely tested readychain system with chainflex cables right from the start. We now have the right partners on board for high-voltage cables and special connectors", says Markus Hüffel, Product Manager readychain & readycable at igus GmbH. All e-loops can now also be



provided by igus with special cables and special connectors for shore power supply and explosive zones as a finished system. The energy supply system is harnessed by igus and tested with a Megger VLF Sinus 34kV. The readychain system saves the user almost 90% procurement time and 68% of the assembly time. In addition, igus gives a guarantee of up to 36 months depending on the configuration of the e-loop.

e-loop series also expanded for stationary applications

Due to the success of the system, igus has now expanded the e-loop series to include a version with crossbars every 2nd link. The new version has been specifically developed for stationary applications, for example in shore power supply, for the energy supply from the mast to the power container; it is lightweight and cost-effective. The e-loop is also available with rollers and handle modules so that it can be easily moved from A to B over the floor at quay facilities. When the machine and system reaches the end of their service life and is no longer in use, igus will take it back and guarantee pure recycling. In return, the user receives a credit note based on the net weight.

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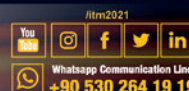


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Spin high-quality ring yarns economically and flexibly

Rieter ring spinning machines offer spinning mills a degree of flexibility like no other spinning technology. Added to this are economic advantages that increase considerably when looking at a complete Rieter spinning system. In a comparison with different suppliers, this system demonstrated significantly better cost efficiency, offering a cash flow that is USD 310 000 higher per year.

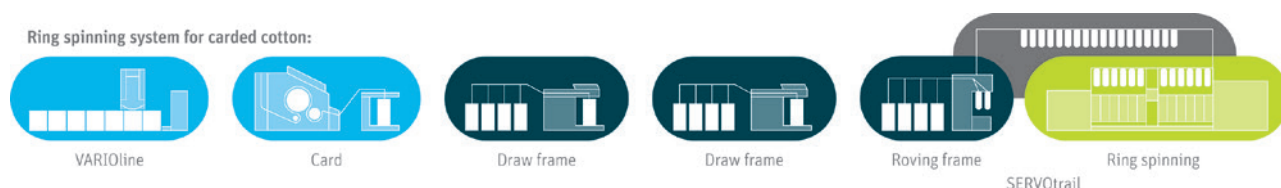


Fig. 1: As a system supplier, Rieter offers the complete ring spinning system, including automation solutions such as SERVOnail.

If a spinning mill wants to spin a wide variety of different yarns, Rieter recommends the ring spinning system. Whether the spinning mill produces standard yarns from various raw materials and in all yarn counts, or fancy yarns, core yarns or twin yarns, a ring spinning system always offers the most flexible solution. With the Rieter compacting device on the ring spinning machine, it is even possible to quickly switch between ring yarn and compact yarn. No other spin-

ning technology offers the same diversity and flexibility for enabling customers to respond to the particular requirements of the market.

The economical advantage of a Rieter ring spinning system can be seen in a comparison. Here, a "mixed system" consisting of machines from two different manufacturers was contrasted with a Rieter system. A denim slub yarn was produced. The Rieter system (Fig. 1) comprised the blowroom line VARIOline, the cards C 80, the draw



Fig. 2: The ring spinning machine G 38 offers full flexibility for producing standard and special yarns

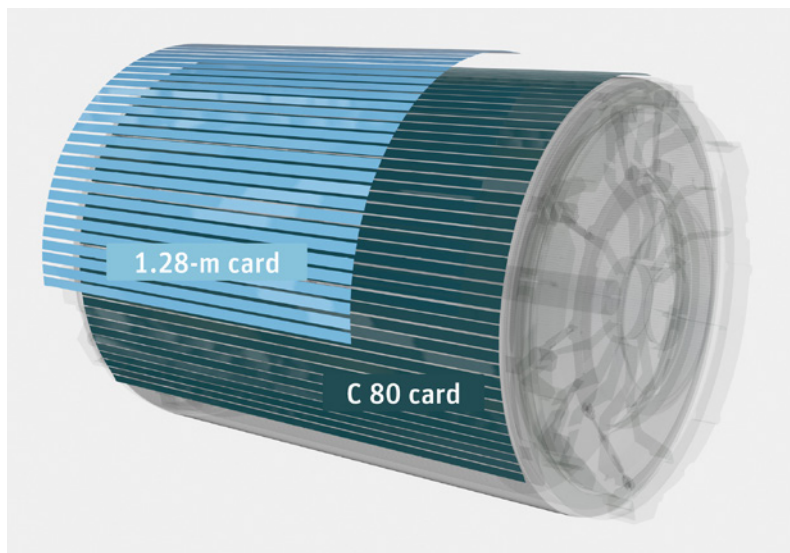


Fig. 3: The high-performance card C 80 with the largest active carding area allows low loss of good fibers while retaining the same sliver or yarn quality.

frames SB-D 26 and RSB-D 26, the roving frames F 40, the roving bobbin transport system SERVOrail and the ring spinning machines G 38 with the integrated device VARIOspin for spinning slub yarns (Fig. 2). A cotton with a staple length of 1 1/16 inches was used, which was spun into a slub yarn with a yarn count of Ne 14. Both systems each produced 2 078 kilograms of yarn per hour.

Save 10% Energy

Energy-efficient solutions and a high production capacity generate energy savings of 10% throughout the Rieter process when compared to the "mixed system." The blowroom line VARIOline with the option ECOriized plays a significant part in this. It reduces the energy consumption of the pneumatic fiber transport throughout the blowroom line by 30%. High production output, energy-efficient drives, and innovative machine components on the card C 80 also lead to lower energy costs per kilogram of card sliver produced. The draw frames with the drive concept ECOriized are very energy efficient too. The largest contribution to the low energy consumption of the Rieter system is made by the ring spinning machines G 38 with double-sided suction, energy-optimized elements and motors, and energy-saving spindles and spindle drives.

ADDITIONAL CASH FLOW WITH THE RIETER SYSTEM: AROUND USD 310 000 PER YEAR

✓ Space requirement -10%	✓ Raw material utilization +0.3%
✓ Energy consumption -10%	✓ Personnel requirement -3%

Calculation basis: yarn production: 2 078 kg/h; raw material costs: 1.70 USD/kg; energy costs: 0.074 USD/kWh

Fig. 4: Customers who choose the Rieter ring spinning system generate a cash flow that is USD 310 000 higher per year.

Better Utilize the Raw Material

Fiber waste is a key factor in creating an economical spinning process. Even small savings pay off. Optimal raw-material utilization is achieved in the blowroom line VARIOline thanks to the combination of microtufts, the function VARIOset and progressive cleaning. An efficient blowroom process is dependent on the raw material being well opened from the outset. The automatic bale opener A 12 is capable of breaking down the bales into microtufts. The removal of trash and dust in the downstream blowroom process is considerably gentler and more efficient. On the high-performance cards C 80, the maximum technological carding areas with 40 active flats (Fig. 3) and a working width of 1.5 meters and the pre- and post-carding zones that can be equipped individually ensure extremely low loss of good fibers while retaining the same sliver and yarn quality. To summarize, raw-material savings of 0.3% can be achieved with the Rieter system compared to the "mixed system."

Save Space

The high productivity of the Rieter ma-



Fig. 5: Produce fancy yarn at any time: the Rieter ring spinning machine G 38 with integrated slub yarn system VARIOspin.



Fig. 6: The piecing robot ROBOspin increases productivity and reduces personnel costs

chines enables the same output as a “mixed system” to be achieved with fewer machines. This saves a lot of space. In the case study mentioned above, the Rieter spinning mill requires five cards, one draw frame and 5% fewer ring spindles than the “mixed system.” Space-saving machine concepts lead to a compact spinning mill layout. This results in space savings of approximately 10% and therefore correspondingly lower building investments and maintenance costs.

Reduce Personnel

Fewer machines means also less operating effort, since the Rieter system needs 3% fewer personnel. Automation solutions such as the automated roving frame F 40 with the fastest doffer on the market, the roving bobbin transport system SERVOrail and user-friendly machines likewise reduce personnel requirements.

Earn More

Taking raw-material utilization, energy and labor costs, interest rates and ongoing operating costs into consideration, the total production costs of the perfectly synchronized Rieter system from a single source are significantly lower than those of the solution with different suppliers. This means customers who invest in the Rieter ring spinning system generate an approximately USD 310 000 higher cash flow per year at the same production volume than customers who choose the “mixed system” (Fig. 4).

Be Flexible

The ring spinning machine G 38 is an all-rounder that allows the business to respond quickly to changing market requirements. With up to 1 824 spindles, it can produce a wide variety of slub yarns and special yarns, such as core yarns and twin yarns, and even compact yarns too. The Rieter slub yarn system VARIOspin is integrated into the machine. The latest-generation servomotors are ideal for the high dynamics involved in slub yarn production. A range of effect designs can easily be programmed on the machine display or an external computer with the appropriate software and

reliably reproduced. This allows fancy yarns of outstanding quality – that is to say Rieter quality – to be produced efficiently and profitably (Fig. 5). For producing compact yarn on the G 38, the customer can choose between the optionally available compacting devices COMPACTdrum and COMPACTeasy. They make it simple to switch between ring yarn and compact yarn.

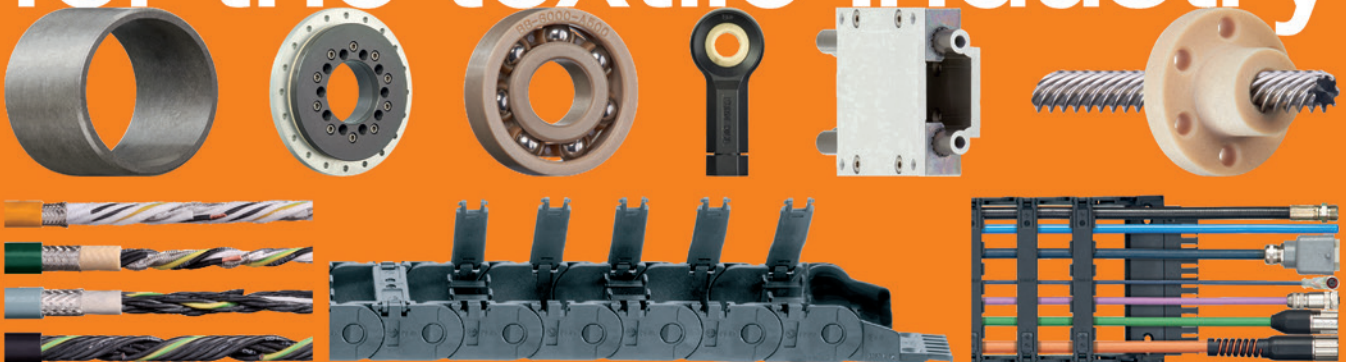
Profit Further

The new piecing robot ROBOspin for Rieter ring spinning machines (Fig. 6) was not included in the comparison, but offers further economic advantages. It makes work on the ring spinning machine considerably more attractive. The piecing robot automates a very unpopular task in the spinning mill for which it is hard to find the personnel in many markets: repairing ends down that occur during spinning or after doffing. The robot receives information about the position of the ends down from the integrated individual spindle monitoring system ISM premium. The two robots – one on each side of the machine – are used 24/7 without any loss of efficiency. Spinning mills benefit from ROBOspin in the following key aspects: increased machine availability, higher productivity and a reduced burden on the personnel side, which in turn reduces personnel costs. The quality of the yarn piecer is consistent, and contamination or damage of the cop is a thing of the past. An innovative and intelligent solution that is also available as a retrofit depending on the machine model. ♦

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Grundfos' digital solutions supporting Textile Industry

Grundfos, one of the global leaders in advanced pump solutions, has been able to create a unique mark in the water industry. One of its advanced products range includes the chemical dosing pumps. Grundfos' solutions help to determine the number of chemicals injected into each process and provide the right-size of the dosing pump for any system to make sure the best performance and precision is achieved in a textile industry. Digital dosing pumps are also used by various other industries like food, manufacturing facilities, medical laboratories and mining operations.



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The dyeing applications in the textile industry have come a long way from the manual addition of dyes to mechanised dosing. With industry 4.0 revolutionizing the way

industries operate, dosing of chemicals has also become smarter. The transition from a silo system of dosing chemicals to automation has meant that these operations can be controlled remotely by software such as Building Management System (BMS).

The challenges associated with chemical dosing are no longer just a technical problem, having different number of proprietary chemicals in the market combined with the changes in the organisational set up demands multiple departments like planning & procurement, logistics & inventory management, plant operations and other to converge in order to optimize the chemical demand in the respective processes.

In the textile dyeing application, Hydrogen Perox-

ide (H₂O₂) is a commonly used bleaching agent. Assessments were conducted by Grundfos in a towel manufacturing industry in southern Tamil Nadu, India that uses H₂O₂ as bleaching agent. The entire process was a manual setup, in an attempt to automate the process, few interesting observations were made:

- Due to manual handling, chemicals were lost in some batches that also led to spillage and other issues
- Visible differences in the quality of towels that received less quantity of chemical during bleaching
- Chemical stored in abundance led to high inventory cost

Some of the key issues are the nature of the chemicals used in dyeing applications and their unregulated quantities. Precise and accurate dosage of chemicals ensures proper dyeing while reducing costs and simultaneously increasing the overall productivity.

Textile units currently no longer need a single product, but rather needs holistic solutions to address the problems while continuously improving the process. In the chemical dosing context, the offered values are perceived differently by end users (plant operators), influencers (consultants) and the actual purchaser (purchase department). The end user requires a system that is robust with minimal downtime, the actual purchaser seeks best quality at best price and the influencer derives value in the overall performance of the system. Hence, the challenge in selecting the right dosing pump becomes multi-dimensional.

The rotating components of the mechanical device is subjected to constant wear and tear and dosing pumps are no exceptions. Over a period, the error percentage or tolerance of the pump widens and results in dosing quantity variation. This takes away the process control and results in higher chemical consumption. The purchase decision based on price very often overlooks the lifecycle cost of a dosing pump. Dosing pumps, if rightly selected not only bring down the operating cost but also increase the productivity of the

process. The primary function of a dosing pump is to transfer precise dosing medium (chemicals, syrups etc). Grundfos' smart digital dosing pumps use the stepper motor - the lynchpin ensures the accuracy of dosing.

In an automated-process environment, the ability of individual devices to interact with other devices and the potential to generate and capture data are paramount. The real time data allows businesses to analyse and register continuous improvement in the entire process. Grundfos' smart digital pumps enhance operational efficiency not only in an automated environment but can simulate an automated process even when operating in silos. The Grundfos DID controller can also be coupled with the pumps when multiple chemicals / dyes are used in a process - this can help synchronise the pumps.

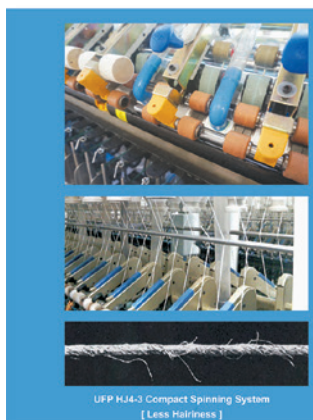
Grundfos SMART Digital dosing solutions have heralded a new era of intelligent chemical dosing. The cutting-edge drive technology, new dimensions of end-user comfort and intelligent flow control help in improving cost efficiencies while continuing to support any high precision processes. ♦

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Diamond Series (DSS): Silveryam Lattice Apron	Brown	Cotton, Blended, Synthetic Fibers Colored fibers, wool

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