

KNITTING TRADE JOURNAL

September / October 2022



Into the wild

New season yarns demonstrate progress and performance

Human (knitting) machine

Virtual knitting brings sustainable benefits

Comfortable & casual

Enhanced options for terry fabrics

Leading the way

Zero waste sock production

The technical magazine for the global knitting industry

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NEWS & MEDIA

60 Years YOUNG.

SHIMA SEIKI's history is notable for placing priority on customer benefit, with emphasis on increasing efficiency and reducing waste. Little did we know it at the time, but these innovations addressed modern issues such as "sustainability" and "DX," highlighted by such developments as DSCS® Digital Stitch Control, WHOLEGARMENT® knitting and virtual sampling. We present the latest of these innovations at our 60th Anniversary event held at SHIMA SEIKI headquarters in Wakayama, Japan throughout November, with an all-virtual fashion show and the latest proposals in DX for fashion including AR and VR experiences. For those unable to attend physically, we have launched a special website that allows browsing of event content as well as a webinar series exclusive to the online event.

 **60th Anniversary**



www.shimaseiki.com/60th

Access the link above to visit the website and to sign up for the webinars.



Relaxation and rejuvenation

The growing sportswear and athleisure sector trend shows little sign of abating at the moment with a new report showing that the global knitwear market is projected to be valued at US\$998.6 billion by 2031, with a rise in demand for knitted sportswear and environmentally friendly products fueling sales.

The news will come as little surprise. As the world emerges from the Covid-19 era, participation in health and fitness activities amongst all age groups continues to soar while the working from home trend has reinvigorated the athleisure sector.

Many businesses today are functioning exclusively online and therefore employees don't have to bother with looking for formalwear. Sweatshirts and joggers have become the most obvious choice for many people who are working from home as they can relax while sitting at their laptops for hours on end. These cosy alternatives are easy to live in and work for many hours. Various brands are now coming up with coordinated sets that offer the best level of comfort and convenience to suit everyone.

In addition, nothing matches the comfort of a t-shirt. Hence, one will find these are back in trend as many people

are working from home and don't need to dress up for office.

The result is that knitwear is gaining traction owing to its different advantages such as high absorption capacity, good elasticity in comparison with woven fabrics, and anti-wrinkle nature. As a result, there has been rise in the use of branded knitwear products across the globe.

According to the TMR report, which notes that the global market is estimated to register growth at a CAGR of 5.6 per cent during the forecast period from 2022 to 2031, manufacturers operating in the global knitwear market are also increasing the use of eco-friendly and natural materials in their products owing to increase in consumers inclination toward the use of sustainable products.

Such efforts are fueling the sales growth in the knitwear market. Moreover, major market players are utilizing high-end technology and innovative knitting machines in order to develop products according to the current market trends.

The use of high-performance and lightweight clothing has also been rising in recent years. As a result, the sales of different types of knitwear manufactured using synthetic, blended, and natural

materials have increased. This factor, in turn, is boosting the demand avenues in the knitwear market. Moreover, the popularity of knits for the swimwear sector is rising owing to their chlorine resistance and improved breathability. This aside, these products are more durable materials and are anti-tear.

The use of knitted fabric has also been growing in denim clothing as consumers are looking for softer materials in clothing with high compression, flexibility, and soft wear.

Combine these trends together, and it's clear that the knitting industry has more than a sporting chance of significant success over the next few years.



Haydn Davis

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What's hot on knittingtradejournal.com – our most popular online stories

ITMA call for papers for Milan 2023

Milan - Continuing its tradition of organising various events for exhibitors and visitors to add greater value to their participation, ITMA has issued a call for papers.

Knitters facing rising costs pressures

Dhaka - The BKMEA has warned that the soaring cost of fuel is putting a significant strain on Bangladesh's knitwear sector.

Virtual knitting brings sustainable benefits

Shanghai - A Chinese company has developed what it calls a virtual knitting machine that can produce an unlimited number of fabric structures.



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Knitting Trade Journal - September/October 2022

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Browns to build new knitting facility in Sri Lanka

Colombo - Sri Lanka's Browns Fabric Ltd is to build a US\$52.3 million, vertically integrated weft knitting plant in the country's north west province of Kurunegala.

Part of the Browns Group PLC conglomerate, Browns Fabric has signed an agreement with the Board of Investment Sri Lanka (BOI) for a state-of-the-art plant that is scheduled to commence operations in August 2023. "The company has taken the initiative to bridge a significant vacuum in supply and demand, flexibility and speed to produce fabric to the export-oriented US dollar earning apparel industry in Sri Lanka," Browns said, adding that it was equipped to empower renowned fashion retailers through its multi-faceted fabric solutions

while remaining committed to sustainability at all times.

"With the infusion of technologically advanced machinery, systems and lean design, the fully accredited and certified facility is armed with the expertise to provide a plethora of options to direct brands, regional hubs and apparel manufacturers."

Sourcing high quality fibres and yarns in collaboration with regional spinning and knitting partners, the facility's production capability will include knitting, dyeing, finishing and printing along with value added mechanical finishes of suede, brush, pre-shrunk and specialized chemical finishes such as bio, antimicrobial, easy-care and water repellence.

Located 65km from Colombo at the

Browns Industrial Park, Pannala, North Western Province, the infrastructure spans 22.5 acres and is strategically located within close proximity to many major apparel companies and a two hour delivery radius to serve the key industrial zones.

"Browns Fabric strives to be the preferred fabric source in Sri Lanka, Asia and Africa while achieving high nomination for major global brands across the US, Europe, UK and Asia," the company added, noting that the project should improve the livelihoods of over 800 people whilst uplifting over 2,000 people and related businesses in the North Western Province and surrounding areas.

Welcoming the deal, Browns Fabric Chairman, Sanakan Thamothersampillai said: "We are pleased to be a part of an initiative that will reap benefits on a cross-section of levels; from targeting foreign revenue and increasing exports, to fostering the local economy and providing much-needed job opportunities, Browns Fabric Limited will consistently and diligently work towards evolving into the leading fabric manufacturer in Sri Lanka."

The Browns Group is one of Sri Lanka's largest diversified conglomerates, which manages a fast growing and valuable portfolio of brands across several key industry sectors, such as textiles, automotive; power generation; agriculture and plantation; pharmaceuticals; investments; marine and manufacturing as well as leisure.



Left to right: Athula Haputantri, BOI Board Member; Renuka M. Weerakone, BOI Director General; Sanakan Thamothersampillai, Chairman, Browns Fabric; Prithiv Dorai, Director, Browns Fabric; Kenneth Wijesuriya, Director, Browns Fabric; Charitha Jayasingha, Director, Browns Fabric.

MAS Holdings swoops for BAM knitting

Colombo - MAS Holdings, one of Sri Lanka's largest fabric and clothing manufacturers has acquired vertically integrated knitted fabric manufacturer BAM Knitting, in line with its strategy to further strengthen operations in its domestic market.

The Thulhiriya-based BAM Knitting was founded in 2005, as the fabric manufacturing and finishing arm of BAM Holdings. It specialises in fabric production while also operating yarn and fabric dyeing capabilities as well as printing facilities.

MAS already sources more than half the raw materials for its apparel manufacturing operation from Sri Lanka. As such the deal represents an opportunity to enhance its vertical integration capability while also offering a range of synergies, including production capacity growth and collaborations on new product developments.

Announcing the deal, Suren Fernando, CEO of MAS Holdings said the deal would enable MAS to increase the verticality of its Sri Lankan operations and mitigated the increasing volatility of global supply chains and costs of logistics while increasing the overall value added by MAS. "It also highlights our continued confidence in Sri Lanka as a sustainable and competitive destination for apparel manufacturing, despite the ongoing economic challenges," he said.

Amanda Fernando, the CEO of BAM Knitting added: "The acquisition by MAS will undoubtedly elevate the capabilities that were developed at BAM, and MAS' lean manufacturing processes, product development expertise and strong people-centric ethos will surely transform the existing operation into a truly world-class business."



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ITMA call for papers for Milan 2023

Milan - Continuing its tradition of organising various events for exhibitors and visitors to add greater value to their participation, ITMA the textile machinery showcase taking place in Milan in 2023, has issued a call for papers.

At ITMA 2023, organisers say that participants can look forward to taking part in a range of events that will allow them to gain more industry knowledge, exchange experiences, and discover possible collaborations and solutions.

The events on the schedule include:

ITMA Textile Colourants and Chemicals Forum - Join the conversation with like-minded individuals for discussing trending subjects and gaining practical and technical insights into the colourants and chemicals industry.

ITMA Nonwovens Forum - The growth in the nonwovens textile sector has spurred many investments in R&D and innovative applications of nonwovens products. Discover the latest innovations and

solutions amid supply chain disruptions.

ITMA Sustainable Innovation Award - Launched in 2015 by CEMATEX, this prestigious award recognizes the collaborative efforts throughout the entire textile and garment value chain, to innovate new and sustainable products and promote outstanding research related to the industry.

Innovator Xchange - An excellent avenue to gain insights from the latest textile innovations and award-winning solutions in 4 trending topics by R&I exhibitors and industry experts.

Innovation Video Showcase - The Innovation Video Showcase highlights outstanding innovations in materials, and textile and garment technologies on display at ITMA 2023. It also provides visitors with a selection of industry-leading innovative solutions that are launched by exhibitors.

The call for papers and entries for the above events is now open to all exhibitors - <https://itma.com>

Cashmere sales drive Johnstons

Hawick - Johnstons of Elgin has posted a 28 per cent increase in sales for its latest financial year, driven by a steady increase in demand for its high quality cashmere knitwear.

Johnstons Cashmere's knitting plant is part of a group first established in Elgin, Scotland in 1797. While the weaving side of the business is still located in Elgin, knitwear production takes place in Hawick. The company specialises in the manufacture of knitwear and accessories knitted in cashmere and other luxury fibres. With its own spinning and yarn dyeing in Elgin, Johnstons is one of the few vertical mills still operating in Scotland.

The huge range of products offered by Johnstons is where the company scores heavily with buyers. Traditional knitwear is supplemented with a whole host of luxury cashmere accessories such as gloves, socks, scarves, long johns, ponchos and hats.

While the plant in Hawick was originally built around traditional fully fashioned frames, but now operates a bank of

Karl Mayer acquires AEI technology

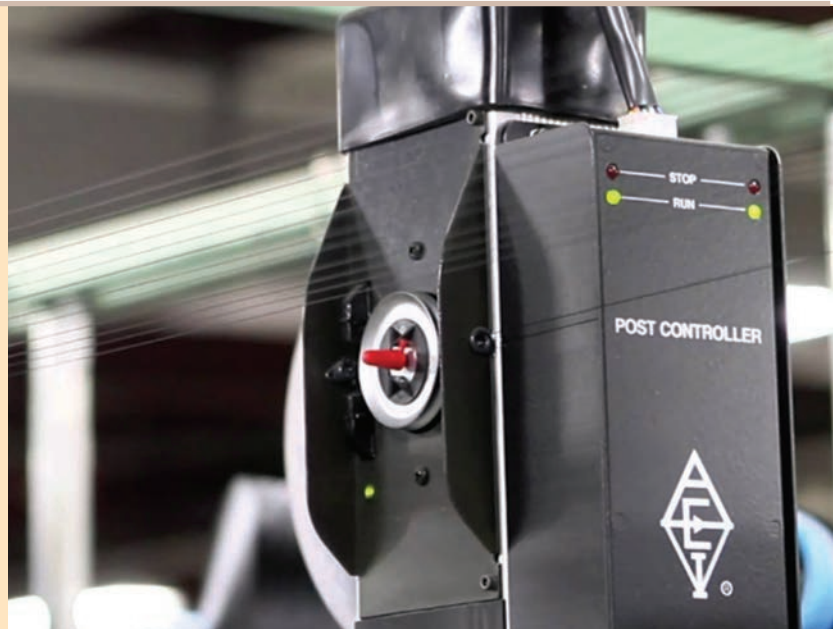
Obertshausen - The Karl Mayer Group has acquired yarn tensioner technology from US-based Appalachian Electronic Instruments.

Under the terms of the deal Karl Mayer will take over the complete range of YTC products, including YTC-2000 and YTC-2000 MAX, as well as the complete technology of yarn tensioners for weaving and warp knitting preparation from AEI.

The after sales service for the installed base machines will also be taken over by Karl Mayer effective from September 1st, 2022 although AEI will continue to provide support to Karl Mayer and the customers during the transition.

Since patenting the first electronic disk tensioner in 1979 AEI has been a pioneer and leading supplier of yarn tensioners for warp knitting and denim applications. After 43 years, AEI has made the decision to exit the tension control market and focus on its patented broken and tight yarn monitoring technology.

"As market leader and full range supplier in indigo dyeing, Karl Mayer Group will complete their yarn tensioner product range with this integration of the YTC technology," Karl Mayer said.



Shima Seiki flat knitting machines, including a number of SWG short-bed machines, which can knit a wide range of WholeGarment accessories.

Reporting pre-tax profit of of £3.9 million on sales of £66.4 million, the company said that the outlook for 2022 was good, with sales expected to exceed pre-pandemic levels.

Chief executive Chris Gaffney warned, however, that there are some headwinds in terms of cost inflation that will start to impact latter part of the year and into 2023.

“2021 was a year of recovery for Johnstons and we are pleased to have bounced back so strongly,” he told the Scotsman. “The skill of our craftspeople and the creativity of our design team allows us to manufacture beautiful products that live for a long time in our customers wardrobes, whilst our use of natural fibres and control of our supply chain, through our mills in Scotland, enables us to better manage our environmental and social footprint.

“This combination makes us a strong partner for the luxury brands we work with and an engaging consumer brand in our own right. The future is therefore positive, and we expect to continue to recruit staff and invest in additional capacity in the coming years.”

Surge in Pakistan knitwear shipments

Islamabad - A surge in knitwear exports was a key factor as Pakistan reported record textile shipments for its 2021/2022 fiscal year.

In terms of value, the knitwear exports recorded an increase of 34.2 per cent to \$5.12 billion during the year, up from \$3.81 billion in the previous year, according to the latest data released by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

The figures for total textile products was \$19.33 billion, an increase of 25.53 per cent when compared with \$15.4 billion in the previous year.

The textile exports contributed around 61 per cent of the country's total



Delta Galil acquires Danish apparel brand

Tel Aviv - Seamlesswear specialist Delta Galil has acquired underwear and active brand, Organic Basics. Financial terms of the deal have not been disclosed.

Founded in Denmark by three young entrepreneurs in 2015, the digitally native brand is known for its sustainably, ethically made women's and men's underwear, activewear and base layers. Delta Galil plans to bring the label to consumers worldwide and to extend the Organic Basics product line to include items for babies and kids as well as additional items for women and men. The collection will launch globally in 2023.

“Organic Basics is a digital brand with sustainability and ethical production at its core and these values align perfectly with Delta Galil's focus on creating a more sustainable fashion industry through innovation,” said Isaac Dabah, CEO of Delta Galil Industries. “We see a significant opportunity to grow the Organic Basics brand globally, particularly in the US and Europe, and to expand the product line to include items for the whole family. Our goal is to sell affordable, sustainable, organic products direct to the consumer.”

A certified B Corp, Organic Basics is also Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) certified and a member of *1% for the Planet*. The brand has built a strong reputation and following for its use of responsibly, ethically sourced and certified materials, including organic cotton and natural dyes, and its commitment to minimizing its carbon footprint and impact on the planet. More than 75 per cent of the materials used to manufacture Organic Basics items are plant-based, while more than 15 per cent are recycled. The brand assortment includes ultrasoft, comfortable women's underwear, bralettes, sports bras, tees and socks and men's underwear and tees. In recent years, Delta Galil has focused on strategically building its e-commerce presence, investing in its owned brands' digital offerings and in strategic M&A transactions.

exports of \$31.8 billion during the year.

There were also increases across other parts of the textile industry with readymade garments exhibited an increase of 28.75 per cent to \$3.9 billion and bed wear posting an increase of 18.8 per cent to \$3.29 billion.

According to analysts at Insight Research, the Pakistani Rupee (PKR) devaluation against the US dollar gave

textile exporters a competitive advantage over its competitors in terms of pricing. However, a cotton shortage still remains the key concern for the country as the demand grows but cotton production declines. In the fiscal year 2021/2022, cotton production stood at 8.3 million bales, which is 2.2 million bales lower than the targeted production.

Milliken adds to yarn capacity

Spartanburg - Milliken & Company has expanded its yarn production capabilities with the acquisition of a spinning mill from Gildan Activewear.

The textile manufacturer has purchased one of the Frontier yarn plants in Mayodan, North Carolina, from Gildan in a move that expands its open-end yarn production for its protective fabrics, workwear, government and defense, industrial, and napery textile business units.

Announcing the deal, which includes machinery, equipment and inventory located in the facility, Halsey Cook, Milliken president and CEO said that investing in this plant would enhance the agility of Milliken's Textile Business and shore up its supply chain in the U.S. to benefit its customers. "Guided by

integrity and excellence in all we do, this move bolsters our supply chains to enhance customer service," Halsey said.

The Frontier Spinning Plant #3 which will be renamed the Two Rivers Plant as a nod to its dedicated team and the community it serves, will become a spinning hub for Milliken. Multiple Milliken textile plants throughout the Southeast will source their yarn needs from the Two Rivers Plant.

"Adding this plant to the Milliken manufacturing footprint helps us meet current production needs and offers additional capacity for future growth," added Kevin Brown, senior vice president of global operations for Milliken's Textile Business. "The expansion helps us create a resilient supply chain that offers consistency and surety for both our

product lines and customers."

Gildan acquired Frontier's yarn spinning operations, a deal which included four plants across North Carolina, in 2021.

In a statement, Gildan said: "All 138 full-time Gildan employees at the Mayodan plant have been offered employment by Milliken, subject to their own requirements. We have no intention to further divest our spinning assets that consist of nine other U.S. plants.

"The sale of the Mayodan plant is part of Gildan's yarn consolidation/modernization plans, which include investments over the next few years to consolidate and maximize efficiencies of our overall U.S. yarn operations intended to support the company's textile capacity expansion plans."

Mayer & Cie honoured with innovation award

Albstadt - Circular knitting machine manufacturer Mayer & Cie has been named a Top 100 award-winner for the third time as one of Germany's most innovative small and mid-range businesses.

At the centre of the family firm's further digital development is the aim to boost its customers' productivity. Recently, members of the Mayer & Cie management received the award from the science journalist Ranga Yogeshwar at the SMB summit in Frankfurt am Main with the jury making special mention of the circular knitting and braiding machine manufacturer's innovative processes.

"We are delighted to receive the Top 100 award for the third time this year," said Sebastian Mayer, Chief Digital Officer and member of the Mayer & Cie. management. "2019 and 2020, characterized by a slump in demand and the pandemic, were not easy years for our company. Yet we deliberately worked on improving our processes in order to hit the ground running once the market recovered. We thank all of our employees for supporting this development and driving the change forward."

For some time now, the focus of development work at Mayer & Cie. has been on lean management in assembly processes, on optimization of aftersales service, including setting up an online shop for spare parts, and on product lifecycle management, or PLM, which stands for a concept of seamless integration of all the information that arises during a product's lifecycle.

A clean data structure is the basis for these measures. Sebastian Mayer likes to call it the "digital backbone". "Basically, what it means is that all product data is processed in the same database and all information is available only once and can be downloaded immediately," he explains. Customer benefit is the sense and purpose of Mayer & Cie's digital development work. "Our aim is to boost the productivity of customers who work with our circular knitting machines," as Sebastian Mayer puts it. Their main point of access to the company's development work is the "knitlink" IIoT platform, where machine data is to be recorded and evaluated. Spare parts sales is then automated via the online shop and support is available from the platform round the clock. In future, a 3D model of every machine – a kind of digital twin – is to be available on "knitlink".

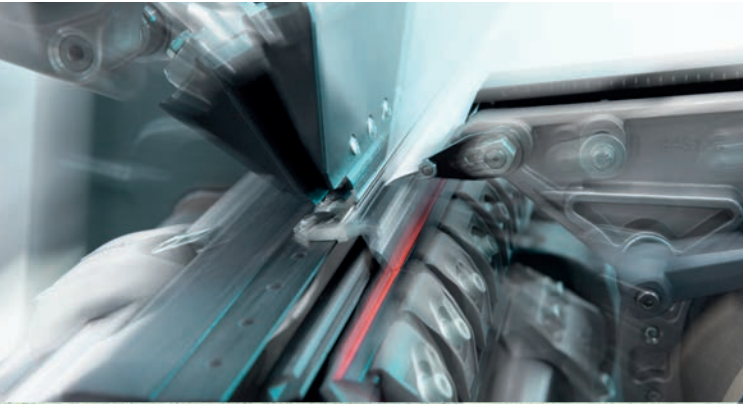
In all, 436 companies, including about 10 per cent from machinery and plant engineering, competed for the Top 100 seal of innovation this year. Nearly 300 were successful and were congratulated in person by Ranga Yogeshwar at the SMB summit. He noted that the award winners set a role model example.

Mayer & Cie offers the entire range of machines required for making fabrics for home textiles, sportswear, nightwear and swimwear, seat covers, underwear and technical uses. In 2019 Mayer & Cie augmented its portfolio with braiding machines which produce sheathings for hydraulic tubes used in aviation, automotive industry as well as in further, very specific fields of applications.

The company generated sales of €103 million in 2021.



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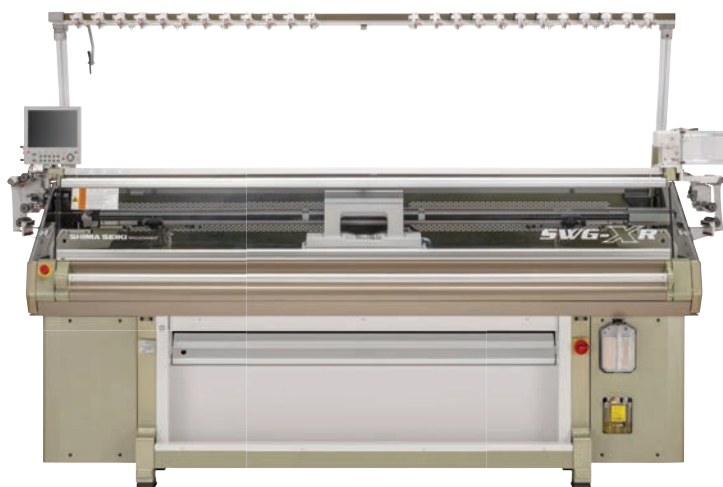
SWG-XR makes Korea debut

Wakayama - Flat knitting solutions provider Shima Seiki, together with its Korean subsidiary Shima Seiki Korea Inc., participated in the Preview in Seoul exhibition in Seoul, Korea last month.

Taking advantage of new regulations at the show which now allow for the display of textile equipment at the venue, Shima Seiki exhibited its latest combination of pioneering WHOLEGARMENT knitting technology that allows a garment to be produced in its entirety without the need for linking

or sewing, and its SDS-ONE APEX series design software, which yields revolutionary game-changing flexibility and efficiency, not to mention sustainability.

Shown for the first time in Korea, whose flat knitting market has a strong following for WHOLEGARMENT knitwear, was the SWG-XR next-generation WHOLEGARMENT knitting machine. The SWG- name pays homage to the original SWG-X model of 1997, sharing with it the same 4-needlebed configuration featuring the company's own SlideNeedle.



Add to this a renewed spring-type moveable sinker system, a compact and lightweight carriage featuring 4 systems as well as auto yarn carriers. All contribute up to 25 per cent higher efficiency, higher quality and increased product variety for supporting knits for all seasons. SWG-XR sets new standards for the next generation of waste-free, sustainable WHOLEGARMENT knitting.

APEXFiz is subscription-based design software that maintains the proven functions that have made Shima Seiki's SDS-ONE APEX series design systems so popular with fashion designers. Installed on personal computers, those strengths are now enhanced with the added versatility to adapt to different work styles and business environments including teleworking and telecommuting.

APEXFiz software supports the creative side of fashion from planning and design to colorway evaluation, realistic fabric simulation and 3D virtual sampling. Virtual samples are a digitized version of sample making that are accurate enough to be used effectively as prototypes, replacing physical sampling and consequently reducing time, cost and material that otherwise go to waste. APEXFiz thereby helps to realize sustainability and digitally transform the fashion supply chain.

ACIMIT outlines digital and sustainable future

Milan -Despite bouncing back from the worst of the pandemic's financial impacts, Italy's textile machinery sector must look to digitalization and sustainability to prosper in the future, according to the industry's trade association.

Speaking at its recent annual assembly, ACIMIT president Alessandro Zucchi, told delegates that despite the positive signs, told attendees that various factors at play make for an uncertain future.

Italian textile machinery production reportedly amounted to €2.3 billion (US\$2.31bn) last year, representing a 35 per cent increase on 2020 – when COVID-19 struck – and a five per cent increase on 2019.

"2022 remains a year replete with unknown factors, starting with the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, along with the persistence of the pandemic, which seriously risk delaying expected growth consolidation for businesses in the sector," Zucchi said. "Difficulties in finding raw materials and components negatively affect the completion and fulfillment of orders processed as far back as 2021.

"To boot, rising energy costs and inflationary trends affecting numerous commodities are depressing overall business confidence. So, the outlook for the sector is not so good."

Keen to inspire stakeholders, however, Zucchi alluded to digitalization and sustainability as the two key words for future growth.

The adoption of intuitive, digital solutions is widely believed to have revolutionised production processes, streamlining factory floor operations whilst establishing greater connectivity.

As such, ACIMIT's Digital Ready project has endeavoured to support its members, certifying companies that adopt a common set of data to facilitate the integration of various systems, including ERP and CRM.

On the topic of sustainability – which has been thrust into the spotlight amidst a push from brands and consumers to buy and sell apparel with a lesser environmental impact – ACIMIT highlighted the work of its Sustainable Technologies project, launched back in 2011.

At the heart of the project is the Green Label, a form of certification specifically for Italian textile machinery, which highlights its energy and environmental performance. It's deemed an all-Italian seal of approval, which was developed in collaboration with RINA, an international certification body.

Knitting machine shipments soar in 2021

Zurich - Global shipments of large diameter circular knitting machines were up by 30 per cent while flat knitting machines registered 109 per cent growth in 2021, figures that are as high or higher than pre-pandemic levels.

The latest statistics from the 44th annual International Textile Machinery Shipment Statistics (ITMSS), just released by the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF), also show that overall, global shipments of spinning, texturing, weaving, knitting, and finishing machines increased sharply compared to 2020.

The report covers six segments of textile machinery, namely spinning, draw-texturing, weaving, large circular knitting, flat knitting, and finishing.

The 2021 survey has been compiled in cooperation with more than 200 textile machinery manufacturers

representing a comprehensive measure of world production.

Global shipments of large circular knitting machines grew by 29 per cent to 39,129 units in 2021. Asia & Oceania was the world's leading investor in this category with 83 per cent of worldwide shipments. With 64 per cent of all deliveries (i.e., 21,833 units), China was the favoured destination. Turkey and India ranked second and third with 3,500 and 3,171 units, respectively.

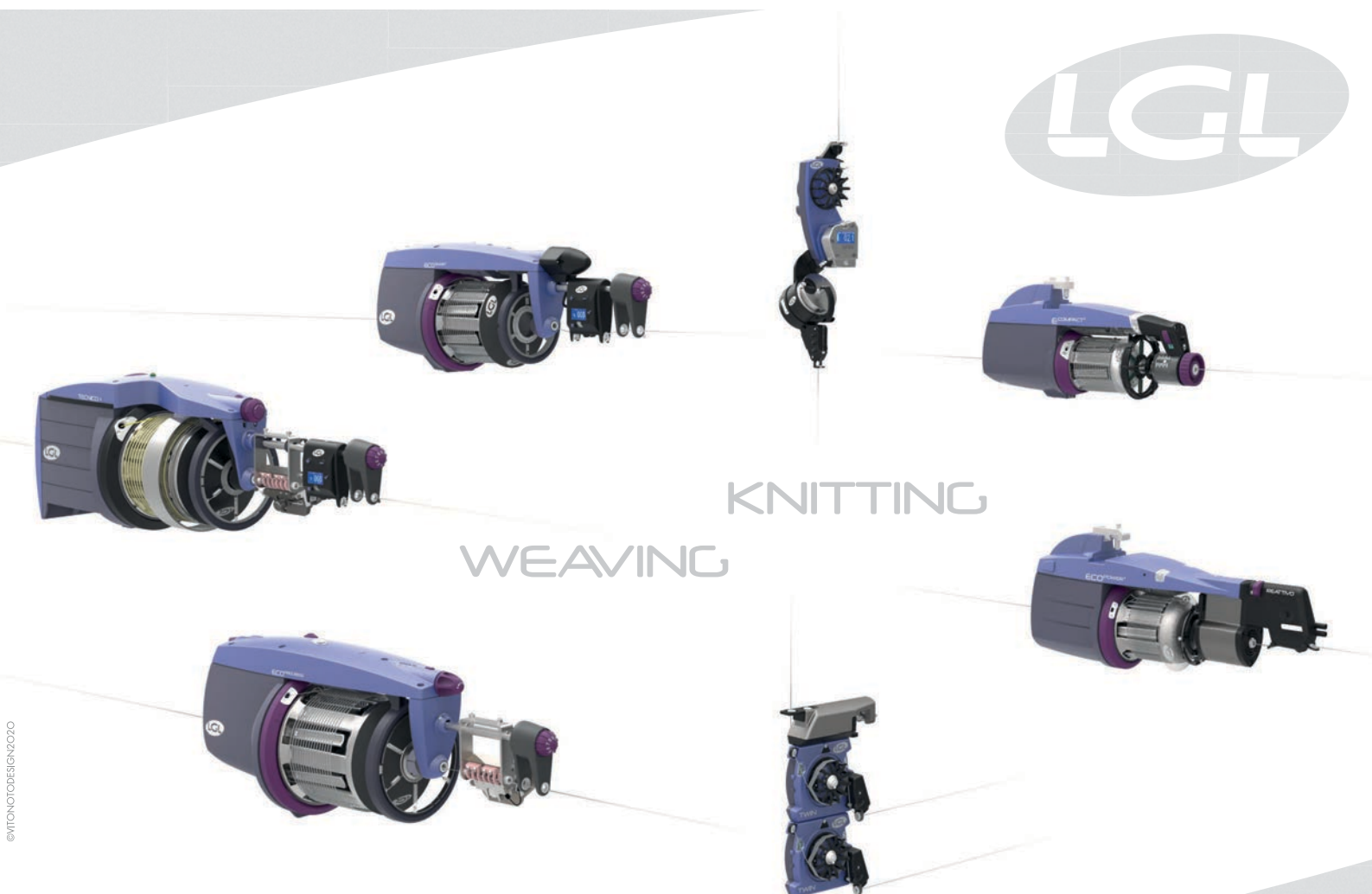
In 2021, the electronic flat knitting machines segment increased by 109 per cent to around 95,000 machines. Asia & Oceania was the main destination for these machines with a share of 91 per cent of world shipments. China remained the world's largest investor with a 76 per cent share of total shipments and a 290 per cent increase in

investments. Shipments to the country rose from about 17,000 units in 2020 to 67,000 units in 2021.

Elsewhere, the total number of shipped short-staple spindles increased by about 4 million units in 2021 to a level of 7.61 million. Most of the new short-staple spindles (90 per cent) were shipped to Asia & Oceania, where delivery increased by +115 per cent.

While levels stayed relatively small, Europe saw shipments increasing by +41 per cent (mainly in Turkey). The six largest investors in the short-staple segment were China, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Bangladesh.

China, Turkey, and Pakistan were the world's three largest investors in open-end rotors and saw investments surging by 56 per cent, 47 per cent and 146 per cent, respectively. Only deliveries to



Uzbekistan, the 7th largest investor in 2021, decreased compared to 2020 (-14 per cent to 12,600 units).

In the "fabrics continuous" segment, shipments of relax dryers / tumblers grew by 183 per cent. All other sub segment rose by 33 per cent-88 per cent except dyeing lines which shrank (-16 per cent for CPB and -85 per cent for hotflue). Since 2019, ITMF estimates the number of shipped stenters non-reported by the survey participants to inform on the global market size for that category. The global shipments of stenters is expected to have increased by 78 per cent in 2021 to a total of 2,750 units.

In the "fabrics discontinuous" segment, the number of jigger dyeing / beam dyeing shipped rose by 105 per cent to 1,081 units. Deliveries in the categories "air jet dyeing" and "overflow dyeing" increased by 24 per cent in 2021 to 1,232 units and 1,647 units, respectively.

Indorama completes Tollegno acquisition

Biella - Synthetic fibre and yarn supplier Indorama Ventures (IVL) has completed its acquisition of the Italian yarn spinner Tollegno.

Recognised as one of the leading European textile groups with a total spinning capacity of around 3,500 tons of yarn per year with a specific focus on flat knitting yarns, Tollegno is seen as an ideal fit for IVL's European growth strategy.

The new company will be called Filatura Tollegno 1900 with 100 per cent capital owned by IVL, with the yarn spinner continuing to operate independently in the management of their respective customers. The deal also includes the acquisition of the dyeing

plant located in Tollegno, and the spinning, dyeing and wool treatment plants in Poland, together with handknitting brand "Lana Gatto" and to the sales offices in the United States, Hong Kong and Japan.

Tollegno's fabric division, Lanificio di Tollegno will remain independent, but both companies will continue to operate a close supply relationship.

"The transaction represents a significant step forward for the development of the Biella-based company, which while maintaining the historicity of its brand and the strong link with the territory opens to new international projects," the company explained. "The decision to sell the yarn division to

Vegan verification for Mattes & Ammann

Stuttgart - Warp and weft knitter Mattes & Ammann has been awarded Eurofins's Chem-MAP Vegan Verification mark for its latest circular knitted, plant-based automotive fabric.

The company is recognised as one of Europe's leading manufacturers of fine gauge fabrics and prides itself on customer focus, quality, reliability and social working conditions and an innovative edge.

With 300 employees and a total production area of around 36,000 square metres, its currently produces over 40 million square metres of fabric annually with 500 machines, a mix of large diameter circular knitting and warp knitting technology, in the heights of the Swabian Alb, south of Stuttgart, Germany.

The range of products manufactured by Mattes & Ammann covers a wide field of applications and includes velour seat covers for cars, aeroplanes, ships and all German ICE trains, mattress ticking fabrics, flags for numerous international sports events or lining fabrics for wedding gowns and even hook and loop fasteners for baby nappies.

This latest recognition is for Vegan Verification, an innovative programme from Eurofins | Chem-MAP which risk assesses materials and components, as well as providing testing of chemicals and materials, to establish whether any animal or by-products have been used.

The input components to Mattes & Ammann's circular knitted fabric were tested by Eurofins | Chem-MAP alongside the finished material for animal derived ingredients using a combination PCR analysis, FTIR analysis and fibre ID for the presence of mammal, bird, fish, insect, crustacean and mollusc DNA.

Mattes & Ammann intends to use this textile in a wide range of industries, automotive, mattress industry, medical in various sectors, as well as in several special segments.

"Mattes & Ammann are one of the first manufacturers within the German market to have been awarded the Vegan Verification Mark from Eurofins | Chem-MAP," said Lottie York, Sustainable Chemistry Programme Lead, Eurofins | Chem-MAP – Vegan Verification programme. "The verification provides the customers of Mattes & Ammann with supplier transparency and confidence that their products do not contain any traces of animal derivatives, through the use of scientific evidence beyond self-made supplier claims."

Mr Mattes, Mattes & Ammann, added: "Having been committed to the topic of sustainability, renewable raw materials and recycled materials for years, Mattes & Ammann feel that it is an absolutely ideal addition to also have the Eurofins | Chem-MAP Vegan Verification Mark. Mattes & Ammann is deeply convinced that customers appreciate this very much!"



a solid partner such as Indorama Ventures, whose vision and strategic growth we share for the next years, comes from the will to further enhance our performance, to become more competitive in the global market.

“The transition, which will be a sign of continuity both for human resources and management, and for the production spaces, kept in the territory, will also involve new hires for the Tollegno site, where some of the activities belonging to Indorama Ventures will in fact be incorporated. A group that is already present in the Biella area having acquired other local businesses in the yarn sector.”

“The acquisition of Tollegno’s spinning business represents a step forward for IVL under its strategy to accelerate growth by expanding its presence in Europe and exploring High Value Added products for its portfolio,” IVL said. “Tollegno is an excellent solution for IVL, bringing market leadership in the specialized worsted yarns sector and allowing further diversification.”

Coats acquires Texon

Uxbridge - Coats, the supplier of industrial threads widely used in the knitting sector, has acquired Texon, which produces structural components and materials for apparel and footwear.

Financial terms of the deal were not undisclosed.

Texon’s services, which include the manufacture of ‘sustainable’ innovations and supplying high-performance materials predominantly to those within the athleisure footwear market, are expected to bolster Coats’ offering and advance its market standing.

Rajiv Sharma, chief executive of the Coats Group, commented: “The acquisition of Texon will strengthen our existing presence in the highly attractive athleisure footwear market.

“The business is complementary to Coats and provides attractive future commercial opportunities as we work together leveraging our combined expertise and knowledge to succeed ▶



John Smedley eyes China for further international growth

Derbyshire - UK-based luxury knitwear firm John Smedley, which has been investing heavily in Shima’s Seiki technology for fine gauge, WholeGarment production in recent years, is rolling out a new series of digital activities in mainland China as it looks to build on its growing export success. Established in 1784, John Smedley was founded at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution and today operates one of the oldest manufacturing factories in the world. The firm’s products are distributed in over 40 countries worldwide with a strong market base in Europe and the USA as well as its growing presence in the Gulf, Singapore and Japan. The company also holds a Royal Warrant.

As it looks to increase its presence in the Chinese market, John Smedley is now looking to expand its digital presence in the region. This includes sharing exclusive product news and style tips through its official accounts on WeChat, Little Red Book and Weibo, and also launching an e-commerce mini program shop on WeChat so customers can buy via China’s leading app, thereby making the brand’s luxury merino wool and John Smedley’s sea-island cotton knitwear more accessible to Chinese consumers.

John Smedley already has such a strong fan-base among designers that several of them, including Japanese streetwear legend Hiroshi Fujiwara and British brand Lou Dalton, have collaborated with the brand, infusing Smedley’s classic designs with a frisson of edginess. The fact that John Smedley knitwear appeals to such a wide range of people – from Queen Elizabeth and Sean Connery to Scarlett Johansson and Fujiwara – is also a testament to its quality and timelessness. In recent years the brand has also found legions of new fans in Asia, with five flagship stores in Japan alone, making it John Smedley’s top export market.

“We are hugely excited to be launching the John Smedley brand in mainland China on key digital channels, to reach such a huge potential audience,” said Jess McGuire-Dudley, Deputy Managing Director. “Based on the success we have seen in Japan; we believe China will be a key market for John Smedley going forward.”

John Smedley Ltd is the oldest continuously operating manufacturer in the world, producing fine gauge knitwear from their Lea Mills, Derbyshire factory. Crafted from the finest noble fibres of extra fine merino wool, John Smedley’s Sea Island Cotton and other luxury blends. Underpinning this growth is a comprehensive knitting plant, which has been augmented, in recent years by Shima’s Seiki’s latest 15G machines for fine gauge WHOLEGARMENT production. As well as helping with address the skills shortage in the making up area, the WHOLEGARMENT technology has also opened up other design areas which cannot be knitted conventionally such as bound-off or roll edge necks and certain patterning in the area of a fully fashioned seam. The company also has an impressive plant of fine gauge Protti 500D rib-bar loading machines for knitting bottoms and cuffs. For 30 gauge knitwear there are 22, 20G Protti rib loaders, including two new systems added just last year, with 24 gauge garments serviced by four 16G Protti machines. The rib knitting plant is completed by 20 further machines including Protti PT22s in gauges 12g and 14G.

with our customers," he continued.

"We recognise and share Texon's focus on sustainability and innovation and believe that this acquisition strengthens our ability to fulfill these shared ambitions."

Texon has operations across Europe and Asia which will now align with Coats' global presence to support its manufacturing capacity and offering.

Its onus on sustainability is believed to align well with Coats', as the firm looks

to appease a more environmentally conscious customer base.

Notably, Coats recently launched EcoCycle, a range of water dissolvable threads which it hopes will streamline the end-of-life disassembly of a garment.

The British firm has called on brands, manufacturers and recyclers to collaborate with it on the development on a new "circularity concept" that it believes could make recycling both easier and more cost effective.

ITMA Asia online visitor registration opens

Shanghai – Online visitor registration for ITMA Asia + CITME 2022, Asia's leading business platform for textile machinery, is now open.

Visitors who pre-register online on the combined show websites (itmaasia.com and citme.com) before 19 November will enjoy special badge rates at a 40 per cent discount. The early-bird rates are RMB 60 (US\$9) for a five-day badge and RMB 30 (US\$5) for a one-day badge. Standard onsite rates are RMB 100 for a five-day badge and RMB 50 for a one-day badge.

The 8th combined exhibition will be held from 20 to 24 November 2022 at the National Exhibition and Convention Centre, Shanghai. According to its show owners - CEMATEX and Chinese partners comprising the Sub-Council of Textile Industry, CCPIT (CCPIT-Tex), China Textile Machinery Association (CTMA) and China Exhibition Centre Group Corporation (CIEC) – the combined show has received a favourable response from the industry.

Since space application was launched 10 months ago, many exhibitors have responded positively, displaying strong confidence in the combined show, and enthusiasm for a face-to-face exhibition.

To date, it has attracted some 950 textile and garment machinery manufacturers from 21 countries and regions to apply for space. Among the international names who will be represented at the combined show are: CHTC, Dornier, Eltex, Epson, Fil Control, Fong's, Groz-Beckert, Itema, Jeanologia, Karl Mayer, Murata, Oerlikon, Picanol, Rieter, Shima Seiki, Stäubli, Toyota, Trützschler, Tsudakoma, Uster, Vandewiele, Vanwyk and Wira Instrumentation.

Grossing over 120,000 square metres, ITMA ASIA + CITME 2022 will be an exciting showcase of the latest

Julien Born, CEO of The LYCRA Company.



New Lycra ownership as Chinese group defaults

Wilmington - The Lycra Company has been acquired by a Group of private equity and other financial institutions following an enforcement action for loan defaults against the company's former parent.

The new shareholder group that has gained full equity control of Lycra comprises Lindeman Asia, Lindeman Partners Asset Management, Tor Investment Management, and China Everbright Limited.

The change of equity control follows the conclusion of the receivership process that started in February when the new shareholders initiated an enforcement action against Ruyi Textile and Fashion International Group Limited, the former parent of The Lycra Company, for loan defaults associated with its purchase of The Lycra Company in January 2019.

With its new ownership and governance in place, The Lycra Company says it will continue to focus on accelerating the implementation of its vision, including sustainable solutions that advance circularity, strategic technology partnerships to develop and scale up a wider range of innovative materials, and ongoing digital transformation initiatives. This is fully supported by the new shareholders who have a proven track record of financing and investing in companies across Asia and globally and working with Boards of Directors on business and operational plans to enhance long-term value creation.

"I am thrilled to have the full support of our new shareholders and incoming Board of Directors as we begin the next chapter in The Lycra Company's story," said Julien Born, CEO of The Lycra Company. "This new ownership structure provides the necessary backing from experienced investment professionals who share our long-term vision."

The company produces fibre and technology solutions for the apparel and personal care industries. Headquartered in Wilmington, Delaware, its brands include Lycra, Lycra Hyfit, Lycra T400, Coolmax, Thermolite, Elasthan, Supplex and Tactel.

technologies. Exhibits will occupy the following halls at the venue:

- Hall 3 - knitting and weaving machinery
- Hall 4 - dyeing and finishing machinery
- Hall 5 - printing, garment and spinning machinery
- Hall 6 - spinning and nonwoven machinery, as well as chemicals other textile making machinery

Mr Ernesto Maurer, President of CEMATEX said: "Despite the setbacks caused by the coronavirus pandemic,

companies are finding ways to overcome the challenges. They are very eager to tap new opportunities provided by innovative technologies, especially those offering sustainable benefits and productivity gains."

Mr Gu Ping, President of China Textile Machinery Association added: "As part of China's 14th Five-Year Plan, we endeavour to accelerate industrial upgrading and develop a more high-tech-driven textile and apparel industry.

The combined show will provide manufacturers with innovative solutions that will help them to be more competitive as the textile and garment industry embarks on its recovery path."

ITMA Asia + CITME is organised by Beijing Textile Machinery International Exhibition Co., Ltd and co-organised by ITMA Services. Japan Textile Machinery Association is a special partner of the combined show.

Archroma to acquire Huntsman's Textile Effects business

Pratteln - Specialty chemicals and solutions supplier Archroma is to acquire the Textile Effects business from Huntsman Corporation. Since its formation in 2013, through a series of mergers & acquisitions, as well as internal investments in R&D, manufacturing and service capabilities, Archroma has been building a comprehensive portfolio of solutions to serve the emerging needs of the textile industry. The combination with Textile Effects and its rich historical roots of Huntsman and Ciba Specialties is expected to create a technology powerhouse that will include Archroma's legacy heritages of Sandoz, Hoechst, Clariant, BASF and Dohmen who have been at the cutting edge of the textile industry for decades, and together will continue to serve customers for years to come.

Both Archroma and Textile Effects are founding members of Sustainable Chemistry for the Textile Industry (SCTI), an alliance of leading chemical companies that strives to empower the textile and leather industries to apply sustainable, state-of-the-art chemistry solutions that protect factory workers, local communities, consumers and the environment.

Both companies have been recognized by the industry and are each recipient of multiple awards for supplying sustainable systems and solutions in dyes and chemicals that enable fashion brands, retailers, and textile manufacturers to create articles that are better for consumers and the planet.

"I am thrilled to see the combination of Huntsman Textile Effects and Archroma", said Barry Siadat, Co-founder of SK Capital Partners and Chairman of Archroma. "Finally, we have achieved a dream of combining the technologies, products and capabilities of the legacy pioneers of the textile industry, namely Ciba, Sandoz, Hoechst and BASF, into a modern and cohesive enterprise that is focused on delivering innovative and sustainable systems and solutions to serve the evolving needs of today's textile industry."

"We at Archroma are so very excited to announce what we see as a merger of equals," added Heike van de Kerkhof, CEO of Archroma. "With this agreement, two committed leaders in sustainable and innovative solutions unite to pave the way towards a more sustainable textile industry. We are delighted to welcome a team of highly talented people."

Rohit Aggarwal, President of Huntsman Textile Effects, said: "The combination of Archroma and Textile Effects is transformational, bringing together two highly complementary organizations with strong cultures of innovation and a shared commitment to inspire advancements in the textile industry. We are excited by what we will be able to achieve together. At a time when we are seeing robust growth trends in sustainability, the merger will position us firmly to accelerate growth and drive significant value for our customers, employees, and stakeholders."

Closing of the transaction is subject to customary conditions and approvals and is expected to take place in the first half of 2023.

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Infinited selects site for fibre plant

Helsinki – Infinited Fiber Company (IFC), which produces cellulosic fibres from textile waste has selected a disused paper mill in Kemi, Finland for the site of its new €400 million Infinna manufacturing facility.

Infinited plans to build a commercial-scale factory to produce regenerated textile fibre for the world's leading apparel companies at the site of renewable materials company Stora Enso's closed Veitsiluoto paper mill in the city on the northern shore of the Baltic Sea.

Creating 270 jobs, the annual fibre production capacity of the planned factory is expected to be 30,000 metric tons, which is equivalent to the fibre needed for about 100 million T-shirts.

Infinited Fiber Company's technology enables cotton-rich textile waste to be transformed into a versatile, high-quality regenerated textile fiber called Infinna, which looks and feels like cotton. A number of major international fashion and apparel companies – including

Zara's parent company Inditex, PVH Europe, which is known for the Tommy Hilfiger brand, Patagonia, Pangaia, H&M Group and Bestseller – have already committed to Infinna purchases through multi-year agreements as they look for materials that enable the industry to shift towards circularity.

Infinited expects to export most of the output of its planned factory which makes Kemi an ideal location as the city's port serves as an efficient link to the rest of the world.

Infinited will convert a building housing a discontinued paper production line into the Infinna fibre factory. Both the factory engineering and project implementation as well as the related financing negotiations were commenced at the beginning of the year and are progressing well. Infinited has also agreed on the provision of energy and water related services with utility infrastructure company Nevel.

Once up and running, the factory is expected to provide direct employment

for around 220 people, and for a further 50 through on-site support functions such as services, maintenance, and logistics. The additional indirect employment impact is estimated to be around 800 jobs. The construction and installation phase is expected to create jobs equaling around 120 person-years. The factory is anticipated to operate at full capacity in 2025.

Infinited Fiber Company selected the Veitsiluoto industrial site after reviewing dozens of potential premises across Finland. Decisive factors supporting the decision included the site's excellent existing infrastructure, the availability of fresh water, renewable electricity and energy, efficient port services, and local skilled labour.

Stoll courses for digital knitwear development

Reutlingen - Flat knitting machine builder Stoll, part of the Karl Mayer Group, has announced a new series of training course dates for its k.innovation Create Design system.

As Stoll notes, fast design-to-market workflows are crucial for success in trend-led businesses - and in the world of flat knitting, this is made possible by k.innovation Create Design.

The design software for Karl Mayer's successful Stoll and KM.ON brands supports end-to-end digitization of the entire knitwear design and development process for flat knitted fabrics, from cut creation and grading, through the creation of a digital knitwear design and yarn creations, to technical checks, conversion of designs into different jacquard types and data exports. For virtual patterning, cut shapes and digital textures can be exported to external 3D garment programs.

Stoll teaches how to make efficient use of all these possibilities in a regular online training course. Participants learn all about the basic functions for

Vietnam knitter hails zero emissions operation

Ho Chi Minh City - A knitting mill in Vietnam has transformed

its operation to become a net zero carbon emissions and zero waste operation following the installation of a bank of Knit & Wear machines from flat knitting machine builder Stoll.

According to Huy Nguyen, General Manager at Chemtax Vietnam Industrial Company Ltd., all the machines at the plant in South Vietnam are powered by solar power. This, he says, makes it the first zero carbon emissions and zero waste ready to wear factory in the south of Vietnam.

Stoll knit & wear technology allows manufacturers to knit, shape and connect pieces with only one machine within a single process. The result is a first-class seamless knitted garment with a high degree of comfort almost ready-to-wear. Complex further processing steps are omitted completely.

Among the latest editions to Stoll's knit & wear portfolio are the ADF 830-24 ki W, described as an "All In One" machine with 24 motorized yarn carriers for innovative and individualized knit & wear patterns, as well as the CMS 830 ki, the ideal machine for knit & wear basics. As Stoll notes, everything on the CMS 830 ki knit & wear is optimized for the production of basic knit and wear garments. It is equipped with three systems, a working width of 84" ins/213 cm and offers a gauge range from E 3,5.2 to a new gauge of E10.2.



developing virtual flat knitted products with k.innovation Create Design and practice creating different knitted structures. They also learn how to work with digital yarns and export the virtual knitted fabric.

The hands-on course program has been very well received. "We target our offering to knitwear and fashion designers, knitwear manufacturers and 3D product developers," explained Goran Sidjimovski, who has been running the course since last year. "They have all been delighted so far with how quickly they can come up with new products and how easily they can try out their design ideas. In particular, the export of designs as an image for use in external 3D software has been used extensively in the training sessions. This makes it easy to simulate the end product realistically."

The next dates are:

- September 28 and 29, 2022, registration possible until August 31.
- November 9 and 10, 2022, registration possible until September 14.

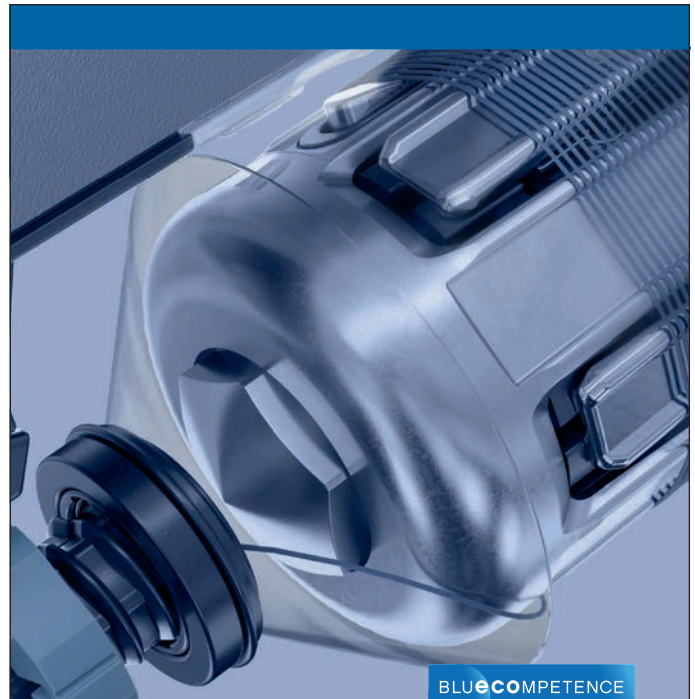
Registration is done by mail via training@stoll.com. The training courses last two days. Previous knowledge of the basics of flat knit structures is required, previous knowledge of cut development, yarns and 3D product development is an advantage.

ESG report highlights Gildan eco-performance

Montreal - Activewear and sock giant Gildan Activewear reduced its waste clippings by 68 per cent compared to 2020 while also managing a 15 per cent decrease in total waste intensity compared to 2018.

The findings are contained in the company's 18th Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Report, which outlines Gildan's ESG commitments and performance results, accompanied by further details on its Next Generation ESG strategy and future targets.

The report highlights how 2021 was characterized by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain disruptions, labour shortages, and geo-political and climate uncertainty. Despite these global challenges, Gildan says it continued its leadership in responsible apparel manufacturing and closed-off the year with strong ESG performance and further progress against its strategic initiatives. ▶



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"We are pleased with the work we've done to continue playing a role in improving the livelihood of people who make our clothes, protecting the environment, empowering our communities, and increasing the sustainability of our products," said Glenn J. Chamandy, president and CEO of Gildan. "Our vertically integrated business model continues to be the driving force behind our leading ESG practices and allows us to ensure that our products are made with respect throughout our entire supply chain."

In 2021, Gildan continued to make investments in systems, technologies, and initiatives towards reducing its carbon footprint and improving water efficiency. It set a strong base for fulfilling its future environmental goals and reaching the level of decarbonization required to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. It has also signed the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) commitment letter. Key environmental highlights in 2021 showed that 39% of

Gildan's energy came from renewable sources, there was an 18% reduction in water intensity compared to 2018, a 15% decrease in total waste intensity compared to 2018, and a 68% reduction in waste clippings compared to 2020.

Gildan has been publishing its ESG reports in alignment with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards: Comprehensive option since 2008, and the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) Apparel, Accessories and Footwear Sustainable Accounting Standard since 2020.

Turkey posts record apparel exports

Istanbul - Turkey's apparel industry achieved a record level of exports in the first five months of this year, according to the latest information from the Turkish

Exporters Assembly (TIM). The latest data shows that apparel and ready to wear exports hit US\$8.8 billion between January and May, an increase of 15.8 per cent compared to the same period of 2021.

In May alone, the sector exported goods worth \$1.3 billion, an increase of 3 per cent. The latest figure show that \$906 million of the sector's May exports were from the Istanbul area while the north western Bursa province hit \$112.1 million and western Izmir racked up \$94.2 million worth of exports. In terms of destination, the highest level of sales went to Germany with \$217 million, followed by Spain with \$181 million and the UK with \$135 million.

Regionally, European Union countries ranked first with \$817 million, other European countries with \$179 million, followed by Middle East countries with \$105 million. According to TIM data, the ready-made clothing and apparel industry, which exported to 174 countries and regions last month, received a 7.1 per cent share of the country's total exports in the same period.

Warp knitting training goes digital

Obertshausen - Karl Mayer has widened access to its warp knitting training courses with the launch of a digital learning portal at one of its renowned academies.

With three academies in Germany, China and India, the Karl Mayer Group offers warp knitting training courses for its customers worldwide. The qualification of specialists has a long history with this global player. As early as the early sixties, the first textile technicians were taught knitting know-how at the headquarters in Obertshausen.

Today, a wide range of courses is available to customers from all over the world. The traditional location in Hesse is now the first academy to take the next step and to offer an online portal for learning.

The so-called Learning Management System (LMS) can be used with immediate effect. After registering, it is possible to book a place here for training in the Academy or a webinar on various topics. There is also another new feature: the first in-house e-learning that can be started directly from the portal; the e-learning entitled "Introduction to Warp Knitting" provides a theoretical introduction to warp knitting. Comprehensive knowledge is imparted on machines, lappings and production calculations.

Sophia Krinner, Product Owner Academy at Karl Mayer notes that the use of different media makes the training varied and helps different types of learners to acquire knowledge. "The program was developed by an international team of learning and warp knitting specialists. It gives learners the opportunity to absorb knowledge at their own pace, when and where they want," she says.

If desired, a purely practical training course can be booked afterwards to deepen and expand the basic knowledge. "Never before has the transfer of knowledge been more efficient for the customer," adds Krinner. "We know that our customers can't afford to keep their employees out of the company for long periods of time, jeopardizing production processes. Our e-learning means that good skilled workers are less likely to be absent from day-to-day operations. They can also learn the practice in a shorter visit than in our previous course models."

The new e-learning will initially be available in English although this will be expanded to include other languages in the coming months. In addition to digital and analog basic courses, the Academy in Obertshausen also offers advanced courses on various topics. Here, tricot, raschel and double raschel machines as well as textile analysis courses are standard.

Access to the LMS and registration for a course is under academy.karlmayer.com/login possible.



Product Owner Sophia Krinner presents the e-learning "Introduction to Warp Knitting" at Techtextil 2022.

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Hosiery International

Hosiery giant's move into knitwear pays dividends

Faisalabad - Interloop Limited, one of Pakistan's largest hosiery manufacturers has been boosted by its recent entry into the knitwear market.

The 250 per cent leap in profit for its current fiscal year follows the company's move into knitwear production which has seen the construction of a new knitting mill and a new facility at its site in Faisalabad to expand hosiery production capacity. It has also set up a denim production facility in Lahore.

For its third quarter, revenues were up 70 per cent to PKR 21.25 billion, up from PKR 12.50 billion for the corresponding period last year. Gross profit grew by 48 per cent to PKR 5.54 billion while net profit was up 34 per cent to reach PKR 2.27 billion compared to PKR 1.69 billion.

For fiscal 2020-21, Interloop maintained a strong sales trend, generating net sales of PKR 54.96 billion, a 59 per cent increase compared to the previous year while profit after tax for the year was PKR 6.3 billion, an increase of 250 per cent from PKR 1.8 billion.

Interloop runs its own in-house spinning, yarn dyeing, knitting and finishing facilities, operating more than 4,000 Lonati knitting machines and 46,704 ring-spinning spindles and employing around 16,000 people. The company's also operates a production facility in Bangladesh.

It ranks as the Pakistan's seventh largest exporter and generates approximately 90 per cent of its revenue through exports supplying yarns, hosiery and apparel to some of the world's leading brands including Nike, Puma, Reebok, H&M and Levi's.

MIT unveils new smart knits

Massachusetts – Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have developed smart knits which, with an ability to conform to the body, could have applications in the sock, compression hosiery and wider healthcare sector.

By incorporating a type of plastic yarn and using heat to slightly melt it — a process called thermoforming — the researchers were able to greatly improve the precision of pressure sensors integrated into multilayered knit textiles, which they call 3DKnITS.

To produce the smart textile, a digital knitting technology — which MIT says is capable of rapid prototyping — knit two layers of conductive yarn which sandwich a piezoresistive knit, which changes resistance when squeezed.

This pattern is replicated throughout product designs — be it a garment (like a sock or shoe) or an accessory (like a mat). It is where the functional fibres intersect that they create a pressure sensor that, within trials, has proven effective in measuring a user's movement.

To translate movement into data, the academics developed a system that displays pressure sensor data as a heat map. Those images are fed to a machine-learning model, which is trained to detect the posture, pose, or motion of the user based on the heat map image.

During trials, the system detected a user standing on a sensor-laden

mat and the yoga poses they went on to make with an accuracy of more than 99 per cent. Within socks and shoes, the smart textiles can relay data on a wearer's gait, which could help in either a sporting or rehabilitation setting. "With digital knitting, you have this freedom to design your own patterns and also integrate sensors within the structure itself, so it becomes seamless and comfortable, and you can develop it based on the shape of your body," commented Irmandy Wicaksono, a research assistant in the MIT Media Lab and lead author of a paper presenting 3DKnITS.

Looking ahead, the researchers are said to be exploring other potential applications for the technology. Already, they've worked with contemporary dancers to integrate it within a carpet capable of translating steps into notes and soundscapes.

Anti-slip printing silicone ink for socks

Woburn - Boston Industrial Solutions has launched the Natron-SilTex AS Series of screen printing silicone inks for socks and gloves. This silicone ink line has an anti-slip (high coefficient of friction) feature, a high gloss effect, and a high-density appearance on printed cotton, polyester, nylon knit, and wool.

The anti-slip feature allows for high friction grip. Because this ink is made of silicone, it bonds very well to wool, cotton, and other natural fabrics. Socks printed with this screen-printing ink feature high gloss and unique eye-catching 3D prints. This screen printing ink helps apparel printing companies print different designs on socks and gloves.

PVC-free, the SilTex AS series is made with environmentally safe, low energy curing silicone polymers. It also has applications in slipper socks.

UK hosiery brand unveils latest eco-legwear

London - UK hosiery specialist Billi London says it working to shape the future of fashion with the launch of the world's first eco-legwear brand whose entire composition benefits from natural degradation in landfill, drastically reducing the harm that tights have on the planet.

Founded by Sophie Billi-Hardwick and Marie Bouhier in November 2020, the pair's goal was to create durable and comfortable hosiery that was no longer seen as disposable or for single-use.

Each piece is made with innovative enhanced degradable yarns Amni Soul Eco nylon and Roica V550 elastane. Amni Soul Eco is designed to degrade in a record time of five years, 20x faster than the normal 40–100-year timeframe, the company says, explaining that the materials break down into biomass and biogas, create renewable energy and do not leave behind microplastics in landfill.

"The soft yet chic fabrics have revolutionised the legwear industry as well as pioneering a change across the fashion sector which rarely goes beyond just using recyclable materials," the company says.

Wolford turnaround is a platform for expansion

With significantly improved 2021 results and a clear, future expansion strategy in place, Wolford says it is back on track to sustainable growth

Luxury hosiery and intimate wear specialist Wolford says its return to profit for its most recent fiscal year will underpin a new raft of growth initiatives as it carries out further restructuring processes and increases the digitalization of its business model.

Highlighting a resilient and encouraging performance with a significant turnaround in EBITDA, the latest results demonstrate a clear path to sustainable growth despite the challenging market conditions in 2021, the company says.

For the period January to December 2021, Wolford delivered positive sales growth across all channels and geographies, as a result of its global expansion and enhanced brand strategies. Substantial revenue growth in both the US and China partially offset the impact of lockdowns in Europe while athleisure lines and capsule collections with internationally acclaimed designers have also proven to be a new, high-growth avenue.

With sales of €108.9 million for the year, Wolford AG beat the previous year (January to December 2020) by approximately €13.2 million (approx. 14 per cent). EBITDA (operating result before depreciation and amortization and other financial expenses) turned significantly positive from -€8.0 million to €8.5 million, which is the best EBITDA result in 10 years (adjusted for real estate sales).

“Wolford has continued to make encouraging progress with its measures to improve the top and bottom lines as part of its ongoing restructuring program, despite the absence of applied Covid-19 state aid payout (fixed cost subsidy and loss compensation) in the past financial year,” the company said.

Against a group-wide increase in revenue of 14 per cent, the China and US



businesses were the main geographical growth drivers with 79 per cent and 38 per cent growth respectively. In the company's well-established EMEA markets, growth was 7 per cent notwithstanding weakened consumer sentiment at the beginning of the year and in the fourth quarter due to lockdowns in Europe.

With a 21 per cent year-on-year growth in retail sales, Wolford has also successfully put its retail business back on a sustainable growth path. Revenue from wholesale and online channels grew by 3 per cent and 27 per cent respectively.

The growth drivers from an assortment point of view were the collections of the brand extension The W (modern, young and sporty) and The W Lab (cooperation with external star designers), which grew 11-fold in the legwear and ready-to-wear product groups.

The first international collaboration of 2021, Amina Muaddi x Wolford, also exceeded expectations across all sales channels. The success of this capsule collection within the wholesale network – supported by special pop-up stores in exclusive shopping malls – made it possible to increase business overall and open more doors to premium designer stores worldwide. With the help of

digital marketing measures developed in-house, together with Amina Muaddi, Wolford is now successfully addressing an additional and significantly younger and fashion-conscious target group.

With the aim of growing the business in certain key markets, Wolford has also started to develop collaborations with regionally relevant fashion design talents and brands. These include the lingerie capsule collection with Neiwai, a Shanghai-based brand known for its simple and sustainable cuts.

With the significantly improved 2021 results and a clear future growth strategy in place, Wolford says it is back on track to sustainable growth after ten years, and is now better placed than ever to occupy its position as the world's leading supplier of women's skinwear in the upper premium segment. The company aims to achieve global sales of over €200 million in the next three to five years.

“Wolford has launched a transformation agenda for the next three years which includes important growth initiatives as well as the further restructuring and increased digitalization of the business model,” the company said. “In terms of brand and product strategy, Wolford continues to focus on the strategy of brand expansion.”

Geographically, the company is also continuing to invest in the core markets of the USA, Germany, Austria and Switzerland, as well as China.

In the current financial year, Wolford plans to open 15 new boutiques and invest across all distribution channels – retail, wholesale and online – including a new shop concept, “The Green Experience”, which underlines the company's commitment to sustainability. **KTJ**

Karl Mayer celebrates 85th anniversary

As it celebrates its 85th anniversary, the Karl Mayer Group will use the occasion to pay tribute to the people behind its longevity and continuous success story

For the Karl Mayer Group, what was once a family business, has developed into an international group of companies at the top of its markets. The global player owes its current size and position primarily to the right course set by its founder Karl Mayer and his successors. Equally important were the workforce and its cooperation with customers. The Mayer family has also laid down this focus in the corporate guidelines, which the company continues to follow consistently to this day.

As CEO Arno Gärtner notes, fairness and trust are the basis of the Group's actions and its fundamental values, and they have just also helped it during the pandemic. Here, in particular, it has been shown how important people and community are. "Today, we look back on a group of companies with strong roots and business activities in the main sectors of the textile industry. Like this industry, we are globally positioned and therefore close to our customers. Where we are today is thanks to an international team of people with innovative ideas, passion and the courage to set off. We are looking forward to celebrating our anniversary in the spirit of togetherness," says Gärtner.

Global player

Karl Mayer's history is also a history of change. The company, which was founded in 1937 as a mechanical workshop, delivered the first warp knitting machine in 1948, and subsequently expanded internationally.

Milestones of continuous growth were the establishment of the first foreign subsidiary in Clifton, USA, in 1956, an early presence in Japan - as early as 1968 - and the establishment of a subsidiary in the main market China in 1995.

Today, it has additional foreign sites in England, India, Italy, Hong Kong, Bangladesh and Switzerland, and agencies all over the world. Production sites in the main markets also ensure that the Karl Mayer Group operates extremely close to its customers.

In 2017, the software start-up KM.ON was founded in order to rapidly advance digitization with its own organization through customized software solutions.

The Group also continued to expand in the recent past: in 2020, the flat knitting machine manufacturer Stoll was acquired, and since 2021, the new Beyond Textile Business Unit has been committed to growth outside its traditional business areas in the textile world.

Today, the Group offers high quality solutions for warp knitting, flat knitting, technical textiles, warp preparation for weaving, and digitization, and combines the Karl Mayer, Stoll, and KM.ON brands under one roof for this purpose.

As Karl Mayer notes, the 3,100 employees from over 20 nations are united by the same DNA and passionate work for a better future. People at all Karl Mayer sites have a shared commitment to developing innovations that advance the textile world, but also areas beyond it. The

focus has always been on the customer.

In its anniversary year, the Group is shining the spotlight on its employees, customers and partners. Under the motto "growing together", joint projects are being presented and insights behind the scenes will be given.

Activities include a social media and a press campaign in which customers from all over the world have their say. Many of them can report many years of trusting cooperation. In addition to the voices from the market, a new presentation on the group of companies and an anniversary video on the theme of "People, togetherness, insights" will be launched.

The anniversary is also the theme of the upcoming trade fair participations while customers and other interested parties in the industry can look forward to a very special anniversary treat: a new digital platform with specialist news on all the Group's technologies will go online just in time for the anniversary. The new media format also takes over the information offered by "Kettenwirk-Praxis". With more topicality and broader reporting, readers are always as up to date as the fast-moving, innovative industry requires. Follow this link for the anniversary video: <https://tinyurl.com/55mynnv8> **KTJ**



The new headquarters of the Karl Mayer Group in Obertshausen.

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Virtual knitting brings sustainable benefits

The NAO virtual knitting machine is bringing together human creativity and the efficiency of AI to form a 'human- machine' design collaboration.

A Chinese company has developed what it calls a virtual knitting machine that can produce an unlimited number of fabric structures that can then be customized according to a specific clients' needs.

The NAO virtual knitting machine was developed by Shanghai Visual Skeleton Key. Essentially, each single component

of a traditional knitting machine was taken apart and reconstructed using 3D modeling and 3D animation with the components recreated in a virtual reality system.

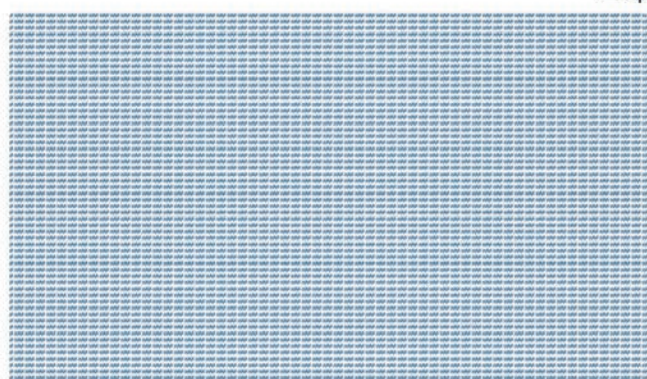
VSK has also developed an artificial intelligence custom algorithm, which runs the NAO in virtual reality with either manual input or in an automatic mode. The NAO system can run 24 hours a day,

and can design more than 100 structures every second running on a single computer or tablet.

"NAO Textiles is a range of fabrics fully designed by AI," the company says. "Within all the infinite knit construction possibilities generated by the NAO system, NAO's dedicated team curated a selection of the most appealing designs. These constructions are thoughtful,

NAO textile 2D + 3D rendering

织物2D结构图



3D织物渲染图



NAO knitting structure design.



NAO Virtual Fashion sample.





The Remake Event.



Design

NAO Virtual Knitting Machine + NAO textile.



Adidas customers used the NAO system to design exclusive fabrics.

unique and innovative, they can elevate the design process of new collections and be considered as the focus of new product developments.”

The NAO virtual knitting machine is said to offer a number of benefits. For designers it brings together human creativity and the efficiency of AI to form a “human- machine” collaboration. With a wide selection of raw materials options available, it also enables designers to expand their design capabilities while for brands, the NAO system can add new dimensions and infinite possibilities in product development and innovation.

This was demonstrated by a recent collaboration between NAO and sportswear giant Adidas which included a series of interactive activations at the brand’s flagship store on Nanjing Road in Shanghai. Adidas invited the NAO team to introduce the technology to its customers and demonstrate the real time creation of knitted construction designs.

Customers used the NAO system to design exclusive fabrics on site which

they were gifted a printed copy of their designs to take home.

The Sustainability Workshop also included on-site tailors which allowed for customers to customize and remake their old Adidas hoodies and tops using NAO Textiles.

Environment

The system is also said to offer a number of environmental benefits with NAO reducing waste in terms of sampling for fabric production. The user can first check the structure of the fabric virtually, and then only physically produce the material once it’s confirmed that it is going to be used, enabling people to rethink the whole design process in a more sustainable way.

VSK also provides different levels of confidentiality solutions for the buyers of NAO fabrics. In order to ensure that the intellectual property rights of the innovative structures are not lost along the production chain, NAO works only with VSK strategic partners to produce NAO textiles; rigorous factory

inspections and IP related agreements are in place to support this.

In order to support the rights and interests of buyers of the property rights of NAO textiles, the company has also introduced NAO NFT (Non-Fungible Token), making it the first of its kind, which can provide traceable knowledge for the structure designs.

As an extension of virtual fabrics, the NAO team can also create virtual fashion designs and renderings to be used individually or as part of a virtual fashion showcase. This the creation of realistic looking fabric and garment draping as well as overall movement.

“Since the invention of the traditional loom, humans have only created a little over 20,000 fabric structures,” the company says. “Often new ideas are discarded due to the cost of knitting out the samples; NAO’s system can display fabric structures and garment mockups in real time on the computer screen displaying the final result before needing to knit out samples.” **KTJ**

Luxury growth

New funding will drive growth at a historic Scottish knitwear firm

A fresh tranche of funding has opened the door for Scottish knitwear firm Hawico to upgrade its existing knitting room with the funds earmarked for some of the latest technology from Japanese flat knitting machine builder, Shima Seiki.

The latest funding from HSBC - a £248,000 equipment finance loan - will be used to help grow its product line and design capabilities.

The luxury cashmere brand runs almost all its plant in the Scottish borders on Shima's WHOLEGARMENT technology with the new machines expected to replace older models, enabling Hawico to speed up production, reduce material waste and experiment with new patterns to expand product ranges.

Ewan Thomson, director at Hawico told *The Herald*: "We pride ourselves on the fact that we are able to make cashmere garments that are wholly Scottish from start to finish. By providing access to new technology, we're also hoping to encourage younger generations to enter the textiles industry."

Located on the banks of the River Teviot in Hawick, the original company was formed in 1991 when it bought the former Hawico knitwear company, which had been in operation since 1874. Operated by two families, the Thomson's and the Sanderson's, Hawick

Cashmere then embarked on a campaign aimed at re-defining the traditional image of Scottish knitwear with significant investments in the latest knitting technology and a foray into the high-end retail sector.

Collections from the family-owned manufacturing and retail company are currently in more than 200 speciality stores, including a growing number in Japan where there is a traditionally strong demand for luxury, fine gauge Scottish knitwear.

In 1991, the knitting room was

100 per cent cashmere cowl neck.



predominantly full of Cotton's frame machines. However, the decision was taken to invest heavily in the manufacturing side of the business and Hawick Cashmere, as it was then, embarked on a long-term collaboration with Shima Seiki. Over the course of the 30-year relationship, the knitting room has evolved, along with Shima Seiki's help, with the company installing each series of the latest knitting machines as they became available, a strategy which has culminated in what is now regarded as the most innovative and advanced knitting room in the country.

Hawico was one of the first Scottish companies to invest in Shima Seiki WHOLEGARMENT technology and it now has more than 25 WholeGarment machines including nine SWG-173X machines in 12G and two SWG-173X in 8G. It has 15G capability in the form of SWG-X WholeGarment machines while the most recent investments include two of the latest MACH2X153 models in a superfine 18G.

As well as using a woollen spun cashmere yarn sourced in the UK, Hawico also uses a worsted spun 100 per cent cashmere yarn which with a bit more strength and a smoother effect lends itself well to the finer gauge knitwear.

In its early days, the company was also the first Scottish border knitwear manufacturer to use Nm 2/28's pure cashmere, when there was a tradition to use singles yarns such as Nm 1/14s for 12G women's cashmere knitwear. Of course, there are now any amount of blends but at that time it allowed the company to get an edge.

It now has stores in Milan, London, Baden-Baden, Zurich, St Moritz and Geneva as well as Gleneagles, Edinburgh, Kelso and its home town of Hawick where it is one of the few remaining manufacturers of knitwear goods that was formerly a major industry in the Scottish Borders. **KTJ**

The knitting room at Hawico.



Yarn show goes beyond expectations

Angela Cavalca reports from the summer edition of Pitti Filati where the latest yarns were focused on providing modern knitwear that focuses on comfortable materials, giving volume and lightness to knits in combination with technical innovations

Pitti Filati took place from 29 June to 1st July, marking a return to its usual location at the Fortezza da Basso after two editions staged at the Stazione Leopolda. The result was a positive edition with international buyers coming from more than 50 countries.

Despite the intense heat overwhelming Florence over the three days of the exhibition, the number of buyers exceeded 3,000 in total, almost double the number of a year ago. 50 per cent of them came from the top 15 foreign countries, namely France, United Kingdom, Germany, United States, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Russia, Belgium, Portugal, Romania, Ireland.

There was also strong participation from buyers from the United States, the United Kingdom and Turkey. On the contrary, but not unexpectedly, buyers from Asia did not attend, with many still suffering from travel restrictions due to the pandemic.

Back at the Fortezza da Basso, the fair regained its original dimension, with the spaces and large company displays that have characterized the event since its inception. A total of 114 brands exhibited their latest developments including 18 from overseas (UK, Japan, Turkey, Romania, Peru, China - Hong Kong, Ireland, South Africa, New Zealand).

"The return to the Fortezza da Basso after, by the way, two positive editions at the Stazione Leopolda, has given additional energy to this excellent edition

of Pitti Filati from all points of view," said Raffaello Napoleone, CEO of Pitti Immagine. "It is not just a question of the numbers referring to the presence of buyers, which even in a final report are the first to attract attention - especially when it comes to the best international knitwear manufacturers and the style offices of the most important fashion houses in the world. It is a mix of elements, starting with the quality of the collections and raw materials, and ending with the degree of technological and stylistic innovation and the vision of what fashion will be in a year and a half."

The exhibiting mills were also satisfied with the fair and the professional buyers appreciated the creativity and qualitative product offer.

Spazio Ricerca featured Into the Wild.



Trends

Visitors unanimously enjoyed the new Spazio Ricerca staging INTO THE WILD, presenting the fashion trends for Autumn/Winter 2023-24 curated by Angelo Figus and Nicola Miller.

The narration highlighted that we are living in a wild age. Gilded, equipped with all comforts, an age of progress and performance, but savage. Yet in the Romantic era, the savage was a good myth, the myth of man and his being good by nature, in total harmony with nature. It is only external forces that press in such a way as to make him brutal. From this starting point the Trend Area traced the timeline of human evolution to launch itself in search of a primitive future marked by a sense of the fluid, the

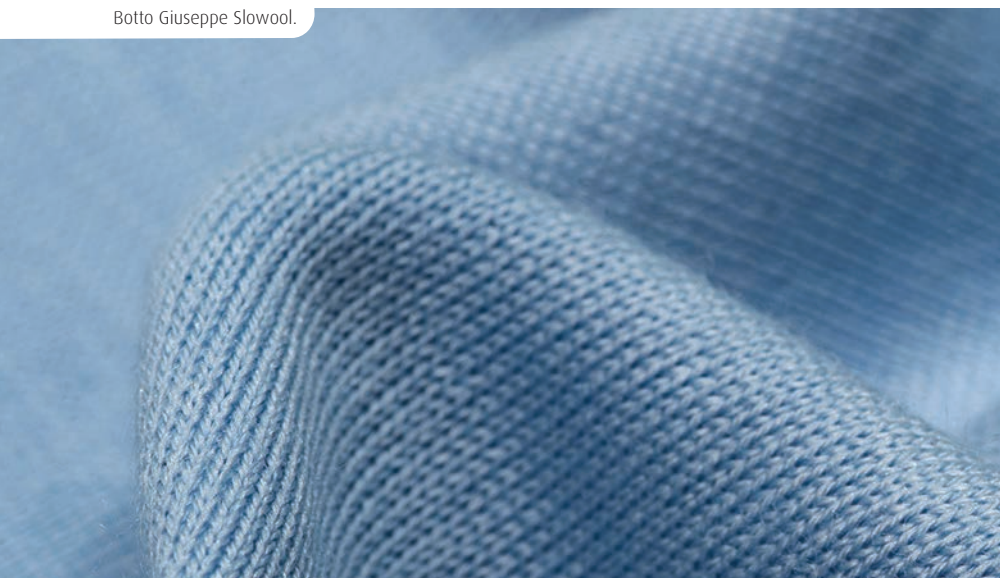


The trend area



Tollegno 1900.

Botto Giuseppe Slowool.



uncontaminated and (re)discovery, through the three themes BASIC INSTINCT, VICTORVICTORIA and CANNIBAL that staged the idea of savagery.

It was an interesting opportunity to explore the new yarns and knitting techniques experimented by the exhibitors, selected, with the colourful display worthy of note. The general colour card could be obtained as usual by taking yarn cuts in the area as well as in paper format. A particularly useful tool is also the digital colour card that can be downloaded from the Pitti Filati web page.

Collections

Being once again present at the fair with the ability to see and touch the new yarn developments created a general positive atmosphere. Despite some problems that still concern the industry as far as energy prices and raw material sourcing and logistics is concerned, most of the mills could rely on the stocks that have been duly planned and that are allowing to face the increasing demand of yarns for knitwear.

Different solutions have been suggested throughout the collections taking in consideration fibres for modern knitwear that focus on iconic products, comfortable materials, giving volume and lightness to the knits with technical innovations, and with a variety of furry aspects interpreted with natural yarns. Always having in mind was the commitment of creating and producing with responsibility according to sustainable goals.

For the Autumn/Winter 2023-24 season Tollegno 1900 created two new books to present the wool iconic yarns of the company in all its forms. The "Collection Book" containing 19 yarns of the three yarn families Harmony, pure Super Fine Wools and Wool & Cashmere. The new book "Collection Stitches" is dedicated to a series of classic, but also unconventional creations to offer insights, give ideas and indications of the new collection.

Considering wintery aspects, Cariaggi has developed a series of new yarns that enhance the exclusive, tactile quality of the cashmere yarns giving fluffy volume to the knits. Among them the worsted cashmere /silk with a bright fur effect in

the new yarn Dizzy and the long pile cut yarn with an uneven surface Foolish. Other interesting developments are the yarns Bouclé and Igloo, as well as the bright and iridescent Game with micro sequins and lurex. Cariaggi also launched the brand-new APP service to support the client's requests.

Considering the growing attention to a sustainable production Todd & Duncan introduced in the Cashmere 2/28 palette the new Luxe Tints, a selection of 12 pastel colors with retro allure, produced with pure GCS (Good Cashmere Standard) certified cashmere and a small quantity of dyeing, guaranteeing less waste in the production process. In addition, the 12 new Signature Twists created with the iconic mélange colours are perfectly suitable for eclectic voluminous knits.

Identity is the theme developed by Zegna Baruffa Lane Borgosesia, inspired by the exploration of origins and cultural heritage, narrated through 5 themes and product categories. Contents, moods, and products find their ideal expression in Signature (Cashwool & Classics), Neo Culture (New & Performing Yarns), Focus (Timeless Winter Yarns), Mirror (Luxury Blends) and Cultural Reverence (Sustainable & Tech Yarns).

Stepping forward with its commitment of transparency, traceability, high quality and responsibility, Botto Giuseppe released a brochure for the customers containing all information about the challenges the company is facing by creating yarn collections that reduce environmental impact and promote circularity. The Naturalis Fibra wool collection represents the constant engagement of the mill on this path.

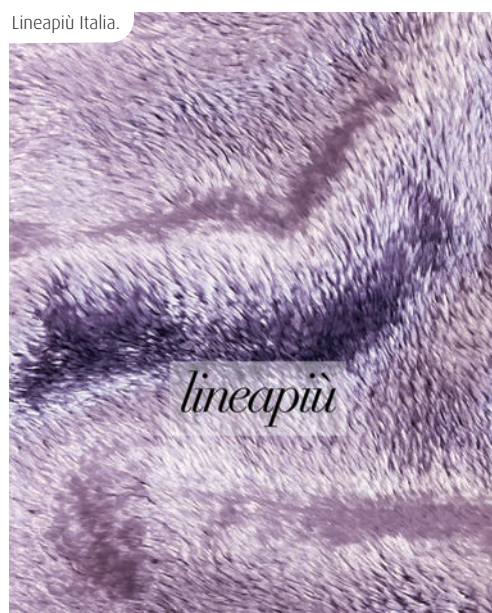
Lanificio dell'Olivo on occasion of its 75th anniversary launched the yarn Celebration 75 made with 65 per cent super kid mohair/35 per cent polyamide. The collection spotlights mohair in the finest gauges, super-lightweight and sheer also blended with alpaca, together with yarns that best express the desire for precious comfort and durability and yarns with a more sporty, modern soul. The mill newly lists the RAS (Responsible Alpaca Standard) certification, being the first in Italy to stock responsible alpaca available in its warehouse. ▶



Lanificio dell'Olivo.



Biella Yarn.



Lineapiù Italia.



Filpucci.

Dedicated to flat knitting, Biella Yarn by Südwolle presented colourful knitwear looks in merino wool inspired by dopamine, the “happy hormone,” underlining the comfort also for an outdoors lifestyle. The OTW line of yarns employing the Omega Twist technology remains extremely popular and ideal for performing elegant knitwear.

Filidea.



With the ECOTEC collection Marchi & Fildi continues its transition towards sustainable, certified yarns created through circular economy processes adding for the cross-season the two new yarns Narnali and Vergaio based on light stretch viscose. Being part of the Marchi & Fildi Group the fashion collection Filidea focuses on natural,

biodegradable fibres and precious blends and the new Gleaming metallic yarns for flat knitting that are GRS (Global Recycle Standard) certified complete the offer with a wide selection of stock service yarns.

Starting from the concepts of wellness and exploration the collection Lineapiù is based on yarns like silk velvet, gauzy viscose, wavy felts, double yak fluff and voluminous round fur of wool that give life to precious knit basics for elevated comfort and a contemporary casual look. Among the company's sustainable goals are the introduction of recycled cashmere and certifications regarding raw materials of cellulosic origin. Lineapiù Italia uses viscose filament certified FSC (Forest Stewardship Council), for 80 per cent of its yarns, committing to reach 100 per cent by 2025.

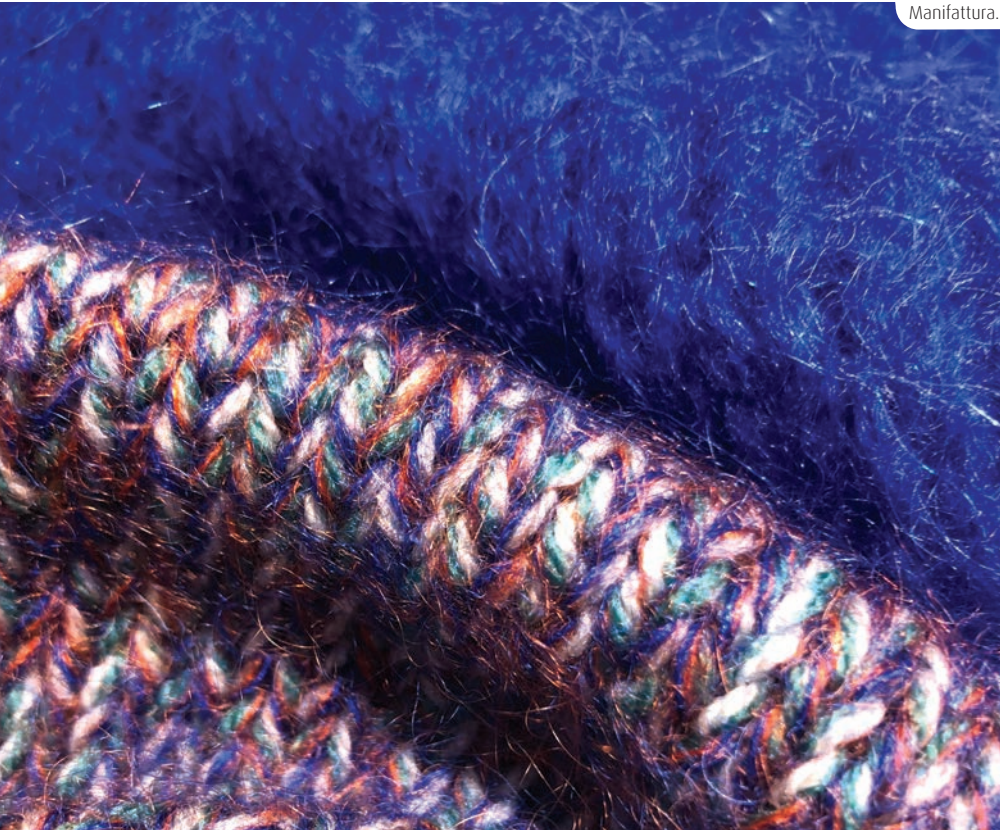
In its latest collection Filpucci is conveying the concept of “formal leisure”, which brings together elegance, softness, and comfort, and suits every occasion of the day. The collection offers a total knitwear look, from ultra-lightweight to soft, puffy yarns for knits that can replace a jacket. The materials used are in most cases natural or recycled, and carefully selected. Comfortable, Woolcot a blend made with traceable Native Wool, Ermellino, Polar Bear, Giotto and Cezanne are among the interesting new yarns.

Sustainability has always been at the core at Manifattura Sesia, which continues its commitment along the supply chain. GOTS certified organic articles such as wools and cottons from organic farms and crops are becoming increasingly significant as well as yarns that have recycled fibre component, such as GRS polyamides and recycled polyester sequins. Among the new entries are Rocker, Bombo and Ewoolution.

Seasonless is the main trend proposed by Monticolor that plays with the contamination between basic and sportswear yarns and realized new OCS and GOTS certified organic cottons such as So Light, Welove, Persian and Opium processed through exclusive technologies and creating vrillè, chenille, velvety aspects. The company has also invested in two new machines in gauges 3G to 16G.

In the specific area dedicated to

Manifattura.



machines Shima Seiki Italy displayed the new knitting machines, N.SIR123 IPC 18G and N.FIRST124 18G and the new APEXFiz design and PGM software. The company presented a new capsule collection designed by art director Vittorio Branchizio and made in collaboration with Beste. Interesting samples of knitted outerwear get functional properties through ultrasonic processing, thermo-taping, and tailoring membranes. The whole special project has been realized with the 18G machine that realizes vanisè, intarsia and weft combining technical and woolen yarns.

Special projects

Amongst the special projects at the show was the award ceremony for the second edition of Feel the Contest, a competition promoted and organised by Consorzio Promozione Filati - CPF and Pitti Immagine. Thirty-three young designers from Europe, the United States, South America, and Asia participated in the contest that was won by Marie Nardi for her creation of two outfits on the theme of "Feel The Green" together with the company Monticolor.

The young designer will now have the opportunity to create a mini-collection in knitwear for the SS23 season with the support of the spinning mills associated with the Consorzio Promozione Filati - CPF, a number of Italian knitwear factories and the Milan Showroom.

Opening to art projects, the Pitti Discovery Foundation and the Luigi Pecci Centre for Contemporary Art in Prato staged the WILD LIFE WILD HEAT exhibition, a special installation by the artist Maurizio Vetrugno.

Elsewhere, inspired by respect for the environment, Alessio Berto, owner of The Tailor Pattern Support pattern studio, offered an intergenerational and inter-artistic exchange project called Indico Eden that was setup in the Fashion at Work area. It is a concrete, avant-garde capsule inspired by primitive cultures that propels them into a better future, through better care of manufacturing processes and recycling of materials for garments that will last in time and space.

The next edition of Pitti Filati will take place from 25 to 27 January 2023. **KTJ**



Pitti Filati Feel the Green Winner Marie Nardi.

The Shima Seiki booth.



Opening up the future as Shima Seiki turns 60

Over the years, Shima Seiki's history has been marked by innovations that centre around customer benefit with an emphasis on reducing waste

Computerized knitting machine manufacturer Shima Seiki is celebrating its 60th year of business by holding an Anniversary event at its headquarters in Wakayama, Japan.

The three-month long, open-house event held from September through November 2022 features a virtual fashion show, a presentation of the latest proposals in DX for fashion, and machine and sample exhibits for fashion

and non-fashion markets. A special 60th Anniversary website has also been launched that allows browsing of event content for those unable to attend the event physically, as well as its own online seminar agenda.

Throughout the years, Shima Seiki's history has been marked by innovations that centre around customer benefit, with an emphasis on reducing waste.

Although the terms "sustainability" and "DX" did not exist at the time,

looking back it becomes clear that even back then these issues were consistently being addressed by developing solutions that are consistent with modern values and goals.

Shima Seiki's 55th Anniversary celebration 5 years ago was no exception. The company introduced sustainability to its customers along with various proposals in virtual sampling, including VR and AR experiences. Since then the spread of COVID-19 became a wakeup call for the apparel industry, which immediately began to search for new methods of production that offered a higher sustainability factor and lowered risks in response to the overflow of dead inventory due to consumer inactivity as a result of worldwide lockdowns, and subsequent financial loss, not to mention the enormous amount of waste involved.

Although demand for both WHOLEGARMENT knitting machines and design systems have increased, it is still Shima Seiki's view that this overall trend for green production and digital prototyping is not a big enough market shift that takes full advantage of sustainable DX efforts.

Therefore Shima Seiki is sending an even stronger message for its 60th Anniversary event, in an effort to accelerate the widespread use of virtual samples to reduce waste throughout the supply chain to ensure a sustainable future for the fashion industry and for the planet as a whole.

Solutions

The theme for the event, "Open Up the Future" proposes solutions for a cleaner and brighter future instead of the polluted scenario often portrayed as an



Shima Seiki's 60th anniversary website homepage



The entrance at the Wakayama headquarters

example of where the world is headed by current standards.

The 60th Anniversary event features the latest machine technology including the SWG-XR next-generation WHOLEGARMENT knitting machine released just this year, as well as a prototype pile glove machine. Knit samples include SWG-XR samples with patterns specialized to that machine such as delicate punch lace patterns, extreme 3D-textured fabrics, asymmetric designs and highly efficient intarsia patterns.

Special emphasis is placed on non-fashion applications as well, including experimental exercises in knitted items and fabrics such as smart fabrics using conductive yarn, heat-treated stiff fabrics, origami and tatami knits, optical fibres and very thick inlay cushions.

A special exhibit on carbon fibre composites features knit-to-shape 3D composite preforms using Shima Seiki's new biaxial weft knitting machine debuted at this year's Techtextil Frankfurt show.

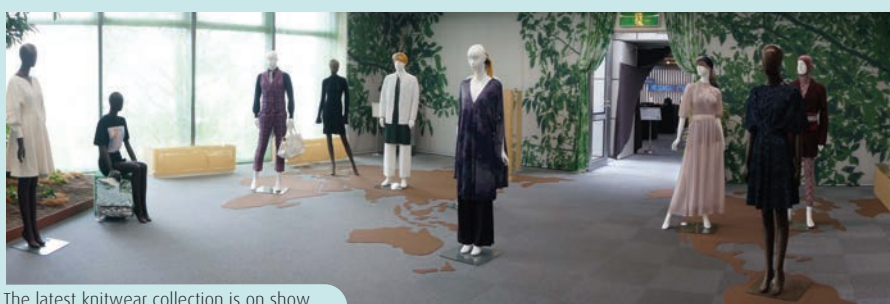
Real-world applications such as automotive aerodynamics and propeller blades produced using a special carbon fibre version of the P-CAM series cutting machine are also on display.

An all-digital virtual fashion show presented at the Hi-Vision Hall theater features the Shima Seiki 60th Anniversary Collection worn by 3D virtual models and demonstrates new ways to present fashion items without physical constraints associated with conventional fashion shows such as time, place, weather, etc. The virtual fashion shows can be enjoyed by anyone anywhere in the world at any time, and at the same quality.

They can also be presented without the need for actual samples present, allowing the display of colour and design variations without having to produce any of them. Physical versions of WHOLEGARMENT samples from the collection are on display as well. These are registered in cyberspace to allow for viewing of details and specifications in AR (augmented reality) on site, as well as in VR (virtual reality) for remote viewing online.

DX proposals include a special collaboration with a Japanese telecommunications company displaying the latest in XR (cross reality) technology as it applies

Machines on show



The latest knitwear collection is on show



60th anniversary virtual fashion show

to fashion based on virtual samples created on APEXFiz.

These include AR and VR presentations of the 60th Anniversary Collection as well as digital catalogues for viewing at retail stores, that offer new types of digitally extended customer experiences.

A display of on-going research items in novel fiber engineering using the latest knitting technology demonstrates the progress of the company's collaboration with MIT Media Lab at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. A special metaverse presentation by Shima Seiki R&D offers a sneak peek into the future of product planning by providing a virtual meeting space where participants from all stages can meet and evaluate fashion items.

Other displays about company concept and history round out the 60th Anniversary experience at Shima Seiki headquarters.

In addition to the physical event held at Shima Seiki, a special website has also been launched that features most of the event's exhibits, including DX proposals

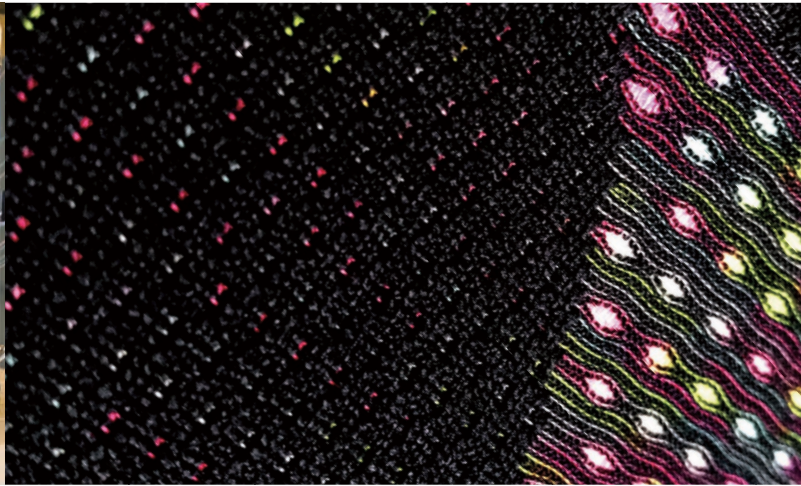
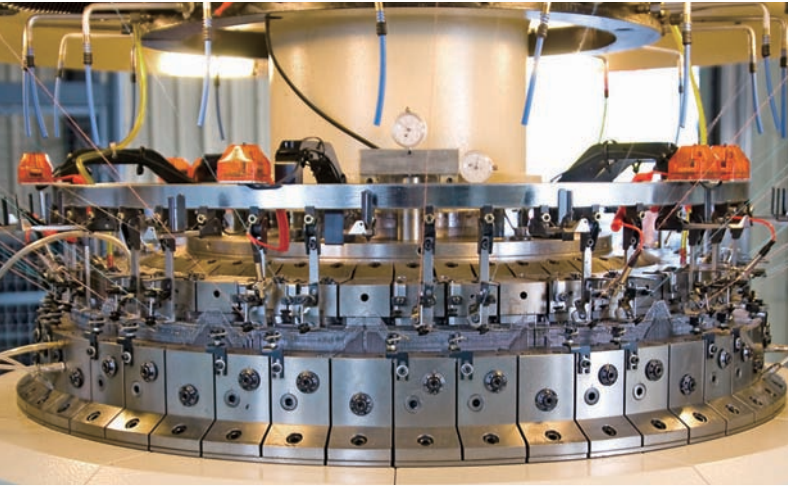
and VR/AR experiences as well as the virtual fashion show. A special online-only event consists of a series of webinar sessions, ranging from introductions by yarn manufacturers registered to the "yarnbank" digital yarn sourcing web service about their latest yarn collection, to useful tips and solutions for various Shima Seiki products, and keynote speech by MIT Media Lab Director and former NASA Deputy Administrator Professor Dava Newman.

The 60th Anniversary event is open to Shima Seiki customers and visits are by appointment only. The online portion can be accessed by anyone, while the seminar sessions require pre-registration, which is free. **KTJ**

Exhibition Details

Event:	Shima Seiki 60th Anniversary Event
Theme:	Open Up the Future
Date:	Thursday, 1st September - Wednesday, 30th November 2022
Hours:	9:00am - 5:45pm
Location:	Shima Seiki Headquarters, 85 Sakata Wakayama JAPAN
Online:	Shima Seiki 60th Anniversary Special Website
URL:	www.shimaseiki.com/60th/

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