



textile network

The international premium magazine for the textile chain

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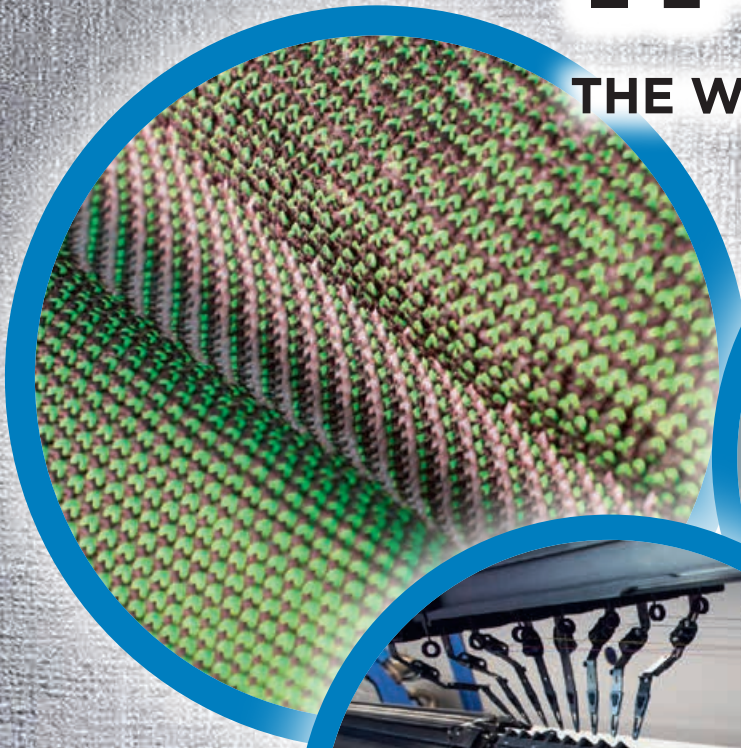
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textile network online – clearer, more information

K/AN K-CHOICE the pigment Ink

Groz-Beckert and the "The Floating Piers" by Christo

At the Lake D'Isèo in Italy, from June 13 to July 3, 2016, visitors can take a walk on a walk-along pier three kilometers in length, consisting, among ... From Iris Schlomski

Show more

Groz-Beckert and the "The Flo... Look behind the scenes New online platform for textil... The plus says it all!

News

07/06/2016 – Santoni Karl Mayer acquires warp knitting technology

Santoni and Karl Mayer agreed on May 30th, 2016 that Santoni will transfer its SWD technology to Nippon Mayer. From Editorial staff



The inventor's dilemma

01/06/2016 – India International Garment Fair Creating a full service network for the Fashion and Accessories industry

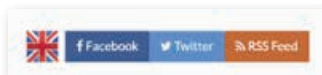
Apparel Export Promotion Council is organising Asia's biggest apparel fair - India International Garment Fair (IIGF) in association with four major garment ... From Editorial staff

On a personal note

New online platform

The international premium magazine for the textile chain launches into its digital future. At textile-network.com and textile-network.de.

The new websites for textile network place the interests of you, our readers, at the heart of what we do: Which technological innovations can the industry expect? Which trends are worth watching? Which topics in Research & Development are



textile network appears in two languages. You can access the English-language translations by clicking on the flag

capturing the imagination of our leading institutes and universities? Reflecting the network that joins all the links in the textile chain, textile network's underlying concept has, however, remained unchanged. This is why the "News" column is divided into the fields "Technical Textiles", "Fashion", "Home Textiles" and "Business".

Additional navigation

"We've decided for the first time to add new sub-topics to these main subject areas. Accordingly, Technical Textiles will also be broken down into Fibres/Yarns – Textiles – Technologies, whilst Fashion also includes Trends – Upstream – CAD/

CAM – Production – Logistics," explains Daniel Keienburg, Head of Digital Media at Meisenbach Verlag. textile network's new online platform appears both in English and German. textile-network.de is for German users, whereas textile-network.com is the international platform for English-language texts. Readers can switch between the English and German articles simply by clicking on the flag next to the social media icons. In addition, some English-language texts will specifically target our international readership whilst others will appear exclusively for the German-speaking market.

Clear target group

The new websites are designed for anyone who has a professional interest in knowing how and where textiles are produced and marketed now



Daniel Keienburg, Head of Digital Media at Meisenbach Verlag: „Our promise to you is that we'll continue improving this platform, expanding our offering all the time."

and in the future. Of course, textile network's new online platform is still very much at the beginning of its digital journey, in which the needs and wishes of our readers play a central role. This is why we invite you, our readers, to help us carve out our path into the digital future. We would be delighted to receive your feedback and hope you will engage with us on Facebook and Twitter. We look forward to hearing from you!

We wish you an enjoyable read!

Your textile network team

The interests of our readers are at the heart of textile network's new website

Your vote counts: The "Most Read" section shows the articles that have been selected most frequently

Most read Current

07/06/2016 Karl Mayer acquires warp knitting technology From Editorial staff

18/05/2016 The invention of knitting! From Editorial staff

29/05/2016 Look behind the scenes From Editorial staff

01/06/2016 Creating a full service network for the Fashion and Accessories industry From Editorial staff

26/05/2016 An impressive show From Iris Schlomski

Editor-in-chief, Iris Schlomski, her team and all our freelance authors are very excited about the new platform: "We want to portray the textile world as a network and from a technological point of view. Our relaunch into the digital world means that textile network and its information offering are completely networked. I'm delighted to be able to use these modern channels to keep our readers abreast of technical developments 'from the fibre to the textile product'."





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Photo: G-Star

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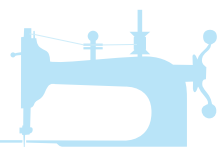
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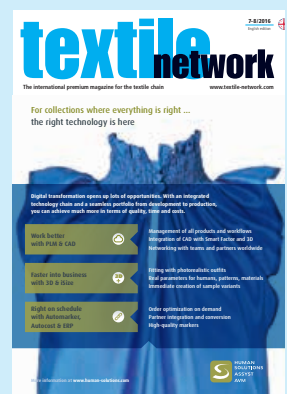
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ACANTHURUS

Innovative, self-warming textiles now available in Europe

J-Nova is a collection of groundbreaking thermal conductive textiles and fibers, which are able to conduct and store heat without any wires or cables. The innovative creation is based entirely on complex nanotechnology, and its advantages over existing, similar textiles are vast. This enables functions that have, until now, only been possible through the use of metal cables. Fascinatingly, the heating properties of the fibers are even able to with-

stand washing and crumpling without any impact on their function.

Frankfurt-based Acanthurus GmbH has recently entered a co-operation agreement to market innovations created by the Chinese company Polynova Technology Ltd. At the heart of Polynova's many creations lie J-Nova, a collection of revolutionary self-warming textiles and fibers.

Until now, Polynova has successfully produced technical synthetic materials based on nanotechnology for various industries, and counts companies such as Apple and Samsung as its main customers.

Renowned for pushing the boundaries of traditional technologies, J-Nova is currently focusing on the creation of nanotechnology-based warming textiles. Its first generation of products was introduced at the ISPO Exhibition in Beijing in

February 2016, and created significant interest. The self-warming fibers are at the forefront of the range. As an example, a jacket utilizing the technology was displayed, enabling it to maintain a constant temperature of 38 to 40 degrees for 8 hours through a small, rechargeable battery. The innovative textile fibers provide a connection to the battery itself, and also generate warmth.

The high levels of interest at the exhibition both emphasize and confirm the significant turnover potential of the products, whose uses include, amongst others, the fashion and medical industries. J-Novas's innovative, versatile team are constantly developing new generations of their technology in order to continue pushing boundaries and explore further potential uses.

Acanthurus GmbH is currently engaged in intensive discus-



Photos: Acanthurus

J-Nova is a collection of groundbreaking thermal conductive textiles and fibers, which are able to conduct and store heat without any wires or cables



J-Novas's innovative, versatile team are constantly developing new generations of their technology in order to continue pushing boundaries and explore further potential uses

sions with multiple large European companies that are interested in using J-Nova's technology in their products.

[\[www.acanthurus-technology.com\]](http://www.acanthurus-technology.com)

Advertisement



DOLCE & GABBANA

A new love of hotels

Designers love Milan! It has been a long time since the likes of Moschino, Ferragamo, Versace, Armani, Missoni and Bulgari relied solely on their boutiques and fashion stores to at-

tract customers. These days, they welcome their guests to restaurants and hotels that bear their names. Furnished with their own homewear articles, they are operated by inde-

pendent companies. Only recently, Bulgari Hotels and Resorts signed a contract with Russian investor Alexey Bogachev in a move to introduce its hotel brand to Moscow, bringing the total of Bulgari Hotels to seven. Scheduled to open in 2019 just 300 metres or so away from the Kremlin, the new undertaking will accommodate 65 rooms, a restaurant, spa and swimming pool.

Dolce&Gabbana are, likewise, jumping on the hotel bandwagon with plans in the pipeline to open its first hotel in the Palaz-

zo Broggi on Piazza Cordusio in Milan in the not too distant future. A luxury restaurant bearing the telling name of "Gold" is already up and running in the designers' hometown of Milan. The property likely to house the D&C Hotel, is the former headquarters of banking institute Uni Credit. Tuscan fashion label Ferragamo is also showing a keen interest in Milan, eyeing premises in the Corso Venezia, located inside the "Seminario di San Carlo".

[\[www.dolcegabbana.com\]](http://www.dolcegabbana.com)



Photo: fotofolia

Designers love Milan – moreover Dolce&Gabbana like to open its first hotel in the city



Città di Prato

Project Greenpeace/Prato

Eradicating toxic chemicals from the supply chain



Jessica Marini (co-owner) and Francesco Marini (co-owner, Marini Industrie Spa)



Ilaria Taddeucci Sassolini (co-owner) Lanificio Dell'Olivo Spa



Marco Benesperi (Executive Director Filati Bemiva Spa and Cromos Srl)

Prato – a city between two worlds! The Tuscan city is proud of its tradition as the secret capital of the textile processing industry, remaining to this day an important base for many reputed companies. Assuming responsibility for the environment in the production of textiles, it has recently launched a campaign in collaboration with Greenpeace to champion environmental protection and health in fashion. This is in stark contrast to the so-called “Chinese shadow” that has been cast over the city, whose inhabitants still largely rely on the manufacture and sale of fashion for their daily bread. Negative reports continue to hit the headlines, with the police only recently arresting yet another three Chinese citizens trying to dispose illegally of around 200kg nylon waste. Such occurrences are unfortunately becoming all the more frequent. Around a quarter of Prato’s population of 200,000 inhabitants are Chinese. They run no fewer than 3,700 businesses, with the estimated

number of illegal factories being much higher; many of them operate in often inhuman working conditions. The project involving Greenpeace and 20 companies in and around Prato is best described as pioneering. The Detox Campaign supports fashion labels and retailers in their efforts to eradicate toxic chemicals from the supply chain, thus reducing and combatting the serious problem of water pollution. The list includes, among others, poly- and perfluorinated compounds (PFCs), used in finishing processes for outdoor clothing. The campaign similarly focuses on azo dyes with amines

Twenty textiles companies from Prato, the biggest textile district in Europe, have all committed to Detox, the highest standard in toxic-free fashion production. Prato is home to Italy’s oldest textile manufacturers and most extensive fashion supply chain, which exports over 2.5 billion Euro of clothing annually to global brands including Burberry, Prada, Valentino, Armani, and Gucci. The agreement will affect over 13 thousand tons of yarn and raw materials as well as over 13 million metres of fabric every year. 20 committed companies include yarn, fabric, textile raw material manufacturers, dyeing companies and chemicals suppliers.

that have a negative effect on human fertility and are carcinogenic, flame retardants containing bromine and chlorine and organotin compounds. According to Greenpeace, the agreement will target more than 13,000 tonnes of yarn and raw materials and more than 13 million metres of fabric every year. The participating companies are all members of the regional employers’ association CNT — Confindustria Toscana Nord. It is Italy’s biggest association, covering the largest textile region in Europe. Every year, companies in and around Prato export more than 2.5m Euro

worth of garments, corresponding to around 15 percent of global textile production in terms of sales. The 20 participating firms are: Achimo, Cromos, Daykem, Ciampolini, Yarn Be.Mi.Va, Yarn Biagioli Modesto, Spinning Papi Fabio, Furple Idea, Ilaria Manifattura Lane, Italian Industry Yarn, Jersey Mode, Lanificio Belluci, Lanificio Olive, Marini Industrie, Pecci Yarn, Project SRL Lana, Tintoria Biagioli Modesto, Tintoria Alessandrini, Tintoria Comet and Tintoria Flordiluce. These companies either dye and finish fabrics, are heavily involved in the production of chemicals and raw materials or specialise in yarn and fabric production. The common goal of these enterprises is, “To continue detoxing our manufacturing processes over the coming months and to make the supply chain greener.” Prato is proud of its history in the textile industry and is building for the future. This finds expression, among others, in the city’s new logo which emanated from a competition.

[Ingrid Sachsenmaier]



Giulio Bonazzi

140 million tonnes of plastic waste. Not, as you may think, on landfill sites in the urban periphery but in our oceans – one of the most valuable habitats on Earth

Photot: adpic

Econyl

Combatting plastic waste in the sea

The Econyl Regeneration System produces high-quality yarn from nylon in old carpets, textile waste and fishing nets, simply by transforming Polyamide 6 into primary raw materials for industrial production. In doing so, the brand makes a sizeable contribution to reducing global waste. Its efforts were acknowledged in 2014 when it won the German Sustainability Award in the Specialist Category “Best Resource Efficiency”.

140 million tonnes of plastic waste. Not, as you may think, on landfill sites in the urban periphery but in our oceans – one of the most valuable habitats on Earth. Every year, more than seven million tonnes of waste is added, covering an area three times the size of Berlin. The biggest threat to this natural habitat is plastic. In some seas, the situation is so extreme that up to 80 percent of the waste there consists of plastic. Marine plastic rubbish has become symptomatic for a far broader problem: wasteful consumption and persistently poor management of natural resources. Giulio Bonazzi, Chairman and CEO of Aquafil, who has developed the Econyl Project together with his team, has been committed to the eradication of plastic waste in our seas for many years

Fishing nets reclaimed from the sea – Econyl is committed to cleaning up our seas

now. The Econyl brand, comprising the innovative Econyl Regeneration System, transforms Polyamide 6 waste from products such as carpets and fishing nets into primary raw materials that can be reused for industrial purposes. The broad term of plastic refers to all synthetic materials based on crude oil, coal or natural gas. Its durability and malleability explain why plastic has become so popular and is used in so many



Photo: Econyl / Carola Grzanna



Photo: Econyl / Carola Grzanna

different ways before being consigned to the rubbish tip – often after being used just the once. Unfortunately, plastic particles are being traced with increasing frequency in sperm whales and albatrosses in the Midway Atoll in the North Pacific and in sea snails and shellfish. This is both a dramatic and a serious problem as the “Garbage Patches” in our seas continue to grow in size. This not only has consequences for human and animal health but also for the economy. The laborious task of eradicating plastic waste from fishing nets and keeping our beaches clean is associated with exorbitant costs. “One solution would be for industry to use less plastic in production or to install better filtration systems to ensure that even minute particles are prevented from entering the sea. At the same time, consumers must try to use less plastic and buy re-usable products. It’s important that we raise awareness to draw attention to this serious problem and to encourage people to change their ways,” states Giulio Bonazzi.

Shipping and fishing waste

A large proportion of the waste comes from seafaring vessels that dispose of their packaging materials, rubbish, old nets and ropes in the water. The reason they do this is painfully simple: disposing of waste properly in the harbours is linked with high fees and it is nigh on impossible to prosecute the perpetrators out at sea. “We really have to make it easier for ships to dispose of their waste and the charges have to be drastically reduced,” states the expert, continuing, “The WWF has spent a long time campaigning for waste disposal sites to be made readily available, as this would help to contain the problem. At the same time, the penalties need to be dramatically increased to ensure that the boats don’t even think of mistaking the sea for a landfill site.” Whales, dolphins, turtles, sea cows and birds, to name but a few species, regularly die a painful death either through strangulation in plastic nooses or drifting fishing nets made from plastic rope. These

BCF Yarn for carpets

nets continue to catch wildlife long after the fishermen have cast them adrift. In collaboration with Healthy Seas, Econyl has set itself the task of removing waste and drifting nets from the North Sea and the Mediterranean.

The Econyl Regeneration System transforms this waste into premium nylon fibres, that can be used as a raw material for sustainable products such as hosiery, beachwear, underwear and carpets. The Econyl System offers many advantages, such as huge energy and water savings as well as a sharp reduction in residual waste and high exploitation levels of quality nylon. Bonazzi: “The environment is helped in two ways, as the waste is re-used and valuable resources are saved in the production of nylon. In addition, this environmentally friendly production system is an endless regeneration process which reduces to a minimum both environmental pollution and the consumption of natural resources and energy.” Eradicating plastic and other waste from our seas is a valuable undertaking!

The secret is to ensure that the solutions make sense not only environmentally, but also economically. [\[www.econyl.com\]](http://www.econyl.com)

Left: NTF yarn for textiles

Right: BCF yarn for carpets



Photo: Econyl / Carola Grzanna



Photo: Econyl / Carola Grzanna



Photos: Picture Organic Clothing

In the summer of 2017, Picture Organic Clothing is launching a 100 percent ecological wetsuit collection

PICTURE ORGANIC CLOTHING

Neoprene-free, based on rubber

After two year's intense research and an extensive trial phase, the green brand has unveiled a new alternative to neoprene that will be appreciated by ambitious surfers close to nature. Natural-Prene, a natural, durable and efficient material, comprises 85 percent natural rubber harvested in

Malayan Hevea plantations. The remaining 15 percent is made from synthetic, chlorine-free rubber. An innovative manufacturing process endows the material with high elasticity. By adding micro-particles, Natural-Prene is capable of stretching to four times its original size. According to the

manufacturer, the integrated polyester lining offers maximum comfort whilst boasting extremely quick drying properties. A solvent-free, water-based adhesive was used in the production process. Picture's co-founder Julien Durrant about the 100 percent ecological wetsuit collection:

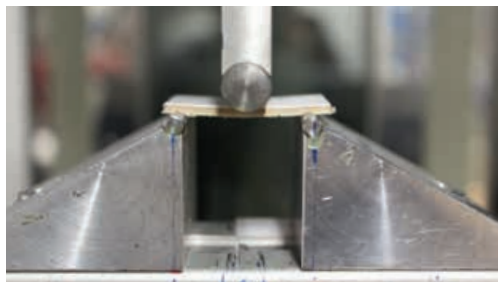
"Ever since we established the company in 2008, we've been focusing on the development of environmentally friendly products. An outstanding result of our efforts has been the sustainable and durable alternative to neoprene."

[www.picture-organic-clothing.com]

PURCELL

Purcell – a renewable composite material made of pure cellulose

A biopolymer to replace established GRP construction components. Considerable amounts of glass-fiber reinforced plastics (GRP) are used in many constructions and construction components. But although 250,000 tons of end-of-life GRP waste materials are currently produced annually, no practical solution has been found, which would enable true recycling of GRPs. At the moment the only



Purcell plate in a three-point bending test



Purcell composite plate (cross-section), comprising 4 layers

Photos: DITF Denkendorf

technically applicable concept entails thermal processing and the use of the remaining glass-fiber waste products after pyrolysis as an additive to cement. There is definitely no recycling, in the true sense of the word. The urgency of the recycling problem is being accelerated by statutory regulations, which force manufacturers to take their products back. Because there is still no evidence of a real solution for true recycling of GRP materials in the future, the new research project

at the ITCF Denkendorf aims towards finding a substitute for these materials. A new, pure, recyclable composite material of pure cellulose presents an alternative. This should ensure a safe, stable and affordable supply of raw materials for the GRP manufacturing industry. The biopolymer cellulose is used both as a high-strength reinforcing fiber and as a matrix component. In this way, a pure, chemical composite made of cellulose, ("Purcell") will be generated, which can be com-

pletely recycled by means of technologies that already exist. The purity of the Purcell composites thereby guarantees a technologically simple recycling process. The laboratory samples that have already been produced indicate that the Purcell composites have a comparable range of properties, compared to GRPs and that they are already achieving the mechanical parameters of thermoplastic GRP plates, the so-called organic sheets.

[www.itcf-denkendorf.de]

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www.kern-liebers-textile.com

Quality Assurance along the textile chain – Part 3

Moving from Quality - Assurance to QPM



In recent years, the textile and clothing industry has undergone a fundamental transformation, along with many other industrial sectors. This is leading to the implementation of Quality Management Systems that can only succeed in conjunction with a sophisticated Project Management System. This requires precise planning and a clear strategy – only then is it possible to create functional solutions in collaboration with a reliable network of partners.



are raising the demands of manufacturers, customers and even society as a whole.

What is the actual task of Quality Assurance?

In the past, the task involved singling out the “good” from the “bad”, or separating the wheat from the chaff. Which products can be delivered to the customer and which fail to live up to the quality demands defined by the maker (which, of course, differ greatly from firm to firm)? Is the “Six-Sigma” approach in the automotive supply chain a possibility for textiles too? And how can I define and document a technical level of quality for trousers that are designed with a used look and destroyed effects? This is the area that could be described as the natural habitat of traditional quality assurance experts.

In recent years, however, the new generation of quality managers has had to worry about many more issues than in the past.

1. Adherence to “environmental requirements” is no longer expected by just a handful of the more “exotic” customers. These days, even the discounters and budget chains are selling “organic texti-

Quality Assurance along the textile chain is as old as textiles and clothing production itself. Many of the techniques and procedures used have barely changed over time – in many fields, companies still rely on the human senses and the professional experience of their staff. A fabric’s handle (tactile) is felt with the hand, the colour (visual) is tested with the eye and the smell (ol-

factory perception) is checked with the nose. And yet, modern technologies enable us to identify important test parameters by using highly specialised methods of analysis and fast computers. Developments such as the widely discussed concept of “Industry 4.0”, the ever-evolving process of “globalisation”, the “Detox” campaign and government initiatives such as the “Textile Alliance”

In recent years, the new generation of quality managers is having to worry about many more issues than in the past

Photo: Fotolia



les" that come with a more or less long list of unacceptable substances.

2. The sheer diversity of contrasting customer requirements is enough to baffle even the most experienced experts.
3. Through measures such as the "Textile Alliance", state intervention in the textile and clothing industry is on the rise. The political arena is pushing for textiles and apparel manufacturers to accept direct responsibility for working and production conditions not only in their own mills and factories but also in those of their suppliers.
4. CSR Manager – a task and a term that still means nothing to a great many companies. This (mysterious) job is generally given to the Quality Managers who will "hopefully muddle their way through".
5. NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) are consciously exposing well-known brands, and successfully drawing public attention to themselves. This puts companies under so much pressure that they commit to visiona-

ry regulations without really knowing whether they can actually be implemented. The Detox Campaign is undoubtedly the best-known example of this.

6. The harbingers of "Industry 4.0" are encouraging more firms to look for ways of automatically defining, compiling and evaluating quality parameters. The development, validation and implementation of these new technologies is absorbing a huge amount of resources (capital & personnel).
7. Globalisation and division of labour mean that seemingly simple tasks are becoming harder to communicate. Speaking foreign languages (of course, everyone speaks English! ...) leads to misunderstandings that take time to clarify.
8. When contacts have insufficient knowledge of textiles and apparel technology, be it within their own companies or with business associates, be it at home or abroad, long and painful discussions about the basics ensue, coupled with the constant need to agree on the next step.
9. "Lead Time Reduction", "Just-in-Time" and "Supply Chain Management" lead to planning and



Our author Bernhold Emma-Zumpe is in charge, among others, of Quality Management for the entire WKS Group

production procedures that can only be implemented to a limited degree with conventional QM methods.

10. Considerable pressure on procurement divisions often gives rise to over-hasty decisions to change supplier. Customer-supplier relationships that have been nurtured and cultivated over many years are abruptly ended. On the sales side, snap decisions are made to work with customers who often meet the requirements which, however, are not always fully understood or appreciated.

So, how can these challenges be met? What is certain is that the traditional Quality Assurance expert has no place in today's modern businesses. What is needed is a flexible, logical Project Manager who not only covers Quality Management in the classical sense but takes on many other management tasks at the same time: Environmental management, Health and Safety management, Process management, Interface management (incl. RFID), Product management, Cost management, Facility management, Risk management, Logistics management, Ideas management, Data protection management, Knowledge management.

Enterprises cannot, of course, expect to employ an "omniscient expert". The sheer diversity of the tasks at hand mean that their technical and commercial skills need to be complemented to an ever increasing degree by the all-important soft skills. In order to fulfil these tasks, the QA expert needs the communication skills to be able to work closely with the in-house divisions and the external business associates.

Another prerequisite is that the QA expert must be able to count on reliable partners in these very different areas. WKS Textilveredlungs GmbH, based in Wilsum, Germany, has ►

What is Six Sigma?

Six Sigma is a management system for improving processes, a statistical quality target system and a Quality Management method all rolled into one. Its core focus is the description, measurement, analysis, improvement and monitoring of business processes using statistics. (Source: Wikipedia/translated from German)

About WKS Textilveredlungs GmbH

Employing around 500 staff across seven countries, WKS Textilveredlungs GmbH offers a range of "textile solutions", i.e. services for the entire textile and apparel industry. This includes areas such as cloth inspection and laboratory tests, the repair and presentation of textiles for sale, finishing of ready-made products and logistics services. The company specialises in linking up global Quality Assurance tools with intelligent and complex logistics solutions – or put quite simply, in "textiles solutions".

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Pitti Immagine Filati

06/29/16 - 07/01/16 | Florenz, Italy
www.pittimmagine.com

OutDoor

07/13/16 - 07/16/16 | Friedrichshafen
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**I.L.M Summer Styles –
Internationale Lederwaremesse**

09/10/16 - 09/12/16 | Offenbach
www.ilm-offenbach.de

Premiere Vision Paris

09/13/16 - 09/15/16 | Paris
www.premierevision.com

**55. Chemiefasertagung Dornbirn
(Dornbirn-MFC)**

20.09.16 - 22.09.16 |
Dornbirn, Österreich
www.dornbirn-mfc.com

**FILO – Internationale Fachmesse
für Web- und Wirkgarne**

09/28/16 - 09/29/16 | Milan, Italy
www.filo.it

1. Saltex

10/05/16 - 10/06/16 |
Dornbirn, Austria
www.saltex.messedornbirn.at

Forum Konfektion

10/06/16 | Denkendorf
www.ditf-denkenorf.de

Cinte Tectextil

10/12/16 - 10/14/16 | Shanghai
www.cinte-tectextil-china.hk.
messefrankfurt.com



In greater demand than ever: Project managers, responsible not only for Quality Management in the classical sense but also for many other management tasks

► been offering bespoke solutions in this field for many years. The first step to finding a useful all-round solution involves carrying out an analysis of sourcing, quality assurance and logistics processes together with the customer. Optimising and pooling these activities gives rise to intelligent concepts that help customers to plan ahead, to redesign their processes more quickly and effectively, and to pay more attention to costings. The network plays an absolutely central role here. In cooperation with logistics provider Meyer & Meyer, based in Osnabrück, Germany, and the global testing company Intertek, based in Fürth, Germany, these challenges can be met more comprehensively, and in the context of better global planning and implementation.

This involves the following steps: Defining the task areas, Identifying specific targets (e.g. with respect to: Ensuring and/or optimising quality, Accelerating processes, Creating planning certainty, Pooling task, Cutting costs, Improving flexibility, Incorporating new requirements in conjunction with customers and/or suppliers, Clarity by creating transparency), The inclusion of processes by specialists in cooperation with in-house technicians, Documenting and analysing processes, Identifying potential for optimisation, Conceiving specific improvements. Of

course, it is important not to devise a purely theoretical model. Solutions that exist only on paper are no good to anyone. Highly motivated staff, years of experience and hands-on cooperation with customers ensure that well-planned projects actually work from the outset. The intelligent dovetailing of cloth inspection and laboratory testing with flexible transportation and warehousing solutions as well as auditing and inspection services help to create globally usable "textile solutions". As soon as all of these elements are in place, it is never long before the first improvements start to materialise. This is an effective means of supporting Quality Project Managers and other staff in many different areas, allowing them to perform these varied tasks in both a structured and qualified manner.

[Bernhold Emme-Zumpe]

Already appeared in this series:

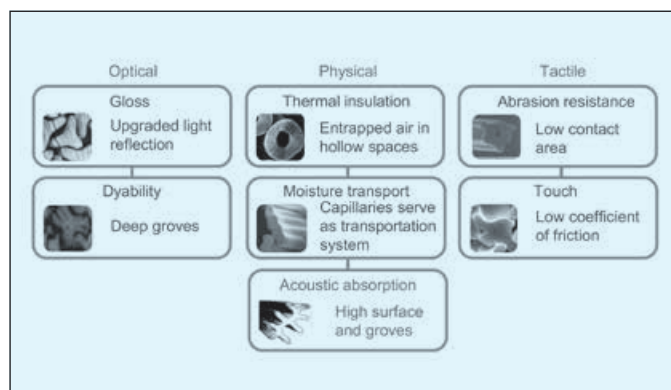
"What is Quality?" Part 1,
Issue 1-2/2016

"Reliable Partnership" Part 2,
Issue 3-4/2016

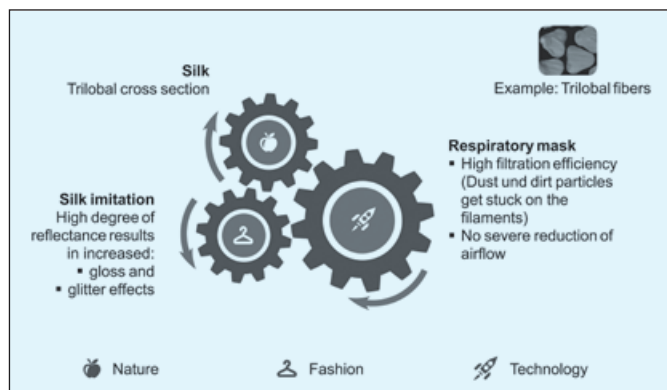
Part 4 in issue 9/10 will look at "Quality in terms of Material Compliance". Meeting legal expectations using process integration, IT-supported supplier communication and analysis.

Profiled fibres

A technology for “two worlds”



Profiled fibres are defined as fibres whose cross-sections deviate considerably from circular cross-sections



Technologytransfer

The sheen of silk blouses and the efficiency of air filters are two examples that demonstrate the sheer breadth of today’s textile research.

Textile companies have long since been casting their gaze to areas beyond the manufacture of apparel. These days, textiles are accordingly being made not only for the fashion sector but increasingly for technical applications, too. The demands made on textiles for fashion and technology are naturally very different. In the fashion industry, the main priority is to achieve a visually

aesthetic appearance. In the case of technical textiles, on the other hand, the emphasis is very much on bespoke functionality. These differences create a distinctive line between fashion products and technical textiles.

However, there are sectors in which this line becomes blurred. Looking at sportswear, for example, a compromise has to be struck between functionality and aesthetics. These products are expected not only to look good but also to offer useful properties in terms of heat transfer and wicking. Pro-

filed fibres are an innovation that satisfies the requirements of both the fashion and technical worlds.

For fashion and for technology

These fibres are designed with non-circular cross-sections, such as trilobal fibres. They are produced in a melt-spinning process using specially designed profiled spinnerets. In relation to their volume, profiled fibres have a markedly enlarged surface and, in terms of sheen, they display superior properties to fibres with round cross-sections.

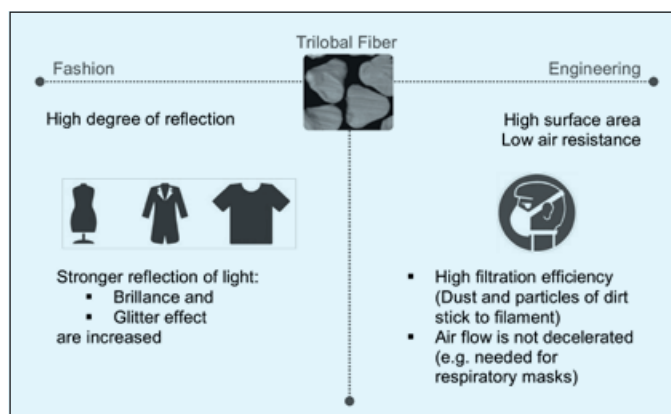
The versatile properties of profiled fibres open the door to a wide spectrum of possible applications, many of which are useful both in the fashion and technical fields. A more pronounced sheen, glitter effects and water and dirt-repelling attributes make fibres with trilobal cross-sections highly appealing for the fashion industry. At the same time, non-wovens from trilobal fibres dis-

play lower air resistance despite having a high surface. The high surface means that the non-wovens capture more dirt and dust particles. This is why non-wovens made from trilobal fibres are commonly used in filtration, such as in respiration masks.

The manufacture of profiled fibres in a melt-spinning process and their further processing are currently under research at the Institute of Textile Technology at RWTH Aachen University. Particular attention is being given to industrial applications in which innovative cross-sectional fibre geometries lead not only to improved functionality but also to changes in appearance.

Research projects in this field have shown that fashion and technology are often more closely linked than one would perhaps expect.

[Inga Noll, Ertugrul Bahadir, Gunnar Seide, Thomas Gries] [\[www.ita.rwth-aachen.de\]](http://www.ita.rwth-aachen.de)



The versatile properties of profiled fibres offer a diversity of possible applications



IVGT

IVGT

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The PPE Dialogue, organised on 9 June 2016 by three specialist associations – IVGT, German Fashion and Wirtex – was fully subscribed, attracting 45 members. The product that connects the three associations is textiles and the personal protective equipment made from them. The delegates from the member companies went to Frankfurt to find out more about current issues and developments in the PPE industry and to discuss their thoughts and ideas. The latest news from Brussels has some serious implications for everyone involved in this sector. The three associations recognise the importance of coordinating the links in the supply chain so that these new regulations can be implemented smoothly. A topic that has immediate legal repercussions for the industry is the new EU PPE regulation which became law in all EU member states on 21 April 2016. Thomas Lange, Managing Director of German Fashion, which also represents the manufacturers of workwear, trade and protective clothing, devoted his paper to this topic. The manufacturers of personal protective clothing and the chain preceding them will have to comply with the new regulation, which requires more extensive labelling and documentation. In addition, several new classifications have been created for PPE products. Even importers, retailers, leasing companies, employers and wearers are affected by the changes. Much of the new PPE regulation applies to the certifying bodies and the certifications they award companies. A statement released by the European tex-

tiles confederation Euratex and statements from the certifying bodies sparked a lively debate. A central issue in this context is the validity period of the test reports. Dr. Panagiotis Karagiozidis of certifying body TÜV Rheinland provided useful tips for everyday practice in his paper on "The most frequent reasons for failing a PPE test". Wolfgang Quednau of BTTA GmbH, discussed the problems associated with "Ageing PPE". Over time, however, the PPE loses its protective properties simply as a result of ageing and wear. A major challenge facing textile service providers is how to maintain the protective functions of the clothing and equipment they rent out. Closely linked with this topic are the proposed restrictions on perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and its compounds as per the REACH chemicals regulation, a topic that has inflamed the debate throughout 2015/2016. The regulations include fluorinated polymers used in fluorocarbon finishes to enhance the water, oil and dirt-repelling properties of textiles. Michael Pöhlig, Managing Director of the IVGT reported on the current situation with regard to potential restrictions on perfluorooctanoic acid and shed light on what is likely to happen next. Werner Münnich, CWS-boco, talked to the audience about the "Demands of users and textile service companies on the supply chain", explaining why it is important and expedient for all agents to work together. A follow-up event is already in the pipeline for 2017.

[www.ivgt.de]

HOHENSTEIN INSTITUTE

Friction-optimised textiles close to the skin

Researchers at the Hohenstein Institute have developed a digital method for the three-dimensional analysis of textile surfaces that come into direct contact with people's skin. Using the new microscopic technique, scientists are now able to describe the mechanical nature of the contact between textiles and the skin far more accurately. The new process, known as 3D profilometry, is used to analyse the interaction between flexible

materials, that is, of textiles and skin. This will help the industry to enhance the friction properties of textiles that are usually worn next to the skin. The researchers use a state-of-the-art 3D digital microscope to conduct their topographic analysis. On the one hand, this enables the textile's surface structure to be analysed, from the macro to the micro structure, and on the other, it becomes possible to predict the contact points and friction behaviour of a fabric

against the skin – particularly when the textile is compressed vertically onto the skin. This also allows predictions to be made as to which and what proportion of the textile structures (fibres/yarns) touch the skin as contact increases. The 3D surface analysis is suitable for all textiles that are worn next to the skin.

[www.hohenstein.de]



Read more in our online magazine textile-network.com/ new button: Research & Development

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KNOPF UND KNOPF INTERNATIONAL

Polyester synthetic buttons

Polyester buttons are mid-range in terms of price and are very widely used. The turning process can dramatically reduce the uniform appearance that is often characteristic of synthetic buttons. Although the practised eye can identify it as a technological product, the button has an attractive appearance, and a high degree of practical utility.

Polyester is an ideal imitation material and can be used to imitate buttons made of natural materials such as mother-of-pearl and buffalo horn. Polyester is a duroplastic synthetic material. It is available in rods that can be supplied to the correct diameter for the buttons, or in sheets of machine-compatible sizes and of various thicknesses. The polyester resins are produced by the chemical industry, generally from crude oil. A kilo of finished buttons requires two kilos of raw material. Polyester buttons can essentially be made in any colour required, although viable production entails a certain minimum quantity. Except where large quantities of coloured material are required, it is common to apply the colour to the surface. Polyester buttons are used nowadays in all areas of the clothing industry. Read more in the Online-Magazine. In Part 5 of our series 'All you need to know about buttons', in the next edition, you can read all about mother-of-pearl buttons.

[www.knopfundknopf.com]

Proposte in Cernobbio

Dolce vita at Lake Como

Interior and high-quality furnishing fabrics returned to centre stage at this year's Proposte for three days at the exhibition centre Villa Erba in Cernobbio alongside various showrooms at the Fuorisalone in Italy. Luxurious premium-quality fabrics for interior design are in greater demand than ever. Additionally, the positive consumer mood is having an encouraging effect on the (re)designing of home and hotel interiors as well as those of ships, yachts, cultural venues and offices. The sought-after upholstery textiles have even entered the fashion industry, as was illustrated by

Proposte's new president

This year's Proposte concluded Piercarlo Viganò's term as President as he handed over the post to his former Vice-President and Director Mauro Cavelli after the fair. Gianmarco Zamaroni and Marco Cazzaniga remain on the board of directors while Alessandro Tessuto replaces Gustavo De Negri.



Piercarlo Viaganò und Mauro Cavelli

the handbags showcased at Fuorisalone.

Marco Cavelli, Board Member and future President at the time of the fair opening, has

identified three main trends shaping furnishing and curtain fabrics: 'domestic, contract and technic.' Natural materials such as cotton and linen play a core





role in domestic textiles, of course, and are often combined with polyester. The colour range includes everything from subdued and natural, such as ivory and beige, to eye-catching. Cavelli has identified a new trend towards bright colours. "Homes crave colour," he says. On the other hand, he also notes that velvet is making a comeback. After having been relegated to purely classical designs it is now being dusted off, rediscovered and used in single colours as a minimalistic design element. Contract textiles, as used in hotels, for example, also have to meet practical demands. Curtain fabrics are required to function as sun pro-

tection and thermal insulators in one by completely blocking out sunlight and helping to regulate the room temperature. Another current development is that many manufacturers are having their products certified in order to protect themselves against counterfeiting. "This allows us to determine that the fabrics are genuine," Cavelli explains.

Typically Italian: More and more of Cernobbio's retailers temporarily convert their shops into showrooms for rent during the Proposte. Even private residences and luxury mansions at the lakefront have started to open their doors for exhibitors to showcase their collections.

For several years now, Bavarian fabrics manufacturer Rohleder, for example, has been presenting its new designs and products in a stunning venue featuring a sprawling lawn and a grand patio overlooking the lake. The majority of exhibitors, however, come from Italy. Two young entrepreneurs from Milan, textile designer Ivana M. Cerisara and journalist Micaela Picasso, introduced their Trend Books at the fair for the first time. This new and interesting idea aims to provide interior decorators and designers with an annual comprehensive design guide and reference tool.

[www.propostefair.it]
[Ingrid Sachsenmaier]

Impressions
Proposte Villa Erba

Proposte 2016

Although the total visitor numbers were marginally lower, foreign visitors accounted for almost 70 per cent of the total, which is a three per cent increase compared to last year. The event in April 2016 especially attracted a large number of representatives from Germany, the UK, the USA, China and Spain, while Italian visitor numbers dropped slightly by around seven per cent.

57TH IIGF

A full service network

Apparel Export Promotion Council has been organising Asia's biggest apparel fair – India International Garment Fair (IIGF) – in association with four major Indian garment associations twice a year since 1988. The fair for the Autumn/Winter season is staged in the month of January and for the Spring/Summer season in the month of July. Under the aegis of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, the AEPC has been conducting this event for the past twenty nine years with resounding suc-

cess. The network has been growing and flourishing from year to year and forms the basis for the sourcing plans of all major brands in the world of fashion and accessories. With strong government support through the 'Market Access Initiative' Grant and incentives offered to buyers under the 'Reverse Buyer Seller Meet' scheme, the fair has always attracted buyers from various countries.

The 57th IIGF from 18 to 20 July 2016 is to be held in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India, and is expected to attract

around 500 Indian manufacturers presenting their innovations and latest collections under one roof by showcasing their expertise in prints, tie & dye and high-end chikan embroidery. As the sector's primary trade fair of the season, the IIGF sets benchmarks for the entire industry. The IIGF is the biggest international trade fair for Fashion - womenswear, menswear, childrenswear, scarves and stoles, fashion accessories and jewellery - and the global benchmark for design and innovative functionality in quality fashion. The

participants of the fair are primarily Indian micro, small and medium manufacturers whose compliance factories can serve the sourcing requirements of a boutique buyer to that of a big chain store. Some of the big brands like GAP, Mango, Zara, Tommy Hilfiger, DKNY, H&M, Diesel, Calvin Klein, Guess, Hugo Boss, Uniqlo, etc. are already sourcing from India, which shows the great strength and potential India has to serve them.

[www.indiaapparelfair.com]

6. mtex+ 2016 Chemnitz

Networking at its best!



The world and his wife are talking about networking these days and the slogan “Think global, Act local” is passing people’s lips more frequently than ever. The mtex+ trade fair in Chemnitz, which focuses on innovations in the field of technical textiles, had precisely the right kind of products for people with these business aspirations. The concept behind the fair was praised by many as a welcome contrast to a hectic world of business that lives by the clock.

Drawing a positive conclusion, Michael Kynast, CEO of the fair, took stock: “The new profile of mtex+ as a fair of discovery for every kind of technical textile imaginable has been a great success. Intense discussions were indeed commonplace at the stands of the more than 100 exhibitors (mtex+), who incidentally travelled here from six countries. But that wasn’t all. In many cases, the talks were more target-driven, leading to business deals and partnerships.” Many savoured the opportunity to discuss new ideas at length and to take time to fully understand an innovation, without the unrest and hustle and bustle of the bigger events (without wanting to question their importance, of course!). In 2016, organiser Messe Chemnitz succeeded in providing a fair for the textile industry that featured a host of interesting products and events, be it in the form of forums, workshops, conferences on various topic areas or the two prizes – the mtex+ Innovation Award and the mtex+ Talent Award. This new profile is certainly a good foundation for the future. Attracting more exhibitors and visitors to mtex+ 2017 would, however, greatly benefit not only eastern Germany but also the textile industry throughout the country! The

numbers achieved at this year’s revamped mtex+ are impressive, especially when seen in the context of “Mehrwert 3” – a cluster of three concurrent events where “Technical Textiles meet Lightweight Construction, Industry and Technology”. Accordingly, the 6th mtex+ took place in parallel with the 4th Lima, a trade fair specialising in lightweight construction. Associated topics included composites and textile-based lightweight construction. The trade visitors at mtex+ and Lima also seized the opportunity to look beyond the confines of their fields by attending SIT, the Saxon Industry and Technology Fair and IT User Forum which took place at the same time. In the end, more than 3,500 visitors

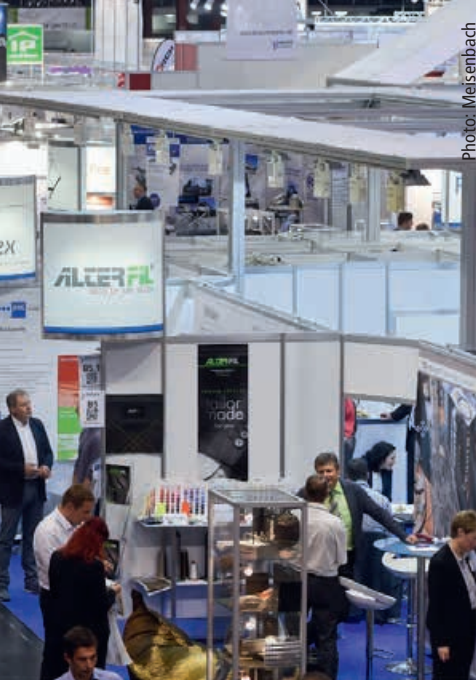
viewed the stands of 280 companies and research institutes.

The Czech Republic was chosen this year as the trade fair’s official partner country for the first time. The mtex+ 2016 Innovation Award was presented to Norafin Industries (Germany) GmbH, Mildenau, for their innovative water-jet, needle-punched flat fibre non-wovens. Joining forces with publishing company Meisenbach Verlag, Bamberg, mtex+ presented its first-ever new talent award. It went to Vera Gail from the Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences for her protective textile planks designed to enhance safety on the roads. The mtex+ supporting programme included a special show and a symposium on medical and health textiles, the 15th Chemnitz Textile Technology Conference, the “NanoMatTextil” technology discussion forum organised by the German Ministry of Research, and a Professionals and Students Day.

The lucky winners of the 1st mtex+ New Talent Award – Raphaela Franke, Vera Gail and the team Kira Dannecker, Natalie Maihöfer, Marisa Pfister (from left to right)



2nd mtex+ – Innovation Award
Norafin Industries (Germany) GmbH, Mildenau/Ore Mountains, received the 2nd mtex+ Innovation Award in 2016 for their latest product development known as Norafin Ecoline. This is a non-woven based on flat



mtex+ – a networking trade fair. Read more in our Online-Magazine



Textile headphones for bed

Delight is written all over the faces of the Norafin team led by CEO André Lang (right) on receiving their award



fibres and designed for innovative interior design, original sporting goods and ecological building constructions. Employing 160 members of staff, the company produces technical non-wovens and composites based on high-quality special fibres (e.g. aramid, polyamide, PTFE, flax, cotton).

1st mtex+ - New Talent Award

“Simple genius, thanks to technical textiles!” – This was the maxim of the first-ever New Talent Award at mtex+. The winner was Vera Gail from the Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences, who had developed a protective textile plank to enhance safety on the roads. Second prize went to Raphaela Franke from the College of Fashion in Sigmaringen for her “Lightness” concept for smart clothing; trio Kira Dannecker, Natalie Maihöfer and Marisa Pfister from Albstadt-Sigmaringen University were awarded 3rd place. The response to this premiere event was pleasing with more than 50 registered participants and a total of 13 entries. The New Talent Award is designed to encourage young people, who see their futures in the textile industry and are still in training, to consider the field of technical textiles not just at college but also in their free time. It is also designed to bring together budding talent and suppliers of technical textiles. Commenting on the competition, winner Vera Gail stated: “I really enjoyed taking part in the competition and I’m obviously really happy with the

outcome. I can’t help but feel a little bit proud that my idea won over the jury. It has definitely given me a confidence boost. The competition has been designed really well and I think opportunities like this make a lot of sense. Given that this industry has a practical base, it’s really important that young people learn to initiate projects and experience different materials as early on as possible. This competition certainly gave me the opportunity to do that.”

Innovative ideas from Albstadt

The 21 participating students developed nine innovative concepts either in teams or on their own. The topic “Metamorphosis”, and the maxim “Simple genius, thanks to technical textiles” gave rise to many different interpretations. The students worked on their ideas independently, carrying out their own surveys and trials, creating their own prototypes in the laboratory and finalising their concepts. They

Vera Gail with her model: “Protective textile planks for enhanced road safety”



received support from their professor, Manuela Bräuning, and other staff at Albstadt-Sigmaringen University. The idea was to encourage the students to give their creativity a free rein, without leaving them to sink or swim. The students were also at the receiving end of material donations and tips from the numerous participating companies. The sheer diversity of the concepts demonstrates just how much knowledge and creativity these budding young people have. In the coming months, the students at Albstadt-Sigmaringen University will be able to put their skills to the test again when they start their Masters dissertations and go in search of suitable companies and industry-related topics to bring their degree courses to a successful conclusion. More details on the ideas submitted can be found in our online magazine! The next mtex+ New Talent Competition in 2017 will focus on inspiration, nurturing a free spirit and increasing awareness of technical textiles – more on this topic in the near future.

[www.mtex-chemnitz.de]

[Iris Schlomski]



Brand ambassador Ursula Karven loves the certified Yoga and Relax Collection from People Wear Organic for its timelessness, casual design and great comfort

People Wear Organic

Ursula Karven goes organic and fair

Originally established as the natural textiles division of Alnatura, People Wear Organic can draw on more than 20 years' experience in the sustainable textiles industry. The company became an independent entity in 2013, specialising in certified fashion for babies, children and yoga from the finest organic fabrics. The fashion label follows strict ecological principles and exclusively uses Gots-certified natural fibres. This certification not only guarantees organic quality but also the maintenance of high social standards throughout the production chain. The Yoga and Relax Collection from People Wear Organic is based on strict ecological principles and is made from the finest organic fabrics.

People Wear Organic also promotes regional production by having the knitted garments from the Yoga and Relax Collection with Ursula Karven manufactured at a knitting mill in North Hesse, Germany. The collection is synonymous with high expectations with regard to durability, quality and aesthetics. The focus falls on casual basics from Gots-certified organic cotton. One of Ursula Karven's favourite garments, a Gots-certified trendy cardigan with bat wings, is made by a knitting mill near Fulda in Germany.

[karven.peoplewearorganic.de]

Ursula Karven loves everything about the People Wear Organic Collection – including the design, the soft and skin-friendly fabrics and the certified ecologically and socially responsible production

Fair. Sensible. Honest.

People Wear Organic has won a prominent ambassador in German actress Ursula Karven for its new Yoga and Relax Collection made from organic cotton. The yoga expert and self-professed fan of natural textiles is not only the face of the new line but also an honest critic who provides constructive input. Textile network spoke to Ursula Karven about her reasons for supporting this particular label.

Textile network: Ms Karven, how did this partnership with People Wear Organic come about?

Ursula Karven: As a long-standing customer of Alnatura, I discovered the fashion by People Wear Organic, or to be more precise, the baby clothes, more or less by chance. The textiles are all made from organic cotton, in fair working conditions and in compliance with the guidelines of the Global Organic Textile Standard. This is totally in keeping with my "green" outlook. When the team from People Wear Organic suggested that we work together on the Yoga and Relax Collection, I literally leapt at the chance. We devise the collections together and agree on design, patterns and cuts, and then I test them by wearing them for yoga.

Textile network: What is it about sustainability that interests you so much?

Ursula Karven: Fairness, non-violence, treating nature with care, respecting life – this is how I try to live my life. In my role as yoga fashion ambassador, I'd like to pass these values onto others.

Textile network: And to what extent does sustainably produced fashion influence your buying decisions?

Ursula Karven: To me, it's really important that fashion leaves my skin feeling good, that it is multifunctional and provides freedom of movement. I'm really pleased to see that more and more suppliers are unveiling fashion collections based on sustainable production.

Ms Karven, many thanks for the interview. The questions were posed by Iris Schlomski on behalf of textile network.



Photos: People Wear Organic

VIP: Very Important Products

Stars and starlets love sustainable fashion?

They are the faces of a brand and at the same time symbols of sophisticated advertising strategies: celebrity endorsements. On average, one in eight German advertisements, whether print, TV or online, features a celebrity. With proof that endorsements increase turnover, the eco-fashion industry is of course getting involved too.



Photo: Timur Emek/Getty Images for Greenshowroom

There has, however, to be a good match between brand and celebrity to convey genuine credibility. If it works, the product takes on positive associations for the consumer. This is because consumers pay more conscious attention to advertisements featuring celebrities while at the same time high-profile ambassadors boost brand appeal. The effect is mutual: eco-friendly fashion companies can free themselves of their muesli image and spread their ethi-

cal and eco-fashion message. At the same time celebrities are themselves becoming proactive, launching their own collections, initiatives or stores and using their voice to promote environmental and fair fashion production and positioning themselves as committed activists.

Recycling – the celebrity hot topic

Animal welfare and environmental protection are issues that have ins-

Actress Inez Bjørg David at the Greenshowroom – always on the lookout for new brands for Miwai

pired stars for years now to a range of initiatives from adopting animals to rescuing our oceans. The latter currently has particular significance. Large amounts of coral are dying on the Great Barrier Reef, birds are caught up in plastic waste at sea and plastic material finds its way into the human body through fish in the food chain – our oceans resemble environmental construction sites. There are currently a number of innovative projects receiving support from celebrities that are taking up these challenges, for example fishing plastic bottles and abandoned nets out of the sea for recycling. Yet some of these concepts are more than well-known personalities merely showing commitment to charity; they are fully developed and clever business models: will.i.am, founder member of The Black Eyed Peas and seven-time Grammy Award winner, set up the Ekocycle initiative in conjunction with The Coca-Cola Company. The company produces fashion from recycled plastic bottles and collaborates in this with various brands such as Keds shoes or the outerwear label Ecoalf.

G-Star has also launched a similar campaign. In 2014 with "RAW for the Oceans", the Dutch denim label brought out a collection for the first time using plastic waste collec- ►

► ted from the oceans, recycled and processed in conjunction with the biotech company Bionic Yarn to make new jeans. "We vacation by the oceans, we bathe in the oceans, we eat from the oceans, but very few of us think of the oceans beyond what we want from them. The oceans need us now," explains Pharell Williams who, as co-designer and celebrity backer, has promoted the collection from the start and thus helped provide it with greater media attention. In February 2016 he became co-owner of the denim label and wants to take the business further in the direction of sustainability in the future.

A green red carpet

The issues of protecting the oceans and recycling plastic waste became the hidden stars and unofficial bywords of this year's Met Gala in New York. The annual event, hosted by Vogue's editor-in-chief Anna Wintour in New York and ra-

ted as one of the highlights of the global fashion scene, became in April a showcase for sustainability. Using this year's official theme of Fashion in the Age of Technology, actress Emma Watson attracted maximum attention in an innovative Calvin Klein gown that was made from recycled PET bottles in collaboration with the Italian fibre manufacturer Newlife. Emma Watson, who since 2015 has been UN Ambassador for women's rights, justified her choice of outfit in an interview with CNN in May 2016: "It's not enough for me anymore that it's a beautiful item or a beautiful piece. I want to know that it is not leaving a negative mark." She continues, "I

only wear sustainable fashion on the Red Carpet."

Hence her appearance at the Met Ball was part of the Green Carpet Challenge (GCC), initiated by Livia Firth, founder of the susta-



inability consultancy Eco-Age and wife of actor Colin Firth. The GCC works alongside various luxury brands to design sustainable clothes for celebrities. Anna Wintour says of initiator Livia Firth: "She succeeds in reaching designers on a level like no one else." And to some effect: the GCC brings sustainably produced evening dresses and suits out of the design studios and on to the Red Carpet and from there into the international fashion magazines. In the past, Penelope Cruz, Michael Fassbender and Lupita Nyong'o have also worn items designed for GCC but none has received as great a response as Emma Watson this year. This shows that when authenticity and commitment coincide, the message is credible and can create quite a stir.

There must be credibility on both sides

Meanwhile, the dust is settling slowly again at H&M. The Swedish fashion retailer announced its first Re-



Pharell Williams posing for RAW for the Oceans

Photo: G-Star

Eco-fair fashion and celebrities – a winning combination!

VIPs are becoming actively involved in areas such as human rights, environmental protection and animal rights within the textile industry. This is a shift that is making its mark. On the one hand, endorsements raise consumer awareness, giving them helpful guidance. In times of perpetual crises and over-supply, credible role models are more important than ever. On the other hand, these committed celebrities offer much more than just guidance in an ever more complex reality: their words and actions reflect a fundamental shift in social values. And this is something that should fill the eco-fashion sector with hope.



Photo: H&M

M.I.A. calls all consumers to recycle textiles for H&M

with television couple Collien Ulmen Fernandes and Christian Ulmen, who not only lent their faces to the company's advertising campaign but also designed their own collection pieces for the Cologne-based fair fashion brand. There are many examples of this kind: television presenter Janine Steeger only recently created an essentials line in cooperation with sustainable womenswear label Lanuis, whilst natural textiles manufacturer People Wear Organic has designed a Yoga and Relax Collection in cooperation with actress Ursula Karven, which was brought to market in early 2016 (see our article on Page 22).

Inez Bjørg David, actress and ambassador for the World Future Council, is venturing down a different route, opening a high-street shop and online store for sustainable fashion in Berlin that trades under the name of Miwai. "You just have to make a start and get going. The great thing is that a lot of firms – both big and small – that are doing exactly that. They've set themselves a goal and just get on with it. That's the way to do it," says Inez Bjørg David.

[Rebecca Espenschied]

cycling Week from 18 to 24 April with a music video produced exclusively by M.I.A. The recycling week overlapped with Fashion Revolution Week, an initiative which commemorates the victims of the collapse of the Rana Plaza factory on 24 April 2013 and which campaigns for change in the global fashion industry using the resources and impact of social media. In doing this, H&M caused quite a furore. The textile group's goal was to collect in the space of just one week and at around 3,600 stores more than 1,000 tonnes of used clothing that would then be processed to make new products. Since 2013, collecting used clothing has been part of H&M's day-to-day business. However, the current campaign gives the recycling initiative a face for effective advertising for the first time and therefore substantially more attention. In collaboration with the British singer M.I.A., known for politically provocative songs and music videos, H&M have produced the clip

"Rewear it" highlighting the considerable impact of clothing that ends up in landfill every year. "M.I.A. is fantastic. She's not just a great artist with great style, she's also deeply engaged in sustainability and in environmental issues," says Anna Gedda, Head of Sustainability at H&M. However, the result has given rise to varying opinions among consumers: while H&M has won a credible endorsement, M.I.A. is considered with some harsh criticism to betray her ideals. Whether the group has secured credibility is anyone's guess – the Swedes have caused a stir and for the moment also achieved their goal.

Sustainability reaches the middle ground

And yet, it is not just the big international retailers that are working with endorsements. Smaller and medium-sized German companies are increasingly discovering the benefits of celebrity involvement. In 2009, Arnedangels starting collaborating

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Mode Tracker

New roadmap for greater sustainability

Mode Tracker is a new development tool designed to highlight annual improvements. It enables brand manufacturers and retailers to develop a roadmap for a wide range of sustainability issues, demonstrate improvements and communicate commitment publicly.

There are eight areas, or 'cubes', for evaluation: people, product, manufacturing, packaging and transport, own operations, use and durability, product waste and transparency. Companies must select the areas Product and People plus one other 'cube'. Each 'cube' is divided into three levels that build on each other. The levels are: Build foundation and set ambition; Make steady progress; and Adopt best practice. Brands or retailers that demonstrate outstanding industry leadership receive special commendation indicated by a flag icon.

Until now, the sustainability performance of fashion companies was not independently verified or user-friendly. But now fashion brands G-Star, Ted Baker, Vivobarefoot and Haikure have taken a major step by acquiring a transparent and independent sustainability score. You can see how the pioneering brands performed by clicking on <http://www.made-by.org/modetracker/scorecards/>.

The Mode Tracker concept was introduced in 2014 following consultation with 50 independent sustainability and fashion experts. This was followed by an elaborate pilot programme with a year-long verification of the four companies and the publication of G-Star's pilot results in 2015.



Dr. Christina Raab

Bangladesh is still a leading producer in the clothing industry



Photo: ILO in Asia and the Pacific

Frouke Bruinsma, G-Star's Corporate Responsibility Director, said: "As well as giving us a comprehensive overview of the strengths and gaps in our approach to sustainability, this process has led to a strategic insight on how to further improve our sustainability performance. Mode Tracker enables us to be transparent in a credible way; to our customers, the industry and critical stakeholders. We are proud to be among the first group of companies to work with it. It represents the way forward for the industry and we therefore invite other fashion companies to also take this step."

Dr. Christina Raab, Principal Consultant and Head of Strategy of Made-By, the organisation that developed

the tool, said: "Mode Tracker provides independent verification which allows companies to baseline and measure progress – it covers both social and environmental factors and is the broadest and deepest monitoring framework in the fashion industry. The results are easy to understand and are layered, making it easy to drill down for more information. In addition to the scorecard of results, companies also receive detailed reports on each topic, showing where their gaps are and what they need to do to be in line with industry best practice. This truly holistic approach means that Mode Tracker is unquestionably the most advanced tool of its type in the industry."

Sustainability guru Robert Nuttall, who advised and developed the pioneering sustainability strategy – Plan A – for Stuart Rose at M&S, said: "I consult across many sectors and in my opinion, this tool for the fashion industry is comparable with the best of breed elsewhere. Many industries would do well to look at the work that Made-By does, and Mode Tracker in particular, and take their lead from this. It creates a level playing field, it is easy to interrogate and, most importantly, it is independent." Rachel Wilshaw, Ethical Trade Manager, Oxfam GB, said: "This holistic approach from



Photo: Made-By

addition, through Mode Tracker's in-depth guidance notes for each topic area, brands and retailers are supported in developing a comprehensive strategy and roadmap helping them to achieve best practice and pioneering achievements. It is important to note that Mode Tracker is not a ranking system for comparing brands; it is not a detailed reporting tool for product performance or a separate industry standard. Mode Tracker is complementary to other sustainability indices such as the Global Reporting Initiative and the Sustainable Apparel Coalition's Higg Index. What differentiates Mode Tracker is the third-party evidence-based verification, its breadth and depth, its simple visuals and short summaries, its in-

"Mode Tracker takes all of our data, verifies it and provides us with a simple clear overview of our progress, allowing us to credibly communicate both internally and externally."
Frouke Bruinsma, Manager Corporate Responsibility, G-Star

clusion of consumers among its target audiences and its holistic approach. Mode Tracker – a holistic, transparent and verified progress tracking tool to support fashion brands and retailers in improving their sustainability performance through measuring and communicating year-on-year progress.

[www.made-by.org]

Made-By should improve the availability of credible data to stakeholders and influence the quality of sustainability plans. It strengthens the business case for being a leader not a laggard."

Mode Tracker is an updated and expanded version of Made-By's previous Scorecard system, which only looked at two areas. It is a comprehensive, transparent and verified progress tracking tool that is more holistic than the previous system. Using expert-developed metrics and scorings, Mode Tracker independently verifies a brand manufacturer's or retailer's activities, looking at both the sustainability impact reductions made and the management systems in place to support continual improvement. In

Mode Tracker: Graphic Display of Brand and Retailer Sustainability Progress

Vietnam is also a major producer



Photo: ILO in Asia and the Pacific



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Digital Printing

Individuality meets creativity

For some years now, digital printing has been a steadily expanding sector in the textile industry. Printer and scanner specialist Epson expects the digital textile printing market to grow at an annual rate of around 25 percent. Messe Frankfurt is reflecting this growth trend by extending the exhibition space for digital printer suppliers at the Heimtextil trade fair. According to the exhibition's management, "digital printing is here to stay for home interior products such as decorative fabrics, roller blinds, bed and table linen and wallpapers and will steadily increase in importance in all home textile sectors." Its re-

search and experience in this area show that "the new generation of digital textile print systems can accommodate print widths of up to 330 cm with unlimited repeat lengths, making it possible to print extremely large surface areas. At the high-end, eight colours and 64 print heads are state of the art and guarantee both superb colour and crisp reproduction and the highest resolutions." Sustainability is also high on the agenda. "The new water-based inks stand out due to their colour intensity and environmentally friendly properties. Some even qualify for Oeko-Tex Standard 100 certification. This means that they meet require-

Alfred Apelt, manufacturer of high-end decorative fabrics, table linen and accessories, sees the advantages of digital printing in offering a greater variety of design options



Photos: Alfred Apelt GmbH

ments for productivity, cost-effectiveness, quality and sustainability alike."

Cornelia Pötter of Pötter Heimtextilien: "It's just a pity that digital printing is not yet so transparent for the end-user. Price is an important part of this." Frank Schenk, Epson Deutschland's Head of Prographics and Industrial Printing, has similar views. "It is very important for our customers to keep printing costs as low as possible. The new Surecolor SC-F9200 was fitted with high-capacity ink tanks and Epson Ultra-Chrome DS ink was designed with a view to reducing running costs and favourable prices per square metre."

Stephan Overbeck, Ibenä's Head of Marketing and Sales: "Prices have already fallen. We're talking about a process here. We're part of this process now, but it obviously won't happen overnight." But he also acknowledged: "Our trade customers jumped on the issue immediately, they understand the product, the high-quality colour. But it was impossible to communicate the excitement to the end-user."

Donata Apelt-Ihling of Alfred Apelt GmbH, manufacturer of high-end decorative fabrics, table linen and accessories, sees the advantages of digital printing in offering a greater variety of design options. "It allows us to use our creativity and our design ideas as we do now in weave. With digital printing, we have a quite different type of freedom in the way we produce our designs and the possibility of incorporating beautiful colours and motifs."

All in all, simplified production processes, smaller print runs at no extra cost and individual, creative product design make digital printing an attractive option. Still to be resolved are cost adjustments and communication with the end-user who also needs to understand the product and want to buy it.

[www.heimtextil.messefrankfurt.com]

[www.poetter-heimtextilien.de]

[www.ibena.de]

[www.apeltstoffe.de]

[Ilona Schulz]

Alfred Apelt, manufacturer of high-end decorative fabrics, table linen and accessories, sees the advantages of digital printing in offering a greater variety of design options



Acquisition of For.Tex S.R.L.

Epson Italia S.p.A. has acquired For.Tex S.R.L. in which it has held a 50 percent share since 2012. Located in Como, Italy, For.Tex specialises in the production and sale of inks and treatment agents used in digital printing processes.

Epson and For.Tex have worked together with F.lli Robustelli S.R.L. since 2003 as part of a joint venture for the Monna Lisa textile printer. Epson acquired its share in For.Tex in the wake of its expansion into the digital textile printing business. Located in Meerbusch, Epson Deutschland was founded in 1979 as a subsidiary of the Japanese Seiko Epson Corporation. It has 200 employees and is responsible for sales in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Epson Europe B.V., its head office in Amsterdam, is the Group's regional headquarters for Europe, the Middle East, Russia and Africa. Epson Europe has 1,700 employees and achieved a turnover of 1,551m Euro in the financial year 2014.

ZIMMER AUSTRIA

New developments from Colaris

Specialising in printing and coating machines, Zimmer Austria has welcomed two new members to the Colaris family of digital textile printers.

Colaris Infiniti has a working width of 1.80m and can be equipped with up to eight colours and 32 SPT 1024GS print heads with drop sizes from 7 to 21 picolitres. Production speeds vary from 520m²/h in resolutions of 360 x 360dpi and one pass, and up to 170m²/h at 360 x 1080dpi, with three passes and four heads per colour. The

Colaris³ is the 3rd generation of high-performance digital printers. Using up to 64 Fujifilm Dimatix Starfire print heads with an ink circulation system, it comprises three print-head models with drop sizes between 10 and 250 picolitres and a standard resolution of 400 x 400 dpi. The Colaris³ reaches a maximum operating speed of 1,670m²/h and resolutions up to 1,600 dpi. It is available in working widths of 1.80m to 5.00m.

[www.colaris-zimmer.com]



Photo: Zimmer Austria

The Colaris high-performance digital printer from Zimmer Austria

Even small lots can be printed economically on the Kornit Allegro

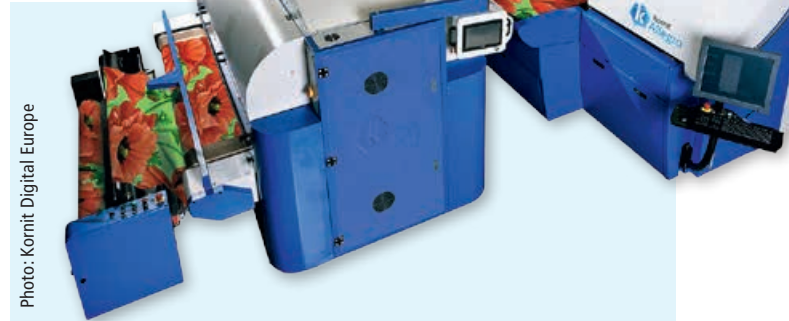


Photo: Kornit Digital Europe

KORNIT DIGITAL EUROPE

Pigment printing goes digital

The Kornit Allegro digital textile printing system brings the benefits of textile pigment printing to the digital world. To this end, Kornit has combined its expertise in digital printing with the new Neo-Pigment printing process. The result is an excellent range of colours, coupled with the ability to print a diversity of designs in intricate detail. The Allegro does not require the fabric to be pre-treated separately. There is also no need with the Allegro to carry out wet treatments

as in the case of dye-based processes. In addition, the printing process does not generate any waste. Small lots can be printed economically, and minimum lengths are not required. The Neo-Pigment process does not involve any external procedures. The water-based neo-pigment inks contain no heavy metals, no formaldehyde and no alkylphenol-ethoxylates (APE). This means they are safe, non-toxic and 100 percent bio-degradable.

[www.kornit.com]

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EPSON

Solution for large-volume textile prints

Targeting textile printing businesses, Epson presents the Surecolor SC-F9200 dye sublimation printer in printing widths up to 1.625m for the quick and economical production of high-quality textiles. Thanks to its tandem PrecisionCore TFP print-heads and the separate high-volume ink systems, this printer is also suitable for large print-runs. A high-performance drying system allows the prints to be further processed without delay. Delivered with an extensive range of warranties and services, Epson's printers provide users

with greater reliability and back-up in production. The new printer is also offered with an UltraChrome DS set of inks including HDK Black (high density black). This ink successfully reduces ink consumption as it develops a high density even when used in small quantities. Working at speeds up to 100m² per hour, the Epson Surecolor SC-F9200 paves the way for the affordable production of high-quality textiles in larger print-runs, all made to reproducibly high standards.

[www.epson.de]



Example from the Durst Alpha Series, the new generation of super multi-pass inkjet printing systems

Photo: Durst

DURST

The new Alpha series

Designed for the digital production of home textiles and fashion, the new generation of super multi-pass inkjet printing systems from Durst can cope with printing widths of 190 cm to 330 cm and can be configured with up to eight colours and 64 Alpha-S print-heads. With a native resolution of 600dpi and printing speeds of 460 to 610m/h, the Alpha Series is being pitched in direct competition to traditional screen printing – but with all the benefits of digital printing. The Durst Alpha Series is fitted with constant ink circulation in all ink circuits to guarantee constant ink quality and reliable stand-by availability of the print-heads. When necessary,

the Alpha-S print-heads can be swapped both quickly and smoothly. The Alpha Series has been equipped with a newly developed feed system, which automatically adapts to different textiles and roll diameters. Similarly, Durst has also developed a new pigment ink (Alpha Ink P), that can be used on a wide spectrum of different textiles. In the case of standard materials such as cotton or polyester, no pre- or post-treatments are required. The Italian specialist for industrial inkjet applications offers an extensive portfolio for the textiles industry and exhibited at Heimtextil 2016 earlier in the year.

[www.durst.it]



The Epson SureColor SC-F9200 for rapid and affordable production

Photo: Epson

BOOK TIP

Inspiration for „Creative Dreams“

This book is brimming with inspiration and is an ideal companion for people working or simply interested in design, both from the industry and beyond. In their photo volume "Rooms – Zuhause bei Kreativen" (Rooms – the homes of creative minds), author Kerstin Rose and photographer Christian Schaulin fill its 192 pages with images of the private homes created by artists, designers and architects all over Europe. The homes include a Town Palazzo in Na-

ples, a country house near Lisbon, a period apartment in Paris and a loft in Frankfurt. Behind the diversity of different styles and life philosophies of their inhabitants, they all have something in common: Their creators are all united in their will to preserve individuality, the freedom to think outside the box and the desire to find unconventional solutions. For readers looking for unusual design ideas, the people featured in this book exclusively reveal their most stunning personal furnishing

tips. Everyone else can just enjoy the expressive photos and descriptions and perhaps even find some inspiration for their own ideas. This elegant photo book and kaleidoscope of different habitats is, in our view, a must-have for anyone who has a soft spot for special design.

Rooms - Zuhause bei Kreativen, Gestaltungsideen für individuelle Interiors, 192 pages with 250 colour photos, format 23 x

28 cm, hardback, 39.99 Euro [Germany] / 41.20 Euro [Austria] / 49.50* CHF (RRP)

[www.dva.de]

Rooms is a special photo book brimming with inspiration for creative homes



Photo: dva



Photos: Invista

Invista

Antron Global Trend Forecast 2017/2018

Which influences, themes and colours shape the design trends in 2017/2018?

Antron's international design experts together with the London based creative agency Color Hive (formerly Global Color Research) have analysed the main global developments in the industry for the fourth time. The investigation focused on current trends in fashion, fabrics, art and architecture but also took into account influences from social media, entertainment, sports and even consumer behaviour and the global economic environment.

The results have been compiled in the Antron Global Trend Forecast 2017/2018. The report identifies four central trends and their level of influence, revealing future trend colours and shows changes in colour palettes and gradients compared to 2015/2016. Heike Schmidt, responsible for product development at Invista, explains: 'With this forecast we

aim to give designers and product developers an early glimpse into the current and up-and-coming trends as well as linking them to the changes they will bring to home and interior design, for example carpets. Beyond that, we also highlight innovations brought about by Antron's modern polyamide 6.6 fibres and new refining methods with which we endeavour to inspire our customers in the carpet industry.' Four themes represent the basic social trends influencing product and colour design.

Aquatic Voyage: This trend follows the depths of our oceans, which serve as inspiration for colours and materials: unique and surreal material combinations, optical distortions and magnifications, creative effects such as flowing patterns and intriguing colour gradients. Infinite Shadows: The trend focus here is on creating extremely lightweight and floating impressions, a feeling of "barely

there". Multiple levels of transparency and layering perfectly combine with carefully chosen metallic colour tones that reflect light. Classic Allure: This trend merges tradition with the modern. Classic architectural structures are juxtaposed with organic, for example fruit inspired, shapes and forms creating atmospheric and luxurious interior designs. Coded Canvas: Character and individuality

emerge from imperfections and errors during the production process. Suspended threads and woven grids define shapes and patterns. This trend revolves around playful moods and dynamic colours with vibrant contrasts.

A detailed brochure and further information regarding the Antron Global Trend Forecast are available on request

[www.antron.eu]

Trend 3:
Classical Allure

Trend 1:
Aquatic Voyage

Trend 4:
Coded Canvas

Trend 2:
Infinite Shadows

Left: Vidya offers an almost photorealistic simulation

Right: Pattern construction - intuitive, visual, fast. Cad.Assyst saves on clicks and prevents avoidable errors



Human Solutions

Digital solutions from a single source

The digital production process plays an increasingly important role in the apparel industry. The Human Solutions Group offers digital solutions that are tailored to the needs of the industry and perfectly aligned with one another. The Group companies focus particularly on the

topic of size & fit. "More and more companies in the textile and fashion industry are striving to keep the entire value chain in their own hands, from the procurement of the materials and manufacture of the product to sales", says Dr. Andreas Seidl, CEO of the Human Solutions

Group. He is convinced: "Digital solutions not only contribute to increased productivity, they also drive the flow of information and facilitate the integration of online shops."

In-depth expertise for clothing sizes

For the Human Solutions Group, the starting point for the production process in the apparel industry is defining the right target group in the iSize international body dimension portal. Here users will find the comprehensive data of many international serial measurement surveys and the market shares of different clothing sizes derived from that data. The iSize data enables the interactive analysis and optimization of your company's own product development and production. Any company that wants to target more markets than Germany alone can obtain in-depth information on ascertaining size ranges for the foreign market. The iSize portal is also continuously updated with new data, like the results of the Italian serial measurement survey "Size Italy" and a data set for ladies "Plus Sizes". Human Solutions is currently preparing the first comprehensive, representative serial measurement survey performed with bodyscanners for the USA and Canada.

in parallel. This saves expensive prototypes and the drafts can be altered quickly and easily, especially in the case of internationally-active companies. "3D significantly reduces the time from the first draft to the shop and that really cuts costs. However, the draft has to look as realistic as possible," says Dr. Seidl. Vidya offers an almost photorealistic simulation with correct body dimensions from iSize, using original CAD cuts and real material parameters. The three-dimensional creation of prototypes makes it possible to simulate a model in different sizes.

Get it done faster and better with PLM

PLM is the heart of development and your stimulus from the first draft to product delivery. "Data management is only the beginning," says Andreas Seidl. "If you want to be faster, to increase quality and to reduce costs, then you need PLM." The seamless integration of data and processes gives you even more in terms of efficiency – especially through the integration of satellite systems from CAD to ERP. PLM Golive by Assyst connects all process elements, integrates central tools such as CAD, Vidya and ERP, helps to optimally organize daily processes and implement strategies in practice – for a seamless process from the first draft to the shop.

It's the material that matters

Whether in the shop or in an online trading environment, the customer will always choose a



About the Human Solutions Group

Successful products are customer-oriented and market-driven, so the route to final production must be constantly streamlined, making it faster and more cost-efficient. In development-intensive industries like fashion and mobility, product and sizing & fitting information is the key to success – and the cutting-edge technologies of the Human Solutions Group will put you on the path to perfect production.

- Human Solutions GmbH: Body dimension data and ergonomic simulation in CAD for ergonomic vehicle design and size & fit optimization in the apparel industry
- Assyst GmbH: Integrated CAD and PLM solutions for efficient collection development in the world of fashion
- AVM Solutions GmbH: ERP and integrated management systems for shorter lead times in fashion

The Human Solutions Group has more than 200 employees and partners in 50 countries. Its products are sold all over the world.



If you design in 3D, you can create and examine several models in parallel

garment if it feels really good. You have to be well informed if you want to save on material without compromising on quality. And material savings can have the single biggest impact on your profit margin. The Automarker and Autocost systems were developed to generate the best possib-

le profitability. The right amount of material is determined automatically and several tasks are carried out as if by magic – from optimal material utilization and the calculation of the actual production costs to order communication in different languages and formats. Automarker and Autocost give you a fully integrated process between manufacturers and suppliers, one that goes well beyond the simple placement of a marker.

[www.human-solutions.com]



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we report in brief about...

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[www.textile-network.de]
 [www.textile-network.com]

Photo: Human Solutions



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Photo: Theodoros Chliapapas

Cute Circuits iMiniskirts can be programmed and change their colour in real time

Lectra

Smart Forward

As brands start out on their journey to smart fashion, many are finding that the road ahead can often be rocky.

Indeed, smart fashion has already arrived on the world's catwalks. At London Fashion Week, start-up Studio XO unveiled a glowing LED underskirt that changes colour. Last year, Intel introduced the "Spider Dress", whose spider's legs are fitted with sensors and move in harmony with the wearer's disposition. Fashion and technology also blend in the jewellery created under the Kovert Design label. The necklace connects to a smartphone and vibrates every time a message is received. Big players such as Nike and Jawbone are bringing smart fashion to the streets with their activity trackers. The trendy wearables are providing companies with new opportunities to gain more data. And yet, millions of new numbers will never wash away the old challenges facing fashion companies. These, of course, relate to the internal processes.

Luis Velazquez, company consultant for Lectra North America, explains that it is difficult to make sense of and translate all the data a company generates.

Even today, product development divisions, R&D and procurement departments still work with spreadsheet software programs such as Excel to enter, update and modify data by hand. Product data packages are particularly large and cumbersome. After all, when a garment is made, the quality has to be just right. Design requirements such as size tolerances, material intensity and surface properties have to be strictly observed and documented by all divisions. Moreover, it may not be possible to transfer all the required data into an Excel spreadsheet. This includes, for example, 3D files and CAD files, that are essential for fashion companies planning their collections. "At Lectra, we often see that creative minds, and particularly designers, are lumbered with entering this data," says Velazquez.

This certainly is no longer the case at La Jolla Group. The world's biggest manufacturer of surfwear, ice-skating, motocross and youth lifestyle clothing, invested in Lectra's Fa-

shion PLM System. The company's portfolio includes cult brands such as O'Neill Clothing USA, Rusty Clothing and Metal Mulisha Clothing. Driven by the need to improve collection development, La Jolla went in search of a solution that checks and monitors every phase of the product lifecycle – for the benefit of the designers. "PLM offers countless opportunities to cut the cost and complexity of collection planning," says Velazquez. One way to achieve this is to incorporate Adobe Illustrator. This graphic design software and everyday tool for creative minds is seamlessly integrated in Lectra's Fashion PLM. As a result, designers no longer have to switch between the Excel and Adobe Illustrator windows to compile and process data, as they are able instead to work on a single, smart platform. This also means that they are included in the product development phase and are connected with other departments right from the start. Designers can still

create their illustrations or product specifications in Adobe Illustrator, specifically simulate fabrics or apply specifications to a different product using the drag and drop function. The changes are subsequently carried out and communicated in real time. Externals, such as producers abroad, likewise receive any modifications that have been made. Excel sheets are incorporated in the Lectra Fashion Platform and can be found without delay using the Search function. "The user interface closes the gaps left by other PLM packages, as Lectra's software tends to offer more of a design environment rather than a rigid, technical program. For our design cycle, it means that we're all working on a single data pool at all times. We've moved away from manual data sets and processes," concludes Josh Wellington, COO of La Jolla Group. PLM places those processes at the centre of the cog that keep the product lifecycle in motion.

[www.lectra.com]

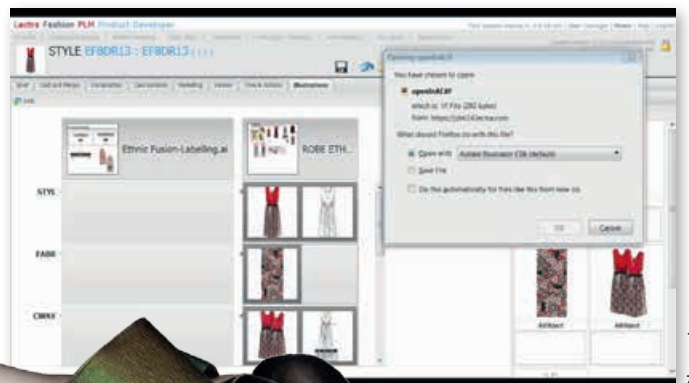


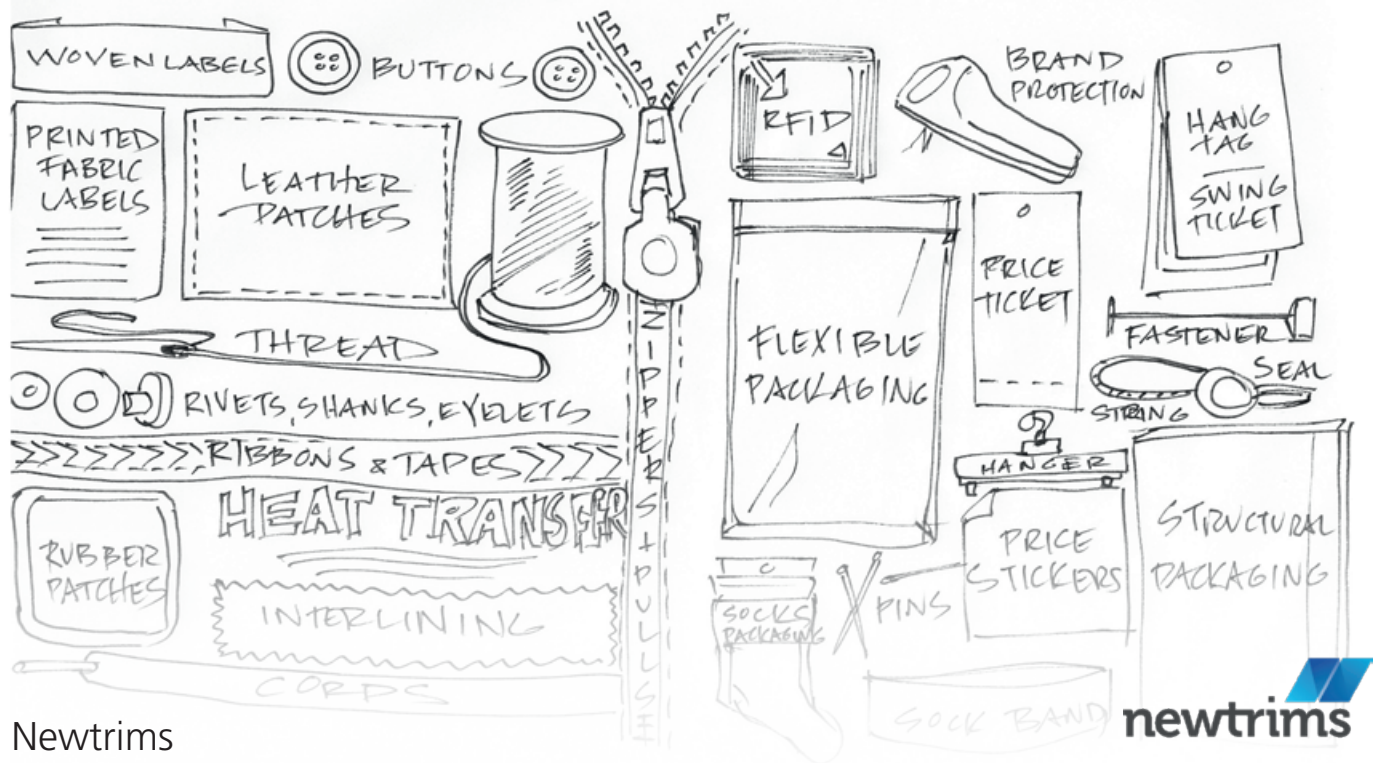
Photo: Lectra

Lectra Fashion PLM with Adobe Illustrator: everyday tools are seamlessly integrated



Photo: The Unseen

The leather rucksack from The Unseen changes colour depending on temperature, lighting and air pressure



Newtrims

Focus on the supply chain for trims and accessories

Scandinavian specialist-company supports apparel brands and retailers in building and structuring their supply chain for trims and accessories.

Due to the growing price sensitivity of the consumers in the European markets, the saving potentials in the apparel industry seem to be virtually exploited these days. Apparel brands that overstretch may face the issue of seriously damaging their brand-value established over several years. Reasons could be negative product experiences of consumers or media scandals when addressing inhumane production conditions at "cost optimized" manufacturers.

At the same time there is still unutilized saving potential in procurement, without making compromises in the quality of the end product or breaking ethical principles. This, at least, is the conviction of Per H. Storm Danielsen and his consulting company Newtrims AB. He has set off on the way to show the apparel industry new, more in-



CEO Per H. Storm Danielsen knows the apparel industry and above all the trims and accessories business well from his previous function as General Manager with a globally leading supplier of high-quality labels and packaging solutions

telligent ways of how to realize solid margins despite growing cost pressure. He knows: "When companies aim to optimize their production costs, most of them focus their purchasing activities on the manufacturing costs and the cost of main fabrics. Only few have already realized that the costs for trims and accessories, like buttons, zippers, labels, packaging etc. still make an average of 20 percent of their production costs and that these items offer well-hidden saving potentials." The consulting

company Newtrims has specialized on activating these hidden saving potentials in trims and accessories. Per H. Storm Danielsen and his team of experienced advisers have a profound background from being a supplier to the apparel and fashion brands in the main European markets. According to Danielsen the most important assets of Newtrims are their self-developed, digital cost analysis tool called Strategic Trims, their extensive global supplier network and their comprehensive database. These are vital tools for benchmarking and discovering long-term saving potentials of their clients. And the results are impressive: "In all our completed projects we have managed to reduce the number of suppliers significantly and, in combination with a clever optimization of logistics, to generate more than 25 percent savings in trims and accessories", says Danielsen.

Trims and accessories „only“ amount to 20 percent of the production costs. At the same time they amount to 80 percent of the components of a garment

that an apparel brand has to purchase – they are indeed time and manpower intensive. Still only few apparel brands have developed an elaborate strategy or an integrated, efficient approach in their processes for buying trims and accessories. "Every month that passes without using this important potential, is a lost month for the optimization of costs for the company." Even for companies that shy away from the perceived high effort to carefully check their supply chain in trims and accessories, the Newtrims team has developed a solution. They offer an extensive outsourcing of the analysis- and change process in order to spare the manpower capacities on the clients' side. A clever optimization of the suppliers, the supply chain and the logistics processes in trims and accessories, possibly with the support of external consultants like Newtrims, could help many apparel brands to avoid the price pressure in an elegant way and still realize adequate margins.

[www.newtrims.com]

Gerber Technology

H. Joseph Gerber

We will never know whether the processors of flexible materials would still be cutting these materials manually with high-cost, error-prone and laborious manual operations to this very day had it not been for him. Fact is that the automatic cutting of textiles of all sorts – even the cutting of leather - in its state-of-the-art form today using equipment made by a whole series of system providers for a multitude of finished products – all (and many more trendsetting technology inventions) goes back to him – Heinz Joseph Gerber.

Now David J. Gerber has published the biography of his father's life: *The Inventor's Dilemma – The Remarkable Life of H. Joseph Gerber*. Born in Vienna he spectacularly escapes from demise under the Nazi regime aged just 16 in 1940. After emigrating to the USA his rise began: Heinz now calls himself Joe, never looks back but always wants to, and will, look to the future. When he died in 1996 677 patents had been filed under his name. The Smithsonian Museum in Washington even dedicates a whole depart-



Photo: Cindy Gerber

David Gerber, award-winning author of legal text books in the USA, writes about the "Father of Automation" – his father

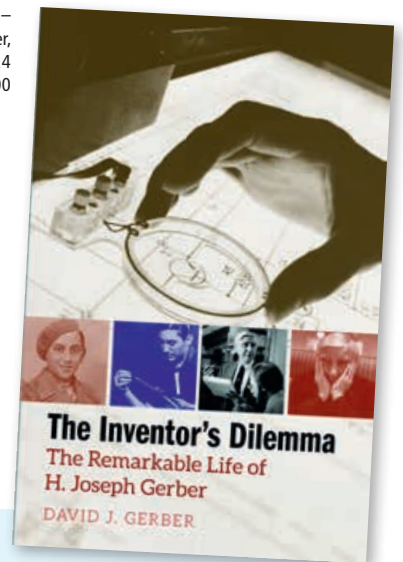
ment to his exhibits. David Gerber has undertaken meticulous research, held innumerable interviews with leading personalities from the industries whose processes were decisively improved and often revolutionised by Joe Gerber, and has spoken to journalists and his father's companions. Like Irving Stone in his Michelangelo portrait, David Gerber tells us eloquently and consistently what was so extraordinary about H. Joseph Gerber's life – as a creative mind and inventor, as a family man – and also as an entrepreneur. Just a two hour's drive away from the place he



Photo: GerberTechnology

Gerber Cutter Paragon

David J. Gerber, *The Inventor's Dilemma – The Remarkable Life of H. Joseph Gerber*, Yale University Press, October 2015, 424 pages, 48 pictures, ISBN: 9780300123500



Win...

... your personal copy of David Gerber's book about the remarkable life of H. Joseph Gerber, the founder of Gerber (Garment) Technology, to name but one enterprise: Textile Network is raffling three copies. Simply answer the following question correctly and you will be entered into the prize draw:
The first automated cutting system developed by Joe Gerber, which also caused a revolution in apparel manufacturing was called Gerbercutter S-70. – What is the name of the cutter series made by Gerber and setting standards today?

Please send us the solution with your name and address until August 1st by e-mail to: a.menzel@meisenbach.de or on a postcard to:
textile network
Meisenbach Verlag GmbH
Franz-Ludwig-Strasse 7a
D-96047 Bamberg
The winner will be decided by prize draw. The judge's decision is final and a cash alternative is not possible. Good Luck!

arrived at as a refugee in New England, in Hartford/Connecticut to be precise, he laid the foundation for his technology companies. Represented in 130 countries around the globe, Gerber Scientific Inc., Gerber Technology, Gerber Products and their subsidiaries as well as spin-offs specialised in niche technology solutions count among the global market leaders in their respective fields. Despite being the inventor's son David Gerber has managed to strike the right balance of impartiality in his descriptions. Plenty of anecdotal reference makes us ponder and often also smile. *The Inventor's Dilemma* is a volume somewhere between specialist literature and edutainment – a contemporary

document for sure. You don't have to be associated with textile processing to be fascinated by David Gerber's book. But for readers with a connection to this industry and with a passion for smart technologies *The Inventor's Dilemma* falls into the "must-read" category and, what's more, it is also pleasant reading.

David Gerber's noteworthy book about Joe Gerber, about technology and the responsibility it brings, about education, innovative thinking, the power to imagine and the courage to hope, is available in English. Across Europe one can order David Gerber's work about his truly amazing father at your local bookstore.

[www.gerbertechnology.com]



Photo: Südwesttextil

Südwesttextil e.V.

100 days in office... 4 questions for Peter Haas

Textile network: Mr Haas, you have been in office for 100 days. What impresses you most about textiles?

Peter Haas: I'm fascinated by the sheer breadth of textile products available – from yarns to airbags, from dress shirts to medical dressings, and tablecloths to brake pads. The many people I've met on my 60 or so official visits so far have shown me that it is possible to produce more than a million kilometres of yarn in a single day and that net curtain manufacturers also have the capabilities to supply products to Formula 1, as they have the expertise to produce carbon circular-woven brake pads. Not only have I seen how designers glean new ideas for innovative fabrics but also that we rank among the most innovative industries when it comes to the intensity of research that is conducted in the field – and I've learnt that the opportunities open to this sector have perhaps never been better. I've already met several awe-inspiring entrepreneurs and now know where the teddy bear is at home. In a nutshell: the textile and apparel industry has definitely cast a

spell over me – and I'm delighted to be working with my team as we channel all our energy into bringing about positive outcomes for our members.

Textile network: Which issues currently top your "To do list"?

Peter Haas: Working together with my experienced team of full-time staff and volunteers, I'd like to equip the association for the future both in its role as a modern mouthpiece for the sector and a valuable service provider. My aim is also to ensure that the innovative textile industry is heard in the South-West of Germany. Our members deliver ideas that lead to improvements in many areas. This is why I'm all the more surprised by how little is known about them outside the confines of this sector, particularly by politicians, journalists and representatives from other industries. When I tell people about the successful companies and the great products I've seen, they're usually taken aback. This tells me that not enough people are aware of the strength of today's textile and apparel industry. We all

know about the struggles of the past but I have to say that, over the past four months, I've experienced an industry that lives and practices the absolute opposite of demise each and every day. So, we really need to eradicate this swansong from people's minds. This is why we see it as our duty to stop licking our wounds, to look forward and to deliver an unequivocal message: our industry still has the strength and dynamism to reinvent itself time and again, as we continue to offer innovations that cover everything from exclusive feather down to high-tech fibres.

Textile network: What are currently the most urgent challenges facing the field?

Peter Haas: I'd say, it's the excessive political meddling in chemical laws – this, of course, is an existential issue not just for the textile industry. For some time now, the political arena has had an obsession with regulations in this field. The plans being championed by both the European and German authorities could potentially wipe out a whole host of fabrics, to which there are often no alternatives. I'm not exaggerating when I say that they are quite literally taking a pickaxe to the foundations of industry. This is why Südwesttextil is using its expertise and weighty arguments to engage in an intense dialogue with our politicians. Baden-Württemberg is a

model federal state when it comes to industry – innovations such as smart textiles and sustainable apparel prove this beyond all doubt. With a total share of more than 30 percent, its industry accounts for more gross added value than all the other German länder and that of Germany and the UK put together. The products of many of our companies are widely used in vehicles, planes, buildings and in medical care – textiles provide the muscle fibres of the economy whilst fashion makes people's lives that little bit more pleasing. Textiles have proven that, even in the face of the fiercest international competition, Germany is a production location that is capable and flexible enough to evolve: we'll endeavour to draw attention to its importance for jobs and the future of the region.

Textile network: Please complete the following sentence: My decision to work in the textile industry ...

Peter Haas: ... has already bestowed upon me more than 100 exciting days in office, that have led me to a new maxim: Textiles from Baden-Württemberg are the stuff the future is made of.

Mr Haas, many thanks for the interview.

The questions were posed by Iris Schlomski on behalf of textile network.

[www.suedwesttextil.de]

Südwesttextil – A strong connection

In its role as a business and employers' association for the textile and apparel industry of Baden-Württemberg, Südwesttextil represents the interests of its members in economic, tariff and social politics. At the same time, Südwesttextil offers a broad spectrum of tailored services and organises a diversity of relevant seminars, workshops and events.

Aachen Dresden Denkdorf – German Textile Colloquium

Premiere event is a resounding success



Photo: DITF

Over 300 attendees from research and industry came to Denkdorf to learn more about the latest trends and possible fields of application.

Professor Gresser of the DITF Denkdorf: "The high number of attendees and the abundance of positive feedback on the Colloquium exceeded our expectations. By establishing the Colloquium, we've created a unique platform that brings the mechanical engineering and textile industries together. We are already extremely excited about the next event emanating from the new partnership between Aachen, Dresden and Denkdorf."

Referring in his inaugural speech to the new event format, former State Secretary Peter Hofelich (MdL), stated: "We are delighted that the German Institutes for Textile and Fibre Research in Denkdorf succeeded in bringing the German Textile Colloquium to southwest Germany." More than 300 participants accepted the invitation to this new event and were visibly impressed by the new concept. Starting this year, the Colloquium serves as a complement to the well-established Aachen-Dresden International Textile Conference (ITC – known as the Aachen-Dresden-Denkendorf Textile Conference since 2016). The debut event in Denkdorf from 10-11 May was organised by the German

Institutes for Textile and Fibre Research (DITF) in cooperation with the Leibniz Institute for Interactive Materials (DWI), and the Institute for Textile Machinery and High-Performance Material Technology (ITM) at the TU Dresden. The overriding subject area – "Raw materials in the textile industry – modern processing for versatile applications" – focused on yarn and textile production. In concurrent sessions (yarns, weaving, knitting) 35 experts from research and industry reported on product and process innovations, new processes and applications, whilst also casting their gaze to the future. The papers by global market leaders in textile machinery, by successful textile producers and

ready-to-wear manufacturers covered a broad spectrum of topics from fibres and yarns, to textiles and the finished product. Visions of the future were also in abundance at the evening get-together where designers from Reutlingen University of Applied Sciences presented their designs and ideas for tomorrow's vehicles. The "German Textile Colloquium" will focus on a different special topic every spring – in addition to the traditional Inter-

national Textile Conference in the autumn. The event is organised by the German Institutes for Textile and Fibre Research (DITF), the Leibniz Institute for Interactive Materials (DWI) and the Institute for Textile Machinery and High-Performance Material Technology (ITM). The event on yarn and textile production in Denkdorf was the first in the new cycle and is to be followed by Aachen in March 2017 and Dresden in March 2018.

[www.aachen-dresden-denkdorf.de]



textile network

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Texcar from Groz-Beckert

Dornbirn-MFC

55th Dornbirn Man-Made Fibers Congress

Dornbirn MFC is the most widely acknowledged European innovation platform for the fibre industry and the downstream value chain and intends to remain so. The organisers see the event as an important idea and network generator, both now and in the future. The more than 100 expert lectures scheduled for this year will focus on fibres and textiles in automotive applications, fibres for non-wovens, fibre innovations, finishing and functional additives as well as textiles in general. For organisational reasons, the congress management has de-

cidied to stage this congress for the first time from Tuesday to Thursday (20-22 September 2016). One of this year's highlights will be Groz Beckert's presentation of its "Texcar" in the foyer. To demonstrate the various aspects of fibres and fibre usage in the automotive industry, Groz Beckert completely dismantled and rearranged a Mercedes-Benz E-Class model. The car has been cut in crucial places so that the application fields of the fibres are on full view. The Texcar – first unveiled at Techtextil in Frankfurt – illustrates extremely well where

New Sponsors acquired for 2016:

- SGL Carbon Group (D) / Hauptsponsor
- Fisipe (P)
- Rieter Holding AG (CH)
- CHT Beitlich GmbH (D)
- Groz Beckert KG (D)

nonwovens, warp and weft-knitted fabrics, cloth, tufting and seams play an important role and fulfil key functions in modern cars. Long-term sponsors, such as the Province of Vorarlberg, the city of Dornbirn, major sponsor Lenzing AG, CIRFS (Industry Association of Chemical Fibres Europe) and the IVC (Industry Association of Chemical Fibres Germany) have actively contributed to Dornbirn-MFC's success for many years. In the meantime, the organisers have succeeded in enlisting new sponsors (see box). The event is also exploring new innovative avenues of cooperation. Accordingly, a cooperation agreement between Dornbirn-

MFC and Avantex was announced just last February. Combining "Fashion and HiTec", the synergy between Paris as a fashion centre and Dornbirn, as a marketplace for fibre innovation, will be leveraged in the future. Both events take place in September, with Avantex Paris running in Paris, Le Bourget from 12 to 15 September 2016, followed a week later by Dornbirn-MFC from 20 to 22 September 2016 in Dornbirn. This will enable participants to attend both events. The current pre-programme including all updates and application forms can be found on the official website.

[www.dornbirn-mfc.com]

Dornbirn-MFC is becoming a noticeable Green Event

Dornbirn-MFC aligned its guidelines/policies with the Austrian Eco-Label for Green Meetings & Green Events and receives a certification. Criteria such as CO₂ reduction, ecological catering, environmentally-friendly accommodation, as well as management of materials and waste play an essential role. The Dornbirn-MFC will be also organized accordingly in this year



Photo: Groz-Beckert



Impressions Dornbirn-MFC

EXHIBITION – LONDON

Fashion and Textile Museum shows Missoni

An exhibition in the small northern Italian town of Gallarate featuring Missoni's company and family history attracted over 40,000 visitors to the Museo Maga at the end of last

year and beginning of this. In fact, it was such a success that the exhibits are now on show in London where it is likewise generating a lot of attention. It is even sparking interest from other major cities around the world, with enquiries arriving from Sidney, Dubai and Shanghai, requesting to run the exhibition in 2017.

For the time being, however, the exhibition is still at the Fashion and Textile Museum in London where it has been running since 6 May and will remain until 4 September 2016. This is a show that illustrates how family-run Missoni succeeded in transforming fashion into art. Company founder Ottavio Missoni is portrayed in the same context as many artists close to his heart. Following his death, this tradition has been upheld by his chil-



Photos: Penny Sychrava PR



dren. Luca Missoni is Director of the Archivio Missoni. He has a passion for shedding light on the creative processes behind a Missoni knitted garment right through to the finished product, and has enjoyed working together with The Woolmark Company in London. However, space restrictions mean that only a

large selection of the exhibits from Gallarate can be displayed in London. Missoni is highly successful both in the apparel and homewear sectors. The company ventured into the UK hotel market just a few years ago. An exhibition catalogue is available.

[www.ftmlondon.org]

BOOK TIP

All about cuts

Schnittformen, a reference work for clothing shapes and their specialist terminology is based on the principle that pictures speak louder than words! The 61-page book contains 240 sketches of the most common silhouettes and shapes for different product categories as well as a variety of clothing components. The spectrum embraces everything from the different types of blouses, skirts, jackets and coats to elements such as collars and sleeves. Trouser lengths are clearly sketched and briefly explained, whilst the specialist terms are featured in both English and

German. This is an extremely useful reference work for people working in the textiles and apparel industry. Fashion is in a constant state of flux, with new ideas emerging, old ideas being re-cooked and classics being re-interpreted. Often, the corresponding terms for these fashion creations are not always immediately familiar. As a result, this work is a useful aid, as it explains the differences between a sports cuff and a double cuff, for instance, sheds light on the features that define a parka, and details the terms attributed to different skirt lengths, to name but a few ex-

amples. The information packed inside this book is helpful for people working in sales, distribution, procurement and merchandise management as well as those communicating with international production facilities, suppliers, agencies or quite simply with colleagues. Author Susanne Heldens, clothing engineer and responsible, among others, for Esprit's Trainee Management Programme, has thus responded to the need of many of her seminar attendees for an overview of clothing



The revised work is now in its 2nd edition, appearing in a new design and available at www.schnittformen.de at a cost of 19.90 Euro incl. VAT

shapes and the specialist terminology associated with them. She has written the book together with co-author and fashion/graphic designer Kerstin Hollenbach, who created the layout and all the sketches contained within the work.

[www.schnittformen.de]

Südwesttextil

Let's talk about ... tex!

How is the fashion industry these days? Südwesttextil, a German regional textile association, and the Regional Women's Network within the Landesverband Baden-Württemberg gathered for the first Textile and Fashion Networking Event in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, to discuss the "State of the Fashion Industry". The panel discussion featured Aysen Bitzer (0039 Italy), Jürgen Leuthe (Luisa Cerano), Horst Lenk (Modehaus Lenk, Pforzheim) and Prof. Dr. Stefan Hencke (University of Applied Sciences in Trier). The questions were posed by Peter Haas, Managing Director of Südwesttextil.

The four panellists rejected any suggestions of gloom and doom. It appears, therefore, that they have found a recipe for success. But what is it? It is because they approach the market with an open mind? Or because they operate in a market where consumers are not watching every penny? Self-made entrepreneur Aysen Bitzer established 0039 Italy 16



Photos: Südwesttextil

How is the fashion industry these days? The first Textiles and Fashion Networking Event in Baden-Württemberg discussed this question at length

years ago. She now supplies her products to 62 countries and believes: "With so many products on the market, we have to awaken desires." Jürgen Leuthe, Managing Partner of the Ferdinand Hauber Group, which was established in 1870 and is behind fashion brand "Luisa Cerano", adds: "The market is experiencing the biggest transformation in its histo-

ry," which is why, "SMEs have to focus on quality. Not only that but retailers and manufacturers need to collaborate more closely." This is why he entrusts his Luisa Cerano Collection to fashion houses such as Lenk, in Pforzheim, which is owned by Horst Lenk who, in turn, attaches much importance to staff training: "Luisa Cerano and Marc Cain give our staff a full day's training and when they get back, they can't wait to advise our customers and show them the products and how to combine them." Training sessions such as these, he continued, are the exception rather than the rule. Prof. Dr. Stefan Hencke sees the market from the point of view of a scientist and consumer. Noting that 54,000 brands are registered in Germany, he underlined the importance of "storytelling". "Cool brands are brands

that tell a story; face-to-face sales certainly have a future as people need to communicate with each other, encouraging them to use high-street shopping formats." The fashion trade needs to make use of both off- and online shopping channels as they can complement rather than compete with one another. There was general consensus that city centres that manage to preserve that special element of excitement, certainly have the potential to remain vibrant and lively. With the likes of Primark, H&M and Zara squeezing independent retailers, boutiques and owner-led textile houses off the high streets, the panellists called upon city councils and business developers to help reverse this trend, with rents and rates considered a good place to start.

[www.suedwesttextil.de]
[Ingrid Sachsenmaier]



From the left: Horst Lenk, President of trade association Handelsverband Baden-Württemberg and owner of fashion house Mode Lenk GmbH in Pforzheim, Aysen Bitzer, Stuttgart-based designer and entrepreneur behind the label "0039 Italy" and Peter Haas, Managing Director of German textile association Südwesttextil at the tex-talk

IFKT

48th International IFWS/IFKT Conference



48th International IFWS/IFKT Conference: Discussion in laboratory

The biennial international congress of IFWS/IFKT was organised by the German national section from 8-10 June this year. It was held in parallel with MG Open Spaces at the Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences in Mönchengladbach. This gave the 210 participants from 14 nations the chance to benefit from interesting presentations at both events. The congress offered a widely varied programme. 45 presentations and 11 workshops gave food for thought on knitting and its future as well as other textile-related subjects. Speakers who peeked beyond the horizon inspired lively discussions. Fashion, textiles and interior design and architecture were displayed in a design showroom. Participants were able to learn more about current research projects at the poster session. The Board and General Assembly meetings were held outside the main programme so that everyone could take proper advantage of the professional programme. Fur-

thermore, visitors were also able to attend the VDTF meeting in Cologne on 11 June. A highlight of the event was the visit to Monforts Advanced Technology Center. Here, participants learned about state-of-the-art machine technology for dyeing, coating, and trimming of knitted and woven materials and other kinds of textiles, whilst experiencing three of the latest and greatest machines. Special thanks were extended to all the organisers, presenters for their intense and successful work. The next international IFWS/IFKT congress will take place in Łódź, Poland in 2018.

IFKT activities in Switzerland

26 members and spectators from the national sections Switzerland, Germany, and Austria were the guests of Swisslastic AG in Wald (ZH) where they assembled for their annual meeting and professional conference on 27 May 2016. The general assembly reelected the entire

Board for another term. For the current year, it was decided to organise an event in late autumn to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the IFWS. In addition to the traditional professional programme, the celebratory event will also offer a special supporting programme. The conference was opened by Mr Danilo Pieri (CEO) with an illustrative introduction to Swisslastic AG. Mr Markus Krüger shed light on the innovative programme of Schoeller GmbH & CoKG. The 'non-textile' part was covered by Dr Georg Meyer, Preston Meyer Group GmbH, who discussed why our private and professional lives are becoming increasingly complex and how we can counter this. Ms Joana Frackiewicz-Kaczmarek continued the series «Studierende, Auszubildende und Ehemalige berichten über ihre Aktivitäten» (students, apprentices, and alumni report on their activities) by presenting her knitting projects. The highlight of the conference was the tour of Swisslastic AG. The modern factory impressed the visitors with

its clearly defined processes. The atmosphere and behaviour of the staff conveyed a fantastic sense of harmony. Swisslastic AG provided for the participants all day. The IFWS appreciated the excellent organisation and hospitality.

IFKT activities in Germany

The conference and members' meeting of the German national section is scheduled to take place in Dresden from 5 – 6 September 2016. The programme includes a tour of the Technical Centre and Machinery Hall at the Technical University of Dresden and of Dresdner Gardinen- und Spitzenmanufaktur, a net curtain and lace maker.

Conference

Venue conference and members' meeting of IFKT
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The Silk Road Economic Belt contains five routes



Photos: HKTDC Research

Asia report

Belt & Road Initiative

The vast regions of Central Asia (between China and Europe) and most of Africa have great potential for development that could benefit both the people there and in the rest of the world. In 2013, China outlined a bold global economic and strategic development initiative known as The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which embraces the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The aim of this project is to revive the economies of these regions, some of which were once powerful ancient civilizations, with a view to developing economic co-operation among countries along and beyond the Belt & Road routes and to bringing about a source of new economic opportunities for the world. It believes it will bring about a win-win situation for all. The major goals of the Belt and Road Initiative are: policy co-ordination, connectivity between facilities, unimpeded

trade, financial integration, and people-to-people bonds, in the spirit and principle of jointly developing the programme through consultation with all those involved. Some 65 countries are expected to participate in the Initiative. China's President Xi Jinping stressed repeatedly that „The Initiative is open for cooperation. It covers, but is not limited to, the area of the ancient Silk Road. It is open to all countries, and international and regional organisations for engagement.“ Other countries not along the Belt & Road can also become actively involved in the BRI through joining. The Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) – a new Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) – was set up in Dec 2015 with 57 founding members. Its remit is to complement and cooperate with the existing MDBs in order to address infrastructure needs in Asia. A US\$ 40bn Silk Road Fund has been established to fi-

The Silk Road Economic Belt contains 5 routes (see map): (1) linking China to Europe through Central Asia and Russia; (2) connecting China with the Middle East through Central Asia; and (3) bringing together China and Southeast Asia, South Asia and the Indian Ocean. The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, meanwhile, focuses on using Chinese coastal ports to: (4) link China with Europe through the South China Sea and Indian Ocean; and (5) connect China with the South Pacific Ocean through the South China Sea.

nance the Belt and Road Initiative, mainly for investments in infrastructure and resources, as well as in industrial and financial cooperation.

Since the beginning of 2016, the BRI has been widely discussed and explored among the 65 countries so far involved. A flurry of activities, discussions and conferences has been taking place since the beginning of 2016 to draw out the opportunities offered by and the challenges facing the BRI. It has already triggered a certain degree of investment interest in

countries along the BRI routes. Some people have commented, however, that the BRI is a way for China to unload its excessive production. The Chinese government has time and again stressed that this is not the primary nor major goal, even though any excess production can be put to good use in the BRI's infrastructure development projects. The goal is actually much bigger and broader, as it aims to enhance cooperation with regions that have yet to benefit from recent global economic development and modernisation. If successful, the BRI will bring about an unprecedented economic boom not only to these regions but also to the whole world. It will, however, take time to evolve and develop. The first and most important step has at least been taken. Only if it is a win-win situation for all involved will the BRI be able to move forward. The textile and apparel industry can most certainly benefit from the BRI as clothing is generally among the first items people spend money on as their economic situation improves. The recent history of China is a fine example.



BRI Summit in Hong Kong Inaugurated by Mr Zhang Dejiang, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC of the PR China

[Vicky Sung]

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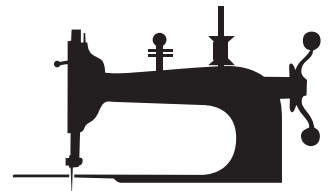
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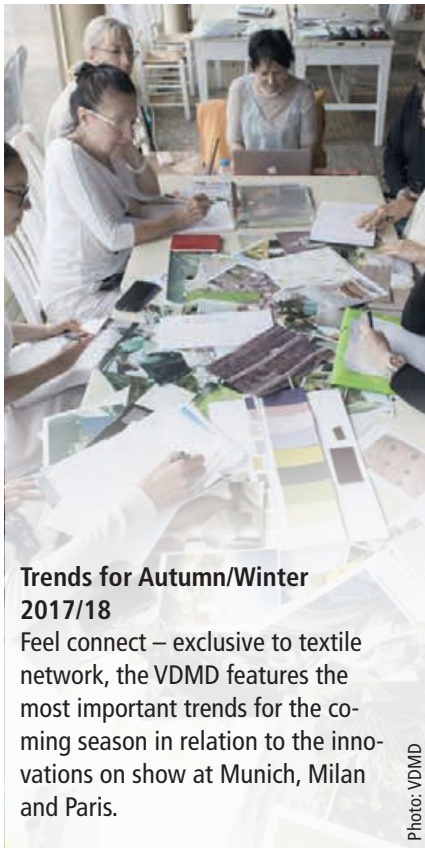
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The next issue of **textile**network will be published on 25th August 2016 and these are some of our topics:



Trends for Autumn/Winter 2017/18

Feel connect – exclusive to textile network, the VDMD features the most important trends for the coming season in relation to the innovations on show at Munich, Milan and Paris.

Photo: VDMD



Leather

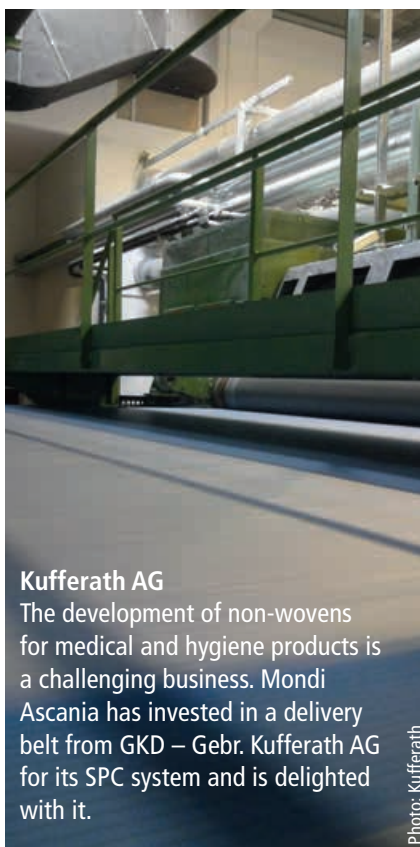
Our special feature tells you everything you need to know about this natural product. Our writer Sonja Langer-Korsch reports about the different qualities, provenance and processing of leather and much more.

Photo: Leder: fotolia/ Jacke: Kometundhelden



Groz-Beckert KG
Groz-Beckert's Technology and Development Centre was inaugurated in Summer 2010. Since then, it has become difficult to imagine today's industry without this valuable "platform". We shed light upon the status quo.

Photo: Groz-Beckert



Kufferath AG

The development of non-wovens for medical and hygiene products is a challenging business. Mondi Ascania has invested in a delivery belt from GKD – Gebr. Kufferath AG for its SPC system and is delighted with it.

Photo: Kufferath

The benefits of Outlast products at a glance:

- Absorbs excess body heat
- Manages moisture
- Reduces overheating
- Reduces chilling
- Reduces perspiration
- Continuously adapts to thermal changes

Outlast

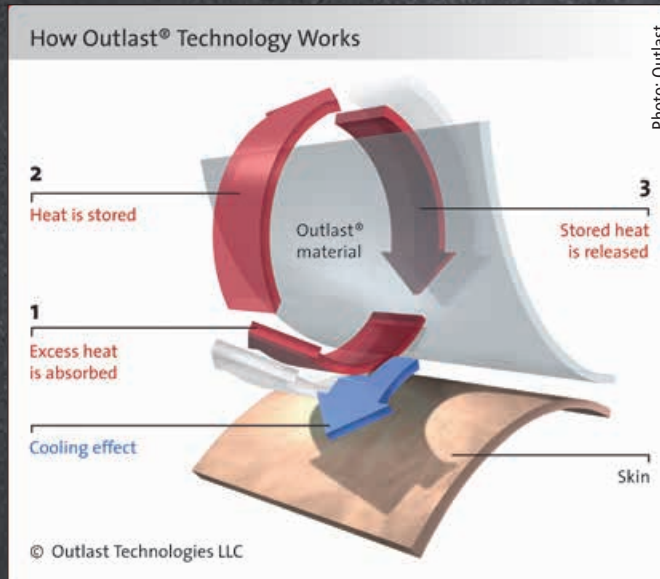
PCM for orthopaedic devices

Heat managing phase change materials (PCM) by the market leader Outlast can be found in numerous everyday products: from apparel, underwear, socks or shoes to bedding, along with some recent products in orthopaedic devices. Some innovative manufacturers are already utilizing the smart Outlast material: The Ohio Willow Wood Company, Mt. Sterling/Ohio, uses Outlast PCM in prosthetic liners to reduce sweating dramatically. Until now, all prosthetic liners have acted as insulators, holding heat from the residual limb within the liner and causing the amputee to sweat. The Alpha SmartTemp Liner blends silicone with Outlast heat management technology, enabling the liner to absorb and store heat to prevent the long-standing issue of perspiration in prostheses. Outlast technology in the Alpha SmartTemp Liner is proactive, meaning that it continuously reacts to the user's skin temperature to help mitigate the onset of sweating. This differs from reactive solutions, such as wicking, which require the user to sweat and become uncomfortable before the technology kicks in. Willow Wood performed clinical testing on the Alpha SmartTemp Liner. During this testing, several amputee patients reported they could wear the liner 14 to 20 hours without having to remove it. While each user's activity level, environment and personal metabolism contribute to the

liner's performance, all amputees who wore the Alpha SmartTemp Liner received noticeable benefits from the Outlast technology. Other orthotic products (for shoulder, hand, hand wrist, knee, lower legs) made by Otto Bock, also provide a "comfortable microclimate due to less sweat production". Outlast foam cushions inside of ankle orthoses made by the French company Thuasne offer an optimum climate. The German company Hydas Fabrik für Medizinbedarf GmbH, Frankfurt, uses Outlast fibers in different bandages/supporting belts for extended heat management. In addition, compression bandages by Bort GmbH, Weinstadt-Benzach/Germany, promise exceptional comfort due to Outlast PCM.

How it works

The PCM technology Outlast was originally developed for NASA to protect astronauts against the extreme temperature changes in space. Outlast



The Outlast-Technology

technology utilizes phase change materials (PCM) that proactively absorb heat, store it and release it for optimal thermal comfort. Big advantage: Sweat production is significantly reduced. Outlast technology is comparable to ice in a drink; as it changes from solid to liquid, it absorbs heat and cools the

drink, keeping that drink at the desired temperature for a longer period of time. Outlast phase change materials work in the same way. The PCMs have the capacity to absorb, store and release excess heat. This gives any product containing Outlast technology the ability to continually regulate the skin's microclimate.

[www.outlast.com]

Outlast phase change materials provide an optimum climate and a perfect climate comfort in liners



Photo: Willow Wood

Outlast technology can be used in different applications. No matter if directly included inside the fiber or if coated materials are used – Outlast phase change materials dynamically reduce sweat production significantly



Photo: Outlast



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