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May - June 2025 Vol.20 / Issue No.03



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- **PANGAIA LAUNCHES MOST ADVANCED PLANT-BASED ACTIVEWEAR**
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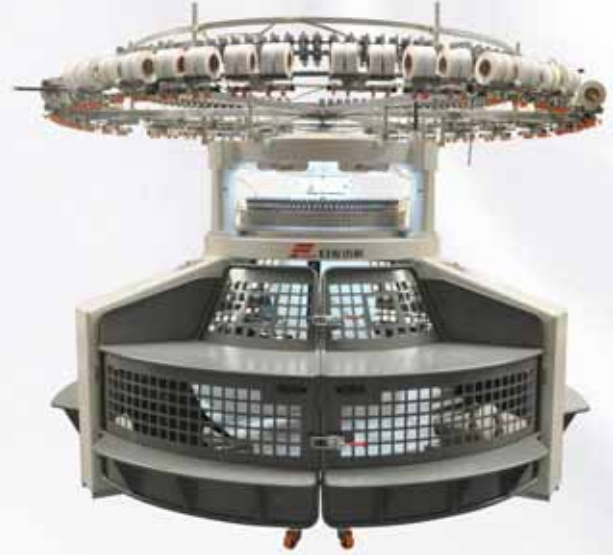


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# From The Editor's Desk...

Textile and apparel exports grew 7.45 % in April 2025 compared with the same period last year, with textile shipments increasing 2.61 % and ready-made garment (RMG) exports moving up 14.4 %. The RMG exports reached \$ 1.37 billion in April 2025, compared with \$ 1.20 billion in April 2024. On the same lines, knitwear exports witnessed healthy growth last month. Exports reached approximately Rs. 3,500 cr, which is an encouraging sign for this sector.

Despite challenges such as tariff hike policies from the U.S., currency fluctuations and ongoing global economic challenges, the Indian knitwear export sector has managed to stay strong. The Tirupur cluster recorded 20% growth in FY25 with Rs 40,000 cr and shipped nearly 45% of materials to Europe and 30% to the US. India's readymade garment (RMG) sector registered a 10% growth in exports during FY25 with total goods worth \$16 billion. Out of this, 49% were knit sector exports, a significant increase from the previous year. Thanks to the commendable performance of knitwear exporters, the sector continues to progress steadily on its growth trajectory into the new financial year.

Further, India's decision to allow entry of ready-made garments from Bangladesh only through Kolkata and Nhava Sheva sea ports is likely to increase the cost of apparel imports from the neighbouring nation. This move is a timely step towards preventing the dumping of foreign-made garments and strengthening India's self-reliance in apparel production.

As per the trade data, India imported RMG worth USD 634 million in 2024, which has increased at a CAGR of 19 per cent during the last 10 years. The majority of these imports were taking place through land routes only, and hence this restriction is likely to have a considerable impact on these RMG imports.

On the other hand, the closure of land ports has disrupted the usual trade flow, leaving Indian spinning mills scrambling for alternative transportation options. This has affected nearly 30 per cent of India's yarn shipments, primarily dyed and special yarn.

In a significant boost to India's textile sector, the Central Government has approved a substantial Rs. 2,100 crore allocation for establishing the country's first PM MITRA (Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) Park in Madhya Pradesh.

This will transform the state's textile landscape and generate vast employment opportunities. The State Government has set a target of creating 25,000 jobs through the establishment of 21 dedicated units within the PM MITRA Park.



ARVIND KUMAR  
Editor & Publisher

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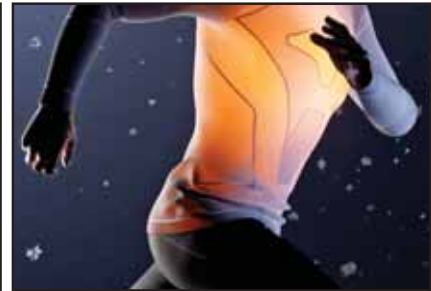
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*global update...*

## Mexico plans \$5 bn investment to revitalize textile industry

To revitalize a sector that has long been a cornerstone of the country's industrial base, the Mexican Government plans to boost its textile production capacity by over \$5 billion in the coming years.

According to data from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (Inegi), the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Mexico's textile and apparel industry reached 488 billion pesos in 2024.



To support this growth, President Claudia Sheinbaum's administration has rolled out a three-phase strategy to recover over 80,000 jobs lost in the textile sector. The

first phase targeted the seizure of illegally imported goods. The second involved revoking the IMMEX program benefits from companies found to be misusing it. The third phase is focused on creating direct connections between buyers and sellers through B2B meetings.

At a B2B networking event in Mexico City, Marcelo Ebrard, Economy Secretary said, the government aims to continue building on this effort. It will sustain and refine these initiatives to grow its production capacity by more than \$5 billion.

Emphasizing on the historical importance of the textile industry in Mexico's industrial development, Ebrard emphasizes, founded in 19th century, the first Mexican industry was a textile company - Constancia Mexicana. Much of Mexico's industrialization was built around textiles, and the future is tied to this sector as well.

In 2024, the GDP for textile input and finishing manufacturing in Mexico totaled 131 billion pesos. The production of textiles (excluding garments) was valued at 78 billion pesos, while garment manufacturing reached 279 billion pesos. The sector is deeply connected to employment, investment, and commerce- it's an integral part of Mexico's broader economy, Ebrard adds ■

## Turkey's textile industry hit by sluggish sales

The Turkish textile sector has been experiencing weak domestic and export demand, resulting in job losses within the industry. The decline in textile, clothing and footwear sales deepened in February, showed the latest data from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK).

The sales volume in these sectors shrank by 1 percent monthly and 5.6 percent annually in February, hitting their lowest level since February 2021. In February, the headline retail sales volume index increased by



12.2 percent from the same months of 2024. The textile and apparel industry is also losing ground in exports, primarily due to weak demand in Europe.

Despite the continued increase in input costs domestically, the exchange rate has remained stable for a long time, further exacerbating the industry's challenges. According to data from the Türkiye Exporters Assembly (TIM), apparel and ready-to-wear exports fell by 7.5 percent in the first quarter of this year, declining to \$4.1 billion. This situation is also leading to a decrease in employment in the sector. The textile and ready-to-wear industry ended 2024 with a loss of more than 64,000 jobs ■

## Azerbaijan's textile imports from Türkiye up 14.3% in early 2025

Azerbaijan imported textile products from Türkiye worth \$15.334 million between January and April 2025, marking a 14.3 per cent increase compared to the same period last year. According to the Turkish Exporters'



Assembly, the growth in textile imports highlights the strengthening trade relations between the two countries, particularly in the textile and apparel sector, which remains a key area of bilateral economic cooperation, according to a report.

The continued rise in demand suggests robust domestic consumption and potential growth in Azerbaijan's textile-related industries. In April alone, Turkish textile exports to Azerbaijan amounted to \$4.254 million, reflecting a notable 19.9 per cent year-on-year increase.

At the broader level, Türkiye's total textile exports also demonstrated upward momentum during the first four months of 2025. Overall, Turkish textile exports reached \$3.194 billion, representing a 2.7 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2024. In April, exports from the sector surged by 10.5 per cent to reach \$772 million ■

## US apparel brands call for tariff pause extension to China

The American Apparel & Footwear Association has welcomed the Trump administration's decision to pause "reciprocal" tariffs for 90 days but hopes it can be "extended to all countries" – especially China.



Steve Lamar, President and CEO of AAFA said that despite the pause, the US policy still leaves extreme tariffs on China that will lead to higher consumer prices for apparel, footwear,

and accessories – and higher costs for US manufacturers that rely on materials sourced from China.

"It is our hope that this limited pause can be extended to all countries so that US companies, now caught in the crosshairs of a frenzied trade war, can focus their energies on encouraging the US and its key trading partners to negotiate an end to both US and foreign trade barriers," he said.

"We further urge the Administration to work closely with Congress, and with all stakeholders, so that we can forge a more durable trade policy that is based on partnership of reciprocal trade, not fear of crushing tariffs."

AAFA sees the pause as only a "first step" in a policy that Lamar should be "more comprehensive, predictable, and durable." The US trade association produces helpful regular comment and updates on the impacts on tariffs in the US apparel and footwear industry ■

## BRÜCKNER opens branch office in India

The worldwide leading textile machinery manufacturer BRÜCKNER is opening its own subsidiary in India on June 1st, 2025. With this strategic step, the German family-owned company further strengthens its global presence and expands into the Indian market, which is so important for the textile industry. Since 2007 BRÜCKNER has been represented in India by Universal MEP Projects & Engineering Services Ltd, formerly VOLTAS. With the outstanding expertise and support of Universal over the years, the BRÜCKNER brand has been firmly established and the Indian customer base was expanded considerably.

"We could not have imagined a better partner in the Indian market and are very grateful to Universal for their support and constant guidance over nearly 20 successful years," says Regina Brückner, Owner and CEO of the Brückner Group. "India is a key market for the textile industry and offers many opportunities for us, firstly due to the growing local demand for textiles and secondly due to the enormous potential for innovation.

The new branch enables us to be even closer to our customers," continues Regina Brückner. After the many sales successes in India in recent years, the move to set up an own branch was only a matter of time and a logical consequence. Brückner Textile India Private Limited is looking forward to the coming years with its customers in India ■

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## █ Egypt rises as global hub for textile and apparel investment



The apparel and textile sector in Egypt is experiencing a strong phase of expansion, fueled by global economic shifts and a growing influx of foreign direct investment (FDI). According to Mohamed Abdel Salam, Chairman of the Ready-Made Garments and Textiles Chamber at the Federation of Egyptian Industries, Egypt represents a favorable environment for production due to its solid economic fundamentals and operational convenience.

Key competitive advantages include low costs for electricity (\$0.07/kWh compared to an average of \$0.12 in other markets), water (\$0.30-0.50/m<sup>3</sup> compared to over \$1.50 elsewhere), construction (\$500-800/m<sup>2</sup>, about half that of other countries), and a VAT of 14%, lower than the international average. Wages are also competitive compared to regional benchmarks. This mix of factors has attracted numerous global fashion companies to start or expand their operations in the country.

A significant case is the Turkish industrial group Shahinler, already present in Egypt with investments of \$50 million. The company, led by Kamal Shahin, has begun talks with Egyptian authorities to transfer part of its production activities, particularly in the cotton, spinning, weaving, and ready-made garment sectors. The plan includes the creation of new plants, with an area between 50,000 and 100,000 m<sup>2</sup>, an annual production of 3 million formal wear items, and the creation of approximately 3,000 new jobs.

These developments confirm Egypt's strategic role as an emerging hub for textile production globally. According to Abdel Salam, export-driven growth will continue to be a decisive engine for attracting foreign capital and promoting employment in the country ■

## █ Italian Textile Machinery: orders continue to fall in first quarter 2025

In the first quarter of 2025, orders for textile machinery recorded by ACIMIT, the Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers, showed a sharp decline compared to the same period in 2024, down 29%. The index stood at 41.8 points (base year 2021=100).

The negative result reflects both a significant contraction in the domestic market and a pronounced slowdown abroad. In Italy, orders dropped by 57%, while foreign orders fell by 25%. The index for foreign markets stood at 43.3 points, while the domestic figure dropped to 30.5 points. The order backlog at the end of the quarter ensured 3.6 months of production. The downturn also continues when compared to the previous quarter (October-December 2024), with overall orders decreasing by 15%.



Marco Salvadè, President of ACIMIT, commented: "The sector started 2025 on an even weaker footing than it ended 2024. On international markets, the deep uncertainty triggered by last year's geopolitical tensions has been further worsened by the tariff decisions implemented by the Trump administration. In the US, orders remain at a standstill as the market awaits the next steps from the President. Some glimmers of hope come from the estimates of global export data for textile machinery in the first quarter: China, India, and Pakistan key markets for technology suppliers show signs of recovery compared to the same period in 2024."

In Italy, the situation is even more critical, with the orders index at its lowest level, even surpassing the slump of 2020. "We need to look beyond 2025 and call on the Government to implement targeted, structural incentives for investments in capital goods, with simple procedures that allow companies to access them quickly", Salvadè noted ■

## █ U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol and Supima partner to enhance cotton traceability

The U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol and Supima have announced a strategic partnership to strengthen traceability in the cotton supply chain, addressing increasing demand from consumers and brands for transparency and accountability.



This collaboration leverages the USDA's permanent bale identification system and TextileGenesis's digital traceability platform to track Supima's three premium fibres - SUPIMA, Protocol Supima, and Organic Supima through the Supima AQR Project.

Brand and retail members will now benefit from:

- Farm-to-finished-product traceability
- The ability to claim Protocol Consumption Units (PCCUs) under the Trust Protocol
- Access to environmental metrics based on the volume of tracked fibre

Yarn mills purchasing American Pima cotton can choose from two traceability paths, offering both flexibility and transparency. Regardless of the route, brands gain visibility into shipments and verifiable data to support their sustainability commitments ■

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## HUGO BOSS introduces NovaPoly as a yarn made from recycled textile waste

HUGO BOSS unveils NovaPoly an innovative recycled polyester yarn co-developed with the company's suppliers Jiaren Chemical Recycling and NBC LLC. Holding the trademark and exclusive usage for the first year, HUGO BOSS aims to set new industry standards and plans to license NovaPoly across the fashion sector in the future. As part of the company's BOSS THE CHANGE initiative, the first BOSS Green products featuring NovaPoly will be launched globally in October 2025.

While currently exclusively available for the brands BOSS and HUGO, the company is actively working towards a licensing model to make the innovative fiber



accessible to a broader range of industry partners moving forward. NovaPoly is made from textile waste generated during clothing production as well as the post-consumer phase. It is enhanced with a natural additive that mimics the natural behaviour of fibres in the environment,

making it degradable. This innovation supports HUGO BOSS' strategic target to fight microplastics a key pillar of the company's sustainability strategy. NovaPoly complements HUGO BOSS' existing efforts in developing alternatives to polyester and polyamide fibers, like the company has done previously in the partnership with HeiQ/AeoniQ.

Products containing NovaPoly will be available online, in BOSS stores and at selected wholesale retail partners globally starting October 2025. As part of the Spring/Summer 2026 collection for BOSS Green, the yarn will be integrated into selected performance wear pieces ■

## Hohenstein supports Global Textile Scheme Initiative

Global testing and research provider Hohenstein has acquired shares in Global Textile Scheme GmbH (GTS). In this way, Hohenstein aims to support GTS in harmonizing and automating data exchange along the entire supply chain. The aim of the GTS initiative is to create an international standard for handling structured product data in the textile and apparel industry.

As an internationally recognized knowledge partner, Hohenstein is expanding its expertise in data standardization and transparency in the textile sector. "The

demand for reliable, structured, and machine-readable data along the textile value chain is rising rapidly," explains Dr. Stefan Droste, CEO of Hohenstein. "We want to support our customers in this area as well and are committed to close collaboration with GTS."

Additionally, Hohenstein will leverage its global network to promote the adoption of the GTS standard worldwide. The goal is to facilitate access to standardized data structures for companies - a key requirement for recycling, circularity, and more sustainable production. These

topics are also becoming increasingly important in the context of new regulatory requirements, such as the Digital Product Passport.

"The Global Textile Scheme initiative offers a pragmatic solution for efficiently managing complex data without an excessive increase of manual processes," emphasizes Dr. Stefan Droste. "Data is becoming the backbone of the circular economy, and we are excited to actively shape this development together with GTS" ■

## UNIFI®, Makers of REPREEVE®, launches Fortisyn™, an inherently durable yarn

Unifi, Inc., the makers of REPREEVE® and one of the world's innovators in recycled and synthetic yarns, launched Fortisyn™, an abrasion-resistant yarn engineered for ultimate durability in tactical applications. This innovative yarn provides fabrics with enhanced tear and tensile strength, offering a robust solution for military and first responder uniforms and tactical gear. Fortisyn is available made-in-USA for Berry Amendment compliant applications.

Fabrics containing Fortisyn can withstand exposure to harsh elements and rough handling while maintaining their form, function, and appearance over time. Fortisyn is available in nylon 6,6 and REPREEVE®



Nylon, a recycled type 6, circular nylon made from post-industrial yarn waste.

"In collaboration with mills and strategic partners, Fortisyn has undergone rigorous fabric testing to validate its exceptional performance. The launch marks a step

forward in the scaling of recycled, circular technology yarns into the most durable applications." said Eddie Ingle, CEO of UNIFI.

About Fortisyn:

- Engineered for inherent durability and abrasion resistance
- Solution-dyed capability for enhanced colorfastness
- Fortisyn, made with REPREEVE Nylon, is fully traceable with FiberPrint® U-TRUST®, along with Oeko-Tex®, GRS, and SCS certifications for recycled content
- Available globally and in combination with other UNIFI yarn technologies ■

## Bangladesh becomes fastest-growing apparel exporter to the US



**B**angladesh has emerged as the fastest-growing apparel exporter to the United States in the first quarter of 2025, posting the highest year-on-year growth among its global competitors. According to data from the Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA), Bangladesh exported garments worth \$2.22 billion to the US during January-March 2025, marking a 26.64% increase compared to the same period last year.

This performance placed Bangladesh ahead of other major exporters. India followed with a 24.04% rise, while Pakistan, Vietnam, and China recorded growth of 17.49%, 13.96%, and 4.18% respectively.

Overall, the US imported \$20.05 billion in apparel globally during the period, up 10.95% from the first quarter of 2024. Bangladesh also saw a 25.24% increase in shipment volume, indicating rising demand and production capacity. India led in volume growth with 27.17%, while Pakistan (19.94%), Vietnam (9.14%), and China (2.30%) lagged behind.

In terms of unit prices, Vietnam recorded the highest increase at 4.42%, followed by China (1.83%) and Bangladesh (1.12%). India and Pakistan, however, saw declines of -2.46% & -2.04%, respectively.

Asif Ashraf, Managing Director of Urmi Group, one of the country's top apparel exporters, attributed the growth to Bangladesh's success in shipping more value-added products.

"The slight uptick in prices suggests that we are exporting more sophisticated garments to the US," he said, warning that future performance could be impacted by Trump's recent tariff hikes. "While Bangladesh might benefit from the sustained high tariffs on Chinese products, if those tariffs begin to erode US consumers' purchasing power, it could hurt overall import demand – including for Bangladeshi goods."

Mohiuddin Rubel, Former Director of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), observed that China's export growth to the US lagged behind the overall increase in US apparel imports. "This suggests that Bangladesh has captured a share of the market China is losing," he said.

Still, he cautioned against overconfidence, noting that the full impact of the new US trade policies is yet to unfold. "The tariff situation under the Trump administration remains fluid. It's too early to predict how long this momentum will last," Rubel added. ■

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## Bangladesh surges ahead in EU garment exports with record 37% growth

Like the United States, Bangladesh is also showing surprises in garment exports to the European market. In the first two months of the year 2025 (January-February), Bangladesh exported apparel worth \$3.69 billion, according to the latest data from the European Union's Statistical Office (Eurostat). This figure is 37.0 percent more than the same period last year. This is the highest growth rate in two months in this market. Major competitors China, Vietnam, India and Pakistan are nowhere near Bangladesh's growth. In January-February 2024, apparel exports to this market were worth \$2.69 billion. However, the unit price decreased by 1.46 percent.

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competitors China, Vietnam, India and Pakistan are nowhere near Bangladesh's growth. In January-February 2024, apparel exports to this market were worth \$2.69 billion. However, the unit price decreased by 1.46 percent.

At the same time, there were significant changes in exports from other countries to the EU. Statistics show that China's exports increased by 25.12 percent to \$4.55 billion. In addition, India's exports increased by 25.60 percent, Pakistan's by 29.65 percent, and Cambodia's exports increased by a maximum of 41 percent. However, Turkey's exports decreased by 3.64 percent to \$1.61 billion. According to Eurostat data released recently, EU companies' imported apparel worth \$16.09 billion from various

countries in the first two months of 2025. This import is 17.81 percent more than the same period last year.

Bangladesh's garment exports to the European market declined significantly towards the end of last year amid concerns and uncertainties, including factory closures due to worker dissatisfaction in the garment industry. There was a negative growth of 2.06 percent in the first nine months of 2024 (January-September). And that raised concerns among exporters. However, exports increased in the last three months of the year (October-December) and the year ended with a growth of 5 percent. In 2024, a total of \$19.77 billion worth of clothing was exported to European countries. In the previous year, i.e. 2023, the export figure was \$18.85 billion.

Experts believe that Bangladesh's garment exports are likely to continue to show positive momentum throughout the year. Buyers are becoming more focused on Bangladesh due to trade tensions with various countries, including the United States. As a result, there is a possibility of an increase in new orders this year ■

## UNIFI® launches biodegradable REPVE® with CiCLO® technology



UNIFI, Inc., the makers of REPVE® and one of the world's leading innovators in recycled and synthetic yarns, launches REPVE with CiCLO® technology, recycled polyester and nylon embedded with a biodegradable technology that enables synthetics to break down naturally. REPVE with CiCLO technology was created in collaboration with Intrinsic Advanced Materials, LLC, a joint venture between Parkdale Advanced Materials, Inc. and Intrinsic Textiles Group, LLC.

REPVE with CiCLO technology is enhanced with a patented additive at the fiber level that allows synthetic yarns to more closely mimic natural materials such as wool. This will enable them to break down

in environments such as soil and seawater without compromising performance, durability, and dyeability. These new offerings are designed to help tackle the environmental impact of microplastic fiber pollution from synthetic textile shedding.

"We can always do more to lessen our environmental impact throughout the product life cycle," said Eddie Ingle, Chief Executive Officer of UNIFI®, Inc. "Our collaboration with Intrinsic Advanced Materials addresses the worldwide issue of synthetic microfiber shedding by providing a globally available solution that mills, brands, and retailers can now integrate to reduce microplastic fiber pollution."

REPVE with CiCLO technology enables synthetic fibers to naturally biodegrade under prolonged exposure to moisture and microorganisms, significantly reducing the time synthetic fibers (microplastics) remain in the environment. Today, products containing CiCLO, are utilized by forward-thinking, sustainable brands, including Bass Pro Shops, Billabong, Champion, Oakley, and Target.

"Synthetic textiles are a major contributor to microplastic pollution, and it is a challenge that requires industry collaboration," said Cheryl Smyre, Vice President of Parkdale Advanced Materials. "This joint initiative integrates two powerful solutions REPVE and CiCLO technology to help maximize recycled content while addressing microfiber pollution at the source. As brands navigate growing sustainability commitments and regulatory demands, the collaboration delivers a proven and effective solution that empowers brands to address two critical environmental issues while preserving performance and recyclability," added Smyre.

All REPVE-branded products can be produced with the CiCLO additive, including REPVE Takeback™ and REPVE Our Ocean®. Available globally, REPVE with CiCLO technology is a drop-in solution for brands and retailers, allowing them to meet global needs for reducing microplastic fiber pollution ■

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## Thermore unveils Ecodown Fibers Sync: soft, sustainable, and high-performance



Thermore, a pioneer in responsible thermal insulation, is proud to introduce Ecodown Fibers Sync a groundbreaking free fiber inspired by the physics of stellar fusion. This new development represents the perfect balance between high performance, luxurious touch, and mindful design.

At the core of Ecodown Fibers Sync lies the power of dual-performance fibers, carefully engineered to offer exceptional ultra-lofty softness and resilience. The result is next-generation insulation with a uniquely cloud-like handfeel that resists clumping a rare combination that ensures lasting volume, even after multiple washes.

With Ecodown Fibers Sync, Thermore opens up a universe of creative possibilities. This highly flexible insulation offers

unmatched versatility, making it ideal for both streamlined for technical outerwear and voluminous for fashion silhouettes. Designers no longer have to choose between performance and expression - Ecodown Fibers Sync effortlessly supports both. Faithful to Thermore's legacy, Ecodown Fibers Sync also marks a step forward in sustainable progress.

Crafted entirely from 100% recycled fibers sourced from post-consumer PET bottles, it reflects the brand's enduring commitment to a more responsible design. Every fiber tells a story of transformation - from waste to warmth, from plastic to purpose.

In line with Thermore's uncompromising quality standards, Ecodown Fibers Sync is certified GRS (Global Recycled Standard), confirming the authenticity of its recycled content and traceability throughout the production chain. In addition, Ecodown Fibers Sync is bluesign® and OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 certified, ensuring that the product is free from harmful substances and meets the highest criteria for environmental and human safety. These certifications underscore Thermore's dedication to responsible innovation and transparency.

With this launch, Thermore redefines what thermal insulation can be not just a functional layer, but a core element of a garment's identity. Ecodown Fibers Sync is more than insulation: it's an invitation to reimagine the future of outerwear, where responsibility, performance, and style align in perfect harmony ■

## Naia™ from Eastman joined Challenge the Fabric 2025 to champion next-gen circularity through design

Eastman Naia™ joined Challenge the Fabric 2025 as an Official Innovation Partner, reaffirming its commitment to scalable sustainability through cross-sector collaboration. The event held May 13–14 in Milan, brought together leaders from fashion, textiles, and forestry to accelerate circular solutions and spotlight man-made cellulosic fibers.

A key highlight of the event was the CTF Award, a global competition pairing emerging designers with material innovators to co-create visionary garments. As part of the program, Naia™ collaborated with designer Oscar Ouyang and Italian mill Lady V to co-create a garment using NAIA/WO, a custom textile made from 50% RWS-certified virgin wool, 50% GRS-certified recycled wool, blended with Naia™ Renew fiber. "The esteemed Prato-based textile company Lady V have introduced Naia™ into their apparel by creating NAIA/WO. The fabric is finished using traditional wooden barrels, ensuring a soft, luxurious 'lambswool' texture without overfelting. This partnership exemplifies our shared commitment to creative, sustainable innovation in fashion," said Cristiano Vieri from Lady V.

Designer Oscar Ouyang reflected on the inspiration behind his piece: "It has been a pleasure working with the Eastman Naia™ fabric. The versatility and the sustainability of the MMCFs fabric is truly impressive. The combination of cutting-edge and traditional techniques behind the production of the fabric



inspired me to create this shepherd's look," said Oscar Ouyang. At the heart of the textile is Naia™ Renew, Eastman's cellulosic fiber made from 60% sustainably sourced wood pulp and 40% GRS-certified recycled waste, enabled by molecular recycling.

"Challenge the Fabric is a unique event where we have real, action- and collaboration-based conversations," said Claudia de Witte, Marketing & Sustainability Director at Eastman. "We are proud to have participated in the design competition and even prouder to see Oscar, his design, and how he showcased the versatility of our Naia™ Renew staple fiber." De Witte also expanded on this vision during the CTF panel "From Ambition to Execution," emphasizing the role of partnerships in scaling sustainable solutions ■



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## domestic update...

### India's apparel exports surge 14.4% in April 2025 amid global challenges

Textile and apparel exports grew 7.45 % in April 2025 compared with the same period last year, with textile shipments increasing 2.61 % and apparel exports moving up 14.4 %.

Despite challenges such as tariff hike policies by the U.S. and domestic unrest in Bangladesh, the Indian knitwear export sector has managed to stay strong. Thanks to the commendable performance of knitwear exporters, the sector continues to progress steadily on its growth trajectory into the new financial year, said A. Sathivel, Vice Chairman of the AEPC.



The ready-made garment (RMG) export sector has started the new financial year (2025–2026) on a positive note, registering a growth of approximately 15% in April 2025.

The RMG exports reached \$ 1.37 billion in April 2025, compared with \$ 1.20 billion in April 2024. On the same lines, knitwear exports witnessed healthy growth last month. Exports reached approximately Rs. 3,500 cr, which is an encouraging sign for the sector, he said.

Import of cotton yarn continued to be high, with 129 % jump in April 2025 compared with April 2024. Garment exports maintain short term growing trend and cotton imports increasing as international cotton cheaper than Indian cotton (ICE is 1500 basis points lower than MCX), said Sanjay Jain, chairman of the National Expert Committee on Textiles of the Indian Chamber of Commerce.

According to Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General of AEPC, apparel exports have demonstrated robust growth of 14.43% in dollar terms in April 2025. The apparel export sector continues to display strong resilience, registering steady growth despite ongoing global economic challenges, currency fluctuations, and the uncertainty surrounding the US reciprocal tariff policy. Recent data highlights a positive uptick, underscoring the industry's adaptability and strong manufacturing capabilities ■

### Tirupur knitwear industry eyes 25% growth amid global supply shifts

Tirupur knitwear industry, which exported goods worth Rs 40,000 crore in 2024-25 financial years (FY25), expects around 25% growth in the next fiscal as buyers diversify purchases from Bangladesh and China amid political turmoil and ongoing US tariff war.

According to the exporters' body, buyers are increasingly placing orders with domestic companies. Dr. A Sakthivel, Vice Chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) told that domestic companies are witnessing more orders from the US and UK, two key export destinations for Tirupur, as they expect favourable terms from India's bilateral trade pacts with these two countries. Currently India is in talks with the US on a trade deal with the US with the deal expected to finalise later this year.



"India's presence in the complete supply chain from raw material to finished goods, quicker execution of orders, and recent improvements in quality has increased the confidence of Indian suppliers. That too is contributing to the increase of orders," he said, adding it is expected to maintain a similar trajectory despite global uncertainties.

The Tirupur cluster recorded 20% growth in FY25 with Rs 40,000 cr and shipped nearly 45% materials to Europe and 30% to the US. India's readymade garment (RMG) sector registered a 10% growth in ex-ports during FY25 with total goods worth \$16 billion. Out of this 49% were knit sector exports, significant increase from the previous year ■

### Chirag Paswan appeals for Textile Park in Bhagalpur under PM Mitra Yojana

Union Minister Chirag Paswan has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging the government to set up a large textile park in Bhagalpur, Bihar, under the PM Mitra Yojana. Highlighting Bhagalpur's legacy as the "Silk City" and its significant population of Muslim weavers, Paswan said the move would be both economically and socially transformative.

In his letter, Paswan argued that including a historic center like Bhagalpur in the PM Mitra scheme would bridge tradition with modernity and offer a fresh direction for the region's economy. He emphasized Bhagalpur's pivotal role in India's textile heritage, especially its association with Bhagalpuri silk, often called the "Queen of Fabrics" and known for its international appeal in markets such as West Asia, Europe, and Japan.

According to Paswan, Bhagalpur's silk industry directly or indirectly supports around 50,000 weaver households. Establishing a textile park in the city, he said, would not only boost exports and entrepreneurship, but also generate substantial employment opportunities and promote social empowerment in the region ■

## CII and GNDU collaborate to drive innovation in textile industry

The Amritsar zone of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in collaboration with Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), recently organised a seminar titled, “Future of Technical Textiles in Amritsar” to explore the transformation of Amritsar’s traditional textile sector towards innovation-driven technical textiles. The seminar included speakers and industry insiders from Belgium.

Addressing the seminar, Davinder Singh, Chairman, CII Amritsar zone, emphasised, “It’s time to reposition Amritsar beyond its traditional image and build its identity as a forward-looking hub of technical textile innovation. Strong collaboration between academia and industry will be the foundation of this shift.”

Dr Karamjeet Singh, vice-chancellor, Guru Nanak Dev University, in his presidential address, assured full institutional support to the industry. He announced that the university is ready to offer industry-focused surveys, in-depth research, training modules, technology consultancy and hand-holding for startups interested in venturing into the technical textile domain. The golden jubilee Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre has already been running knowledge and industry linkage support for registered startups in field of textiles, apparel and handloom. The seminar also featured Babette Desfossez, Trade Commissioner, Flanders Investment & Trade (Belgium), who shared success stories from that country’s flourishing technical textile industry ■

## CM Yogi Adityanath unveils Rs.650 cr development projects in Hardoi

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on 15 April, 2025 launched 729 developmental schemes worth Rs 650 crore in Hardoi district of Uttar Pradesh. Speaking at the event, the CM announced that the PM Mitra Textile Park, part of the Centre’s national initiative, will be established near the Hardoi district border. In March 2023, the Indian government had announced seven locations across the country for the PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks.



These will be set up in Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra, aiming to strengthen the textile industry and generate large-scale employment. The CM further highlighted the region’s development trajectory, particularly in healthcare and education. The medical college in Hardoi is now functional, and a new nursing college is in the pipeline. These initiatives are expected to enhance both healthcare access and academic opportunities for local residents ■

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## Textile Ministry reviews Cotton & MMF initiatives to boost value chain



Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh led a comprehensive review of cotton and man-made fibre (MMF) initiatives during a Textile Advisory Group meeting held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The session, which focused on strengthening the entire textile value chain, was attended by Minister of State for Textiles Pabitra Margherita and Textiles Secretary Neelam Shami Rao.

During his address, Singh emphasised the Mission for Cotton Productivity and stressed the importance of enhancing cotton productivity and quality to align with the Prime Minister's 5F vision. The Minister highlighted that innovation and collaboration would be central to boosting farm productivity and ensuring benefits reach all levels of the value chain. He also proposed that data mapping would enable more targeted and data-driven policy interventions, and called upon stakeholders to conduct a comprehensive gap analysis across the industry's demand-supply spectrum.

Minister of State Margherita urged industry stakeholders to collaborate toward achieving Vision 2030 through cohesive efforts. He emphasised the need to enhance value returns for farmers by adopting sustainable farming practices and improving the supply of high-quality cotton to the industry through advanced technology and processing methods.

Textiles Secretary Rao emphasised the importance of collective efforts to strengthen the textile value chain and requested industry leaders to develop a comprehensive roadmap that includes integration across the value chain and adoption of advanced technologies. Industry representatives responded positively to the minister's vision, acknowledging the government's proactive stance in promoting technology adoption, sustainable fibres, and strengthening partnerships between farmers and industry players.

The meeting brought together senior officials from the Ministries of Textiles, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Commerce and Industry, the Office of Textile Commissioner, Textiles Committee, research institutes, and industry associations. Representatives from across the entire textile value chain participated in the consultations ■

## Minister R. Gandhi inspects textile mills in Southern Tamil Nadu

State Handlooms and Textiles Minister R. Gandhi visited several textile mills in Southern Tamil Nadu over two days to review operations and inspect government-supported facilities. Recently, he visited Madura Coats in Madurai and held discussions with the management on best practices, technological advancements, and labour welfare schemes adopted by the company.

Earlier, the Minister inspected the cooperative spinning mill in Theni district. Recently, he visited the cooperative spinning mills at Achankulam in Ramanathapuram district, established in 1982 to provide employment to the Adi Dravidar community.

Addressing the media at Achankulam, Gandhi noted that Rs 1.15 cr had been allocated in the March 28 assembly session for equipment procurement and maintenance at the cooperative mills. He reviewed various sections of the mill, including spinning operations and machinery.

The Achankulam mill was modernised at a cost of Rs 30 crore in three phases and produced 1,170 metric tonnes of yarn worth Rs 35 cr in 2024–25, according to the Minister ■



## Odisha approves Rs. 3,898 cr projects, boosts textile and apparel sector

The Odisha Government recently approved 19 industrial projects worth Rs 3,898 crore, with the potential to generate over 7,400 jobs across various sectors. Among these, key proposals in the apparel and textile sector were given the green light, reaffirming the state's push to diversify its industrial base.



The approvals came during the meeting of the State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA) chaired by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja. While the majority of investments span steel, ferro alloys, industrial gases, logistics,

agro-processing, and tourism, textile and apparel manufacturing received a dedicated push under the latest round of clearances.

Although the official statement did not specify project details under the textile category, industry insiders suggest that projects will be grounded in textile-potential districts such as Cuttack, Khurda, and Sundargarh, known for their skilled workforce and proximity to logistics infrastructure.

This move is part of Odisha's larger strategy to enhance its value-added manufacturing base, particularly in employment-intensive sectors like apparel and textiles, while promoting balanced regional growth across 11 districts ■



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## 7 Bangladesh land port closure hits Indian yarn exports

India's textile industry is facing a significant challenge as Bangladesh has closed its land ports for yarn exports, affecting nearly 30 per cent of India's yarn shipments, primarily dyed and special yarn. This closure has disrupted the usual trade flow, leaving Indian textile mills scrambling for alternative transportation options.

At a recent meeting, yarn exporters discussed various strategies, including shipping yarn in containers via sea and exploring inland waterways. However, there are concerns about the lead time associated with shipping by sea, as currently, about 70 per cent of Indian yarn exports to Bangladesh are transported via sea. The switch to sea transport from land ports could further delay deliveries, impacting the efficiency of the supply chain.



Siddhartha Rajagopal, Executive Director of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, emphasised the need to explore smaller ships from Kolkata, which could be a viable solution for transporting yarn by sea.

Despite this, the primary concern remains the prolonged lead times, which could hinder the timely delivery of goods to Bangladesh. India's yarn exports to

Bangladesh constitute around 45 per cent of its total yarn exports, amounting to over 100 million kilograms monthly.

However, due to the recent disruptions, this has reduced to approximately 90 million kilograms. The closure of land ports, coupled with a decrease in yarn exports to China, could significantly impact India's textile value chain.

Should the situation persist, it could lead to excess yarn being directed towards the domestic market, potentially driving prices down and impacting the broader textile industry. Textile mills in northern India are currently feeling the brunt of the port closure. If the issue remains unresolved, it could have a ripple effect on the entire textile spinning sector across the country ■

## 7 Gujarat becomes India's second-largest textile exporter in FY24

Gujarat has emerged as India's second-largest textile exporter for the 2024 fiscal year, with outbound shipments totalling \$5,749 million. While Tamil Nadu maintained the top spot, Gujarat's consistent performance over the past five years highlights its growing prominence in the country's textile export landscape.

Industry experts suggest that the state's recently introduced textile policy could further strengthen its position, according to a report. Long known for its cotton yarn and fabric exports, Gujarat is now looking to scale up its global presence by attracting investments in garment manufacturing and value-added production.

The policy focuses on expanding technical textile output, developing integrated infrastructure, and promoting higher-value exports. According to manufacturers, the stabilisation of cotton prices, currently around Rs 53,500 per candy (356 kg), has allowed for improved planning and more predictable input costs, helping exporters remain competitive, according to a report.

Responding to a query in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State for Textiles Pabitra Margherita highlighted central initiatives such as the production-linked incentive scheme for technical textiles and man-made fibres, along with the PM MITRA programme to establish international standard textile parks.



Rahul Shah, Co-Chairman of the GCCI textile taskforce, credited Gujarat's rise to the 2012 textile policy. Shah highlighted the state's export strengths in cotton fabric and yarn, and added that Gujarat could benefit from global supply chain diversification efforts aimed at reducing reliance on Bangladesh and China ■

## 7 ITAMMA appoints new Office Bearers for 2025–26

The Indian Textile Accessories & Machinery Manufacturers' Association (ITAMMA) has officially announced its new Office Bearers for the year 2025-26. Omprakash Mantry has been appointed as the President. A first-generation entrepreneur and Director of Century Inks, Mantry brings over 35 years of experience in manufacturing marking instruments and specialty inks, and currently also heads a government-recognized export house, 3S Corporation.

Joining him is Nimesh J Shah, who takes over as Vice-President. A dynamic leader with 25 years of experience, Shah is a Partner at Britex Industries and Director of multiple ventures in aviation support and hydraulic automation systems.

He is known for his marketing acumen and global business development strategies.

Vishal Masand has been named Honorary Treasurer. A Chemical Engineer and seasoned entrepreneur, Masand is the Proprietor of Tirupati Technik, representing globally renowned brands in textile testing and cleaning equipment. He has been a long-time contributor to ITAMMA's initiatives. With this experienced leadership team, ITAMMA is poised to continue its efforts in strengthening the Indian textile machinery and accessories industry in both domestic and international markets ■

## Operational guidelines released for A.P. Textile, Apparel and Garments Policy

The Government recently issued operational guidelines for the implementation of the A.P. Textile, Apparel and Garments Policy (4.0) 2024-29, which is aimed at attracting investments in textile production and apparel manufacturing with special emphasis on value addition, employment generation and environment protection.

It was stated in G.O. Ms. No. 55 that more than 848 units commenced production with a total investment of over Rs.13,617 cr and generated employment for 1,05,225 people between 2014 and 2024 but there has since been limited progress in value-added textile activities such as weaving, knitting, preparatory, processing, technical textiles, and integrated units.

These segments hold significant potential not only for value addition but also for generating large-scale employment. It was felt that a focused approach is needed to ensure the conversion of the entire yarn produced in the State into fabrics and prevent value migration, and it required a policy framework that promotes key components of the textile value chain. Keeping this in view, the government has come up with the above policy. It is applicable from December 11, 2024 to December 10, 2029.

The policy defined a micro enterprise as a unit where the investment in plant & machinery (P&M) or equipment does not exceed Rs.1 crore and turnover is less than Rs.5 crore, a small enterprise as a unit where the investment in P&M / equipment does not exceed Rs.10 crore and the turnover is less than Rs.50 crore, and a medium enterprise as a unit where the investment in



P&M or equipment does not exceed Rs.50 crore and the turnover is less than Rs.250 crore.

Sub-large and large industries have been defined as units with fixed capital investments (including land, building, plant, machinery & equipment) between Rs.50 crore and Rs.100 crore and Rs.100 crore to Rs.200 crore. The policy defined a mega industry as a unit having more than Rs.200 crore of fixed capital investment.

Incentives: The government laid down a procedure for claiming tailor-made incentives being given by it to mega and above projects, and the incentives include an 'early bird offer' to sub-large and above enterprises. Decisions under the policy will be taken by the State Investment Promotion Board on the basis of recommendations made by the State Investment Promotion Committee. ■

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## Alok Industries partners with Rieter India to modernize spinning operations

Alok Industries Ltd, a leading name in India's textile sector and backed by Reliance Industries Ltd., has entered into a strategic agreement with Rieter India Pvt. Ltd. for the supply and installation of a complete compact spinning system. The signing ceremony took place in Mumbai, highlighting Alok's ongoing efforts to modernize its operations with cutting-edge technology and strengthen its position as a global supplier of high-quality yarn and textile products.

The state-of-the-art system includes advanced fibre and spinning preparation equipment, fully automated lap transport systems, combing sets, G38 fully electronic ring spinning machines with integrated compacting technology, and Rieter's flagship X6 winding machine. This end-to-end solution will enable Alok to produce premium combed compact yarn, delivering significant improvements in consistency, productivity and overall process efficiency.

Commenting on the partnership, Harsh Bapna, Chief Executive Officer of Alok Industries, said: "This investment represents a decisive step toward aligning with global benchmarks in quality and operational excellence. The Rieter system brings a new dimension of automation and precision to our spinning operations and empowers our teams to consistently deliver high-performance yarn to the global market."

Speaking at the event, Biji Chacko, Group Chief Operating Officer of Alok Industries, stated: "This partnership with Rieter India reflects our commitment to innovation and operational excellence. The modernization of Unit 4 is not just a technological upgrade it is a strategic leap toward making our operations smarter, cleaner and globally competitive. It strengthens our capability to deliver consistent, high-quality yarn to our customers across the world."



With a focus on digitalization and sustainability, the newly integrated machinery supports the adoption of Industry 4.0 standards, enabling smarter operations through advanced digital monitoring, reduced energy consumption and enhanced process control.

Prasanta Deka, Managing Director of Rieter India, sharing his thoughts on the collaboration, said: "We are delighted to work with Alok Industries, a company known for its scale and vision. Our compact spinning technology is designed to meet the evolving needs of leading textile manufacturers, and we are confident this system will contribute meaningfully to Alok's goals of operational agility and sustainable growth."

The agreement was formalized in the presence of senior leaders from both organizations, including Harsh Bapna, Chief Executive Officer, Alok Industries Ltd, Biji Chacko, Group Chief Operating Officer, Alok Industries Ltd, Prasanta Deka, Managing Director, Rieter India Pvt. Ltd, and Abhijeet Puranik, Director Sales, Rieter India Pvt. Ltd ■

## India's textile & apparel exports rise 6.3%, led by apparel surge



India's exports of textiles & apparel have attained a growth of 6.32 per cent during the current financial year ended on March 31, 2025, as compared to the previous year with the apparel segment being the main growth driver, according to an analysis by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI)

A detailed analysis shows that this growth in exports of textile and apparel is driven mainly by apparel exports which grew significantly by 10.03 per cent during the current fiscal year.

CITI Chairman Rakesh Mehra said: "The robust performance in apparel exports and steady growth in textiles amid global headwinds highlight the resilience, adaptability, and global competitiveness of the Indian textile and apparel industry."

He further credited this to the growing momentum in forging new trade alliances and supportive policy decisions by the government, which have helped build confidence among exporters. Mehra also emphasised that the industry remains optimistic about maintaining this growth trajectory, especially in light of evolving global trade dynamics.

"The ongoing trade tensions between the US and China present a strategic opportunity for India, particularly in textile and apparel trade. With the US actively seeking to diversify its sourcing base beyond China, India is well-positioned to emerge as a reliable and preferred partner. However, this will require proactive diplomacy and a concerted effort to secure a more favourable and stable tariff regime," he observed.

During March this year, Indian textile exports were about 5.81 per cent lower, as compared to March '24, while apparel exports registered a growth of 3.97 per cent during the same time period. Cumulative exports of textiles and apparel during March '25 have registered a degrowth of 1.63 per cent over March '24. During April '24-March '25, Indian textiles exports registered a growth of 3.61 per cent over the previous year, while apparel exports registered a growth of 10.03 per cent during the same time period. This growth outpaced the performance of overall merchandise exports, which remained largely stagnant during the same period, according to CITI's analysis ■



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## Kitex expects gains from Trump tariffs, forecasts Rs. 1,000 cr revenue in 2025

Kitex Garments on Monday said that the company is expecting total revenue of Rs. 1000 crore for 2025, helped by the US President Donald Trump's tariffs on major textile-exporting countries, including Bangladesh.

The company, in its investor presentation, said that it expects revenue of Rs. 5,000 crore once its new textile plants in Telangana reach full production capacity, further underscoring its optimism about market conditions. Following the announcement, the company's stock hit the upper circuit, closing at five per cent higher at Rs. 244.25.

Earlier this month, Donald Trump announced sweeping tariffs on all economies, triggering a trade war and causing significant disruptions in major markets. Trump imposed a 26 per cent tariff on India, which is significantly lower than other textile exporting countries and gives the country a clear edge.

Bangladesh was slapped with a 37 per cent tariff, while China faces a levy of over 100 per cent on exports to the United States. Other major textile-exporting nations also face higher tariffs than India, giving the country a competitive advantage over its rivals.

Kitex said that US tariffs are going to benefit the Indian textile industry. The company said that political unrest in Bangladesh, combined with Trump's tariffs on other nations, could potentially increase India's presence in the textile market.

Data from the US Office of Textiles and Apparel showed that India's garment exports to the US rose by 4.25 per cent to



\$4.4 billion between January and November last year, while that of its neighbour, Bangladesh, fell by 0.46 per cent to \$6.7 billion, reported.

"Lower tariff rates compared to major competitors allow Kitex to offer more competitive pricing while maintaining profit margins. Kitex aims to serve 1 per cent of US textile garment requirements, representing a significant portion of potential Indian exports to the US," the company said.

The company also stated that a Rs. 3,550 crore investment in its production facilities positions Kitex to meet increased demand from US buyers seeking lower-tariff suppliers ■

## Auxicolor and Intexso Biochem announce strategic partnership for the Indian market collaboration

Auxicolor S.L., a leading Spanish producer of textile dyes, pigments, and specialty chemicals, and Intexso Biochem Pvt. Ltd., a premier Indian manufacturer and supplier of specialty and performance chemicals, are pleased to announce their new strategic partnership. Under this agreement, Intexso Biochem has been appointed as Auxicolor's Exclusive Strategic Partner for India, expanding access to high-performance and sustainable textile chemical solutions across the Indian market.

Founded in 1973 and headquartered in Terrassa, Spain, Auxicolor specializes in water-based pigment dispersions, dyeing auxiliaries, and textile finishing chemicals. With over 60% of its production exported to more than 36 countries, the company has earned a reputation for innovation, quality, and environmental commitment.

Intexso Biochem, established in 2009 and based in Mumbai, India, is recognized for



delivering customized chemical solutions to the textile, leather, paper, and paints and coatings industries. Backed by a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility, in-house R&D and application laboratories, and a robust distribution network, Intexso Biochem offers products that meet global standards such as REACH, Oeko-Tex Standard 100, ZDHC MRSL 3.1, and GOTS 7.0 certifications.

This partnership brings together Auxicolor's proven technical expertise and Intexso Biochem's strong market presence and application capabilities,

creating new opportunities for Indian textile manufacturers to access globally trusted solutions.

"We are excited to partner with Intexso Biochem to strengthen our presence in India," said a spokesperson from Auxicolor. "Their deep market knowledge, technical expertise, and commitment to sustainability make them an ideal partner for our growth strategy."

"We are honored to collaborate with Auxicolor and introduce their world-class products to the Indian textile industry," said a spokesperson from Intexso Biochem. "Together, we aim to drive innovation, enhance sustainability, and empower our customers to meet evolving global standards."

The collaboration is set to support the growing needs of the Indian textile sector by providing access to advanced technologies that promote operational efficiency, environmental responsibility, and product excellence ■

## India restricts land route imports of Bangladeshi garments to curb dumping



India's decision to allow entry of ready-made garments from Bangladesh only through Kolkata and Nhava Sheva sea ports is likely to increase the cost of apparel imports from the neighbouring nation, textile industry bodies said. They also termed the move a timely step towards preventing the dumping of foreign-made garments and strengthening India's self-reliance in apparel production.

India decided to allow entry of ready-made garments from Bangladesh only through Kolkata and Nhava Sheva sea ports and barred imports of a range of consumer items through land transit posts in the northeast a move that is set to significantly hit Dhaka's trade with New Delhi.

Besides ready-made garments (RMG), plastics, wooden furniture, carbonated

drinks, processed food items, fruit flavoured drinks, cotton and cotton yard waste will not be allowed to enter India through land customs stations and check posts in Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura and Mizoram, and Phulbari and Changrabandha in West Bengal, according to a government notification.

The new restrictions for Bangladeshi consumer goods came five weeks after New Delhi ended a nearly five-year-old arrangement for trans-shipment of Bangladeshi export cargo to third countries via Indian airports and ports.

As per the trade data, India imported RMG worth USD 634 million in 2024, which has increased at a CAGR of 19 per cent during the last 10 years. Majority of these imports were taking place through land route only and hence this restriction is likely to have a considerable impact on these RMG imports.

Rakesh Mehra, Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), stated, "In April 2025, Bangladesh imposed a restriction on the export of cotton yarn from India, which traditionally accounts for nearly 45 per cent of India's

total cotton yarn exports. The latest move by the Government of India is seen as a strong and strategic response to this unilateral trade restriction by Bangladesh."

He further highlighted that this decision is likely to increase cost of imports of Bangladesh garments and create new opportunities for domestic RMG manufacturers, while also enabling Indian cotton yarn exporters to redirect their supply to the domestic market to meet the potential demand gap created.

Santosh Katariya, President, Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI), said the move addresses the industry's long-standing concern regarding the unchecked inflow of low-cost apparel into the Indian retail market, which was adversely impacting domestic manufacturers, particularly MSMEs.

"The decision is a timely step towards preventing the dumping of foreign-made garments and strengthening India's self-reliance in apparel production. At the same time, we believe this policy must be complemented with continued support for capacity building and ease of doing business for Indian manufacturers," he added ■

## Bhilwara emerges as India's textile powerhouse with Rs. 25,000 cr turnover

Bhilwara, often referred to as "Vastranagari," is rapidly solidifying its position as a premier textile hub in India. Union Minister for Textiles, Giriraj Singh, recently acknowledged the city's significant strides in the textile sector, highlighting its evolution into a major center for textile production in the country.

The city's textile industry boasts an impressive annual turnover of approximately Rs. 25,000 cr, with yarn and fabric exports contributing around Rs. 3,800 cr. This robust economic activity provides direct employment to about 85,000 individuals and indirect employment to an additional 60,000, underscoring Bhilwara's pivotal role in the region's socio-economic landscape.

Bhilwara's prominence in the textile sector is further reinforced by its status as India's largest manufacturer of fabrics, accounting for 50% of the nation's polyester fabrics and suits. The city houses over 850 manufacturing units, producing a diverse range of high-quality cotton, silk, and woolen fabrics that are exported globally.

The Rajasthan Government's implementation of the Textile and Apparel Policy 2025 aims to bolster this growth trajectory. The policy focuses on comprehensive value chain development, offering substantial financial incentives and addressing infrastructure challenges. It aspires to create over 200,000 jobs in the sector, positioning Rajasthan as a modern textile manufacturing center.



Bhilwara's commitment to modernization is evident in its loom upgrade growth rate of 9.57%, surpassing the national average of 8%. This advancement reflects the city's dedication to embracing technological innovations and enhancing production efficiency.

Furthermore, the city is witnessing a transformative shift in its workforce demographics. Approximately 10,000 women have entered the textile industry, contributing significantly to both the sector's growth and the empowerment of women in the region.

With its robust infrastructure, skilled workforce, and supportive government policies, Bhilwara is poised to continue its ascent as a central player in India's textile industry, weaving a legacy of growth and innovation ■

# Indonesia weighs cotton imports and trade talks to avert US tariff fallout

The textile industry is expected to be among the hardest hit by the recent United States (US) tariff hikes, with 40 per cent of Indonesian textiles and apparel exports bound for the American market. Industry players warn that the 32 per cent so-called “reciprocal” tariff to be imposed on Indonesian goods once a 90-day suspension granted for bilateral negotiations ends could “accelerate layoffs” in a sector already struggling prior to the introduction of new policy. Textile industry associations have suggested increasing imports of raw materials like cotton from the US as a bargaining chip to balance bilateral trade and potentially lower the looming tariff, as well as protecting the domestic market by constraining imports. Efforts to diversify Indonesian exports beyond the US are deemed unfeasible in the short term because of either limited market demand or intense competition from local players in target countries.

Indonesia, which recorded an USD16.8 billion trade surplus with the US last year, has landed on a long list of countries facing steep tariff hikes. On April 2, US President Donald Trump announced a 32 per cent tariff on Indonesian goods that took effect on recently. However, Trump reversed course on recently, temporarily lowering duties for all affected countries to a “baseline” rate of 10 per cent for 90 days, with the exception of slapping a staggering 125-per cent basic tariff on imports from China.

Chairman of the Indonesian Filament Yarn Producers Association (APSyFI) Redma Gita Wirawasta said around 40 per cent of the wider industry’s exports went to the US, mostly in the form of finished goods. Indonesia is currently the fifth-largest textile and apparel exporter to the US behind China, India, Vietnam and Bangladesh. He warned that the new US tariffs could erode Indonesia’s price competitiveness in the American market. At the same time, countries hit with even steeper reciprocal tariffs might start redirecting their excess supply to Indonesia, potentially flooding the local market with cheaper goods. “That would disrupt the domestic industry and accelerate layoffs across the board,” Redma said during a press conference on April 4, emphasising the need to tighten import controls and enforce local content requirements.

Even before Trump’s tariff announcement, Indonesia’s textile, apparel and footwear sectors were under pressure because of declining export demand and an influx of cheap imported products. One of the most striking cases is textile giant PT Sri Rejeki Isman (Sritex), which declared bankruptcy in October last year and officially ceased operations on March 1, leaving more than 10,000 workers unemployed.

On March 5, the Banten Manpower and Transmigration Agency reported that two major footwear manufacturers, PT Adis Dimension Footwear and PT Victory Chingluh Indonesia, which produce for global brands like Nike, Adidas, Reebok and Mizuno, had either laid off or were in the process of laying off thousands of workers. Some other exporters, including the Association of Indonesian Metalworking and Machinery Companies (Gamma),



opined that the 90-day delay in enforcing the reciprocal tariffs could trigger a surge in demand from US importers eager to capitalize on the temporary reprieve.

However, APSyFI’s Redma cautioned against ramping up exports during this window, as a sudden spike could further widen the US trade deficit with Indonesia, the very issue that prompted the tariff policy in the first place. Instead, he urged the government to focus on diplomacy by committing to increased imports of US goods and addressing regulatory barriers that may hinder trade. Together with the Indonesian Textile Association (API), the APSyFI proposed that the government use cotton imports as a strategic bargaining chip in trade talks.

Redma noted that Indonesia once imported around USD300 million worth of cotton from the US, but that figure had dropped to just USD140 million because of the influx of intermediary textile products from other countries. To help ease tensions and reduce the looming tariff, Redma suggested Indonesia shift its cotton imports back to the US. API chairman Jemmy Kartiwa Sastraatmaja added that the shift would not significantly affect prices, as long as local manufacturers align their procurement cycles with the US cotton harvest season.

The Indonesian Government has pledged to negotiate with the US, offering to boost imports of American goods and ease trade and business regulations. Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati also emphasised the importance of diversifying export destinations to reduce Indonesia’s heavy reliance on the US market. However, textile associations argue that breaking away from the US will not be easy. As the world’s largest textile goods consumer, backed by its massive economy, the US remains a crucial market. However, Indonesia itself may be another significant market for textiles.

“What we need to do now is negotiate smartly with the US, while also smartly protecting our domestic market,” said API’s Jemmy.

API Deputy Chairman for industrial issues Ian Syarif added that exporting to other major textile producers like China, India, Vietnam and Bangladesh is not a viable option as those countries impose their own trade barriers to shield local industries. “Our export destinations must have the purchasing power to absorb our products. And in the textile industry, the biggest consumer is still the US” ■

# Cotton Association of India and Australian Cotton Shippers sign MoU to strengthen trade relations

In a significant development aimed at strengthening cotton trade relations between India and Australia, the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL), in coordination with the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) as part of the Australian Consulate General in Mumbai recently, hosted a high-level delegation from the Australian Cotton Shippers Association (ACSA) at its Head Office.

The Australian delegation comprised Cliff White, Chairman, ACSA; Jules Willis, CEO, ACSA; Shay Dhabelia, Director of Trade, ECOM; Joel Hatherell, Supply Chain Manager, Queensland Cotton; and Theodare Immanuel, Director, Austrade. They were warmly welcomed by TEXPROCIL Chairman Vijay Agarwal, Executive Director Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal, Past Chairman Manoj Patodia, CoA Member Arun Todi, and representatives from Indo Count Industries Ltd., Gimatex Industries Pvt. Ltd., and Lahoti Overseas.

Chairman Vijay Agarwal extended a warm welcome to the delegates, while Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal made a detailed presentation on TEXPROCIL's role and initiatives. He highlighted the Council's focus on traceability through platforms like Kasturi Cotton Bharat (KCB) and the General Certificate of Conformity (GCC). These platforms, particularly KCB, which offers farm-level traceability via QR codes, received appreciation from the visiting delegates. Discussions during the meeting touched upon several key issues, including rising

imports of Australian cotton into India following the signing of the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), which allows duty-free access for up to 51,000 tonnes of Australian cotton annually. Delegates also discussed challenges such as long transit times and the potential establishment of an Australian cotton warehouse in India to streamline logistics.

In a milestone move during the visit, the Cotton Association of India (CAI) and ACSA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance bilateral cooperation. The agreement, signed by CAI President Atul Ganatra and ACSA Chairman Cliff White, aims to deepen trade ties and foster the exchange of vital industry information on cotton production, trade trends, pricing, and market outlooks.

The MoU signing event was attended by a wide range of stakeholders, including Indian farmers, ginners, brokers, and representatives from Ecom Commodities, Olam Agri, and Austrade. Speaking at the event, CAI President Atul Ganatra emphasized the importance of strengthening collaboration between the two nations' cotton industries. ACSA Chair Cliff White provided a comprehensive overview of Australia's cotton industry, highlighting sustainable production practices and export trends.

This strategic partnership through the MoU is poised to boost bilateral trade, improve market access, and reinforce the global standing of both India and Australia in the cotton sector ■



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# Sri Lanka's apparel sector embraces science-based targets in sustainability drive

Sri Lanka's corporates particularly in the apparel sector, are making significant strides in sustainability, with leading apparel and textile, manufacturing, and textile companies aligning with the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi). From industry giants like Brandix, Hirdaramani, Hayley's Fabrics and MAS to innovators such as InQube, Hela Clothing, and SolTrim, companies are setting measurable targets to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across operations and supply chains.

Whether reducing direct emissions from operations (Scope 1), cutting indirect emissions from purchased energy (Scope 2), or addressing supply chain-wide impacts (Scope 3), these firms are driving a collective shift toward greener, more responsible business practices. Their efforts position Sri Lanka as a rising leader in sustainable manufacturing and long-term net-zero commitments.

## Driving change

Hirdaramani Group has become Sri Lanka's first company to secure SBTi approval for its Net-Zero targets, aiming to cut Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 54.6% by 2033. Backed by a robust decarbonisation strategy, this milestone highlights their leadership in tackling fashion's environmental impact. "Sustainability is a way of life at Hirdaramani our efforts are sincere and focused on lasting change," said Director Siddarth Hirdaramani, reinforcing the Group's long-term commitment to positive environmental impact.

Brandix Lanka, one of Sri Lanka's leading apparel companies, has committed to the SBTi, setting ambitious goals near-term targets for 2025 and long-term plans for 2050 to align with the 1.5°C pathway. MAS Capital, another key player, is pioneering renewable energy adoption and engaging suppliers to meet ambitious sustainability goals. By 2025, the company aims to cut Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 25.2% and ensure that 85% of its suppliers adopt science-based targets. "Sustainability isn't a destination; it's a journey of continuous improvement. We're focused on exceeding our targets and driving positive change across our value chain," says Dhanujie Jayapala of MAS Capital.

Meanwhile, Hayleys Fabric has a structured roadmap toward net zero, targeting a 42% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions and a 25% reduction in Scope 3 by 2030. Its net-zero commitment is 95% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions and a 90% reduction in Scope 3 by 2050. With 73% of its energy already sourced from renewables, Hayleys is expanding solar power and transitioning from traditional fuels to biomass. "We believe sustainability is a responsibility and a competitive advantage. Our commitment to net zero reflects our drive to lead by example in sustainable manufacturing," says Hayleys Fabrics PLC Deputy General Manager, Sustainability Lakmal Diyawaththege.



InQube Global stands out with one of the boldest sustainability commitments, pledging a 99.34% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030. The company is integrating sustainability into product innovation and business operations, ensuring long-term industry impact. "For us, sustainability isn't just a pledge it's the foundation of how we innovate and grow. Beyond cutting emissions, we're redefining what responsible apparel manufacturing looks like, creating a future where fashion and sustainability go hand in hand," says an InQube spokesperson.

Hela Clothing, SolTrim International, and Trischel Fabric have also made strong commitments to emission reductions, targeting significant Scope 1, 2, and 3 reductions by 2030. Teejay Lanka is driving industry-wide transformation, eliminating coal by March 2026 and exploring groundbreaking solutions like salt recovery from wastewater. "The future of Sri Lanka's apparel sector depends on our ability to innovate sustainably. We're committed to redefining what responsible manufacturing looks like," says Mendaka Hettithanthri of Teejay Lanka.

## Looking ahead

These sustainability commitments reflect a broader transformation in Sri Lanka's corporate sector, where environmental responsibility is becoming integral to business strategy. By proactively addressing emissions, these companies are not only meeting global sustainability expectations but also enhancing competitiveness in the global marketplace. As they continue their sustainability journey, Sri Lanka's corporate sector is setting an example for responsible, forward-thinking business practices that will shape the future of manufacturing and apparel industries worldwide ■

# Naturally Inspiring Seminar Igniting passion for wool among Next-Gen Designers

Captivating ideas, thought-provoking discussions, and endless learning about wool is what we witnessed at the Naturally Inspiring Seminar. It brought together industry leaders and next-generation designers to discuss and demonstrate the versatile quality of Merino wool and its many applications. This event was designed to inspire and educate emerging design and textile engineering students, educators, and those passionate about textiles, apparel, and sustainability. A must-attend event for tertiary students, the seminars are held in key markets including Australia, France, Germany, India, Japan, Turkey and United Kingdom.

The recent seminar in Mumbai was attended by 150 students and teachers from six premium design and textile engineering institutes based in Mumbai city. This session promoted online wool educational platforms like Woolmark Learning Center, Woolmark Performance Challenge, and The Wool Lab which students and tutors can access. Global Innovations and the application of wool in newer categories were presented by Woolmark team.

The highlight of the seminar was the inspirational talks by Industry speakers –Vikram Mahaldar, Chief Business Officer, Raymond Lifestyle Ltd and Pravin Dhake, Founder of active wear brand

Athlos. They spoke about the association of wool with their respective organizations in different categories.

Mahaldar presented content on Raymond’s beginning in 1925, their journey of becoming the largest suiting producer of India with 60% market share, trusted by generations. Raymond’s positioning in Global Leadership as they produce 40 million meters of worsted wool and wool blend fabrics making them World’s largest integrated worsted wool fabric manufacturer with their rich palette of product ranges in wool having huge number of designs in their archive. Mahaldar also highlighted that Raymond is actively working on the integration of AI and Digitization in their retail practices, shaping the future of fashion as per upcoming trends. He also showed their state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities where the magic of fabric making happens. Finally, he shared that Raymond is open to support students by providing opportunities like providing internship programs, gain real world experience and explore career paths in wool industry.

On the one side students witnessed the 100-year-old legacy of wool products by Raymond across high end and innovative suiting categories, whereas on the other side they learnt about the application of wool in active wear products like circular knit t-shirts and bottoms for cycling, running and hiking by Athlos ■

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# Cotton yarn manufacturers to spin 7-9% revenue growth this fiscal

A rebound in exports and favorable domestic demand are expected to drive India's cotton yarn industry to a 7-9% revenue growth in the current fiscal, up from a modest 2-4% growth in the previous fiscal. Uptick in volumes will primarily drive this growth, supported by modest increase in yarn prices.

Operating margins, after witnessing a recovery last fiscal, are expected to see further uptick of 50-100 bps this fiscal, owing to stable cotton yarn spreads (Chart 1 in annexures) and better availability of cotton through Cotton Corporation of India (CCI).

An analysis of 70 cotton yarn spinners, which account for 35-40% of the industry revenue, indicates as much.

The primary driver for the revenue uptick in fiscal 2026 will be the rebound in yarn exports to China. Exports account for ~30% of the industry's revenue, of which China accounts for ~14%<sup>1</sup>. In fiscal 2025, India's yarn exports to China declined compared to prior fiscals on account of an exceptionally high cotton production in China last fiscal. This resulted in a 5-7% de-growth in India's total cotton yarn exports. However, this is likely to reverse in the current fiscal with yarn exports seeing a 9-11% growth as exports to China<sup>2</sup> recover, driven by normalization of their domestic cotton production<sup>3</sup>.

Says Gautam Shahi, Director, Crisil Ratings Ltd, "This is likely to benefit Indian spinners as they will leverage steady domestic cotton production in current cotton season and regain their market share. Moreover, India's position<sup>4</sup> in textile exports to US remains competitive given the higher tariff on China (key competing nation in home textile exports), which is expected to support the 6-8% revenue growth for downstream industries (home textiles and readymade garments) this fiscal."

On the raw material front, CCI's significant cotton procurement<sup>5</sup> in Cotton Season 2025<sup>6</sup> will ensure steady cotton availability, minimizing inventory losses and boosting spinners' profitability by 50-100 bps this fiscal, after a 100-150 bps recovery in fiscal 2025.

Says Pranav Shandil, Associate Director, Crisil Ratings Ltd, "Driven by improved operating performance, credit profiles, which showed signs of recovery last fiscal, will remain stable this fiscal. Meanwhile, capex for cotton yarn spinners will remain moderate, with only select players undertaking capital expenditure, which will limit the need for significant debt additions. Additionally, steady cotton availability will lead to lower inventory holding, reducing the requirement for significant incremental working capital financing."

As a result, interest coverage<sup>7</sup> ratio of spinners is expected to improve to 4.5-5 times this fiscal from ~4-4.5 times in



fiscal 2025. Gearing<sup>8</sup> is expected to remain stable at ~0.55-0.6 time, like last fiscal.

That said, any potential changes in tariffs imposed on India and the competing nations, higher inflation or slowing economic growth in the US leading to a demand slowdown, and any adverse movement in domestic cotton prices vis-à-vis international prices in the near term will bear watching.

- 1 Average for FY2021 to FY2025 (E)
- 2 China is India's second largest export destination for cotton yarn (after Bangladesh) since fiscal 2022
- 3 As per USDA estimates dated March'25, China's cotton production reached 31 million bales in 2024/25, up from 27.4 million in 2023/24 and is estimated at 28.5 million bales in 2025/26 (For Marketing Year - starts from August and ends in July)
- 4 With the current tariff pause, a baseline tariff of 10% has been imposed on all countries, whereas a 145% reciprocal tariff is applicable for China
- 5 Till end of Mar'25 (YTD CS25), total cotton arrivals have been 261 lakh bales of which CCI has procured 100 lakh bales accounting for 38% of total arrivals (Last 3 years' procurement by CCI was (in lakh bales): CS22 - 0.06, CS23 - 1.05, CS24 - 2.14)
- 6 Cotton Season 2025 - October 2024 to September 2025
- 7 Interest cover = Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) divided by finance cost
- 8 Gearing = Total debt divided by networkt □



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# Tech-enhanced quality control

## The use of technology to enhance yarn quality



**SAMMIR DATTANI** is the Executive President of Sanathan Textiles Limited, where he drives strategic growth, innovation, and operational excellence. A key figure in a family with over 100 years of legacy in the yarn industry, Sammir has led the company's expansion into global markets, modernization of manufacturing processes, and development of value-added textile products. Committed to sustainability and customer-centricity, he continues to position Sanathan Textiles as a leader in the Indian and international textile sectors.

The textile industry is undergoing a tectonic shift. With rising consumer demand and evolving changes the requirement pertaining to the quality of yarn has moved from being a differentiator to becoming the foundation in the textile value chain. Today yarn is not just a commodity- it's a performance input.

In high output spinning environments, maintaining consistent yarn quality is a significant challenge. A single difference in the requirement in terms of quality defect be it slub, a weak spot or a twist variation can cascade downstream, causing fabric failures and ultimately rejections. This challenge becomes even more pronounced when dealing with variable raw material sources, changing environmental conditions, or machine wear and tear. As the industry is evolving, gone are the days where, post production correction could be done. Now correction is not valued, but your efficiency to deliver quality is considered, although it might be an understatement. Technology offers a paradigm shift- from postproduction inspection to in line, real time, and even predictive quality management.

The transformation begins by factoring in every touchpoint in the yarn lifecycle- from raw material intake to finished yarn. At the core of this is sensor based automation and integrated digital feedback loops. Technology now enables faster, more accurate assessments to fiber properties right at the intake stage. Instruments such as Near Infrared (NIR) spectroscopy and fiberlength testers enable rapid measurement of key input parameters, ensuring that only suitable fibers are introduced into the production process.

During spinning, automatic sensors embedded in machinery provide continuous data on twist levels, yarns tension, count variation and even temperature and humidity around the machine. Real time dashboards alert supervisors the moment a deviation crosses control thresholds, often allowing adjustments before a quality issue arises. Automated visual inspection systems, powered by machine vision and neural networks, accurately detect defects such as neps, slubs, thick/thin places, and oil stains with high precision and consistency.

Additionally it is key to have data integrated across all departments. A truly enhanced quality control system does not

operate in isolation. It connects quality parameters with procurement decisions, production scheduling and even customer feedback. For instance if a recurring issue is identified in a specific blend or supplier batch, the system can flag it and prevent its use in critical orders. This kind of cross-functional technological advancements drives not just better quality, but stronger business performance.

The emergency of adaptive spinning environments is gaining momentum- especially in setups where machine setting automatically adjust in response to real time quality data. These environments use closed-loop control systems where if yarn even begins to deviate from set parameters, corrective actions like adjusting spindle speed or drafting tension are implemented autonomously. This dramatically reduces human error and enhances consistency, especially for high performance or technical yarns.

Quality control labs are also evolving from manual, labor-intensive setups into automated environments. Modern yarn testing instruments, such as automatic strength testers and Classimat systems, enable faster and more consistent quality assessment of yarns. Digital Lab Information Management Systems (LIMS) streamline workflows, improve traceability and reduce reporting delays. The result is a faster feedback loop to production teams, which reduces waste and enhances quality in real time.

A strategic shift from quality control detecting defects to quality assurance preventing them is key. The result is better yarn, fewer stoppages and a dramatic reduction in rework.

Importantly the human role is not diminished, it is elevated. Operators, supervisors, and analysts are being upskilled to work with technology. Dashboards, alerts, and intuitive systems empower shop floor teams to take faster, better-informed decisions. Digital literacy and data interpretation training are becoming essential investments, enabling a workforce that understands both material behavior and machine intelligence.

There is also a sustainability angle to this transformation. Better quality control leads to fewer defects and rejections, which in



turn reduces raw material waste, energy usage, and reprocessing. Automated detection of foreign partials helps avoid contamination. Optimized processes leads to more efficient use of power, water and chemicals. Technology in this sense is not just making yarn better its making the process more responsible.

Moreover, as buyers demand more transparency, digital quality control enables creation of a “digital yarn passport” a traceable, batch wise record of raw materials, production parameters, testing results and even sustainability metrics. This kind of traceability fosters trust and supports access to premium markets particularly in apparel and home textiles.

Beyond just meeting buyer’s expectations, this traceability is becoming a critical component of regulatory compliance and global certifications. Whether its OEKO-TEX or ISO based quality systems, tech-enabled records help streamline audits, reduce documentation efforts and enhance compliance.

Looking ahead, several emerging technologies hold promise for further transformation. Digital machinery can replicate machine performance virtually to allow simulation and optimization. Computing will enable instant, localized processing of quality data. Block chain will make supply chain traceability more secure and tamper proof. With 5G networks, real time quality data from thousands of machines can be processed with near zero latency. In the future, we can expect Generative AI to model complex material behaviors and recommend process innovations that improve both quality and cost efficiency.

Another frontier lies in sustainability linked data visualization. Automated dashboards are being developed that can map quality trends alongside environmental metrics such as energy consumption or water usage. This allows managers to balance quality outcomes with environmental impact- essential in a world moving towards ESG- focused operations.

The textile industry is at the cusp of a quality renaissance- one where data, intelligence and automation are redefining what is possible. For yarn manufactures, this is a tremendous opportunity to not just meet global standards but to set them. Technology is not just an enabler – it is a strategic imperative. The future belongs to those who can combine material science with digital intelligence and who see quality not as a gatekeeper, but as a continuous journey, with each meter of yarn that is produced ■



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# India is expected to double its market share from 6% to 12% in the UK's RMG imports

According to CareEdge Ratings, India is expected to double its market share from 6% in CY24 to 12% in the UK's RMG imports, translating into an incremental annual export opportunity of around US\$1.1-1.2 billion in the near to medium term.

The UK is among the top five RMG markets, with imports of around US\$20 billion in CY24 (compared to US\$24 billion in CY22). Currently, India holds a 6% market share in the UK's RMG imports, while Bangladesh, Turkey, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Italy enjoy duty-free access, giving them a 12% tariff advantage over India. The India-UK FTA is a game changer for India's RMG sector, creating a level playing field vis-à-vis key competing nations for accessing the nearly US\$20 billion RMG market of the UK.

Akshay Morbiya, Assistant Director at CareEdge Ratings said, "Recovery in demand for RMG in the UK market, gain in market share from competing nations backed by increased competitiveness of Indian RMG exporters post duty removal and favourable policy regime in India are expected to create the incremental annual export opportunity of around US\$1.1-1.2 billion in the near to medium term. India's major dependency on cotton-based textiles as against the relatively higher share of man-made fibres in the global RMG market may restrict the overall opportunities from the India-UK FTA to an extent."

Despite the applicability of a 12% tariff, India had gradually gained market share in the UK market over the past four years, while China had lost some ground during the same period. With the signing of the FTA with the UK, India now has a clear 12% duty advantage over China, the largest RMG exporter to the UK, with exports of US\$5 billion in CY24. China has lost its market share in the past few years, and it is expected to continue losing its share in the UK's RMG market due to its declining competitiveness, backed by rising labour costs and the 'China Plus One' sourcing strategy adopted by global apparel brands and retailers. Socio-political uncertainties in Bangladesh, which exported RMG of around US\$4 billion to the UK in CY24, may also lead apparel brands and retailers with a significant presence in Bangladesh to diversify their sourcing, amongst others, to India.

Krunal Modi, Director at CareEdge Ratings said, "With a clear 12% duty advantage over China and prevailing socio-political uncertainties in Bangladesh, which together account for nearly 45% of market share in UK's RMG imports, India is expected to double its share in this market from 6% in CY24 to 12% in the near to medium term. The India-UK FTA holds significant potential to boost investments across the textile value chain, generate employment, particularly for women in the labour-intensive RMG sector and increase foreign exchange earnings."



**India is poised to double its share in the UK's ready-made garment (RMG) imports from 6% to 12%, unlocking \$1.1–1.2 billion in annual export potential, according to CareEdge Ratings. The India-UK Free Trade Agreement removes a 12% tariff disadvantage, enhancing competitiveness against major exporters like China and Bangladesh. This move is expected to boost investment, create jobs, and strengthen India's position in the global textile value chain.**

The RMG industry accounted for a significant share of around US\$525 billion in the overall global textile and RMG trade, which stood at approximately US\$900 billion in CY24. Major markets include the European Union (EU), the United States of America (USA), the UK, Japan, Canada, and South Korea, which together accounted for nearly 44% of global imports in CY24.

In CY22, the EU and the USA together accounted for nearly 40% of global RMG imports. However, their combined share declined in CY23 and CY24 due to the inflationary scenario and higher interest rates in these economies, impacting consumer discretionary spending.

Countries such as Bangladesh, Turkey, Cambodia and Italy enjoy duty-free access to the UK market, while Vietnam and Pakistan benefit from duty-free access or a lower tariff rate. Following the Vietnam-UK FTA effective from January 01, 2021, Vietnam's share in UK's RMG imports increased from 2.22% in CY20 to 5.42% in CY24.

"Vietnam has demonstrated significant gains in its share of the UK's RMG market following the FTA with the UK. India's overall RMG exports, which grew by 10% to US\$16 billion in FY25, have sufficient headroom to increase RMG exports by another 10-15%, given the available capacities in the sector", added Akshay Morbiya ■

# Teijin Frontier develops a new High-performance Polyester Fabric

Teijin Frontier Co., Ltd., announced that it has developed a new high-performance polyester fabric, which combines the elegant appearance and texture of natural fibers made of yarns of random thickness with advanced functionalities such as cool touch, anti-stickiness, quick dry, opacity and ultraviolet (UV) protection. The newly developed fabric is produced from a unique, four-lobed, flat cross-section yarn with random thicknesses, achieved through Teijin Frontier's proprietary spinning technology. These thickness variations create pleasing irregularities in appearance and a dense texture similar to those of natural fibers. To support circularity, The newly developed fabric is made with 100 percent recycled polyester. Teijin Frontier plans to make this fabric available to customers for use in casual and fashion apparel for the spring/summer 2026 season.

**Combining Aesthetics and Functionality:** There is strong demand for textiles that offer a natural and elegant appearance for casual and fashion apparel. At the same time, consumers are looking for value-added comfort features like those found in high-performance sportswear. Until now, it has been difficult to combine these high-performance features with a natural fiber-like appearance and texture.

To solve this issue, Teijin Frontier has created a fabric that offers both the appearance and texture of natural fibers and the comfort of high-performance materials. Using proprietary technology,

this fabric is woven or knitted from a four-lobed, flat cross-section full dull yarn with random thicknesses in both the longitudinal and cross-sectional directions. Moreover, to achieve the combination of natural fiber like texture and advanced functionalities, Teijin Frontier also adopts special dyeing and finishing technology and post-processing techniques.

**Delivering High Performance:** The newly developed fabric delivers the following performance properties to enhance comfort and wearability:

- Quick dry: Capillary action wicks away perspiration via grooves on the fiber surface.
- Cool touch: Full dull yarn contains titanium oxide promotes a cooling sensation as heat is transferred from the skin to the fiber, flat cross-sectional shape increases the skin contact area. New developed fabric
- Anti-stickiness: Random thicknesses of the yarn forms irregularities on the surface of the fabric and prevent its adherence to the skin.
- Anti-transparency and UV protection: Full dull yarn and the four-lobed flat cross-sectional structure produce a light-scattering effect that creates opacity and helps to block UV radiation.

Teijin Frontier plans to begin sales of this fabric from fiscal year 2025 and aims to sell 250,000 meters by fiscal year 2027 ■

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## SHIMA SEIKI announces partnership with Lonati

Leading computerized flat knitting innovator SHIMA SEIKI MFG., LTD. of Wakayama, Japan (hereinafter referred to as "SHIMA SEIKI") is collaborating with Lonati S.p.A. of Brescia, Italy (hereinafter referred to as "Lonati") to promote digitalization and sustainable product development within the sock industry.

The partnership forms a synergy by leveraging software solutions offered by each company APEXFiz® design software developed and sold by SHIMA SEIKI and ORION programming software developed and sold by Lonati. Together, they aim to help the industry shed its dependence on traditional physical sample creation processes.

In the fashion industry, particularly in the sock sector, it is common practice to create physical samples for design consideration and production decisions. However, this process presents numerous challenges, including waste of resources and labor, economic burdens such as sampling costs and material expenses, as well as delays due to lead times before market launch.

To address these challenges, "3D Virtual Sampling" has gained attention as an effective method. This approach allows for design consideration without physical samples and enables rapid and efficient prototyping. As a result, companies can significantly reduce costs and time while minimizing their environmental

impact. Additionally, developing products that meet market needs enhances competitiveness.

SHIMA SEIKI's APEXFiz® is design software that is available with 3D virtual sampling capabilities for knitted products and has been adopted by many companies in the sock industry to high acclaim. By using this tool, designers can visualize sock designs in real-time and receive quick feedback. Moreover, specialized software dedicated to sock design APEXFiz® Design-Sox is in the works for future release. Meanwhile, ORION is Lonati's innovative programming software that is part of the UNLIMITEX® suite, and allows users to proactively verify data in 3D from a technical perspective, identifying and resolving potential issues in advance at each stage from programming to manufacturing. ORION and APEXFiz® Design-Sox are both scheduled for release in June of 2025.

Together, APEXFiz® and ORION further streamline virtual sampling by integrating the workflow from design to production. This integrated process enables companies to shorten time-to-market while efficiently delivering high-quality products. The innovative workflow developed through the partnership between SHIMA SEIKI and Lonati are set to revolutionize the sock industry and serve as a key driver for creating new business opportunities and competitive advantage ■

# The race for premium recycled yarns is on

A major opportunity is arising for forward-looking textile yarn spinners across Asia, who in the face of the ever-increasing costs of labour, energy and raw materials, can generally do little but look to continuously cut costs wherever possible, in order to remain profitable. It now appears increasingly likely that as a consequence of the European Union's Green Deal and the sustainable goals of international brands, a defined percentage of recycled content in fabrics will soon become mandatory, in the first instance for fabrics sold across the European markets. This will enable Asia's advanced spinning mills to supply yarns containing recycled content at a premium in the coming years.

The global leaders in yarn spinning and winding technologies will all be present at ITMA ASIA + CITME, Singapore this October, including CHTC from China, Japan's Murata and Toyota Industries, Marzoli and Savio of Italy, Spain's Electrojet, Rieter and Saurer of Switzerland, Germany's Oerlikon and Trützschler, and Lakshmi Machine Works (LMW) in India.

**Machine advances:** These companies work tirelessly to ensure that advances in ring, compact and rotor spinning technologies continue to be made, as well as in air-jet spinning, which has witnessed rapid progress, with machines reaching speeds of 450 metre per minute and making them the preferred choice for high-output operations. Speed increases have generally been achieved through a combination of mechanical innovation, automation and intelligent process control.

In rotor spinning, high-performance rotors made of composite materials and advanced metal alloys have significantly reduced friction and wear, allowing for higher speeds without compromising yarn quality. Similarly, in ring spinning, the development of ceramic and coated metal rings has minimised energy loss and improved durability, enabling greater speeds while reducing breakages.

In ring spinning, spindles are crucial in determining a machine's operational speed and recent innovations include lightweight, high-speed spindles that reduce vibration and friction. The incorporation of magnetically levitated spindles has further enhanced performance, allowing for ultra-high-speed spinning with minimal wear.

Drafting plays a critical role in ensuring uniformity and strength in spun yarns and computer-controlled drafting systems now allow for more precise fibre control, enabling higher speed spinning without sacrificing quality. Real-time monitoring and automated adjustments help maintain optimal conditions, preventing fibre breakages and ensuring consistency.

**AI and automation:** The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and automation in spinning machines is further changing what's possible. AI-driven sensors can monitor spinning conditions in real-time, making automatic adjustments to optimise speed and minimise defects. Automated doffing – the exchange of full bobbins – and piecing systems have further enhanced efficiency, reducing downtime and increasing overall production speed.

High-speed spinning requires robust and energy-efficient drive systems and modern machines now employ variable frequency drives (VFDs) and high-efficiency motors that adjust energy consumption based on operational requirements.



Air-jet spinning has meanwhile seen refinements in nozzle design and airflow control, enabling higher speeds and improved fibre cohesion. This technology is now widely used for producing high-quality, low-hairiness yarns at record speeds, making it ideal for large-scale textile production.

**Recycling:** Many Asian cotton spinning companies already process their yarn mill waste wherever possible – especially using rotor spinning technology which is best suited for yarns containing a high short-fibre content. Virgin cotton already has an average short-fibre content of around 25%, but short-fibre content in recycled pre-consumer yarn waste averages around 47%.

In the past, the practice of incorporating a percentage of recycled content into cotton and blended yarns has not been specifically aimed at meeting sustainability goals, but simply about achieving an acceptable quality with the cheapest available fibres.

**Sustainability targets:** As the international brands look to meet their sustainability targets, however, yarns containing a high degree of recycled content are poised to become the market's in-demand products.

Rotor spinning differs from traditional ring spinning by using centrifugal force to form yarn instead of a continuous drafting and twisting process. It is considerably faster than ring spinning because it eliminates the need for roving preparation and allows for the direct feeding of slivers into the spinning unit. Rotor spinning machines also operate at higher speeds and have fewer moving parts than ring spinning frames, making them more energy efficient.

A major drawback in rotor spinning, however, is a reduction in yarn strength. The technique introduces a higher degree of fibre breakage and less fibre alignment, resulting in weaker yarns. As a result, the structure of rotor-spun yarn, which incorporates a more open and less compact fibre arrangement, currently limits its use in high-end textiles like fine shirting, lingerie or luxury apparel. Fabrics made from rotor-spun yarns often feel rougher, which can be a disadvantage in applications where softness and comfort are essential.

Recycled content, however, is much more difficult to accommodate in traditional ring spinning. Nevertheless, across all spinning technologies, the major machinery manufacturers who will be present at ITMA Asia + CITME, Singapore 2025 are now pulling out all the stops to make high quality yarns containing the highest possible percentage of recycled content the new reality □

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**APPAREL VIEWS**

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# KARL MAYER is celebrating the anniversary of a revolutionary solution this year

With KAMCOS®, KARL MAYER has revolutionised the control of warp knitting machines worldwide. The solution was launched at the ITMA in Birmingham in 2003, was given its name - KARL MAYER Command System, KAMCOS® - in 2005, 20 years ago, and quickly proved popular on the market. KAMCOS® 2 followed at ITMA 2015, providing a further boost to innovation.

Larissa Ruhmann from the Corporate Communications team at KARL MAYER took the anniversary as an opportunity to talk to the experts at KARL MAYER about the changes that have taken place in warp knitting, but also to find out more about trends and future innovations. Mario Görner, who played a key role in the work on KAMCOS® 1 in the early 2000s, and Dr Philipp Erler, Head of Control Platform at KARL MAYER's Warp Knitting business unit, met with her for an interview.

**LR:** Görner, as a pioneer from the very beginning of KAMCOS® development, you have helped to write history. What were the biggest changes in the première version?

**MG:** Thanks to KAMCOS® 1, we were the first to launch a warp knitting machine with pure touch-screen operation. That was very innovative! And it took courage, because there were many doubts and concerns, even internally. But in the end, the advantages were convincing. Touch screen operation itself is already much easier. Another benefit was the ability to enter article data via a standardised user interface instead of on different systems and to retrieve it from a central file instead of from different sources when the article needed to be produced again. The basis for all this was our new platform concept. All control components, i.e. the computers for yarn feed, pattern control and yarn breakage control, were centralised. I had developed a special communication protocol for their exchange with the main control system via a standardised bus system.

**LR:** You were also involved in the further development. What was new about KAMCOS® 2?

**MG:** KAMCOS® 2 makes the service considerably easier. Software updates can now be carried out easily, remotely and without our service specialists on site. We have also launched a new era in the operating concept. We asked our customers and our own colleagues for new, useful options for machine handling and developed a new operating philosophy based on their answers. The key point was more usability and an inviting look. For the implementation, a designer created a state-of-the-art user interface with its own colour and operating concept using web technology. This allows for a wide range of customisations without great effort. Our new user interface design received the 2016 DESIGN AWARD from iF International Forum Design GmbH in the "Communication - Apps/Software" discipline.

**LR:** Erler, let's now look to the future. In which direction is the future work heading? What trends do you see in machine control in general?



**PE:** We are continuously developing KAMCOS® 2 for all machine segments. There are usually two new releases per year. We incorporate new functionalities into the upgrades, in particular to increase the productivity of the machines. These further developments are significantly influenced by the guiding principles of Industry 4.0 and increasingly also Industry 5.0. We continuously monitor the resulting changes and analyse whether we can use the related potential to optimise KAMCOS® 2.

As KAMCOS® 2 comprises not only the user interface but also the entire control platform, we are also continuously optimising under the "hood". There is a general trend towards merging the virtual world of IT with the physical world of industrial automation. The combination of IT and OT (operational technology) ensures greater efficiency in development, but also facilitates the implementation of robust cyber security concepts. To this end, legal requirements such as the EU Cyber Resilience Act must be complied with in future.

**LR:** So you have challenging tasks ahead of you. You and your team can build on the experience of 23 years of KAMCOS® development in realising them. What are the most important lessons learnt?

**PE:** Compared to other machine control systems, KAMCOS® 2 offers specific strengths. These must be retained. In addition, our proven strategy is and remains: one KAMCOS® for all machines!

Our control platform has evolved over the years. This has shown that traceability, comprehensibility and user-friendliness are still important. Basic modifications must be as self-explanatory as possible to be accepted. Here it is important to find a compromise between the realisation of individual customer wishes and intuitive, clear operation. Even after all these years, this is still a challenge in which the configurability of the user interface by the customer is certainly a key to success.

**LR:** Thank you for the interesting conversation!

# Eurofins unveils polymer-based testing method to verify recycled plastics in textiles

Polymer-based or plastic synthetic materials have a hold on the fashion industry, currently making up about two-thirds of all fibers used in textiles with no signs of slowing down. At the same time, the fashion industry is increasingly using recycled polymers in textile production. As a prime example of this growth, over 100 brands have taken on Textile Exchange's Recycled Polyester Challenge, agreeing to source at least 45 percent of their polyester from recycled sources by 2025.

The rising market demand for recycled fibers including their pricing premium has created an incentive for fraud, noted executives from Eurofins Sustainability Services during the testing firm's recent webinar. If companies are using and claiming recycled polyester, they must be able to authenticate that it truly is recycled to meet green claim standards and avoid greenwashing.

"There will be instances where virgin materials are mislabeled as recycled, especially when trying to meet the market demands," said Dr. Pratik Ichhaporla, Vice President of technical services, Eurofins Consumer Products North America. "Testing can help identify such discrepancies, ensuring that the materials that are used are genuinely recycled."

Eurofins Sustainability Services part of the company's Consumer Products Testing Services division has introduced a new testing method for recycled plastics in textiles, apparel and footwear that it says is more accurate than existing verification.

One commonly used certification process is chain of custody tracking such as audits and documentation which is used by both the Global Recycled Standard (GRS) and the Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) to certify that materials are recycled. Ichhaporla called this is a "great place to start" but noted the benefit of having an "additional layer of assurance" to fight against fraud.

Another tactic currently used by the industry is testing for the presence of isophthalic acid, which is used in the production of PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles and food containers. Per Ichhaporla, results indicating recycled content can be faked by adding isophthalic acid to virgin polymer pellets. This method is also limited to recycled materials stemming from beverage bottles, making it ineffective for testing textile-to-textile materials. Although bottles are the number one feedstock for recycled polyester (rPET) as of 2023, Maia Research put the portion of bottle-based rPET at 98 percent solutions for textile-to-textile polyester recycling are scaling up as the industry seeks out circular alternatives to bottle-to-textile fibers, creating a need for testing methods that cover a wider range of inputs.

Eurofins' "novel solution" for recycled polyester, nylon and acrylic testing is thermal analytical analysis, which can be used to verify the presence of any recycled plastic feedstock. Polymers' properties and chemical structures change as they are melted and reformed multiple times, and this method which can be used on pellets, fibers, fabrics and garments analyzes these changes.



"It allows you to demonstrate your environmental responsibility, but perhaps more importantly, it's about safeguarding you against damage to reputation if somebody was to accuse you of green washing," said Will Wise, Global Learning, Development and Technical Manager, Eurofins Sustainability Services. "You have that certainty, which currently isn't available on the market."

Wise made an analogy to spaghetti, with the original polymers akin to uncooked noodles. When polymers are turned into plastics, chemicals and other components are added, such as plasticizers or pigments; he compared this mixture to cooked spaghetti. Each time plastics are melted for recycling, some of the polymers break down, akin to cut pieces of pasta. During recycling, more materials are added to help the plastic bind together. All of this creates changes that can be measured to determine where a polymer is in its lifecycle.

Using differential scanning calorimetry equipment, Eurofins can create a graph or thermogram with up to six possible phases to analyze if changes occurred and whether a polymer chain is recycled based on its history. For instance, the graph shape of the melting point changes each time a polymer is heated and cooled. Ichhaporla and Wise told Sourcing Journal that this method can detect the presence of recycled content even in blends of rPET and virgin polyester, since the results are "distinct" from purely virgin polyester.

Eurofins is also using thermo gravimetric analysis to test material composition, such as a blend of cotton and polyester, by heating a sample and measuring the weight loss of the polyester as the polymer decomposes. Different types of plastics have specific decomposition points, allowing testers to compare mass loss to the expected weight change based on the plastic material. This can corroborate or disprove claims of the portion of materials present.

"Our methods cannot be falsified," said Wise. "They're examining that polymer, the thermal history of the polymer itself, not additives that I can add in and systematically take out."

Per Ichhaporla, the testing methods are not meant to replace chain of custody-based standards, but instead provide an additional piece of evidence and "peace of mind" ■

# Pioneering EU funded T-REX Project celebrates completion

The EU-funded T-REX (Textile Recycling Excellence) Project consortium announced the successful completion of the project, presenting a blueprint for scaling textile-to-textile recycling, and showcasing demonstrator products produced through the successful implementation of the recycling processes for polyester, polyamide 6, and cellulosic materials within Europe. The blueprint, which spotlights insights and recommendations for each phase of the value chain, has been informed by in-depth analysis conducted by the consortium through-out the project, assessing the technical feasibility, economic viability and environmental impact of the recycling value chain.

The textile industry remains a major contributor to environmental impacts, with over 6.95 million tonnes of textile waste generated annually in the European Union alone\*. Most of this waste is still landfilled or incinerated, with only a small fraction being reused or recycled. In response, the T-REX Project launched June 2022 with the aim of bringing together 13 leading stakeholders from across the value chain to develop a harmonised blueprint for closed-loop recycling of post-consumer household textile waste in the EU.

The insights outlined below identify key challenges and propose targeted interventions to support scaling a circular textile system across four core areas:

## Technical Scalability

- **Sorting efficiency is currently low:** Manual sorting, which is still the primary method, remains inefficient and costly. Automation could improve the quality and purity of feedstock available for recyclers. Advancements in automated sorting technologies such as Near Infrared (NIR) and AI-powered systems to improve yield, throughput, and identification of multi-layer or blended garments is essential. It is also important to prioritise R&D funding for enhanced detection technologies capable of distinguishing material blends and contaminants more accurately.
- **Pre-processing is critical:** It is important to recognise pre-processing as a critical step in the recycling value chain, with direct impact on the recyclability and quality of the final product. Harmonised mechanical pre-processing for post-consumer textile waste, ideally co-located with sorting facilities for improving yields and efficiency is vital to improve feedstock consistency. To improve feedstock consistency and purity, further mechanical and chemical pre-processing steps are required, mechanical can be co-located in sorting facilities whilst chemical processes can be integrated into the recyclers' operations to match the specific technologies.



## Business Viability

While the market potential for textile-to-textile recycling in Europe is clear with volumes of post-consumer textile waste suitable for fibre-to-fibre recycling projected to reach 1.2 million tonnes by 2030\*\* and increasing regulatory pressure realising a viable business case remains challenging due to two interconnected barriers: limited access to quality feedstock, and a lack of infrastructure at scale.

- **Feedstock is limited and expensive:** Despite the abundance of textile waste, recyclers face both scarcity and high costs of feedstock. There is insufficient post-consumer material suitable for recycling available, due to low collection rates in most EU member states and lack of incentive for sorters to provide feedstock quality needed for recycling. What exists often lacks the specifications needed for most current recycling technologies.
- **Current inefficiencies in sorting and pre-processing result in high material losses,** driving up overall OPEX. When feedstock quality does not meet recyclers' requirements, it further undermines the overall process efficiency. While R&D is needed to make sure recycling technologies are capable of handling more complex inputs, tackling feedstock complexity at the source will be equally critical, making the enforcement of Ecodesign principles a key lever for future-proofing textile-to-textile recycling.
- **High operational costs in Europe:** Energy and labour costs are major cost drivers. Labour costs could be significantly reduced through automation, especially for the collection, sorting, and preprocessing step while energy-efficient operations and access to low-cost renewable energy are key for recyclers. Policies should enable recycling innovations and also address structural cost imbalance for conventional production that does not consider environmental and social impacts.
- **Scaling textile-to-textile recycling in Europe requires coordinated financial, regulatory, and industrial efforts** to stimulate demand, reduce costs, and mobilise the necessary capital and should complement broader circular strategies

including reuse, repair, and smarter design to unlock a circular approach to textile waste management.

### Environmental Impact

- Textile recycling has strong potential to reduce the environmental impacts associated with fibre production. However, the magnitude of these benefits depends heavily on both the type of material being recycled and the specific recycling technology used. Different fibre types and recycling processes vary in their efficiency, yield, and overall environmental performance, meaning that outcomes can differ significantly across materials and methods.
- One of the main contributors to environmental impact typically arises from the most energy-intensive stages of the process. This highlights the importance of improving energy efficiency and sourcing low-impact energy. This is true as well for the recycling process as for the rest of the manufacturing and supply chain, where downstream processes include energy intensive processes such as dyeing. It is therefore essential that the recycling process produces fibres compatible with advanced, environmentally friendly manufacturing techniques.
- While recycling is a vital tool in improving sustainability across the textile value chain, it is not a stand-alone solution. The manufacturing and use stages remain significant contributors to environmental impacts. Designing for durability will increase the lifespan of garments by focusing on the physical longevity of products, together with reusability.

### Policy Recommendations

- It is essential to introduce economic incentives that fairly distribute the responsibility of textile waste management across the entire value chain including collectors, sorters, pre-processors, and recyclers.
- End-of-waste (EoW) criteria should be aligned with practical, market-driven standards to promote textile circularity. This will support the use of recycled textiles in new products and improve the recycling of EU textile waste. EoW rules also directly affect Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes and the cross-border waste shipment directive.
- Set realistic, achievable targets for recycled content, underpinned by clear and pragmatic criteria. These criteria should encourage market demand without limiting the use of emerging technologies or diverse feedstock inputs.
- Recyclability standards must be harmonized, focusing on the dominant material in products to reduce material complexity. Standards should remain flexible to accommodate innovation and emerging recycling technologies, ensuring alignment and clarity within the regulatory framework. Despite the challenges, the projected rise of post-consumer textile waste to 7.3 million tonnes by 2030 makes it crucial to explore recycling as an alternative to landfill, incineration, or export. While recycling can help manage the growing volume of non-reusable textiles, it must be integrated into a broader strategy that also prioritizes reuse, repair, and demand management ■

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# Sales start for Mayer & Cie.'s Control 5.0 making Circular Knitting Machines IoT-Ready

The new machine control system Control 5.0 from Mayer & Cie. is now available. It makes the company's circular knitting machines Internet- and knitlink-ready, preparing them for the digital future of textile production. Control 5.0 is the prerequisite for accessing knitlink, Mayer & Cie.'s digital platform. The new machine control system is available as an upgrade kit for all machines built from 2001 onward. From now on, every newly delivered mechanical circular knitting machine will be equipped with Control 5.0 as standard.

## New concept in machine operation

"Control 5.0 marks a milestone in the evolution of circular knitting for the digital age," says Benjamin Mayer, Managing Director of Mayer & Cie. "With Control 5.0, we're guiding our customers step by step into the world of the Industrial Internet of Things. That makes our machines not only smarter but also more efficient in the long run."

## From Stand-alone to IoT-ready

Since the 1990s, Mayer & Cie. machine control systems have undergone continuous development from stand-alone solutions to locally installed data interfaces, and now to Control 5.0, which enables a direct, secure connection to the cloud-based knitlink platform.

## Gateway to the knitlink platform

Control 5.0 is the key to accessing knitlink, Mayer & Cie.'s digital platform that currently includes three apps:

- my.monitoring provides real-time machine operating data
- my.service enables fast and competent remote support
- my.shop delivers precise search results for "registered machines", e.g., for spare parts

Another major benefit: updates are now delivered over the air (OTA) – making USB sticks a thing of the past.

## SmartControl or ClassicControl – your choice

Control 5.0 consists of an edge device for internet connectivity and a new human-machine interface (HMI). Customers can choose between two interface options:

- SmartControl (standard): Up to four smart knobs small, rotary displays on the machine legs allow the knitter to access all relevant machine functions. More in-depth operation is handled via a mobile device such as a tablet or smartphone which allows for role-based user permissions for operators and supervisors
- ClassicControl (optional): All control functions are bundled in one central touchscreen interface located within the machine in the same position as the previous control unit



Knowledge knits smarter – thanks to knitlink, Mayer & Cie. digital platform



Control 5.0 makes Mayer & Cie.'s circular knitting machines IoT- and knitlink-ready



Control 5.0 in the SmartControl option consists of up to four SmartKnobs on the machine. These small displays allow users to access all relevant machine functions

## Upgrades for machines built after 2001

Going forward, all new mechanical circular knitting machines from Mayer & Cie. will be equipped with Control 5.0. For existing customers looking to retrofit their machines to use knitlink, Mayer & Cie. offers upgrade kits for machines built from 2001 onward. Since older models and configurations can vary, the company provides a detailed checklist to clarify individual upgrade requirements in advance □

# Rieter celebrates 230 years of innovation and technology leadership

**R**ieter has stood for pioneering innovation in textile technology for 230 years. Founded in 1795, the company has grown from a trading company to a global technology leader. With a clear focus on automation, digitization and sustainability, Rieter is shaping the future of yarn production and continues to set standards in the industry. Rieter, the world leader in developing and manufacturing systems for yarn production with staple fibers, is celebrating its 230th anniversary this year – a history characterized by change, innovation and growth.

The Rieter success story began on April 15, 1795, when Johann Jacob Rieter founded the company J.J. Rieter & Cie. in Winterthur, Switzerland. Rieter started as a trading company for exotic spices and cotton, and on April 23, 1795, the first cotton bale had already arrived at the Waaghaus trading house on Marktgasse in Winterthur.

Initially involved in spinning mills and textile manufacturing, Rieter continued to develop over the 19th century and shifted its focus to building industrial machinery. Acquiring the buildings of the former Töss Abbey in Winterthur in 1833 was an important step. In addition to spinning mill machines, the company's product line also included machines for winding, knitting, and weaving.

In 1891, Rieter converted into a stock company, which was a significant milestone in the company's history. In the decades that followed, Rieter set new technological standards again and again. For example, the company was the first machine factory in Switzerland with electronic data processing and Rieter set up a modern laboratory for testing materials. It was joined by prototype workshops, a textile laboratory, and a test spinning mill to support further innovation.

Despite economic challenges, Rieter has always used times of crisis as an opportunity to increase its efficiency and hone its strategic focus. Along with its subsidiaries Accotex, Bräcker, Graf, Novibra, Suessen, SSM, and Temco, today Rieter is distinctive and well-known in the market. The company is a leader in spinning mill technology and contributes to sustainability in the textile value chain with state-of-the-art machines, systems, and components.

Rieter's success is based not only on technological excellence, but above all on the people who drive the company forward. The approximately 4 800 employees worldwide are the company's greatest asset. With their expertise, innovative spirit, and passion, they set new standards every day and play an active role in shaping Rieter's future.

From Rieter's perspective, the future of spinning mills is automated, digital, and intelligent. Research and development activities are being intensified – in both the areas of autonomous transport systems and collaborative robotics, as well as for



ESSENTIAL, Rieter's digital spinning mill platform. The goal is to fully automate the value creation process of spinning mills by 2027. This will enable spinning mills to reduce their yarn manufacturing costs and maximize their returns. Customers can then concentrate fully on their yarn business and rely on Rieter's technology and know-how for their operations.

With 230 years of experience, strong innovative power, sustainable solutions and a global sales and service organization, Rieter is perfectly positioned as the market leader and looks to the future with confidence ■

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We invite you to contribute valuable articles aligned with your expertise for publication in **Knitting Views**, both in print and online.

Interested authors can reach us at [editor@apparelviews.com](mailto:editor@apparelviews.com)

# Merino Wool proven best for Athlete Thermoregulation

- The pivotal role textiles play in determining thermal comfort during sport has been highlighted, with wool outperforming others where it matters most
- Showcasing a moisture buffering capability superior to major fibre types and 96% better than polyester, Merino's unique ability to maintain a more stable next-to-skin microclimate is clear
- Backed by science, the studies show Merino wool helps athletes stay in their comfort zone - regulating temperature across bursts of activity and recovery better than other apparel fibres

## EMBARGOED 4 June

A major four-year research program led by North Carolina State University has revealed 100% Merino wool base-layer garments deliver superior thermal comfort and performance benefits during dynamic stop-go sports like cycling, rock climbing, hiking and golf. The concept, known as dynamic breathability, reflects how well a Merino wool garment adapts to changing conditions: managing heat and moisture when the body is working hard, and preserving warmth when activity slows or stops.

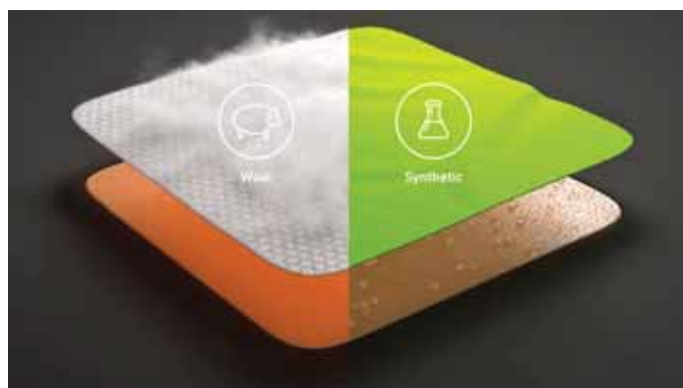
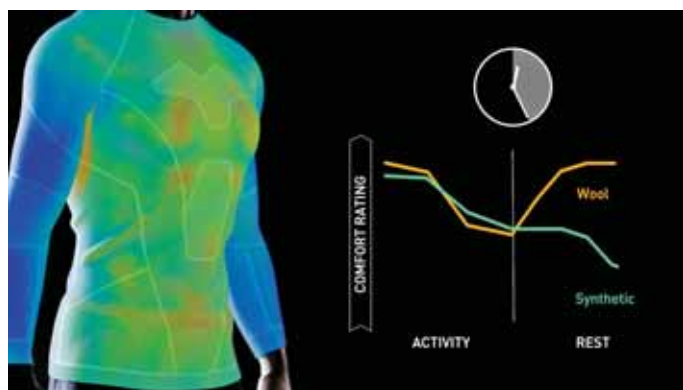
Unlike traditional synthetic performance wear, Merino wool maintains thermal equilibrium during both exertion and rest. This means wearers can avoid the negative skin sensation known as after-chill so commonly experienced in outdoor sports, and instead can be assisted in conserving energy and maintaining comfort when it matters most. With the human body continuously working to maintain 35°C skin temperature throughout stop-go sports, less work is needed in wool.

This breakthrough positions Merino wool as the natural performance fibre - no longer anchored by anecdotes, but by thorough science.

“This is about the ongoing transition from activity to recovery,” says Woolmark Managing Director, John Roberts. “With wool’s structure designed by nature to enhance wearer performance, it responds in real time to changing physiological needs. It automatically keeps athletes close to their comfort zone, allowing 100% focus on the challenge - especially in unpredictable and high-output activities, such as cycling or rock climbing, where a base layer is often all they wear.”

## Game-Changing Findings

- **Better Regulation in Real-World Conditions:** Human trials in a climate-controlled chamber found all fibres performed similarly during the activity phase, but only wool performed well across both activity and rest phases - a critical benefit in dynamic sports.
- **Superior Moisture Management:** Merino wool’s unique dual-layer - hydrophobic outside and hydrophilic inside - absorbs up to one third of its weight in moisture vapour without feeling wet, enabling efficient moisture transport and stabilising next to skin microclimate.



**New research confirms Merino wool’s superior ability to regulate body temperature and manage moisture during high-performance, stop-go sports. With up to 96% better moisture buffering than polyester, Merino keeps athletes comfortable across both exertion and recovery.**

- **Thermal Advantage:** Testing shows Merino wool keeps the microclimate - a critical layer between garment and skin - steadier during repeated stop-go activity, reducing the body’s effort to stay comfortable.

The researchers point out that, while wool’s thermostatic properties and capacity to regulate temperature based on ambient moisture have been well known, existing steady-state test methods overlook “the intrinsic ability of naturally hygroscopic fibres to absorb moisture from the environment ... despite its profound implications.”

The research has already sparked interest from leading sportswear brands, seeking apparel designs that enhance wearer performance.

### Backed by Science, Validated by Athletes

The research showed that wool garments maintained greater thermal comfort and minimised after - chill – the drop in body temperature athletes often experience during resting phases. Compared to other fibre types, wool demonstrated:

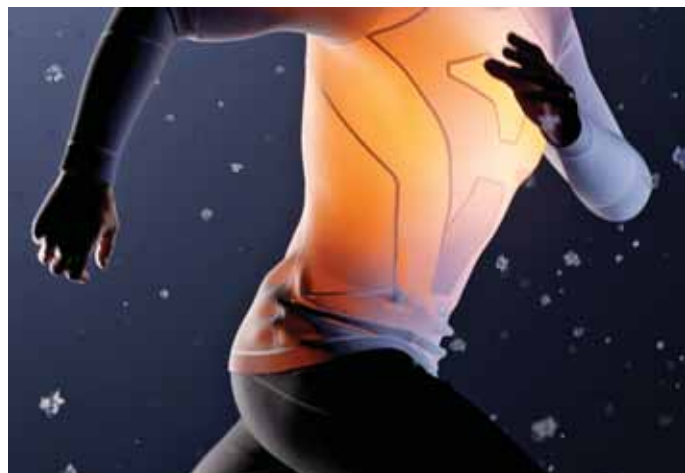
- 96% better moisture buffering than polyester
- 45% better than cotton
- 26% better than viscose

Wool's ability to regulate the microclimate next to the skin, especially during fluctuating humidity and temperature, also contributes to improved comfort: test participants and the new test method confirmed that only wool maintained comfort throughout the sport.

“What this study shows is what athletes have been telling us anecdotally for years: that wool breathes, buffers and performs better across a range of real-world conditions,” says Roberts.

### A Call to Innovators: Design for the Dynamic

The next generation of sports apparel demands performance that maximises comfort and performance by adapting to real-life

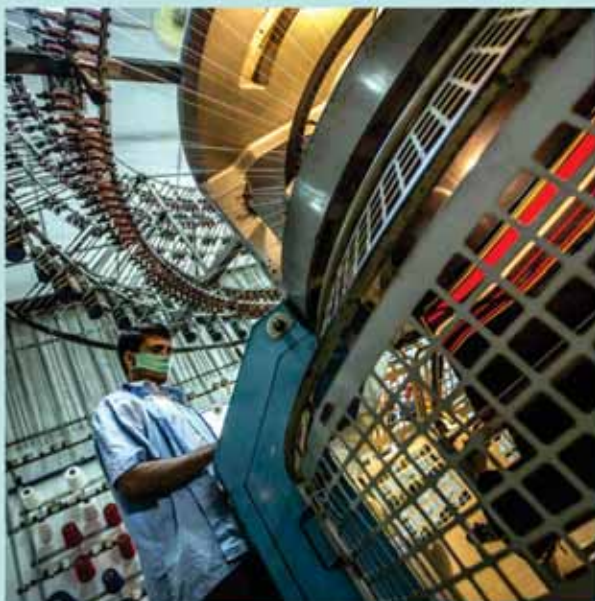


conditions. Merino wool's dynamic breathability - a fibre's ability to adapt to environmental change - offers a clear advantage in thermal performance.

This science marks a turning point. It's no longer about quick-dry or lightweight - it's about sustained performance married with apparel that works with, not against, the body. For product designers, this offers new insights into how Merino wool can enhance next-to-skin comfort, reduce the need for synthetic blends, and elevate garment functionality without compromising sustainability. Smart design starts with smart fibres, and Merino wool got there first ■

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# TechnoSport launches Revolutionary Cotflex Collection

## Redefining sustainable comfort and performance

TechnoSport, a 100% made in India, Athleisure wear, proudly announces the launch of its latest breakthrough collection, Cotflex - a versatile range of top and bottom wear designed for men, women, and kids. Cotflex is engineered to deliver the best of both worlds: the softness and breathability combined with advanced performance features that meet the demands of modern lifestyles.

Perfectly suited for sports, yoga, gym sessions, casual outings, and travel, the Cotflex collection combines the natural comfort of cotton with cutting-edge fabric technology to elevate everyday activewear.

### Key Features of the Cotflex Collection

- Cotflex Fabric: Just like cotton, but better-wrinkle-free, super breathable, and highly stretchy
- Techno Guard: Anti-microbial technology that prevents sweat-originated microbes from growing
- 4-Way Stretch: Dynamic comfort and ultimate flexibility in every direction
- Anti-Static: Fabric that won't cling to the body, even in hot or humid conditions, ensuring better air circulation.
- OdourFree: Quick-drying fabric that helps keep you fresh and odor-free throughout the day
- Soft & Smooth: Designed to provide the softest and smoothest wearing experience
- UPF 50+: Blocks 98% of harmful UV rays with Ultra Violet Protection Factor 50+, perfect for outdoor activities

TechnoSport's Cotflex collection is a step forward in sustainable fashion. Its innovative blend not only delivers lightweight, stretchable comfort and effortless shape retention, but also promotes environmental responsibility. By minimizing fiber shedding, Cotflex reduces microplastic pollution, making it a greener choice for conscious consumers. The use of advanced polyester technology extends the garment's lifespan, decreasing the need for frequent replacements and reducing textile waste. Cotflex achieves superior stretch and recovery without relying on traditional spandex, further lowering its environmental footprint. You can enjoy all-day comfort and durability, while making a positive impact on the planet.

Puspen Maity, CEO at TechnoSport said - "At TechnoSport, we are committed to pushing the boundaries of textile innovation to create products that truly enhance the active lifestyle. The Cotflex collection embodies this vision by merging the natural comfort of cotton with advanced performance features. We are excited to bring this revolutionary fabric technology to our customers and redefine what activewear can be."

Designed to regulate temperature and provide comfort, Cotflex Collection by TechnoSport is perfect for all seasons, ensuring year-round wearability. The Cotflex collection is now available across all TechnoSport stores and online ■



# PANGAIA launches most advanced Plant-Based Activewear

**P**ANGAIA, the materials science company at the intersection of science, purpose, and design, introduces its most advanced plant-based activewear to date: 365 Seamless Activewear. The collection merges biotechnology and natural innovation in a next-generation material system that combines 100% bio-based EVO® Nylon, by Fulgar from plant and renewable source, with Hyosung's regen™ BIO Max elastane, a pioneering stretch fibre made with a polymer composed of 98% renewable resources, including corn-based feedstock. Together, these innovations offer a high-performance alternative to fossil fuel-based synthetics traditionally used in activewear.

PANGAIA is the first brand globally to incorporate regen™ BIO Max elastane into a commercial activewear range. Developed by Hyosung to meet performance standards while reducing reliance on non-renewable resources, the fibre replaces nearly all fossil-fuel inputs while maintaining elasticity, recovery, and durability. Backed by third-party verified data and independent Life Cycle Assessments, regen™ BIO Max elastane delivers a 27% lower carbon footprint and 82% less ozone depletion than conventional spandex, marking a meaningful shift towards circular, regenerative materials.

The base of the collection, EVO® Nylon by Fulgar, is made using renewable raw materials, including castor beans and industrial corn. Engineered for high performance, it is lightweight, thermoregulating, breathable, and fast-drying. With a lower weight than polyester and faster drying performance than traditional nylon, EVO® offers peak comfort and functionality. It is naturally non-toxic and safe for prolonged skin contact. Each garment is finished with PPRMINT™, PANGAIA's proprietary odour-control treatment derived from natural peppermint oil. This broad-



spectrum antimicrobial technology neutralises odour-causing bacteria, extending the freshness of each piece between washes.

In a category dominated by fossil fuel-based synthetics, 365 Seamless Activewear offers a next-generation alternative made from renewable resources. While conventional performance wear relies heavily on virgin polyester, nylon, and elastane, this collection is built using bio-based fibres designed to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. The result is high-performance activewear made with materials that are non-toxic and powered by nature, without compromising on stretch, breathability, or comfort.

The launch includes five minimal, foundational styles with seamless construction that contours to the body, offering a sculpted, second-skin fit. Crafted from breathable, fast-drying materials and treated with PPRMINT to ensure lasting freshness, comfort, and confidence, demonstrating that high-performance doesn't have to come from fossil-based plastics. Each piece is offered in Black, Gaia Blue, and Dewy Rose, three elemental hues that evoke the purity of earth, sky, and bloom.

By utilising renewable, bio-based materials, PANGAIA harnesses the power of nature to offer a solution that's better for you and better for the planet ■

# Rieter to acquire Barmag from OC Oerlikon to accelerate its growth strategy



- Barmag is a global market leader for equipment to produce manmade fibers with sales in financial year 2024 of approximately CHF 734 million
- Rieter strengthens and expands its technology position in the textile industry and positions itself in the growing market for manmade fibers
- Transaction is highly complementary across Rieter's technologies, solutions and end-markets and accretive to Rieter's growth and performance
- Upfront equity purchase price of CHF 713 million
- Financing is fully secured, and balance sheet stability will be maintained
- PCS Holding AG (Peter Spuhler) remains the largest shareholder and played a strategically important role in this acquisition

Rieter has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Barmag from OC Oerlikon for an upfront equity purchase price of CHF 713 million. The acquisition will create a globally leading player in natural and manmade fibers, headquartered in Winterthur, Switzerland, and is highly complementary to Rieter's short-staple fiber business.

Barmag is a provider of filament spinning systems used for manufacturing manmade fibers, texturing machines, BCF systems, staple fiber spinning and nonwovens solutions and – as an engineering services provider – offers solutions along the textile value chain. In the financial year 2024, the company generated sales of CHF 734 million with around 2 600 employees.

Barmag comprises the established product brands Oerlikon Barmag, Oerlikon Neumag and Oerlikon Nonwoven. The main markets for the Barmag product portfolio are China, India, Türkiye and the United States of America. The innovative and technologically advanced products are developed in Remscheid and Neumünster (Germany) as well as Suzhou and Wuxi (China).

As fiber consumption is projected to rise, most of the growth is expected to come from manmade fibers. The increase of natural fibers such as cotton and linen is limited due to natural boundaries. Manmade fibers will help to meet expanding demand for clothing, technical and home textiles. The strategic acquisition of Barmag will transform Rieter into a leading supplier for converting natural and manmade fibers into yarn.

The transaction is fully in-line with Rieter's strategy and follows previous acquisitions, where Rieter complemented its portfolio in short-staple fiber machinery and expanded its footprint in components and machinery for manmade fiber production.

The combined platform allows to leverage the recovery of global filament and short staple fiber spinning markets and to reduce

**Rieter has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Barmag, including the Oerlikon Barmag, Neumag, and Nonwoven brands, from OC Oerlikon for CHF 713 million. The deal, with an enterprise value of CHF 850 million, will create a global leader in both natural and manmade fiber machinery. Barmag generated CHF 734 million in sales in 2024 and employs around 2,600 people. The acquisition strengthens Rieter's position in Asia-Pacific, enhances product diversification, and supports its long-term growth strategy.**

cyclicality due to diversification of endmarkets. The acquisition will further enhance Rieter's position in the important Asia - Pacific region and provide access to Barmag's filament expertise, which will help to further scale Rieter's own capabilities and improve digitization solutions and product sustainability.

Thomas Oetterli, CEO of Rieter: "We are very proud to welcome Oerlikon Barmag, Oerlikon Neumag and Oerlikon Nonwoven to Rieter. We are convinced that this combination will form a market leader in the textile industry which will create value for our shareholders, customers and employees."

Georg Stausberg, CEO of Barmag: "With this solution, we will have the best new ownership possible, as we will benefit from each other as textile companies from market understanding, technology expertise and complementary offering for our global customer base."

The enterprise value of CHF 850 million represents a through-the-cycle EV/EBITDA2 of 6.3x (excluding synergies). If certain financial criteria are achieved by 2028, an earn-out component will

be paid to the seller. The acquisition is expected to enhance Rieter's financial performance given Barmag's structurally higher through-the-cycle profitability and margin resilience in market downturn.

The acquisition financing is secured by a bridge loan facility. Refinancing of the bridge facility will happen through a fully underwritten CHF 400 million rights issue with tradable subscription rights, a CHF 77 million non-pre-emptive private placement which is fully committed and subscribed by Rieter's two largest shareholders and a bank financing.

Rieter's largest shareholder, Peter Spuhler (c. 33% shareholding) is supportive of the transaction and committed to participating in the rights-issue pro-rata by exercising its subscription rights as well as investing additional capital through the non-pre-emptive capital raise. After the capital increase, PCS Holding AG is expected to retain a shareholding of c. 33%.

Additionally, Rieter's second-largest shareholder, Martin Haefner (c. 10%), also supports the transaction and has committed to participating pro-rata in the rights - issue by exercising its subscription rights and investing additional capital through the non-pre-emptive capital raise.

Rieter remains committed to strong balance sheet stability and expects to delever quickly from proforma combined leverage per end of 2024 of c. 3x post the CHF 477 million equity capital increase driven by cash generation of the combined entity. An extraordinary General Meeting ("EGM") is expected to be



convened in the third or fourth quarter of 2025 to obtain shareholder approval for the capital increase in connection with the rights issue and the private placement. The definite terms of the rights issue are expected to be determined and communicated on or around the date of the EGM. The acquisition of Barmag is subject to customary closing conditions, including regulatory approvals. Rieter is confident it will obtain all regulatory clearances. The closing of the acquisition is targeted for Q4 2025.

Alantra is acting as exclusive financial advisor and Lenz & Staehelin as legal advisor to Rieter. UBS underwrites the bridge loan facility and acts as Sole Global Coordinator, Sole Bookrunner and Sole Manager of the capital increase ■

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# KARL MAYER showcases its high-performance machines for warp knitting and warp preparation

**K**ARL MAYER will present innovative solutions for warp knitting and warp preparation for the technical textiles industry at Techtextil North America, from May 6 to 8, 2025. At the German Pavilion, in Hall B of the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, visitors will find a dedicated team, video presentations and materials on machine topics focused on the North American market: the HKS 3 M-ON high-performance warp knitting machine, the PROWARP automatic sectional warping machine and the WEFTTRONIC® II RS high-performance Raschel machine with weft insertion.

Mariano Amezcua, President of KARL MAYER North America, is looking forward to a lively trade fair: “There’s nothing like the energy of reconnecting face-to-face at Techtextil – being able to engage directly with our customers, showcase real-world applications, and spark conversations around future growth is both inspiring and invaluable.”

## Highlights from the KARL MAYER presentation

The HKS 3 M-ON offers the latest technology for highly efficient and precise production of tricot fabrics - the most important market for KARL MAYER warp knitting machines in North America. Models with three guide bars are the most widely used machines in this market. The HKS 3 M-ON combines maximum flexibility with speed and a competitive price, thus ensuring a performance that is expected to generate great interest among Techtextil visitors.

The WEFTTRONIC® II RS is also well-established in the US market for technical textiles. Manufacturers of coating substrates for industrial roofs rely on the cost-effective and reliable Raschel machine with course-orientated weft insertion which boasts considerable capacities. Geotextiles are another lucrative application area for the WEFTTRONIC® II RS. The KARL MAYER team will have an extensive collection of samples at their disposal and look forward to a lively exchange of ideas.

The PROWARP has great potential in North America. It is the ideal machine for investments in capacity expansion and productivity improvements. The automatic sectional warper processes all types of materials and is equipped with the latest connectivity, measurement and control technology. The PROACTIVE warping system, in particular, is sure to attract attention.

The system records the warp quality of the sectional warper and features a three-stage modular structure for diverse information requirements. Each expansion level provides more detailed quality data and production information.



**Mariano Amezcua**, President, KARL MAYER North America

There’s nothing like the energy of reconnecting face-to-face at Techtextil - being able to engage directly with our customers, showcase real-world applications, and spark conversations around future growth is both inspiring and invaluable.



Module 1 manages all the basic values supplied by the warper sensors for direct beaming quality. Module 2 supplements these values with optical evaluations of a machine-integrated camera to obtain specific information on band width, alignment and parallelism. Module 3 provides quality protocols with the highest information density. Creel monitoring data and individual yarn tension values from MULTIGUARD are also included in the records ■

# Primus partners unveils strategic roadmap to achieve \$ 100 bn in textile exports

The textile sector is one of India's oldest and most vital industries, contributing approximately 2.3% to India's GDP, 13% to industrial production, and 10.5% to total exports. Globally, India ranks as the second-largest producer of textiles and garments and the fifth-largest exporter, encompassing a wide range of products including apparel, home furnishings, and technical textiles.

Primus Partners, a leading Indian management consulting firm, has unveiled a comprehensive roadmap to propel India's textile exports to USD 100 billion over the next five years. Anchored in a six-point strategy, the roadmap outlines key recommendations to diversify export offerings, integrate Industry 4.0, increase skilled manpower, enhance infrastructure, and build industry capacity. Launched at a time of shifting global trade dynamics and new tariff alignments, the roadmap positions India to become a preferred sourcing destination and a global leader in textile manufacturing.

The document titled 'Roadmap for US\$ 100 Bn Exports in 5 Years: Six Recommendations that will drive the Textile Industry' talks about:

- Integration of Industry 4.0 in the Textile Sector: Will lead to approximately a 15% reduction in operational waste
- Encouraging Free Trade Agreements and Market: Will boost India's Textile Competitiveness
- Strengthening existing Operational Subsidies: Will enhance Textile Industry advantage
- Establishing Specialized Training Centres in Key Textile Hubs, focusing on Tier 2 & Tier 3 Cities: Will raise the Skilled Workforce Share to 50%
- Transforming Textile MSMEs to Global Giants: By Moving from Small to Scalable Enterprises
- Focus on Driving growth & exports through Technical Textiles: Will reinforce share in global Technical Textile Market

Kanishk Maheshwari, Co-Founder & Managing Director of Primus Partners, said, "These six strategic recommendations



serve not just as directional guidance but as a comprehensive blueprint to accelerate the growth of India's textile industry. By diversifying export products, expanding into new markets, attracting investments, strengthening logistics and infrastructure, and building long-term capacity, we believe India is well-positioned to significantly enhance its global standing in textiles. On the policy front, the implementation of reciprocal tariffs represents more than just relief - it is a defining opportunity for India to emerge as a preferred sourcing hub for the U.S. market. Furthermore, the recent Free Trade Agreement with the UK presents a pivotal moment to strengthen the industry's global competitiveness.

With a focused approach and timely execution, these recommendations have the potential to propel India's textile exports to USD 100 billion over the next five years, firmly establishing the nation as a global leader in textile manufacturing."

The textile sector stands at the cusp of significant expansion, presenting a strategic opportunity for national economic growth. The recommendations urge policymakers to support initiatives that drive operational efficiency, streamline supply chains, and promote higher value addition - critical factors for sustaining competitiveness in a changing tariff landscape ▣



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# Cotton Incorporated showcases trends and sustainable innovations for the future

Cotton Incorporated, the leading research and promotion organization for U.S. cotton, organized the “Cotton Innovation” event recently at Le Méridien Dhaka, Bangladesh. The program focused on future fashion trends, innovative product developments, and advancements in sustainable dyeing and finishing.

The event brought together product development, R&D, and merchandising professionals from prominent Bangladeshi factories such as Masco Group, Tropical Knitex, Noman Group, and others.

## The event featured several expert presentations

- **Lauren Williams, Director of Trend Forecasting, Cotton Incorporated**, delivered a detailed presentation on Fashion Trend Forecasts for Fall/Winter 2026/2027. She highlighted evolving preferences among Gen Z and Millennials, emphasizing how the post-COVID era has shifted consumer focus towards durable, long-lasting fashion. Williams also discussed key trends, colors, and design directions that will shape the upcoming seasons.
- **Carrie Yates, Associate Director of Product Development, Cotton Incorporated**, introduced participants to the latest sustainable fabric innovations, including natural indigo-washed fabrics, mineral pigment-dyed fabrics, quilted fabrics, recycled non-woven fabrics, and performance fabric developments. She also presented yarn-dyed fabrics, double-part fabrics, yarn-dyed twill fabrics, and vat-dyed denim fabrics, providing valuable insights into their potential applications in the Bangladeshi manufacturing landscape.
- **Ken Greeson, Associate Director, Textile Chemistry Research, Cotton Incorporated**, shared cutting-edge sustainable dyeing and finishing technologies. His presentation covered emerging trends, innovative processing techniques, and strategies for reducing the environmental impact of textile production.

The entire session was conducted by Daniel Wong, Executive Account Manager - Supply Chain Marketing (Asia), Cotton Incorporated, who engaged the audience with hands-on



**Daniel Wong**,  
Executive Account Manager,  
Supply Chain Marketing Asia



**Kenneth Greeson**  
Associate Director,  
Textile Chemistry Research



demonstrations of fabric samples and garments, explaining their technical aspects and potential benefits for the industry.

Cotton Incorporated, a non-profit organization funded by U.S. cotton growers and importers, is dedicated to building a sustainable future for cotton. Through continuous research, product development, and marketing support, Cotton Incorporated works globally to promote the use of cotton and drive innovation in the textile and apparel industry.

The “Cotton Innovation” event is part of the organization’s ongoing efforts to collaborate with key stakeholders in Bangladesh’s textile sector, facilitating knowledge exchange and driving the adoption of sustainable practices ▣

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# OEKO-TEX® MADE IN GREEN

## Marks a decade as a global sustainability label

Launched in 2015, the OEKO-TEX® MADE IN GREEN label stands for tested product safety, more sustainable manufacturing processes and improved working conditions throughout global supply chains. This year, the label celebrates its 10th anniversary.

“Brands and retailers must remain at the forefront of both current and emerging consumer expectations, as well as evolving regulatory requirements, which increasingly scrutinize the entire production history of a given product,” says Jean-Pierre Haug, COO of Testex, an OEKO-TEX institute. “MADE IN GREEN offers a valuable solution for brands and retailers seeking to convey confidence and trust at the point of sale.”

### The origins of MADE IN GREEN

The MADE IN GREEN label was developed in April 2015 to set new benchmarks for transparency. The Rana Plaza textile factory collapse triggered global awareness of social and environmental responsibility in the textile industry. OEKO-TEX, with two decades of promoting transparency and trust in supply chains, created MADE IN GREEN to set a new standard. By integrating multiple certifications into one traceable and consumer-facing label, it communicates verified safety, sustainability and social responsibility in a single label.

### Combined product safety as a foundation

Products bearing the OEKO-TEX MADE IN GREEN label signify verified product safety, environmentally responsible manufacturing and fair working conditions across the supply chain. To qualify for the label product certification, OEKO-TEX STANDARD 100, ORGANIC COTTON or LEATHER STANDARD is required. The use of chemicals certified under OEKO-TEX ECO PASSPORT further enhances product safety and enables manufacturers to reduce testing efforts and certification costs, supported by a comprehensive database of more than 35,000 certified companies.

### Social responsibility as a core element

Social and ecological responsibility within production processes is the central pillar of MADE IN GREEN. As such, OEKO-TEX STeP certification is mandatory for making up and wet spinning production facilities. The STeP “Social Responsibility” module is based on the core standards of the International Labour Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations. These standards include fundamental rights such as freedom of association, occupational safety, and the prohibition of child labor, forced labor and discrimination. Compliance is regularly assessed through audits, including evaluation of approximately 70 social criteria and validated through interviews with employees across various departments. In 2024 alone, OEKO-TEX® MADE IN GREEN contributed to improved working conditions for nearly two million textile workers within global supply chains.



### Focus on chemical safety

Chemical safety is another priority area. OEKO-TEX has long set rigorous standards in this field. Through comprehensive audits and employee surveys, the OEKO-TEX STeP Health & Safety module assesses manufacturers on important areas, such as chemical management, safety training and proper storage. To prevent contamination of waterways, an annual wastewater inspection report is also required.

### Growing interest from industry and retail

Adoption of the MADE IN GREEN label continues to accelerate. Over the past financial year, the number of issued labels grew by 52%. Since 2015, more than 43,000 labels have been granted to over 9,200 manufacturers in 88 countries. In 2024 alone, 16,927 labels were issued across 39 countries, with Germany and key production hubs in Asia—Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and China—leading adoption. Interest is also growing in the U.S. and U.K. Commonly labelled items include home textiles (bedding, towels), apparel (t-shirts, sweatshirts, workwear, trousers) and specialty products, such as yoga and children’s play mats.

### Recognition by independent bodies

OEKO-TEX MADE IN GREEN’s credibility has earned it recognition from several independent organizations. The label is included in the ITC Standards Map and the Siegelklarheit platform, and it is recognized by Amazon’s Climate Pledge Friendly program. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency acknowledges MADE IN GREEN for meeting stringent criteria in apparel and textiles. In France, companies can receive the Refashion Bonus for Eco-Modulation when offering OEKO-TEX MADE IN GREEN-certified products.

“When Greenpeace included us in their Label Guide in 2018, it was a great honor. OEKO-TEX® MADE IN GREEN was among the three best labels in the test,” says Martin Cieslik, Head of Global Marketing and Sales at Hohenstein Group. “Being judged as trustworthy by a strict external peer group told me that MADE IN GREEN is making a difference. A few years later, Greenpeace even used our label for some of its own products” □

# Ricoh showcased textile production at FESPA

Ricoh demonstrated next-generation textile-on-demand production versatility at FESPA Global Print Expo 2025, Europe's premier exhibition for screen, digital, wide format, and textile printing, held at Messe Berlin from May 6 to 9.

Meeting the high volume digital production demands of industrial markets will be the RICOH Pro™ D1600 DTF system. Ricoh's industrial printheads help it achieve speeds in excess of 20 sqm per hour for media widths of up to 1300mm film.

Presenting opportunities in production on polyester fabrics for apparel decorators and designers alike is Ricoh's Ri 4000 DTG printer. The system's inbuilt pre-treatment process facilitates consistent, vibrant, and efficient industrial garment printing at an affordable price.

These systems incorporate Ricoh inkjet technology designed to deliver speed,



versatility, durability, and accurate fluid deposition, with minimal maintenance. While ensuring the effective management of consistent and reliable colour accuracy is ColorGATE (a Ricoh company) Production server Version 24 which will be driving all textile devices on show.

Furthermore, the textile systems support just in time, on demand, local production capabilities that reduce waste, maximise resources, and eliminate unnecessary transportation.

Ricoh will also expand on how its Valvejet technology aligns with the industrial painting and coating market's

need for higher viscosity fluids and throw distances along with larger drop sizes. Demonstrating the possibilities will be Ricoh's industrial tyre printing solution developed for the high end customisation market.

Focus will also be on the R & D developer community where collaboration between suppliers can facilitate fast time to market. Printheads, drive electronics, drop watching, and curing are key elements in a fragmented supply chain and Ricoh will advise visitors on navigating this complex process.

Graham Kennedy, General Manager, Industrial Solutions, Ricoh Printing Solutions Europe, said:

"Ricoh technology powers a wide range of industrial solutions, and we looked forward to demonstrating real-life applications at FESPA. The potential for innovative development with partners and clients was limitless" ■

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## Run & Relax chooses Q-NOVA® by Fulgar for sustainable SS25 Activewear Collection

In recent years, Northern European countries have become a global benchmark for sustainable fashion, combining innovation, ethics, and cutting-edge design. Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and Finland have placed sustainability at the heart of their industrial strategies, establishing themselves as industry leaders through advanced government policies, investments in eco-friendly materials, and a strong commitment to the circular economy. Brands are redefining the concept of sustainable fashion by prioritizing recycled or bio-based fibers, low-impact production processes, and business models centered on rental and second-hand fashion. Transparency and traceability of raw materials are essential, along with the pursuit of innovative alternatives, from biodegradable fabrics to natural dyes.

Driving this revolution is also a conscious consumer base that values durable, ethically made garments. The Nordic



market does not just embrace sustainable fashion - it turns it into a true culture, influencing international trends and proving that design and environmental responsibility can go hand in hand.

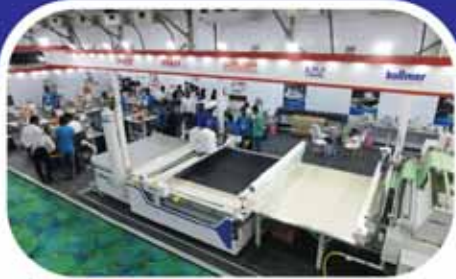
This philosophy extends to the world of activewear, where performance increasingly meets sustainability. A prime example is Run & Relax, a Norwegian brand founded in 2011 specializing in women's yoga and workout apparel. For SS25, the brand embodies this vision with a new eco-friendly collection, created in collaboration with Fulgar, an Italian

company renowned for its high-performance yarns that merge innovation with environmental responsibility.

For select pieces in its SS25 collection, the brand has chosen Q-NOVA® by Fulgar, a sustainable polyamide 6.6 fiber made from regenerated raw materials. Thanks to a low-impact mechanical process, this yarn significantly reduces the ecological footprint of textile production without compromising performance or comfort. The garments are lightweight, soft, and highly breathable.

Founded with the goal of inspiring modern women to balance work, family, and personal life through a healthy lifestyle, Run & Relax creates pieces that combine functionality, minimalist design, and premium materials. The launch of the new capsule collection featuring Q-NOVA® marks another step forward in the brand's commitment to a more responsible and sustainable fashion industry ■

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# JACK A4C – Now Launched in Ludhiana

## Stitching smarter, faster, and stronger

The progress of humanity has driven a change in consumer attitudes, leading to a strong demand for fashion and personalisation in clothing. Therefore, the demand for clothing orders has become fragmented, and quick delivery has become increasingly fierce. The tendency for small orders and quick responses in garment enterprises is inevitable. To respond to this new supply chain, digitalisation, intelligence, and automation technology are the needs of the hour.

As the global garment industry continues to thrive, sewing machines, as an indispensable core tool, are undergoing technological innovation and industrial transformation. To improve the sewing productivity and efficiency, Jack, the world's No. 1 manufacturer of sewing machines, had taken a lead and launched the A4C NTB (No Thread Breakage) sewing machine on 10th March 2025 in New Delhi.

After its successful launch, it was the turn of the Ludhiana garment industry to witness this revolutionary NTB sewing technology. The event was organised on 19th April 2025 at Friends Regency Hotel, Ludhiana partnered with Jainson India, Jack's agent for Punjab. This grand launch was also live telecast and witnessed by the industry worldwide.

Honourable Chief Guest, Mr Tarun Arora, Ex-President, Sewing Machine Dealers and Assemblers Association, Ludhiana, inaugurated the event in the presence of Sidhant Jain, Jainson India, Saurabh Mitra, Branch Manager – North India, Vikash Pandey, Branch Manager - Ludhiana, Jack Sewing Machine Co. Ltd and many leading garment exporters/customers and Jack agents/dealers. More than 230 garment manufacturers and dealers attended the event.

During the inauguration Mr. Arora said, "Jack Technology Co., Ltd. is a global enterprise with the largest production and sales volume and the strongest comprehensive strength in the global sewing equipment industry. It is also a global company that integrates auxiliary material warehousing, intelligent cutting, hanging, sewing, sorting, and finishing. Jack has integrated APS, MES, WMS, PDM and other software and hardware to provide a total solution. Jack has a presence in more than 160 countries and serves many fields such as garments, shoes, luggage, furniture, leather, auto, and aviation. In today's world, improving the efficiency and productivity of the garment factory is very important. I am sure with this new NTB technology, factories will benefit a lot."

Further, Mr. Sidhant Jain, Jainson India, welcomed the chief guest and all the delegates. He gave a small brief about the Jack Company and products offered by them and how his company has grown over the years with Jack's support and good service. He further added, "Since 2010 Jack has been the No. 1 company in sewing machine manufacturers worldwide. Only Jack has 14 research & development centres in the world. We are one of the most active agents in India. We are very aggressively promoting the Jack brand in the Punjab Region, and in the last three years,



Jack's sales have increased almost 4 times. I am very thankful to Jack's team for their support, particularly Vikash Pandey."

After that a presentation was given by Saurabh Mitra, Branch Manager- North India, about the Jack's A4C sewing machine. He highlighted the thread breakage problem faced by the industry in sewing different types of fabric and how new technology used in the Jack A4C machine can solve this problem and improve efficiency. He explained about its cutting-edge No Thread Breakage (NTB) Technology – engineered for uninterrupted, flawless stitching. Zero-Degree Thread Path Technology – Perfect thread alignment for smooth tension and zero defects. Octopus Nine-Brain AI Chip: Industry-first AI-powered control for adaptive speed, self-diagnosis, and smart troubleshooting.

Vikash Pandey, Branch Manager – Ludhiana, explained about Jack's state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in China and their strong R&D. He also shared data about Jack's market share in the world market and how Jack has grown over the years and is now the world's number one sewing machine brand. He further invited the chief guest and other important dignitaries to unveil the new A4C sewing machine and witness the future of industrial sewing with the Jack A4C – the machine rewriting the rules of precision and efficiency.

A live demo of A4C NTB was successfully conducted by demonstrating continuous stitching of thick denim fabric, mesh fabric, and metal with 100% accuracy and no thread breakage and needle break issues. Whereas the same fabric was run on other models of sewing machines on which the thread was breaking many times. This activity shows the new technology

using the Octopus Nine brain AI chip for precise outputs of the fabric-feeding force, with 200,000 fabric samples, 10,000 times/second computing power and 0-degree thread path technology for precise thread handling and thread catching. Jack's exclusive thread – passing technology reduces thread tension by 30%. Now no more wasting time rethreading all day, fewer complaints from operators, and improved production efficiency.

At the end of the presentation, the customers were invited to see the live demonstration of the A4C sewing machine and test the A4C firsthand. An operator competition was also organised with on-the-spot registration, and the best operators were duly rewarded. A special offer was also given to the customers for booking the machine during this event. The customers really appreciated the technology, and many orders were confirmed by existing and new customers.

Now the A4C is setting a new standard for seamless and efficient sewing. Experience the test of sewing extreme fabrics and stitch tension after sewing with the Jack A4C NTB Lockstitch Sewing Machine. Designed for precision and durability, this machine delivers exceptional performance. Its superior quality, seamless operation, and smooth stitching will amaze you. The A4C Lockstitch sewing machine will help to transform and upgrade the Indian garment industry and solve 80% of thread breakage caused by different types of fabrics. It is a breakthrough technology, which boosts productivity with 40% faster cycle times and slashes costs with reduced maintenance and thread



waste. This technology will embark on a new journey of leading the garment industry towards digital upgrading and sustainable development of green energy.

Established in 1995, Jack Technology has grown as a global enterprise with the largest production and sales volume and the strongest comprehensive strength in the global sewing equipment industry. Jack Technology products benefit more than 160 countries and regions globally and serve many fields such as garments, shoes, luggage, furniture, leather, auto, and aviation. The release of the A4C Lockstitch sewing machine after URUS highlights the R&D strength and market influence of Jack Technology in the sewing equipment domain once again ■

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# Inside Kornit's Apollo

## The industry's mass production powerhouse

For many apparel producers, direct-to-garment printing is no longer just a niche technology - it's a growing necessity. Moran Levy, Kornit's Digital's Director of Business Segments and EfiYohanani, Kornit Digital's Product & Program Manager weigh in on what's leading the next generation of DTG printing and how the Apollo is changing the game - one printed piece at a time.

As the digital printing industry moves toward faster, more agile production models, traditional analog methods can feel increasingly rigid. In the world of direct-to-garment (DTG) printing, the demand for speed, scalability, and sustainability has never been greater. With the apparel industry's shift toward on-demand, just-in-time (JIT) production, Kornit Digital's Apollo technology is the game-changing solution. The Apollo offers a bridge between the speed of analog and the flexibility of digital, purpose-built for high-volume operations. Developed over several years with input from some of the world's busiest print floors and launched in 2023 after years of rigorous beta testing, the Apollo is Kornit's response to a shifting production landscape - one majorly defined by a supreme demand for creative flexibility, local responsiveness, and sustainable profitability.

The Apollo can most effectively be considered a platform - not simply a printer. It is part of a longer-term transformation in how garments are produced - one that's increasingly automated, digitally connected, and localized. "Apollo represents a turning point for digital textile printing - not just in speed and quality, but in how it redefines production," says Moran Levy, who along with EfiYohanani, leads the printer's in-depth R&D and system management. "In five years, I see it setting a new standard for high-volume, on-demand digital workflows. Ten years out, it could be at the center of fully automated, interconnected production floors - linked to e-commerce, supply chains, and real-time order systems - enabling faster turnaround, real-time adaptability, and mass customization at scale."

### Designing from the Ground Up

Unlike many printers that are retrofits or reconfigurations of older tech, Apollo was built from scratch with high-throughput digital production in mind. Its automated workflow - from garment loading to curing - is designed to keep operations moving, minimizing downtime and labor. One thing that often

surprises new users is how swiftly it runs. "The most consistent feedback we get is around the speed," says Levy. "In some cases, customers have had to rework their entire floor management strategy just to keep up. Picking and staging garments efficiently becomes critical - otherwise the Apollo can outpace the rest of the process." With a throughput of up to 400 garments per hour, the Apollo is capable of supporting annual production levels well into the seven figures - all with a relatively small footprint and a single operator. Effectively the most industrial-grade solution in the DTG space, the Apollo is ideal for companies with high production volumes - 550,000 impressions per year at a minimum, though it truly shines above 700,000. It's well-suited for jobs that were traditionally produced using analog methods, like short runs of 200 to 300 units with a few colors. Those can now be done digitally, without sacrificing quality.

### Digital Efficiency Meets Operational Flexibility

While speed is a standout, Apollo's core strength may lie in its integration-ready design. It supports full automation via API, making it easier to connect to production planning systems, e-commerce platforms, or digital order flows. Yet it's equally functional as a standalone unit, allowing for localized or semi-automated use depending on the operation. "Apollo was designed as a truly digital solution," Levy explains. "It's not just about speed - it's about ergonomics, reliability, and how it fits into a modern workflow. Every decision was made to support efficient, high-volume production." This balance of automation and manual flexibility makes it adaptable - whether you're running a tightly integrated fulfillment network or scaling a mid-sized business into new markets.

Kornit is also tapping into new innovations regarding how businesses invest in the Apollo. With its all-inclusive SaaS "pay-per-click" model, customers don't need to purchase the printer outright. Instead, they pay a fixed fee per impression - covering



the printer, consumables, and service. This frees up capital for businesses by removing the printing costs associated with each order. Customers only pay when they're producing and selling, which makes it a more scalable, lower-risk model for businesses that are growing. This approach also simplifies planning. In contrast to traditional capital expenditure models - where the cost per garment can vary depending on ink coverage - the Apollo model offers a predictable cost structure, easing pricing decisions and financial forecasting. With the AIC model, the cost per garment is fixed and predictable, removing the variability often seen in traditional CAPEX setups. Kornit also assists in providing samples and detailed cost analyses so customers can actually visualize and map out a plan that fits their most agile and cost effective business needs.

### Built-in Sustainability

For businesses trying to reduce their environmental impact, Apollo offers meaningful advantages. Its pigment ink system eliminates the water-intensive processes required by other technologies, while its built-in infrared dryer is designed to minimize energy waste through insulation and targeted heat distribution. More importantly, Apollo enables just-in-time production - helping reduce overproduction and excess inventory by aligning output more closely with real-time demand. "It's not only about greener materials or processes



- it's about making the entire production model more efficient and less wasteful," emphasizes Levy. This kind of change can ripple throughout a supply chain, especially as more brands prioritize both environmental impact and production transparency.

For apparel decorators, fulfillment centers, and global brands alike, the move to digital is no longer a question of if, but how. With its focus on high-speed output, scalable automation, and environmental responsibility, Kornit's Apollo is a thoughtfully designed answer for operations that want to grow with the best of the industry ■



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# SPINEXPO unveils 2026-27 yarn and knitwear trends

SPINEXPO has announced the dates for its upcoming June 2025 shows, set to be held in Paris and Hong Kong, showcasing the Autumn/Winter 2026-27 collections. The international textile events will once again bring together leading yarn, fibre, knitwear and knitted product innovators.

The Paris edition, known as SPINCLUB Paris, will take place on 17-18 June 2025 at the new venue Espace 38, next to Place de la Concorde. SPINCLUB Hong Kong follows shortly after on 24-25 June 2025 at Soho House, Sheung Wan. Both editions will be open to industry professionals, offering unique insight into the latest technical and creative developments in the textile industry.

This season, SPINEXPO introduces a special trend area titled The Cabinet of Curiosities, featuring 58 textile exhibitors from spinning and knitwear sectors at the SPINCLUBS. The trend displays will highlight four thematic directions: Inclusivity, Escapism, Versatility and Connectivity. Each narrative is accompanied by a curated colour palette and explores the origin, aesthetic, and function of innovation in textile creation.

Visitors can expect immersive storytelling that bridges advanced yarns, textile technologies, spinning methods and



contemporary design. Mannequins dressed in prototype garments and tactile exhibits aim to transform conceptual trends into real-world applications.

The creative direction of the trend area is centred on a unified palette moving from “Warms into Colds,” encouraging attendees to explore the evolving spectrum of colour and meaning. From the grounding tones of Inclusivity to the ethereal palette of Escapism, and the practical elegance of Versatility to the digitally inspired Connectivity, SPINEXPO continues to shape the future of textile innovation ■

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## UMPEL & ERBATECH Collaborate to strengthen business in India

Universal MEP Projects & Engineering Services Limited (UMPEL), a 100% wholly owned subsidiary of Voltas Limited, has joined hands with Erbatech GmbH, Germany to deliver high-end solutions for wet finishing of woven fabrics to the textile industry in India.

Commenting on the partnership, Pradip Roy, Head – Textile Machinery Division, UMPEL said, “The collaboration is set to expand both UMPEL and Erbatech’s presence in India’s growing textile industry. It will enhance UMPEL’s product portfolio and

solidify its position as a market leader by providing customers with comprehensive, state-of-the-art manufacturing solutions.”

Klaus Bergmann, Head of Sales of Erbatech GmbH expressed his pleasure of partnering with UMPEL as the company has a long-standing track record in industrial machinery in the Indian market and is one of the world’s leading textile industries. He added, “Through this partnership, Erbatech looks forward to provide high-end solutions for wet finishing for woven fabrics incorporating its latest technologies to our customers in India” ■





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# Hanover gears up to welcome ITMA participants after three decades



The city of Hanover is eagerly waiting to welcome participants of the world's largest textile and garment technology exhibition - ITMA 2027. The exhibition will be held from 16 to 22 September 2027. It is expected to gross 200,000 square metres, occupying 13 exhibition halls at the MesseGelaende Hannover.

Held once every four years since 1951, ITMA was last staged in the German city in 1991. The bid for ITMA 2027 was submitted by the venue owner Deutsche Messe in close cooperation with the capital of Lower Saxony and the office of the Lord Mayor.

Belit Onay, Mayor and CEO of the City of Hanover enthused, "We are elated to have successfully bid for ITMA 2027. A bustling hub for trade fairs and congresses, the city looks forward to welcome ITMA back to Hanover after more than 30 years.

"We will spare no effort to ensure the hosting of an excellent ITMA. Hanover is a green and efficient city with a relaxed atmosphere. As a major trade fair city, Hanover is organised, and easy to navigate, making it a stress-free destination for visitors. Its blend of history and modernity makes it a hidden gem for those seeking a well-balanced urban experience."

## Interesting accommodation options

Hanover is no stranger to hosting mega trade shows. Supporting this established trade fairs destination is an ample and diverse range of accommodation options, including hotels, guesthouses, inns and private apartments. Each of these options caters to different needs and offers a unique experience.

Currently, the city of Hanover offers over 18,000 hotel beds, ranging from budget to premium options. In the surrounding districts and metropolitan region, an additional 54,000 beds are available. According to Deutsche Messe, the exhibition venue operator, around 4,000 private accommodations can also be found throughout the city, nearby areas, and the broader metropolitan region.

"The majority of the accommodation allows you to get to the fairground within 30 to 90 minutes. In addition, we have a campground opposite the exhibition venue that is open to participants who bring their motorhomes and caravans. ITMA

2027 participants can expect to have more options when another 700 rooms are made available in the city centre next year," said Dr. Jochen Koeckler, Chairman of Deutsche Messe's Board.

To further assist ITMA participants, the organiser ITMA Services has appointed accommodation specialist network to provide hotel and vacation apartment booking services. Backed by nearly two decades of experience, the destination management company has handled two past ITMA exhibitions in Barcelona and is attuned to the needs of participants. A dedicated website is being set up for ITMA participants to book their accommodation.

While Hanover may not be a primary global gateway in Germany, it is exceptionally well-connected within Europe and beyond. With direct high-speed train links and a well-connected airport, it serves as a convenient transit point for business travellers.

The fairground is accessible by public transport. It has two modern light rail stations that provide direct connections to the city centre. It also has direct links to the motorways, and around 39,000 car parking spaces.

Alex Zucchi, President of CEMATEX which owns ITMA 2027, said, "We look forward to staging our exhibition in Hanover. The city has the necessary infrastructure to support a huge congregation of exhibitors and visitors of a mega ITMA exhibition. The organising team is working with the venue owner to ensure that all participants will have a seamless experience akin to what they have been used to at past editions.

More exhibition information will be available from the ITMA 2027 website which will be launched this July, ahead of the opening of stand space application in September. The last ITMA exhibition was held in Milan in 2023. Grossing 200,000 square metres, it featured the participation of 1,709 exhibitors from 47 countries, and visitorship of over 111,000 from 143 countries ■

# Why sustainability means printing less, not just printing better

In the textile industry, the term “sustainability” is often tied to better inks, eco-friendly fabrics, or energy-efficient machinery. But one of the biggest environmental burdens remains largely ignored: overproduction. Printing smarter only works if we also print less.

**M**ass production leads to unsold inventory, markdowns, and waste. Sustainability isn't just about how we print - it's about how much we print.

## The Overproduction Problem

Traditional screen printing requires multiple screens and high setup costs, making it viable only for bulk quantities. This encourages brands to overproduce, hoping to sell in volume. But what doesn't sell becomes dead stock - piling up in warehouses or ending up in landfills.

## The Hybrid Solution: Cost-Effective Low-MOQ Printing

This is where hybrid digital printing steps in-not as a replacement for screen or DTG, but as the perfect bridge between the two. By combining the speed and effects of screen printing (like glitter, foil, and puff) with the versatility and color range of digital printing, hybrid machines enable cost-efficient production for as low as 50 pieces, even for complex, high-fashion designs.

Here's how hybrid supports sustainable, need-based production:

### 1. Low Minimums with High Impact

Instead of printing thousands of units, brands can now confidently produce 50 to 100 pieces-even for intricate designs-using just one screen for under base and a few for value additions. The millions of digital colors eliminate the need for multiple color screens.

### 2. Flexibility for Fast-Moving Trends

With quick change overs and minimal setup, hybrid machines let brands respond to market demand and trends without over committing inventory.



### 3. Value Additions without Volume Pressure

Hybrid makes it viable to add fashion-forward elements like foil, puff, or glitter on small orders - something that was once only economical at scale.

### 4. Less Waste, Smarter Inventory

Lower MOQs mean less overstock, less fabric waste, and fewer unsold garments. It's a smarter way to manage resources and reduce environmental impact.

## The Way Forward

Sustainability in fashion printing isn't just about switching inks or machines - it's about changing the mindset. Hybrid printing enables a practical, profitable way to embrace low-volume, high-variation production that aligns with real customer demand.

At RDX, we believe the future belongs to intelligent manufacturing - where efficiency meets creativity and sustainability. Hybrid printing doesn't just make fashion faster. It makes it leaner, cleaner, and smarter ■

*(Deepak Siddharth K - Founder at RDX Digital Technologies)*



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# Forthcoming trade events...

## INTERNATIONAL

### ▶▶ SPINEXPO PARIS

17 – 18, June, 2025  
Venue: The Westin Paris - Vendome, Paris, France  
Organizers: Well Link Consultants  
Tel: +86 138 1750 2652

### ▶▶ PITTI IMMAGINE FILATI 2025

01 – 03, July, 2025  
Venue: Fortezza da Basso, Florence, Italy  
Organizer: Pitti Immagine  
Tel: +39-055-3693408

### ▶▶ SPINEXPO SHANGHAI

19 – 21 August, 2025  
Venue: Shanghai World Expo Exhibition Center, China  
Organizers: Well Link Consultants  
Tel: +86 138 1750 2652

### ▶▶ MUNICH FABRIC START

02 – 03 September, 2025  
Venue: Munich Order Centre, Munich Germany  
Organizers: Munich Fabric Start Exhibition GmbH  
Tel: +49 (0) 89 45 22470

### ▶▶ YARN EXPO – AUTUMN EDITION

02 – 04, September 2025  
Venue: National Convention & Exhibition Center, Shanghai, China  
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd.  
Tel: +852 2802 7728

### ▶▶ FILO

10 – 11 September, 2025  
Venue: Allianz MiCo GATE 3, Viale Eginardo, Milan, Italy  
Organizer: AssoServizi Biella Srl  
Tel: +390158492132

### ▶▶ CISMA

24 – 27 September, 2025  
Venue: Shanghai New International Expo Centre  
Organizer: China Sewing Machinery Association  
Tel: 010-6521 1282 / 6524 2231 / 6525 3261

### ▶▶ ITMA ASIA + CITME - SINGAPORE

28 – 31 October, 2025  
Venue: Singapore Expo  
Organizer: ITMA Services Pte Ltd  
Tel: +65 6849 9368

### ▶▶ PERFORMANCE DAYS

29 – 30 October, 2025  
Venue: MesseMünchen, Munich, Germany  
Organizer: Design & Development GmbH Textile Consult  
Tel: +49 89 9394 6060

### ▶▶ ISPO MUNICH

30 Nov – 02 December, 2025  
Venue: Trade Fair Center Messe München, Germany  
Organizer: Messe Munchen GmbH  
Tel: +49 89 949-11388

### ▶▶ MYANMAR INT'L TEXTILE GARMENT INDUSTRY EXHIBITION

16 – 19 December, 2025  
Venue: Yangon Convention Centre, Myanmar  
Organizer: Chan Chao Intl. Co., Ltd.  
Tel: +886-2-2659-6000

### ▶▶ FESPA MIDDLE EAST 2026

13 – 15 January 2026  
Venue: Dubai Exhibition Centre, Dubai  
Organizer: FESPA  
Tel: +971 555 710900

### ▶▶ VIETNAM INTL. TRADE FAIR FOR APPAREL, TEXTILES & TEXTILE TECHNOLOGIES (VIATT)

26 – 28 February 2026  
Venue: Saigon Exhibition and Convention Centre, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam  
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd.  
Tel: +852 2238 9963

### ▶▶ YARN EXPO - SPRING

11 – 13 March, 2026  
Venue: National Convention & Exhibition Center, Shanghai, China  
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt GmbH  
Tel: +4969 7575-5869

### ▶▶ TECHTEXTIL FRANKFURT

21 – 24 April, 2026  
Venue: Frankfurt am Main, Germany  
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt GmbH  
Tel: +4969 7575-5869

### ▶▶ ASIAN INTERNATIONAL YARN AND FABRIC SOURCING SHOW

03 – 05 June, 2026  
Venue: Impact Exhibition Center, Bangkok - Thailand  
Organizer: CEMS Global  
Tel: +1-516-240-8077

### ▶▶ ITMA – HANNOVER

16 – 22, September 2027  
Venue: Hannover Exhibition Centre, Hannover  
Organizer: ITMA Services Pte Ltd.  
Tel: +65 6849 9368

## DOMESTIC

### ▶▶ GARFAB – TX SURAT

13 – 15 June, 2025  
Venue: Surat International Exhibition Convention Centre, Surat  
Organizer: Vardaan Events  
Tel: +91 9821170104, 9341444727

### ▶▶ GLOBAL GARMENTS & TECHNOLOGY EXPO

13 – 15 June, 2025  
Venue: Helipad Exhibition Centre, Sector 17, Gandhinagar, Gujarat  
Organizer: National Trade Fair  
Tel: +91 96064 45649

### ▶▶ MAN-MADE FIBRE CONCLAVE

01 July, 2025  
Venue: Vivanta Coimbatore, 105 Race Course Rd., Tamil Nadu  
Organizer: CITI  
Tel: 23325013 / 15 / 55

### ▶▶ F&A SHOW / TEXINDIA / DYECEM / APPAREL SOURCING FAIR

10 – 12 July, 2025  
Venue: Pragati Maidan, New Delhi  
Organizer: SS Textile Media Pvt. Ltd.  
Tel: 8884564643

### ▶▶ WEAVEKNITT 2025

18 – 20 July, 2025  
Venue: Surat International Exhibition & Convention Centre (SIECC), Surat  
Organizer: The Southern Gujarat Chamber Of Commerce & Industry  
Tel: +91 261 2291111, 9106376152

### ▶▶ YARN EXPO

01 – 03, August 2025  
Venue: Surat International Exhibition & Convention Centre, Sarsana, Surat  
Organizers: SGCCI  
Tel: 72111 73116, 91 261 2291116

### ▶▶ KNIT-SHOW

08 – 10, August 2025  
Venue: Toplight Trade Center, Kangeyam Main Road, Manimahal Bus Stop, Tirupur  
Organizers: Knit Show Trade Exposition  
Tel: 94437 92612, 98436 26285

### ▶▶ GARTEX TEXPROCESS - DELHI

21 – 23, August 2025  
Venue: Bharat Mandapam (Pragati Maidan), New Delhi  
Organizers: MEX Exhibitions & Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India Pvt Ltd.  
Tel: 9873993950, 91-22-61445990

### ▶▶ YARNEX / TEXINDIA/DYECEM

25 – 27 September, 2025  
Venue: India Knit Fair Complex, Tirupur  
Organizer: SS Textile Media Pvt. Ltd.  
Tel: 8884564643

### ▶▶ GARMENT TECHNOLOGY EXPO - AHMEDABAD

07 – 09, November, 2025  
Venue: Helipad Exhibition Centre, Gandhinagar, Gujarat  
Organizers: Garment Technology Expo P. Ltd.  
Tel: +91-7428499699, +91-11-41601663

### ▶▶ GARKNIT-X KOLKATA

14 – 16, November, 2025  
Venue: Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Kolkata  
Organizer: Vardaan Events  
Tel: +9821170104, 9341444727

### ▶▶ TECHTEXTIL INDIA

19 – 21 November, 2025  
Venue: Bombay Exhibition Centre (BEC) NESCO, Western Express Highway Goregaon East, Mumbai, India  
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India Pvt. Ltd.  
Tel: + 4969 7575-5869

### ▶▶ YARNEX / F&A SHOW

27 – 29 November, 2025  
Venue: Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai  
Organizer: SS Textile Media Pvt. Ltd.  
Tel: 8884564643

### ▶▶ YARNEX / TEXINDIA/DYECEM

19 – 21 December, 2025  
Venue: Dana Mandi, BahadurKe Road, Ludhiana  
Organizer: SS Textile Media Pvt. Ltd.  
Tel: 8884564643

### ▶▶ YARNEX / TEXINDIA/DYECEM

23 – 25 January, 2026  
Venue: Biswa Bangla Mela Pragan, Kolkata  
Organizer: SS Textile Media Pvt. Ltd.  
Tel: 8884564643

### ▶▶ F&A SHOW / APPAREL SOURCING FAIR

06 – 08 February, 2026  
Venue: KTPO, Whitefield, Bangalore  
Organizer: SS Textile Media Pvt. Ltd.  
Tel: 8884564643

### ▶▶ GARMENT TECHNOLOGY EXPO – DELHI/NCR

13 – 16, March, 2026  
Venue: India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida  
Organizer: Garment Technology Expo P. Ltd.  
Tel: +91-7428499699, +91-11-41601663

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



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