

# Italian Textile Machinery: Mission to Kenya and Tanzania



An institutional and commercial mission of Italian textile machinery manufacturers took place from 4 to 8 November in Kenya and Tanzania. The initiative's organizers, Italian Trade Agency and ACIMIT, the Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers, wanted to strengthen contacts between the Italian textile machinery industry and the textile sector in these two African Countries.

The world's textile and garment sector is closely watching manufacturing Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, an area that is emerging as a manufacturing hub for the industry, firstly for obvious reasons relating to production costs, but also for the incentives offered by local governments. Consequently, investments in machinery are also increasing and Italian manufacturers do not want to be caught unprepared in this growth scenario.

"Following several promotional initiatives focusing on Ethiopia over the past few years," explains ACIMIT President Alessandro Zucchi, "together with the Italian Trade Agency, we've decided to explore the business opportunities in Kenya and Tanzania, two Countries whose respective Governments are currently promoting the development of their textile and garment industry."



Alessandro Zucchi, President ACIMIT

Kenya, in particular, is an especially interesting market for textile machinery manufacturers. Indeed, the development programme known as Vision 2030 put forward by the local authorities places the textile sector among the primary beneficiaries of the incentives made available by the Government, in addition to providing Kenyan manufacturers with access to the US market, thanks to AGOA (the African Growth and Opportunity Act), which has boosted the Country's exports.

"Both Kenya and Tanzania need to develop their respective textile sectors, through a massive modernization process of existing technology," points out Zucchi. "This mission offered us with an opportunity to kick start a fruitful and cooperative partnership with major textile manufacturers in both Countries, while preventing China from monopolizing the textile machinery market in this area of Africa."

During the mission, Italy's representatives met up with textile companies and authorities, as well as the industry's main institutional representatives in the two Countries. The following nine Italian machinery manufacturers associated with ACIMIT took part in the initiative: Bianco, Brazzoli, Cibitex, Danitech, Itema, Ferraro, Marzoli, Mesdan and Tmt Cimi.

The outcome of the initiative was positive: Italian textile technologies were highly appreciated locally, both in Kenya and in Tanzania, considering them an opportunity for upgrading the production plants in order to achieve a greater competitiveness in the world scenario. About 50 operators of the two Countries attended the initiative.

ACIMIT will also be on hand at ITME Africa, the industry's top trade show in Sub-Saharan Africa, to be held in Addis Ababa from 14 to 16 February 2020. ♦



# Italian textile machinery will be present at Irantex 2019

As part of the promotional activities set for 2019, Italian Trade Agency and ACIMIT, the Association of Italian textile machinery manufacturers, will organize Punto Italia, a service center at the next IRANTEX, the main Iranian textile and textile machinery trade show, to be held in Tehran, from 9 to 12 December 2019.

Punto Italia, located in Pavilion nr. 38, will be used for meetings between Italian textile machinery builders and their Iranian customers. Moreover in the service center local companies will be able to get for information on the Italian technological offer.

"Despite the difficulties that still exist for doing business in the Iranian market due to the well-known reasons, explains Alessandro Zucchi, president of ACIMIT, it is important to keep in touch with a market of significant importance for our manufacturers". Embargo to Iran has in fact reset Italian exports towards the Country, which until a decade ago was among the main foreign market of Italian builders. In the first half of 2019 the value of the Italian direct export to Iran was equal to 2 million euros compared to 15 million euros in the same period 2018.

"Unfortunately what is happening in Iran testifies how geopolitical tensions can influence heavily the business of a sector," concludes Zucchi. Only two years ago, following the signing of the Iranian nuclear deal, named JCPOA (the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action), Italian exports came to a value of around 45 million euros. Punto Italia at Irantex is the signal that our entrepreneurs believe in the ending of the embargo and in the resumption of normal commercial relations with the Iranian counterpart ". ♦

# New upgrade transforms the ACW into WINGS

Recently, upgrades and retrofits were made available for Oerlikon Barmag ACW-series winders, with which the benefits of the WINGS concept become tangibly close for operators of POY spinning systems equipped with ACW technology. Worldwide, thousands of winders could take advantage of this system upgrade.

In addition to savings in terms of energy, waste and HR, the benefits of the WINGS concept above all include the consistently high yarn quality, making WINGS yarn a winner in further processing. Particularly with regards to its dyeing properties, the yarn is considerably superior to products manufactured using conventional winder technology.

Yarn producers can now also achieve these typical WINGS properties with ACW winders – with a corresponding system upgrade. The ACW WINGS conversion components and ACW upgrades for draw units can be installed as plug-in units in virtually no time at all, hence minimizing system downtimes. Analog to WINGS, the new ACW WINGS draw unit is more compact and also guides the yarn using rollers instead of yarn guides. This minimizes friction for the yarn and the angles of deflection remain the same, which in turn optimizes the yarn tension on all packages.

## Already being used in China

The first expansion phase with 96 positions is already successfully operating at Chinese polyester yarn manufacturer Zhejiang Rongsheng. "We achieved excellent yarn values after just four days. The yarns are of AA quality for a full package rate of 98% and a yarn break rate of 0.5 per ton", summarizes Xu Yongming, Plant Manager at Rongsheng, talking about the upgrade package. "This has allowed us to once again become one of the top manufacturers with our ACW yarns." A second expansion phase with 88 further positions will follow at the end of 2019.

The conversion package is also particularly interesting as a result of its fast ROI (return-on-investment) of less than one year. ACW WINGS is available for all ACW-type POY / HOY winders for polyester, polyamide 6 and polyamide 6.6. ♦



*Bruce Atherley, Executive Director,  
Cotton Council International*

## COTTON USA™ and Oritain™ Ink New Partnership for Traceability

COTTON USA™ and Oritain™ have signed a partnership to provide industry with forensic verification of origin for all U.S. cotton. A global first for the cotton industry, this collaboration will give brands and retailers the assurance they need to make responsible sourcing and purchasing decisions.

“We’re thrilled that COTTON USA is taking the lead when it comes to traceability,” said Rupert Hodges, Executive Director, Oritain. “We want to support COTTON USA who are making a conscious effort to find real, workable ways of farming more sustainably. The result is an incredibly high-quality crop that not only performs well but supports the environment. Now through Oritain, customers who choose U.S. cotton can have total confidence that they are getting the product that they sourced.”

While this level of traceability is new, the U.S. cotton industry has always strived to produce and deliver high quality cotton that is the most sustainable cotton in the world. This ambition is already being realized through improved

fiber properties, increased productivity and a shrinking environmental footprint. All cotton-producing regions in the U.S. are aiming to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, soil loss, water, energy and land usage.

“This partnership with Oritain will provide COTTON USA with a unique selling point in both domestic and export markets,” said Bruce Atherley, Executive Director, Cotton Council International. “Now U.S. cotton will offer the highest level of end-to-end traceability in the industry, combined with a raw material that is leading the way in terms of sustainable practices – two things that global clothing brands now demand from their suppliers.”

To achieve the level of traceability that the industry is demanding, Oritain’s unique method applies forensic science to detect trace elements in the cotton itself. Soil composition and other environmental factors give the cotton an inherent “fingerprint” specific to each location – what Oritain calls the Origin Fingerprint. This is the only way to be absolutely sure

of where particular cotton was grown. Cotton can be tested at any stage on its journey from farm to shop floor, giving buyers complete assurance that the product has not been substituted along the way.

Guaranteeing origin will address traceability challenges faced by the global cotton industry, including minimizing the risk of supply chain partners blending the product with lower quality fibers. “Global supply chains are incredibly complex and the potential for blending and other illegal activity in the production of cotton textile products is large. However, given that Oritain’s Origin Fingerprint cannot be altered or faked, COTTON USA and their customers can be safe in the knowledge that their product is exactly what it says it is,” said Hodges.

This new partnership follows a successful pilot program and rigorous blind test for Oritain, during which samples were collected across Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Tennessee, and subsequently identified with 100% accuracy.



# OmniBloq™ approved by Cotton Incorporated for STORM COTTON™ and STORM DENIM™

After extensive testing, OmniBloq™ - Bolger & O'Hearn's high powered, Stormproof/Breathable™ durable water repellent has been approved by Cotton, Incorporated as an official STORM COTTON™ and STORM DENIM™ breathable water repellent technology.

STORM COTTON™ and STORM DENIM™ are new brands from Cotton, Inc. designed to combine the natural comfort of cotton with high performance characteristics normally found in synthetic materials.

Recent tests of OmniBloq™ conducted by Cotton, Inc. at their labs demonstrated that OmniBloq™ meets the stringent repellence, breathability and durability requirements necessary to be an approved chemistry for apparel carrying the STORM COTTON™ and/or STORM DENIM™ brand labels.

STORM COTTON™ Technology is a repellent finish for cotton that offers protection from rain and snow, while maintaining the natural comfort of cotton. Highly durable, the STORM COTTON™ finish offers improved performance over typical DWR treatments by maintaining excellent repellency performance throughout the life of the garment.

STORM COTTON™ is also highly breathable. According to materials supplied by Cotton, Inc., many water-repellent treatments inhibit a fabric's

ability to breathe and transfer moisture vapor. Although it repels liquids, STORM COTTON™ Technology doesn't impact or impede the natural ability of cotton to breath and allow moisture vapor to escape and evaporate.

STORM DENIM™ has the same attributes and is applied on the garment, which allows greater flexibility to apply additional garment finishing techniques.

OmniBloq™ is a powerful new Durable Water Repellent developed by Bolger and O'Hearn that is both stormproof and breathable. Unlike most DWR's on the market, OmniBloq™ has been engineered to keep working even in heavy snow or pounding rain. Most DWR's quickly lose power in those conditions, while OmniBloq™ maintains performance. In a class by itself, OmniBloq™ adds lightweight, breathable repellence against the elements without bulky membranes. OmniBloq™ also holds onto its power through multiple washings.

"We are very proud that OmniBloq™ is now an approved DWR chemistry for apparel carrying the STORM COTTON™ and STORM DENIM™ brand labels," said Shaun O'Hearn, president of Bolger & O'Hearn. "When we began working with Cotton Inc. on this project, we had no doubt OmniBloq™ would not only meet but surpass their criteria. This endorsement from Cotton Inc., which is

one of the most respected institutions in the global textile industry, underscores what we have known all along about this unique chemistry," O'Hearn said.

"We're excited about the outstanding results," he added, "and believe this points to the immense value OmniBloq™ is bringing to the global textile industry and Bolger & O'Hearn's role as a trusted developer of next-generation chemistries."

Known for innovation and the highest quality standards, Bolger & O'Hearn frequently develops new products for industry partners, which include several major brands. A bluesign system® partner since 2014, B&O is also actively committed to sustainability in both its manufacturing processes and the chemistries the company develops, manufactures and sells. For example, B&O is a leader in the development of fluorine-free water repellents and continually strives to improve the health, safety and environmental profiles of all of its products.

In fact, many are water-based and/or on the prestigious ZDHC list of environmentally-approved chemistries. B&O also generates half the energy it needs to run the company's US manufacturing operations from an on-site solar field, reducing their annual carbon emissions by 125,000 pounds, or the equivalent of 14,065,489 gallons of gasoline. ♦

# Norafin Industries provides protection for specialists

Norafin produces innovative, hydroentangled and needle-punched nonwoven fabrics for numerous applications that surround us in many areas of our life as high-tech components. They protect, filter, clean, air-condition and create comfort and safety. Companies such as Norafin therefore make an important contribution to an environment worth living in. To guarantee this high quality, metal detectors are an indispensable aid for plant protection and quality assurance.

The company was founded in 1985 and its headquarters have been in Mildena in the Erzgebirge (Ore Mountains) since 1997, where it employs 193 people and had a turnover of 36 million Euros last year. In 2018 the company completed the construction of its production facility in Mills River, North Carolina, USA. 36 employees found a new workplace on a floor area of 7,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

And not only that: with the construction of a production facility in North America, the company can offer an even better service to its customers, which include a company that makes protective clothing, and further expand and strengthen its position in the market. For instance, almost every protective jacket used today by the fire department in the USA already contains a heat and fire-resistant protective barrier made of nonwoven fabric from Norafin. "When the fire department's operatives go out to fight fire, their protective suits often

contain 2 to 3 layers of the Norafin product", explains Norafin's CEO André Lang. Other, but no less demanding quality criteria apply to other applications in the fields of industry, medicine, composites and filtration.

"Whatever our customers demand from us, that is also precisely what we expect from our partners. That's why we only cooperate with the best", says André Lang.

When it comes to metal detection, the company relies on Mesutronic Gerätebau GmbH from Kirchberg in Wald, Lower Bavaria, Germany, which leads in the textile industry with its metal detectors. To achieve optimum process and quality assurance, beam and flying conveyor detectors are used in the different process stages of the nonwoven fabric production.

Primary, artificial and natural fibres are used, which are manufactured according to a proprietary recipe – free from metallic contaminants.

However, fibre openers and carding machines with metallic tools are used in the further processing, e.g. for cutting open bales and manufacturing the nonwoven fabrics. If these tools break, they can not only negatively affect the properties of the product, but also endanger the entire production. For that reason Norafin uses the Metron 05 Powerline metal detector in the fibre transport. This detector can be inserted directly into the pipeline. Metals can also

generate sparks in these areas and thus start a fire. Metal detectors and spark detectors are therefore often integrated together in pipelines. Through their use at the start of production, the ingress and distribution of metal contaminants in the further process can be minimised without the risk of having to scrap finished nonwoven fabric.

In the subsequent manufacturing process, needle punching and extremely variable hydroentanglement take place for the specialisation of the nonwoven fabric. With mechanical needle-punching, the downstream production plants are normally protected by beam-shaped metal detectors. Damage to the plants caused by needle breakage are usually very expensive and the loss of production in the case of a high production density can barely be compensated.

In accordance with Norafin's strict quality assurance concept, the nonwoven fabrics are guided over a segmented detector at the end of the manufacturing process before being made up. Very fine metal parts such as a broken fragment of the tip of a needle are reliably detected with this system of the type Metron 04 Profiline. Depending on the version, the position of the foreign body can be located with an accuracy of 300 or 150 mm. The detection system can operate without any problem under the varying process conditions with production speeds of up to 2 m/s and product temperatures of up to 120 °C. ♦



# Meech's VacClean

Leading textile finishing company, Pincroft, reflects on more than three years of partnership with Meech web cleaning systems to boost quality, improve productivity and reduce waste.

Based in Lancashire in the north of England, Pincroft has a proud heritage of more than 100 years in the dyeing and finishing of textiles. For the last 25 years it has specialised in the production of workwear fabrics and is acknowledged as a global leader in this field. As a major supplier to the British armed forces as well as a range of other industries – Pincroft's customers demand fabrics finished to the highest possible standards. For more than three years the company has been using Meech VacClean™ units across multiple production lines to ensure this standard is met.

"We set ourselves an extremely high bar when it comes to quality control," says Production Manager, Adrian Kirkpatrick. "We work to a rule of no more than ten faults in a fabric roll of



100 metres. In a production environment like ours, small airborne contaminants are an unavoidable fact of life. Dust, lint and loose threads regularly attach themselves to fabrics and this can obviously cause major problems to finished quality as contaminants that are printed or dyed over then leave a blemish or 'resist mark' when they later fall off or are removed. If this happens too often, you end up having to reject large quantities of material, and redo jobs. This costs both time and money as well as generating unnecessary waste."

In order to improve the overall quality of its product offering and to reduce waste, Pincroft, in 2016, invested in Meech's VacClean web cleaning system. "We looked at a number of different solutions – but ultimately decided that Meech offered the best value for money. We noticed an

immediate cost saving and quality improvement after installation and we now operate eight VacClean units across our production lines."

The benefits have been ongoing, Kirkpatrick says: "The units are compact and easy to use, clean and transport around the plant so we can ensure that they are always providing us with maximum benefit, and Meech remains a pleasure to work with. We're equally delighted with both quality of their products and the service they provide us with."

Donald Lewis, Business Development Manager at Meech International says: "Meech's web cleaning solutions – as well as its static control systems – are widely used and highly regarded in the packaging and converting sectors. Textile finishers experience many of the same challenges when it comes to production quality, but they are often unaware of the solutions that exist to meet these challenges head on. We're delighted to have been able to help a textile finisher of Pincroft's standing to improve the quality of the products they produce for their customers and we look forward to continuing to work with them in the years to come." ♦

# Vamani Overseas opts for Datatex for ERP Implementation

Vamani Overseas – an established and well-known name in apparel exports specially in women's woven clothing has decided to implement full suite of Datatex Solutions.

Mr. Sushil Kumar Singh, CEO said "We decided to upgrade and revamp our software infrastructure after



Sushil Kumar Singh, CEO Vamani Associates.

detailed analysis of Datatex ERP, planning and scheduling solutions. After going through all the garment industry specific functionalities and

being convinced with the state-of-the-art technology features we finalized Datatex. We look forward to improved business operations with Datatex implementations."

Datatex CEO Mr. Ronnie Hagin said "Garment division of Vamani Overseas is a young and energetic organization that is on the cusp of the greater growth. NOW – our Java J2EE ERP – would help Vamani realise the full potential of our ERP and achieve the growth plans. We will implement solutions for capacity planning and machine scheduling along with NOW. This software suite will help the entire organization increase the efficiencies across the business" ♦

