MENA Carpet News



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DOMOTEX 2021 POSTPONED FROM JANUARY TO MAY

The reasons for the postponement are based on the latest developments regarding the worldwide rampant COVID-19 pandemic.

There is general uncertainty in relation to travelling abroad. Many countries have introduced strict travel and quarantine regulations and it is impossible to predict for how long these regulations will be in place.

Although two-thirds of the exhibition space – about 62,000 square meters – had already been booked and a comprehensive hygiene concept had been developed to comply with COV-ID-19 safety regulations, Deutsche Messe AG has decided to postpone the next edition of DOMOTEX to 20 – 22 May 2021. The show was originally scheduled to take place from 15 – 18 January 2021.

The reasons for the postponement are based on the latest developments regarding the worldwide rampant COVID-19 pandemic and on the fact that, in view of these developments, clients, exhibitors and visitors have asked for DOMOTEX to be held at a later date. DOMOTEX is now planning a digital conference to take place on 15 January 2021, the



show's original start date.

The wide international reach and high-calibre visitors, such as top decision-makers, are considered to be among the core benefits of DO-MOTEX, the leading trade show for carpets and floor coverings: in January 2020, 70 percent of visitors came from abroad and more than 80 percent of exhibitors represented more than 60 nations. As every year, the flooring industry came together in Hannover. Now, the latest developments in the COVID-19 pandemic show that infection rates are rising again everywhere.

Many countries have introduced strict travel and quarantine regula-

tions and it is impossible to predict for how long these regulations will be in place. There is also a general hesitation to travel abroad and we do not know when people will feel safe to travel again. And then again, there is also the prospect that a vaccine may be available by the end of this year.

"It is our duty to act responsibly. From many conversations with exhibitors and partners we have learned that, first and foremost, we have to ensure planning security in good time", says Dr. Andreas Gruchow, board member of Deutsche

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CERSAIE POSTPONED THROUGH 2021

Bologna, Italy - After announcing a 2020 postponement date of November 9-1, the organizers of Cersaie said it will in fact postpone the show through 2021 due to COVID-19.

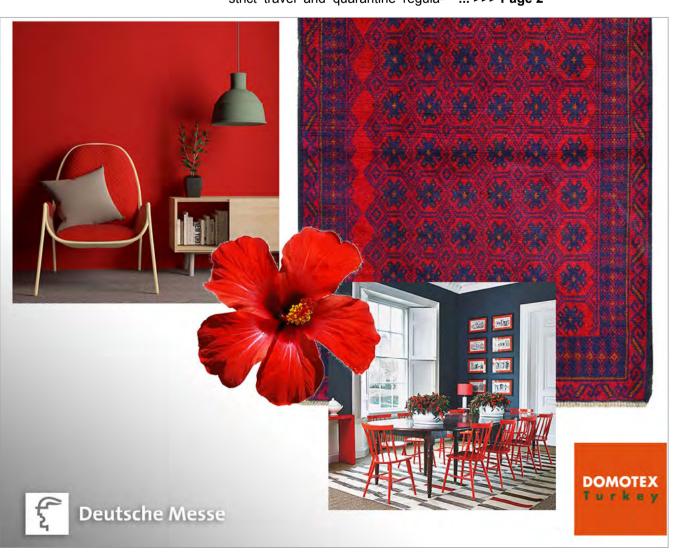
According to the show, one of the key strengths of Cersaie is its international profile. One third of exhibitors are non-Italian companies from 40 different countries; more than 47% of attendees in 2019 (around 50,000) were international visitors.

Although business activities have gradually been reopening in many countries, many exhibitors and professional visitors have indicated that the global situation does not yet allow them to commit to the levels of investment and planning required to take part in Cersaie, show organizers said.

Given the desire to continue to improve the quality and international value of the exhibition, show organizers said, attention is now focused on the next appointment of Cersaie 2021, which will be held here from September 27 to October 1.

A packed program of events will be held during the fifteen months between now and the next edition of the show, according to show organizers. Among the various physical initiatives.

Ahead of the 2021 edition of the show, construction work is continuing on the Contract Hall, the space in Hall 18 dedicated to creating links between the world of ceramics and new product areas such as kitchens, outdoor design, indoor and outdoor finishes, lighting technology and home automation. It will also be the setting for Archincontract, the area dedicated to high-quality world-class architectural firms.



WORLD'S LARGEST SPINNING FACTORY IN EGYPT



An Egyptian state company signed a contract on Thursday, July 9, 2020 to establish the world's largest spinning plant.

Egypt's state-run Cotton and Textile Industries Holding Co. has signed a contract with Gama Construction to establish a new spinning factory in El-Mahalla El-Kubra. This comes as part of the Ministry of Public Business Sector's target to implement a comprehensive development plan for cotton, spinning, and weaving industries.

It is set to be the world's largest spinning factory that will be built over an area of 62,500 square meters (sqm), according to a statement by the Ministry of Public Business Sector on Thursday.

The construction works of the plant are expected to take 14 months for completion at an estimated cost of EGP780 million, with an average output capacity of 30 tons of yarn per day.

It is noteworthy that the development plan is scheduled to take about two and a half years, at a cost of over EGP21 billion (\$1.3 billion).

The plan is based on enhancing specialization and reducing the frequency of the same activities in more than one company, by merging 23 spinning, weaving, dyeing

and processing companies into nine companies.

It also aims at merging nine companies for cotton ginning and trade into a single specialized one to carry out this activity.

Most of these companies will continue their normal activity until the merger process is completed, which is expected to be concluded before the summer of 2021.

Global cotton yarn import growing since 2016

Meanwhile, Egypt's annual urban consumer price inflation increased to 5.6 percent in June from 4.7 percent in May, state Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) announced on Thursday.

Month-on-month headline inflation stood at 0.1 percent in June, from 0 percent in May, the agency said.

According to CAMPAS, the prices of food and drink dropped in June by about 1.6 percent compared to May, to record 101.6 points, while it rose on an annual basis by about 0.4 percent compared to the corresponding month in 2019.

It pointed out that the urban inflation rate increased by 0.1 percent in June compared to May, amounting to 107.7 points, while it rose to 5.6 percent year-on-year compared to the corresponding month in 2019.

SURFACES SHOW 2021 RESCHEDULED FOR JUNE 2021

Held annually in January in Las Vegas, the busy TISE will be held in June, with virtual programming on its original dates.

The 2021 edition of The International Surface Event (TISE), which includes SURFACES, has officially been postponed to June 2021.

The TISE team has made the proactive decision to reschedule the event from January until June 16-18, 2021, with the educational sessions beginning on June 15th. The decision to move the dates of TISE was not reached easily and a host of extraordinary factors were taken into consideration, according to show management.

Although the live in-person event is being postponed to June 2021, TISE is dedicated to continuing to provide the critical first-of-the-

year product sourcing and purchasing opportunities the industry needs. «While this is a difficult decision to make to postpone the event, we know the importance of the TISE event and the significance it offers in being able to provide resources to the widest breath of the floor covering, stone and tile communities,» said Dana Hicks, TISE show director. «It has been amazing to watch how the industry has gathered in support of each other during this time, and this next step and decision is just one of those measures so the industry can experience the power of the TISE event in-person.»

TISE plans to deliver a unique and innovative virtual programming week to occur during the original TISE dates, the week of Jan. 25, 2021.

Surfaces, held each year in January, reschedules event until June. Shown, registration desk at the show

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Messe AG. "With our comprehensive hygiene and safety concept, as well as with the positive registration situation, we were very optimistic until very recently.

But the latest developments show that we do not know whether the travel situation will have significantly improved by January 2021. Consequently, we have decided to postpone DOMOTEX from January to May 2021. The discussions that we had with industry representatives on this issue have all been positive and have shown that the postponement is the right decision!"

Something else has also become clear in the many discussions with stakeholders: there is a need for comple-

mentary digital formats in order to respond to the rapidly rising number of online channels in the flooring industry and to establish an international, neutral platform under the name of DOMOTEX. Therefore, DOMOTEX 2021 will take place from Thursday to Saturday (20 – 22 May) as a hybrid event: a physical show complemented by virtual formats.

Visitors who, for differing reasons, will be unable to travel in May, will thus at least have an option to participate digitally. For exhibitors, the hybrid format also guarantees the wide international reach for which DOMOTEX is known: physically, in the exhibition halls and also digitally extended, using new presentation formats to generate an even wider reach.

application of f yond existing to look toward in due course.

DOMOTEX 20 Hannover, Ge

DOMOTEX sets up digital conference

The DOMOTEX team is also working on a digital conference, which will take place on 15 January 2021, which would originally have been the first day of the trade show. The keynote theme of "Cover New Ground!" is intended to encourage the industry to discuss what the "new normal in times of COVID-19" will signify for carpets and floor coverings and, regarding the design and application of flooring, to provide inspiration to think beyond existing strategies, visions and experiences and to look towards the future. More information will follow in due course.

DOMOTEX 2021 will take place from 20 – 22 May in Hannover, Germany.





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IRAN'S MACHINE-MADE CARPET INDUSTRY IN POST-CORONA

By: Dr Mansour Diari - Member of the faculty of the university and head of the Machine Carpet Innovation House



The machine-made carpet industry, with more than 1,000 production units, is one of the few industries in Iran that has not only been able to equip itself with the latest technologies in the industry over the past 10 years but has also experienced growing currency and exports.

One of the most important reasons for the relative success of this industry compared to many other industries in the country is its 100% privacy and the efforts of the owners of this industry around the clock and the hard work of its managers. One of the hallmarks of these managers is the flexibility, adaptability and adaptability of the business enterprise to the conditions ahead under any circumstances and finding solutions to the problems arising from the changes in the surrounding environment.

Today's changes in the world, especially in the economy, have become so rapid that we can boldly say that the world's strongest economic analysts and leading economists are cautious about predicting the future of the economy and the effects of sudden changes on businesses.

In just a few weeks, global oil prices will fall from \$ 60 to \$ 28 a barrel, causing an incredible shock to the world economy, especially the global oil industry. At the same time Covid-19 effect especially major economies such as the United States and China, imprisoning more than half of the world's population and quarantining the world's major cities.

Indicators are experiencing an unprecedented decline in the world's largest stock exchanges, and planes are crashing around the world. It's hard to believe that the world economy, with all its tumult and turmoil, will sink into such a deadly recession in just a few weeks that it is expected to experience one of the worst recessions in human history. But this is a fact!

"Now the question arises for entrepreneurs, managers and artisans of machine-made carpets, what is the future of the Iranian machine-made carpet industry after passing this historical turn, and what is waiting for this industry behind this turn? And more importantly, what should be the response and performance of this industry in the post-Corona era, especially in 2020?"

Although it is very difficult to predict the situation for the Iranian machine-made carpet industry under the complex conditions of the world and especially in Iran, it seems that some consequences can be predicted to some extent and based on it, the solutions will be sought. He stepped out of the crisis ahead.

This is in line with the spirit of flexibility and adaptability of the managers of the machine-made carpet industry, and it is expected that the managers of this industry will make difficult and vital decisions and apply the necessary changes in their business, which is otherwise required. Or they will inadvertently leave the competition.

Looking at the state of the world economy on the one hand and the prevailing conditions in the economy and the domestic business environment, it can be seen that the conditions facing the Iranian machine-made carpet industry in 2020 will be very complex and a mixture of several strong and highly influential factors.

Perhaps the most important factors influencing Iran's machine-made carpet industry in the short term (the next one to two years) include five factors: oil prices, coronavirus, exchange rates, sanctions and domestic purchasing power, each of which will be discussed below.

A. OIL PRICES

Oil may be the world's most important commodity in the last hundred years, so that any tradition of raising or lowering its price can have a profound effect on markets, the global economy, and any of the world's businesses. Now, if these changes in oil prices are severe and reach several tens of dollars, there will be terrible shocks to the global economy, one of which has occurred not in a few years and months, but in recent weeks.

Global oil prices have fallen below \$ 60 a barrel and below \$ 28 a barrel, less than half. Although the world's

Tehran International Floor Covering and Machine made Carpet exhibition - Sobhe Carpet

two largest economic entities, OPEC Plus and Group 20, agreed in a deadline to set a historic record of more than 10 million barrels in crude oil production and supply, the global market's response showed that it was not.

It can help a lot to increase oil prices. So it seems that if oil prices are around \$ 30 or lower in the coming year, we will have to wait for a sharp drop in global fibre prices such as acrylic, polyester and polypropylene (BCF) fibres, as well as other textile raw materials such as granules. It was Masterbatch and so on.

However, this price reduction in Iran may be 10 to 15% lower than the global price reduction due to the forthcoming sanctions. Another scenario or counterpoint to these changes could be a gradual rise in oil prices and a return to previous rates (above \$ 60), in which case the price of textile raw materials will not fall sharply.

Of course, given the dark conditions facing the global economy and the sharp decline in demand due to the recession and the closure of businesses due to the spread of the coronavirus, such a prediction does not seem to be very close to reality for at least the next year. Therefore, it can be said that the artisans of the machine-made carpet industry should probably wait for the reduction of global fiber prices and, consequently, the types of yarns used in machine-made carpets in the near future.

B. CORONAVIRUS

Since the advent of the Covid-19 virus in Wuhan, China, even the most pessimistic economists in the world have not predicted such a recession that ruled the world in just three months. No one could believe that the world economy would flourish with a daily turnover of several thousand billion dollars. Regardless of whether the spread of the virus is a biological war between the world's economic superpowers or a natural spread of the virus worldwide, one thing that should be of great importance to artisans is that the conditions of the world after spreading of the virus are undoubted.

It will be called the post-Cracona era, it will be very different. Many economists believe that the world must cope with the virus and the new conditions that have ruled businesses. This means that Iran's machine-made carpet industry craftsman will soon have to say goodbye to his business if he does not take the consequences of the Coronavirus on the domestic and foreign economies seriously and does not take smart measures.

Especially when he knows the general principle that in Iran, governments (regardless of their political orientation) are usually not very concerned about solving the problems of industry in specific and critical economic conditions or, in some cases, are not able to take specific and helpful measures. So Iran's machine-made carpet artisans need to know that, as in the last three decades, they have to roll up their sleeves and look for safe or low-risk crossings. This is a very serious and crucial issue.



C-SANCTIONS

Iran's machine-made carpet industry is suffer another major problem in the currently very complex situation, along with the recession in the world and severe economic turmoil.

The Economic sanctions on Iran's textile industry, for the first time in the history of the Iran and United States disputes. In a statement issued in December 2017, the US Treasury Department, in line with its government's maximum pressure policy, boycotted other sectors of Iran's industry and economy, one of which was the textile industry.

Although a three-month exemption was granted from the outset to settle foreign companies' accounts and cut ties with Iran, the exemption passed quickly, and many reputable banks around the world, even the Chinese consulate, have been forced to comply with sanctions. They have announced the cessation of cooperation. Although the textile industry boycott has occurred for the first time, nothing new seems to have happened.

When the banking system, Swift and international financial exchanges are sanctioned for a country, there is not much difference in the type of industry or exchange goods. Therefore, it seems that under the new sanctions, access to raw materials and spare parts and accessories will be more limited and more difficult, and of course, there will be additional costs, which will naturally increase the price of fiber and raw materials by about 10 to 15 %.

Given the impact of falling global oil prices on textile raw materials on the one hand and the impact of sanctions on rising fiber prices and raw materials on the other, the scales seem to be heavier unless global oil prices fall to three-month prices. Come back before. Which is not very close to reality.

D- CURRENCY RATE

Rising foreign exchange prices in Iran have become a common phenomenon in Iran's economy. The only point in this regard is that the increase in the price of the currency, or in other words the devaluation of the rial against other currencies, especially the dollar, every 4 or 5 years for economic and political reasons experiences a jump of several hundred percent and again with a slope and Gently continues to increase.

The rise in the price of the currency at the beginning of 2020 in the context of the semi-closed economy caused by Corona and the low demand in the society shows that the dollar has started its creeping move towards higher prices.

Although it is not easy to predict the situation ahead and other variables such as the different results of the US election can upset the equations and therefore the predictions, but with the resumption of business and the general increase in demand at the community level on the one hand, foreign travel The need to supply raw materials for industrial plants and, most importantly, a sharp decline in government oil revenues and, consequently, a decrease in foreign exchange inflows into the country, it seems that the exchange rate, especially the dollar, not only does not decrease but continues to increase.





Therefore, Iran's machine-made carpet artisans, especially those factories that need raw materials and foreign parts more than others, should not ignore this issue. Of course, this is one side of the coin, and the other side is the boom in exports and the increasing competitiveness of Iranian machine-made carpets in world markets.

It is obvious that the activists of the machine-made carpet industry are not able to reduce the price of the currency, so they should try to increase their exports as much as possible. This is not an easy task in the face of sanctions and the recession in global markets and the consequent global decline in people's purchasing power in export target countries, but the reality is that there is currently no choice but to take steps in this direction for Iranian machine-made carpet companies. is not.

E- CUSTOMER'S PURCHASING POWER

Another factor that could have a severe impact on the car carpet business in 2020 is the decrease in the purchasing power of the people of the country. Inside the country, several factors have come together to significantly reduce people's purchasing power next year.

Therefore, it seems that next year, the companies that produce machine-made carpets, which will be able to stimulate the demand for their manufactured goods by applying long-term and instalment sales conditions for their customers, will be more successful. Naturally, this requires high financial backing, but even bank facilities (and therefore bank interest payments) and long-term financing seem to be better than not selling and then moving the wheels of production.

In other words, in the forthcoming conditions, the first principle for each of the production units in the machine-made carpet industry should be to maintain the current situation and turn the wheels of production, and the second principle is profit!

Although the economic conditions and purchasing power of the people, especially in the first half of 2020, are not favourable, but machine carpet companies should not ignore the accumulated demand at the end of 2019. In fact, part of the demand for buying machine-made carpets at the end of 2019 has not been well answered and this part will be added to the demand for the end of 2020.

By summarizing the set of obvious and hidden factors affecting the business environment of Iranian machine-made carpets in 2020, some of which were mentioned, the following recommendations can be given to entrepreneurs and intelligent managers and hard workers of the machine-made carpet industry:

- Failure to enter into new non-productive investments, such as diverting part of the seemingly surplus capital of industrial owners to unproductive activities such as land, real estate and independence.
- Efforts to provide as much capital as possible in turnover as financial backing and sales of instalments and instalments (to stimulate demand, in the end, consumer

and thus maintain or increase the company's sales level) – Daily monitoring of the impact of Corona on the economy of Iran and the world, as well as the continuous evaluation of global trends for faster decision making and the necessary changes in the business environment of the enterprise under control.

- Getting help from cheap state resources for Corona, even help that is not seemingly significant.
- Paying special attention to exports as a very important principle in the shadow of the devaluation of the rial, which causes the dollar price of Iranian machine-made carpets in world markets to be lower than competitors of value and stubbornness such as Turkey.
- Pay special attention to innovation and creativity in various sectors of production and supply of machine-made carpets in order to increase the added value of production.
- Increasing the level of unity and solidarity within the union and mutual support of different sectors of industry and the machine-made carpet market, including spinning, weaving, finishing, related industries, exhibitions and stores offering machine-made carpets, especially high-performance ones.
- Careful planning to make the most of the domestic market share of machine-made carpets at the end of 2020

CONCLUDING REMARKS:

Managers and owners of the machine-made carpet industry and related industries should not forget the principle that neither the government nor any other person will be able to do so after the excitement of the Coronavirus spread and amid the difficult economic conditions of the coming year.

They must manage their business and economic situation on their own, or at least in partnership with other companies in their class.

Therefore, it is strongly recommended that they make the most of the experiences, strategies, and scientific and experimental consultations of others, and make appropriate and timely decisions in accordance with the specific circumstances of their enterprise.

Undoubtedly, within the next year, a number of companies that have delayed or are waiting for a miracle and their managers will manage their collections in a management style "from this column to that column", will be removed from the competition course and the business scene of Iranian machine-made carpets.

Let's not forget that the position of each of the machine-made carpet companies in the next year at the same time is the result of the choices of its managers in these moments. Let's understand the moments when negligence causes regret!

HUGE POTENTIAL FOR TEXTILE PRINT-ING IN MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

Interview with Danna Drion, Senior Marketing Manager EMEA, and Yumi Taguchi, Area Sales Manager



Founded in Japan in 1975, Mimaki is a leading manufacturer of wide-format inkjet printers and high-precision cutting plotters for the sign/graphics, industrial, textile/apparel and 3D markets. Mimaki develops the complete product range for each sector, from hardware and software to consumable items, such as inks and cutting blades.

1. Could you please let us know more about MIMAKI Group, its products and services, goals and success story?

Danna Drion: Mimaki first started with small machines, printing from one to five square meters an hour, and from that created a whole dealer network, forming the foundation of the market. Today, there are thousands of installations across EMEA and in a variety of markets—not only in textile, but also sign graphics, industrial and 3D.

In the textile industry, we started back in the 1990s with paper transfer and direct-to-textile printers. Now, we offer the most comprehensive textile solution portfolio. This includes a wide range of textile printers for the entry and mid-market segments, a game-changing high-volume industrial textile printer, and a range of textile pre- and post-treatment machines.

Mimaki values innovation and quality – both are key to our vision. There are many standard printers in the market, and so we go that extra mile by, for example, adding intelligent features on our machines, which we call Mimaki Core Technologies.

Some of these are MAPS (Mimaki Ad-

vanced Pass System), which can reduce banding even at high speeds, and Nozzle Check Unit (NCU) and Nozzle Recovery System (NRS), which can detect defective nozzles and switch them with working nozzles so that the printer can continue printing with good quality until a technician arrives to do the necessary maintenance.

2. As a global leader company in Digital printing, what do you think about the textile industry situation globally in this hard time and what is your prediction for the post Corona Period?

Danna Drion: Like many other sectors, the textile industry has been strongly hit by the Coronavirus pandemic at a global level and, with the current ever-changing situation, it is certainly difficult to predict the exact outcome at this point in time. Having said that, we have seen printing textile companies bounce back from these adversities at an astonishing rate, by adapting their operations and making their businesses increasingly more service driven.

And here is where digital printing is beneficial, as it enables textile companies to ensure their customers get efficient and on-demand services: looking at the workflow as a whole, digital printing can provide faster delivery times, customisation and makes products easier to test, which is exactly what is in high demand in the textile market.

Looking at the future of the textile industry, I expect to see several significant changes in the way businesses are run. Just to give a couple of examples, due to COV-ID-19 impacting overseas imports, a lot of fashion and apparel brands are considering moving production back to local areas, which will most probably lead to local production methods becoming more competitive over time.

Similarly, the current situation has encouraged those companies who had not yet made the jump to online, to at least give it a go. In fact, not only are webshops accessible 24/7 and from everywhere, but they also make the processes both quick and easy for the customer, as well as give immediate access to personalisation.

3. In the last decade the textile printing industry experienced extraordinary growth, how do you evaluate the future of textile printing?

Danna Drion: Only a small percentage of



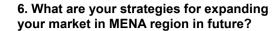
today's global textile production is done using digital print technology. In fact, it's estimated that only around 5% of today's worldwide textile production is digital, with the rest being printed using conventional analogue techniques. This, in itself, presents a huge window of opportunity for print service providers to expand with digital textile print technology.

Therefore, we can certainly expect the digital textile print industry to keep growing. Digital printing will prove key to facilitating the growing demand for shorter runs, faster delivery and more customised or personalised production of textiles, perfectly matching the current textile market requirements.

This is certainly the case for fast fashion, a dynamic market segment requiring quick production schedules at a low price, as well as for interior décor, where there is an increasing demand for customised home textiles, such as curtains or cushions. In addition, building on the feedback from our customers, I also expect to see interesting growth rate in technical textiles.

Despite the current circumstances, digital textile printing is likely to continue to increase and unlock new application opportunities.

4. What do you think about the Middle East and Africa textile market and it's potentials?



Yumi Taguchi: Well, we need to differentiate our strategy depending on the specific country/market we target. Having said that, generally speaking, our leading technology in the area is sublimation printing, as we offer top-quality, cost-effective printing platforms that meet the requirements of local demand for both quality and volumes.

In particular, our TS300P-1800 dye sublimation printer has been very popular in the region, especially in Egypt, over the last years. Building on the evolution of the market, we are currently focusing on our flagship TS55-1800 printer, which is ideal for those companies in need of higher production volumes.

For those who are curious about the TS55-1800 dye sublimation printer, we are offering a free sample kit so that you can check out the machine's print quality up-close. We will also hold a free, interactive webinar in September, during which you can ask any question about this machine. So I would like to encourage the readers to check out our website and social media to request for a sample kit or register to our webinar.

7. Normally to how many exhibitions do you participate annually and to which ones? Your next participation is in which country?

Yumi Taguchi: Under normal circumstances, Mimaki Europe participates in all major tradeshows in relevant markets, including international events such as ITMA and FESPA Global Print Expo and other regional events.

Our Mimaki partners are the ones participating in various tradeshows within the MENA region and Mimaki Europe supports them with their presence at these events. Some of our partners participate in Stitch & Tex Expo in Cairo (Egypt), FESPA Africa, Digi Sign Africa Cairo, and more.



Yumi Taguchi: The digital textile printing market in the Middle East and Africa definitely has huge potential that is relatively untapped. Sublimation printing is currently very popular in the MENA region. In particular, the market at large is focusing on the sportswear sector. Despite being less popular than sublimation printing, direct-to-textile printing technology is also growing in the areas of home textile and fashion apparel.

5. Do you have export to the MENA region? Which countries in the Middle East and Africa are your main destination? How big is your market in the Middle East and Africa?

Yumi Taguchi: Yes, Mimaki works with a vast global network consisting of long-established partners worldwide. No matter which country you are located in, we have a partner that can support your business from start to finish. Our top countries for textile in the MENA region are Pakistan and Egypt.

Danna Drion: I would add that faced with the outbreak of COVID-19, earlier this year we had to quickly change our event policy in order to ensure we could maintain communications with our customers and support them through this difficult time.

Therefore, we have set up a series of virtual events – ranging from the Mimaki Virtual Print Festival in March and April, to the ongoing Mimaki Live Series which includes technology-focused webinars run by our local partners – to help keep the industry connected and thriving. In fact, our virtual Mimaki Live events have been exploring ways in which printers, whether they specialise in textiles, large format, 3D or signage, can keep their business going and even be reinvigorated during these trying months.

Looking ahead, we currently plan to run other virtual events until the end of 2020, but we hope to also be exhibiting at tradeshow events again in 2021.

FRESH AIR, GOOD GRASS, EXCELLENT FIBERS; LOVE STORY OF PERUVIAN ALPACA

Interview with Mr Jaanus Vosu - CEO of Peru Alpaca Yarn & Textile Intl



Who Are You Mr Vosu?

Actually You are not so far from the truth, saying "Love story of the Peruvian Alpaca". It is kind of love story. I am born in Estonia. Studied development aid in London. After finishing college, I enrolled for a 8 months contract for one of the development aid programs in Africa, Malawi.

Finishing my contract, I moved back to London and felt in love with beautiful Peruvian women. Moved to Peru 2009. Unfortunately, we are not blessed with children, so I dedicate all my time to my company. My wife is helping part-time. She is a dedicated kindergarten teacher and last 7 years working as headmaster of the school.

Which countries are your export destination and which kind of products you export to these markets?

Peru Alpaca Yarn & Textile is 100% export company. Our scoured fiber and noils we export to Russia, alpaca tops Australia and Scotland, alpaca yarn Finland, United States.

You are not interested only in financial gain. Social responsibility programs are very close to your heart. Company who is producing only money is a very poor company.

I believe you are talking about hand spinning alpaca yarn club. The actual idea was generated by my wife. Peru is very much "macho" mentality country. Women's role is raising kids and cooking dinner.

Especially in the Peruvian mountains. We started a small









club of 25 mom and grandmom working home, spinning yarn by hand. They spin by hand and dye the yarn with natural herbs and roots they find from the Peruvian Andes. We started 2018 and by now we have 75 members with capacity 550 kg a month. Yarn clients are high-end knitwear designers working with natural animal fibres.

Why Alpaca is considered as a Luxury fiber? Tell us more, what is so special about alpaca fiber?

If it comes to alpaca fiber, then Peru is without a doubt number one, in the world, farming alpacas. Approximately 87% of the world alpacas are based in Peru. Alpacas are Suri or Huacaya breeds, with Huacaya being by far the most common. Huacaya alpacas 80% and Suri 10% and 10% mixed breed Huacaya – Suri.

For me personally the coolest about alpaca fiber is, the fiber simply don't burn. The fiber is very resistant to fire. For example in Australia, many companies are producing fire blankets for household use, from alpaca fiber.

High micron fibres are not the best for garment production, perfect for fire blankets. Alpaca fiber is water repellent. Great use for outdoor clothing. Alpaca noils for the carpet industry. People who are allergic to lanoline should be able to wear alpaca fiber products. Alpaca fiber simply doesn't have lanoline.

What is the difference between Huacaya alpaca and Suri alpaca?

Suri alpaca looks like Bob Marley's rasta hair and Huacaya alpaca looks like Khloe Kardashian beautiful hair. Suri alpaca average fiber length 10-15 cm, Huacayo alpaca average fiber length is 7-9 cm. The life span for alpacas is 20 years approximately.

How do you evaluate Alpaca fiber production in Peru?

In Peru, we have at the moment approximately 85.000 alpaca farmers. Turning the year 2019, Peru exported alpaca fiber in total for 57. 48 million USD. Fibre exports mainly to China 59%, Italy 28%, UK 2%, South Korea 2%, Japan 2% and rest of the world 7%.

What do you think about the future of natural fibers and especially natural animal fibers?

I strongly believe that natural fiber is here to stay. We just have to learn to be more responsible producers and us-

ers. I don't want to say, natural fiber "yes" and synthetic fiber "no". We do need synthetic fiber market as well.

I believe synthetic fiber production, can be some cases more environmentally friendly, than natural fiber production. My point is, we have to produce responsibly. Machinery run by solar energy, responsible waist management, paying taxes, fair salaries. Textile business have never been easy money.

What happens after shearing the alpaca?

We take the fiber to sorting facility. We sort fiber by colour, length, fineness. Sorting is taking place manually.

How COVID-19 Pandemic affected Your company?

Sure it affects us as well. Sales are down 18%. To be honest, I was prepared way worse, considering we are in the luxury fiber business. The whole team is working from home and we take turns for fieldwork. Very likely this will be our routine for the whole year.

The government opened export channels beginning of July. Export working smoothly, so we have no problems to export.

What kind of barriers and obstacles will face the Alpaca industry in Peru and South America? Is there any special development plan from the government to support alpaca farmers in Peru?

Alpaca has 22 natural color variations. We export only common colors like white, creamy white, light brown, dark brown, black. Trough the responsible breeding programs, we need to save all alpaca natural colors. Secondly, high protein grass. In the frames of social responsibility programs, we started a high protein grass project.

With the cooperation of our company and Estonian University of Agriculture, we developed high protein grass for Peruvian alpacas. We already made test cultivation with these seeds and it grows perfectly in Peruvian Andes. Good food is very important to improve alpaca fiber specifications.





About Peru Alpaca Yarn & Textile Intl

Peru Alpaca Yarn & Textile Intl is a family-owned company established in 2010. Our office located in Lima, Peru. Our main business area is alpaca scoured fiber, tops, alpaca noils and yarn. Company CEO Jaanus Vosu, who is running a company in the daily bases.



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HANNOVER FAIRS USA ANNOUNCES **POSTPONEMENT OF DOMOTEX USA 2021**



Hannover Fairs USA (HFUSA), the organizer of DOMOTEX USA, announced today that after careful and thoughtful consideration, the trade show scheduled for March 1-3, 2021, will be postponed.

The decision to postpone the 2021 edition of the show was based upon several factors, including the results of extensive market research as well as ongoing global conditions.

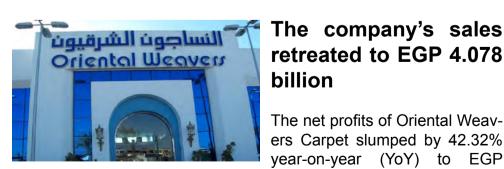
In the months following the 2020 event, an outside research firm conducted an in-depth market study including a survey and interviews with floor covering retailers, distributors and other flooring professionals (inclusive of previous DOMOTEX USA participants) intended to help the organization further understand the industry's needs, with the ultimate goal of adding more value to the show experience.

"We were pleased with the research results, which indicated a continued need and desire for the DOMOTEX brand in the U.S.," said Donna Busse, show director of DOMOTEX USA at HFUSA. "With this new insight, we look forward to using the remainder of 2020 and 2021 to develop a show that will incorporate strategic changes for an even better and improved experience for both exhibitors and attendees.

"We would like to thank all stakeholders, partners and interested parties for your support of DOMOTEX USA and we look forward to welcoming you back at the next show," Busse concluded.

For More information, visit www.domotexusa.com

ORIENTAL WEAVERS CARPETS **H1 PROFIT DROPS 42%**



retreated to EGP 4.078 billion

The net profits of Oriental Weavers Carpet slumped by 42.32% year-on-year (YoY) to EGP 266.358 million in the first half

(H1) of 2020 from EGP 461.829 million.

The company's sales retreated to EGP 4.078 billion in the six-month period ended on 30 June from EGP 5.236 billion in the year-ago period, according to a bourse disclosure.

Moreover, the company reported standalone net profits of EGP 525.757 million in H1-20, up from EGP 311.396 million In H1-19. During the first quarter (Q1) of 2020, the Egyptian firm's net profits went down to EGP 197.95 million from EGP 220.29 million in Q1-19.

ANTRON NYLON PUBLISHES SUS-TAINABILITY, WELL-BEING REPORT



commercial carpet fiber, released its sustainability and well-being report titled "The Antron Brand on Sustain- This product longevity supports ability." The report, available in dig- long-term value and cost savings ital and video format, reinforces the captured from not having to rebrand's sustainability vision and includes testimonials from interior designers, flooring professionals and enced the trend toward short-lived end-users detailing their experience disposable products, and this trend with the Antron brand and sustainability.

ing to the company, is a carpet that be durable, not disposable. Antron lasts longer can drive meaningful sustainability, enhance human well-being and support long-term uct lasts, the more sustainable it is." value.

Long-run sustainability

Antron fibres offer permanent built- The brand's approach to sustainain performance, so carpets can work harder, clean up beautifully and resist crushing, matting, staining and seek to enhance human well-being soil. This longevity drives real sus- and reduce environmental impact tainability and supports long-term through unbeatable product perforvalue.

pets made with Antron can be 250% less over the life of the carpet, the run, and we're focused on putting company said, and can last up to people first with products that last.'

Invista, makers of Antron nylon 6,6 75% longer than a majority of competitive carpets.

place carpet prematurely. "Over the years, most of us have experiis counter to real sustainability," said Anthony Green, vice president of global commercial solutions for The premise for this vision, accord- Invista. "We believe carpets should fibers are designed consistent with the belief that the longer our prod-

Sustainability supports well-be-

bility and innovation is centered on supporting human well-being. "We mance including cleanability, durability and longevity that far surpass The total cost of ownership of car- competitive fibers," Green said. "That's sustainability for the long

OEKO TEX INCREASES CERTIFI-CATIONS BY 13 %



Oeko Tex has the increased the number of certifications and labels issued by 13 per cent from 21,454 on July 1, 2019 to 24,205 on June 30, 2020. Its focus was largely on the 'Made in Green' label, whose demand grew 115 per cent from 1,304 to the current 2,808 valid labels in the financial year 2019/2020.

Issuance of other Oeko-Tex labels, such as Standard 100 and Leather Standard by Oeko-Tex also continued to grow year on year. Newly issued certificates STeP by Oeko-Tex increased 55 per cent to 475 valid certificates worldwide. Detox to Zero was added as a mandatory requirement for STeP facilities to support customers optimizing and monitoring their chemical management and wastewater quality. It helps the textile and leather supply chain to avoid use of toxic chemicals and prevent water pollution, which benefits both people and the environment.

In addition, STeP became a part of ITC and June.

Sustainability Maps, a platform that enables users to better understand the sustainability landscape and to connect with business partners.

According to Georg Dieners, Secretary-General, the industry needs to work together to change existing consumption and production patterns to keep the planet's resources intact and ensure a life for future genera-

The organization has made every effort to continue with certification and avoid supply chain interruptions It processed existing certificate renewals without samples to give certificate owners three additional months to gather samples for testing. To provide people all over the world with mouth and nose masks, the Oeko-Tex Association waived the license fee for certification of masks. It also gave Standard 100 certification to over 50 face masks manufacturers between April



تولیدکننده تخصصی فرش فانتزی مـــدرن، وینتیــج، گبـه، کـودک ۵۰۰ شانه هیت ست عرض ۴ و ۵ متر

کاشان،آران وبیدگل، شهرک صنعتی سلیمان صباحی، فرعی۵، بعد از میدان شهدای کارگر واحد فروش : ۳۱۵۴۸۵۰۵۶۶



INDEX; MAKE YOUR MARK IN THE MIDDLE EAST



The positivity and resilience the interiors industry has shown when faced with the unprecedented challenge of COVID-19 has been astounding. This global pandemic has impacted the interiors community in multiple ways, not least the ability to meet face-to-face and see first-hand the latest innovations & products in design.

1. Could you please let us know more about INDEX DUBAI exhibition, last year statistics and success story?

Sure! At INDEX we like to keep the focus on why we exist. The understanding that the most important part of any room is the people. Whether for work, home or play – these spaces are fast-changing to accommodate an unparalleled shift in the human environment and ultimately a changing dynamic in the interior design industry.

At 30 years old, INDEX (the Middle East's only large-scale interiors trade event) has been a platform to introduce interiors companies into the thriving Middle East market, to sculpt interior experiences in a dynamic real estate environment.

Anyone that has worked on a heritage brand in a mature market will understand the difficulty in maintaining growth. For our 2019 event, that was our core objective, and through creative and customer-focused thinking we did just that! The results? In 2019 INDEX in Dubai welcomed 29,945 visitors up 9% from 2018 (27,448) and 17% from 2017 (25,415).

A core driver to this was the social campaigns and continues to be the perfect vehicle to keep us engaged with this unique and passionate community 365 days-a-year. This is something we continue to do, just take a look at our channels to see: @indexdubai.

The real reward for this was shown in the quality of attendance last year, with the volume of senior executives and decision-makers increasing 20% on 2018. For the suitably

Interview with Katie McBride, Director, INDEX – International Design Exhibition

INDEX Dubai 31 May – 2 June 2021 | INDEX Saudi Arabia 28 Feb – 2 Mar 2021

impressed exhibiting companies, this cemented the understanding of why face-to-face events are so important. Quality matters.

As an organising team, the understanding that customers experienced a true return on their exhibition investment is paramount to inspiring the energy, passion and belief in product that will ensure a stable and growing brand for another 30 more successful years in the Middle East.

2. How do you evaluate Covid 19 Pandemic effects on textile exhibitions industry all around the world?

Textiles is an important and growing sector within INDEX and is a craft that is heavily produced across the Middle East and showcased at our event. The positivity and resilience the interiors and textiles industry has shown when faced with the unprecedented challenge of COVID-19 has been astounding. This global pandemic has impacted the interiors community in multiple ways, not least the ability to meet face-to-face and see first-hand the latest innovations & products in design.

We can't speak for other exhibition organisers, but with the safety of our exhibitors and visitors in mind, and with ongoing concerns over future travel restrictions for our 500+ international exhibitors, the difficult decision was made to postpone INDEX to 31st May – 2nd June 2021 (Dubai World Trade Centre). The new dates have been welcomed by the interior design community and have been recognised as an ideal time to once again meet new suppliers, the source for projects and accelerate business in a safe and creative environment.

However, we refuse to let the absence of IN-DEX 2020 from the calendar affect the community. Our team has been working hard to make sure that interior suppliers and interior designers are connected throughout the year. We've launched a webinar series and product showcase videos designed to ensure that the interiors community can continue to find new and innovative products, as well as keeping connected.

3. Could you please let us know about other Branches of INDEX in middle east or Africa?

With the continued success and positive recognition with the INDEX brand based in Du-

the textile industry in GCC is estimated to grow at a CAGR of 3.8% from 2019 to 2024.

The digital textile printing industry in the GCC is expected to see a market growth US\$ 5.44 bn by 2023 with a CAGR of 11.6%, triggered by the eCommerce industry and the exponential demand by the millennials and the rising GenZ population, according to Smithers Pira.

In my opinion though, it's the creativity and craft flourishing in Dubai that has meant that the textile industry growth in the Gulf region is concentrated in the UAE. Among the GCC countries, particularly, the UAE has garnered a lot of business from other countries moving their base of operation to Fujairah, an area in the UAE. Fujairah is called a "free zone", which means that companies located there are not required to pay taxes or pay any fees for repatriation.

This is one of the major factors that brought many companies and people into the UAE, which adds a larger customer base for their garments and textiles

5. What is your plan for INDEX 2021? Do you have any special program, conference or workshop during INDEX 2021?

The plans for INDEX 2021 are well underway and the priority is to ensure that the event is delivered safely for both exhibitors and visitors, and this means re-thinking the way we will be offering experiences and interactions for networking for the next edition. We will continue hosting our renowned INDEX Design Talks conference which creates a huge attraction for high quality interiors buyers, alongside a variety of new and engaging experiences for visitors to enjoy.

More than ever we feel it's of paramount importance that exhibiting companies have an excellent showcase, and designers will have direct access to new and innovative products in the Middle East.

This means we're offering lots of extra value to each exhibitor booking to ensure these connections are made pre-event and at the show, in-turn supporting the stabilizing of the interiors sector in a post-pandemic world. One new feature of note will be an exhibit of handcrafted products created in the heart of the show floor by textiles or furniture makers, for us this promotes the importance and sustainability of bespoke and local products when applicable for an interior fit-out.

According to research by Venture Onsite, the UAE leads in the share of interiors and fit-out spend in the GCC region with 42% of the market share, followed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) (29%). The GCC, particularly the UAE and KSA have witnessed growth in the number of fit-out projects awarded as a result of EXPO 2020 (now EXPO 2021) in Dubai and KSA's Vision 2030 and so we will continue to support interiors products suppliers from across the world to access these

bai, we've recently geo-expanded the show

into the Saudi market.

growing markets.

Over the past 3 years, INDEX Saudi has established itself as a leading exhibition for local and international suppliers of interior design and fit-out products to tap into Saudi Arabia's \$3.5 billion interiors market and now welcomes over 10,000 visitors.

4. What do you think about the Middle East and Africa textile market and it's potentials?

Textiles are an incredibly important segment for INDEX. According to Mordor Intelligence,





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. فرش ماشینی و موکت :

نخ های فیلامنتی و الیاف کوتاه

الیاف پلی استر ، پلی پروپیلن و پلی آمید کوتاه نخ های B.C.F مـورد مصـرف در فـرش ماشـینی،

موکت تافتینگ، کات و لوپ

نخ های CF مورد مصرف در دوخت، کمربند ایمنی ، بافت های محافظتی

نخ های POY, FDY مورد مصرف در فرش ماشینی، رومبلی ، جوراب و البسه ورزشی

. پارچه های بی بافت نساجی :

اسپان باند ، ملت بلان ، سوزن زن ، SS, SMS SMMS (بهداشتی)

. الیاف پلی استر، پلی آمید، پلی پروپیلن مورد مصرف در ریسندگی نخ های پنیه ای، فرش ماشینی، موکت و لائی های سوزنی

. نخ های , B.C.F. , C.F. , POY , نخ های , FDY , DTY , TFO ، پلی پروپیلن، پلی استر و پلی آمید

مورد مصرف در فرش ماشینی، پارچـه رومبلـی ، پـرده ای، جوراب، البسه نساجی و ورزشی

. پارچے ہای Non woven بھداشتی و بیمارستانی

. گونی و جامبو پلی پروپیلن . سفید کننده جهت تولید الیاف پلی استر PSF از پرک بطری . براق کننده جهت تولید الیاف

. براق دینده جهیت تولید الیاف پلی استر PSF میورد مصارف در موکت های چاپی

. منسوجات نبافته، , Spun bond Melt Blown

Masterbatch,
Compound&Additive,
BioPlasticCompound,
ExtrudedPolymer,
PlasticGranules
Manufacturer:

Nano&Hygienic(FoodContact)
PowderPredisperseSolid
Pigments(CarbonBlack&Colors)

P E 1 0 0 +

Natural, Black & Colors Compound Steel Pipe Coating (TOP-COAT)

A d h e s i v e PE100, PE80 Welding Rod A g r o P E T W i r e

دستیایی به محیط زیستی سالمتربا تولید کامپاند و گرانول زیست تخریب پذیر گیاهی



مورد مصرف متایع مختلف: بسته بندی، ظروف، بهداشتی – بیمارستانی و نساجی

دفتر تهران:

خیابان دکتریهشتی ، خیابان پاکستان ، کوی هشتم ، پلاک ۲۴ کدپستی : ۱۵۳۲۷۱۳۹۱۳ صندوق پستی : ۷۴۵۸ – ۱۵۸۷۵ تلفن : (۲۰ خط) ۸۸۷۵۰۶۱۸ – ۲۱۰ فاکس : ۸۸۷۲۱۵۳۰ – ۸۸۷۲۱۵۳۰



TURKISH CARPET IN-DUSTRY RECORDS \$438.5M IN EXPORTS IN 2 MONTHS



Turkish carpet sellers have made a sum of \$438.5 million in exports in just the first two months of 2020, marking a 22.1% year-on-year increase.

Last year, the sector's export volume exceeded a record-breaking \$2.5 billion, according to an Anadolu Agency (AA) report published Wednesday, citing data from the Turkish Exporters Assembly (TİM), while this year's start indicates similar records and success in exports.

The 2-month figures enjoyed by the carpet industry, which started the new year with an export target of 3 billion, giving hope for the rest of the year, the report said. The carpets were exported to 190 countries worldwide over this period.

Some \$221.4 million worth of the exports were recorded in January, while the remaining \$217.1 million was exported in the last month.

TİM Carpet Industries Board Chairman Salahattin Kaplan told AA that the growth at the beginning of this year signaled that Turkish carpetmakers would also be better able to weather the recent outbreak of the coronavirus, which has taken its toll on world trade, predicting minimal damage.

"The coronavirus may cause some shrinkage in the economy, but we hope that the market will find relief once the pandemic is over. Hopefully, this trouble will be left behind in the shortest time for the sake of all humanity and the process will be concluded with the least harm. We are hopeful for the future. Once these troubles go away, everyone will focus on economy-oriented business once again and the losses will be recouped," he said.

Stating that Turkish carpetmakers had become renowned worldwide and were considered leaders in the industry, Kaplan said, "We will consider this troubled period as a period of renewal for ourselves by focusing on digital transformation efforts."

CHRONICLES OF AL SORAYAI GROUP EVOLUTION

Al-Sorayai Group in 2013 celebrated its 60th year of success. How it evolved into one of the largest Saudi Arabian conglomerates — with businesses stretching from trading to manufacturing in Carpets, Rugs (one of the longest narrative in the country's business history in floor coverings), Yarns, Carpet Tiles and Artificial Grass. Trading investments in Vinyl, Parquet, Carpet Tiles, Bed and Linen and Fabrics. This sector continued to grows yearly.

The story began in 1953 in Makkah, when Abdullah and Nasser Al-Sorayai decided to create a business. At that time, Al Sorayai were engaged mainly in trading of carpets in Saudi Arabia with imports from Iran, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan and Turkey as well as other countries.

As the years continues, Al-Sorayai Group continued to grow and finally decided to expand into manufacturing of carpets and in 1986 they inaugurated their first carpet factory and soon extended the reach of their product offering into worldwide markets. It is not surprising to find that in recent years, the group has been recognized as being one of the world's top carpet manufacturers, ranking in the top twenty on the consistent basis.

AL-SORAYAI TODAY

The Al-Sorayai Group is aware of the importance of elaborate patterns, modern techniques and colorful, innovative designs that need to be applied. Also very important are the requirements in choosing the best possible raw materials while preserving the charm and intent behind the design.

The industry's latest design programs are em-

ployed and highly skilled staff of designers that listen well and understand how to best bring both those basic types of products to the market, as well as exhibiting expertise of also bringing cutting edge technology and innovative, new "twist" to their new developments, all focused on keeping the company ahead of the competition and offering truly unique products to the customer with great value.

Al-Sorayai Group operates from 5 locations, all independently vertical in their capabilities. The group produces a wide range of products ranging from tufted to printed carpet, as well as Wilton woven, Axminster and hand-tufted wall to wall and rug creations. From our contract division, both wall to wall to broadloom and carpet tile products are produced to the highest levels of real world performance, wearability and cleanability.

Today, Al-Sorayai share leadership of a modern conglomerate involved in diverse businesses and with a much broader impact on the life of the employees, business and economic value. Al Sorayai Group's reputation for integrity, product and service quality, financial strength and prudence, and high professionalism has made it a partner of choice for major international customers and the employer of choice for many of the best and brightest talents.

The respect and trust it enjoys is deemed to have been earned by its long time pioneering businesses in the Kingdom, and these are the core values that it treasures the most. Thanks to their 67 years of experienc.,mhe, now the company is regarded highly, not only in its home base Saudi Arabia, but across the entire carpet industry.





MOHAWK GROUP PROVIDES CARPET TO LEARNING SPACES

Each year, Mohawk Group partners with Georgia United Credit Union Foundation to "crash" deserving schools all over the state. Faculty and administration across Georgia apply for facility makeovers based on specific needs that would enhance their respective curriculum and campus. One winner receives a school makeover grant funded by the foundation and runner-up schools receive grants for specific projects.

Earlier in the summer, donations of carpet tile and adhesive were dispatched on the Mohawk fleet for School Crashers to refresh media centers at Avondale Elementary School in Avondale Estates and Booker T. Washington High School in Atlanta.

Additionally, Mohawk Group helped make a new sensory room a reality at New Hope Middle School, which sits just down the street from some of its manufacturing facilities in Dalton as the closest school crash to date.

"In these uncertain times, budget cuts and whatever else our future may possibly hold, a winning grant and the donation of carpet is so wonderful," said Cami Baldivid, the New Hope Middle School teacher who submitted the award-winning application. "Our teachers of exceptional students and paraprofessionals are ecstatic about using this room with our students to meet their daily needs and challenges."

The school used the \$20,000 award to establish an inspiring and engaging environment specifically set aside for a population of nearly 30 students that have diverse academic needs that range from autism, intellectual disorders, physical impairments, visual impairments and oppositional defiant disorders.

Floor-to-ceiling upgrades have breathed new life into a formerly unused and outdated computer lab. The safe space will provide a designation of the safe space will provide a designation of the safe space will provide a designation of the safe space will provide a designation of the safe space will provide a designation of the safe space will provide a designation of the safe space will be safe space.

nated area where these students can relax to calm and refocus themselves as they return to in-person instruction later this month.

"Georgia United is committed to improving the quality of life for children and families in our communities," said Debbie Smith, president and CEO. "The School Crashers program is now in its seventh year and has provided 50 school makeovers totaling more than \$1.5 million in improvements.

School Crashers unites the community, donor partners like Mohawk and volunteers with the goal of providing inspiring learning and play spaces for the students, at no cost to the school."

The donation of carpet allowed the school to reallocate some of the budget to use on other items to fill and further build out the sensory room. In addition to providing the carpet, Mohawk also supplied some of its own volunteers who, while undertaking certain precautions, helped install flooring, paint, put together furniture and set up each of the rooms.

Four additional public schools across metropolitan Atlanta and middle Georgia were the deserving recipients of School Crashers program grants with the addition and makeover of playgrounds and outdoor classrooms.

"We look forward to this partnership every year because we understand the impact of environment on the educational experience," said David Dembowitz, senior vice president of education and government for Mohawk Group. "By improving the look and feel of spaces at three schools this year, we know this will also improve their student experience and create pride, which studies show lead to higher test scores and better grades."

TURKEY OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS GLOBAL MARKETS VIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) enable boosting trade and social relationships between two or more countries. Reducing duty expenses and trade barriers, they help address behind-the-border barriers, encourage investment, and improve the rules affecting issues such as intellectual property, e-commerce, and government procurement.

Involved in EU Customs Union since 1996, Turkey has been implementing its trade policy following the EU's Common Commercial Policy and has FTAs in force with 20 countries now, which are the EFTA countries, Israel, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, Egypt, Albania, Georgia, Montenegro, Serbia, Chile, Mauritius, South Korea, Malaysia, Moldova, Faroe Islands, and Singapore.

Besides, Turkey has started or been conducting negotiations with countries including Lebanon, Kosovo, Sudan, Qatar, Venezuela, Japan, Ukraine, Peru, Indonesia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Thailand, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Cameroon, Chad, Seychelles, Gulf Cooperation Council, Libya, the MERCOSUR countries, USA, Canada, India, Vietnam, Central American countries, other ACP countries, Algeria, and South Africa.

Free trade activities in Turkey offer numerous advantages, which are:

- Free access to markets that foreign investors in Turkey may not reach before
- Reducing of income tax from 33% to 20% and tax benefits/incentives in Technology Development Zones,
- Industrial Zones, and Free Zones which could result in total or partial exemption from Corporate Income
- Tax, a grant on employer's social security share, as well as land allocation
- Turkey's FTA partners with a share of 9.5% in export markets and a share of 4.5% in Turkey's imports with a trade surplus of 3.9 billion dollars
- Turkey as a desirable country for foreign investors for production and exportation, a production base for electronics, nutriment, chemistry, durable consumer goods with its advantageous location and easy access to its neighbor countries via land transportation
- Qualities of improving efficiency and innovation, driving competitiveness and promoting fairness



with the next generation of the pattern control system.

Large, artistic graphics, timeless glen check or exact pinstripes – the choice of patterns for textiles knows no limits. More and more sophisticated materials are being used to this end, varying greatly in density or elasticity.

This presents an increasing challenge for textile manufacturers to produce straight weft and straightened pat-terns. Here, the alignment according to the design often plays a greater role than the weft insertion. The German company Mahlo GmbH + Co KG solves this problem with its improved Patcontrol PCS-20 system for pattern recognition and warp control.

To ensure that customers receive the quality they want in patterned goods, textile manufacturers must adhere to the tightest tolerances in terms of parameters such as pattern repeat or pattern distortion. After all, nobody would accept distorted patterns in carpets, textile printing, woven goods and knitwear,

have to match exactly

The Patcontrol PCS straightens bow and skew distortions in technical textiles just as reliably as in terry cloth, e.g. towels, printed clothing fab-rics or flocked articles. Even goods that cannot be detected with conven-tional scanning systems, such as lace and rustle curtains or mesh fabrics used for example in sports shoes, do

nition.

For years Mahlo has been providing reliable support for textile manufacturers with the Patcontrol PCS. The new version PCS-20 now facilitates the production process even more.

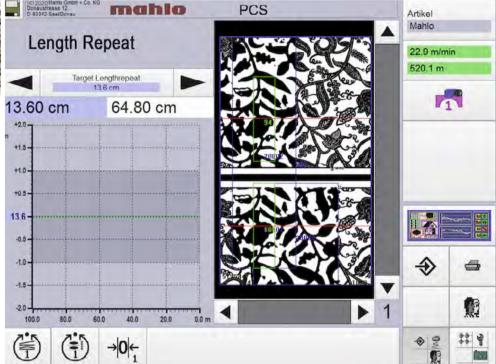
Camera and lighting technology further developed

The system uses camera technology to detect the position of the pattern and automatically and continuously determines the pattern repeat, measures the product width, and - together with a straightener - straight-ens the product distortion based on the print pattern.

New long-life LED lighting generates the maximum brightness on the market, thereby extending the scanning range for darker goods. Improved cameras allow brightness control by gain and exposure time. With the Generation 20 system, more than two cameras can also be connected per measuring point.

This allows a higher resolution and an even more accurate result to be For large-area carpets, patterns achieved. A Gigabit connection allows the transmission of large amounts of • Logging of repeat and warp on car- The Patcontrol PCS-20 ensures the data. Using a mounting aid, the exact camera adjustment can be done easilv and quickly. A compact interface box at the measuring point integrates the Patcontrol PCS-20 even more easily into the existing plant.

> As with all current Mahlo systems, pattern recognition is also integrated into the mSmart digitisation concept.



Mahlo-Regulating textile patterns with new Patcontrol PCS-20

Users, machines and processes are networked with each other and meet all the requirements of Industry 4.0.

Area of application

- Straightening of curtain and lace fabric as well as repeat measurement and control of the feed roller
- Straightening of woven and tufted carpets before a coating process
- · Straightening of terry cloth (e.g. towels)
- Fine straightening of printed goods
- Report detection and sorting
- Continuous width measurement
- pets
- Residual distortion straightening of carpets at the stenter frame outlet
- Special evaluations and measurements on technical textiles

Advantages of the new generation-**Patcontrol PCS-20**

New camera technology

- Higher resolution more than 2 cameras per measuring point possible
- Gigabit connection
- Brightness control
- Easy camera adjustment
- CMOS technology New LED lighting
- Larger scanning range through maximum brightness on the market
- Longer service life

Easy integration through compact interface box Current Windows 10 operating system

textile manufacturer complete monitoring and logging of the actual product quality. The new generation of Patcontrol thus makes an important contribution to increasing quality, efficiency and profit. Its use brings companies even closer to 100% 'Right First Time'.





