



# MENA CARPET NEWS

**ZIMMER AUSTRIA  
WILL OPEN NEW  
FIELDS FOR TEXTILE  
AND CARPET DIGITAL  
PRINTING DURING  
ITMA MILANO**

**HEIMTEXTIL 2024  
LAUNCHES WITH  
ADAPTED HALL  
STRUCTURE AND  
SEPARATE SEGMENT  
FOR CARPETS & RUGS**

**CO2 NEUTRAL  
TEXTILE FINISHING A  
VISION OF  
INTERCARPET**

# READY TO SUPPORT YOU

## challenge us

COLARIS and CHROMOET printing systems are the first choice for a wide range of applications, especially when it comes to textile-based substrates. To guarantee high quality results, ZIMMER AUSTRIA Digital Printing Systems is structured into five business segments to ensure maximum attention to the individual need of each end-product.



### TEXTILE PRINTING

Especially medium to heavy weight textile substrates in woven and knitted construction are targets of ZIMMER AUSTRIA Digital Printing Systems. The product range covers bedding, furnishing, terry towels, curtains, various velour substrates, as well as heavy weight knit fabrics for the fashion industry.

### FLOOR COVERING

COLARIS and CHROMOJET printers cover the complete range of textile-based floor covering from nonwoven, flock, tufted and woven base material.

ZIMMER AUSTRIA Digital Printing Systems covers the complete range from contract, automotive, promotional, residential and function carpets incl. mats and rugs fine-tuned to the needs of each segment.

### NARROW FABRICS

COLARIS-NF is a single pass printing and dyeing solution for narrow fabrics to be used in technical applications as well as for decorative tapes or even zippers. The wide range of application includes tapes for military carrying systems or hook & loop tapes incl. IRR control function. Printing and dyeing can either be single or double sided simultaneously. It is also possible to print heavy tape constructions on one side and to dye the substrate on the backside in a single pass through the line.

### TECHNICAL TEXTILE

Functionalization chemicals can be applied on various substrates. Additionally, printing on fabrics used for military applications incl. uniforms, rain protection, ponchos, netting, tents, tarpaulins, carrying systems, sleeping bags, bulletproof vests, or parachute fabrics, all including IRR functionality are covered by COLARIS digital printing equipment.



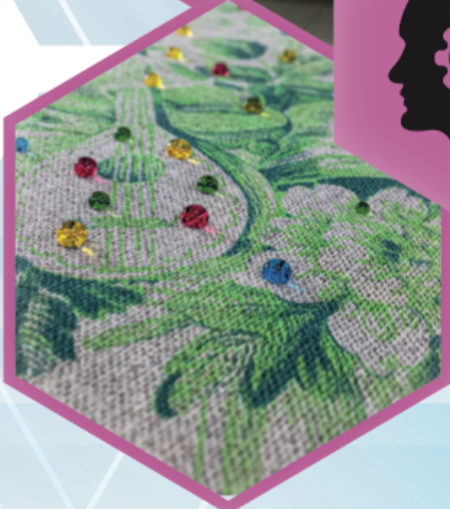
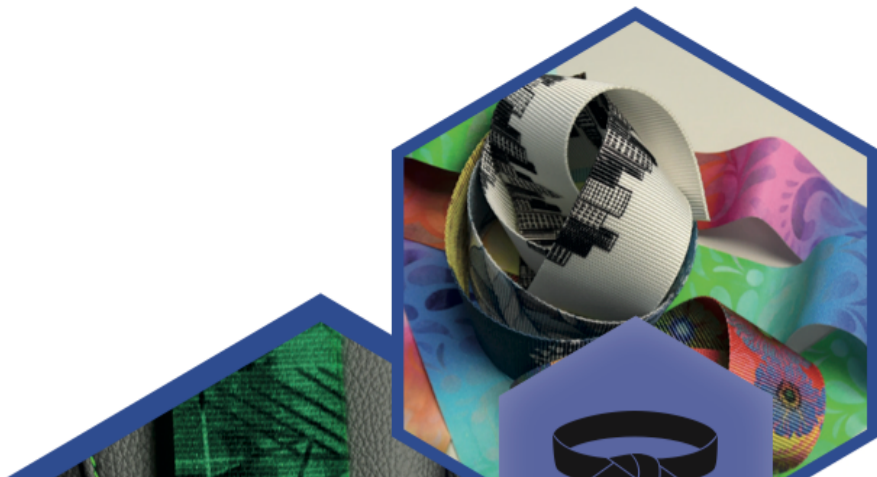
### SPECIALTY GOODS

Special applications are end-products which are not covered by the a.m. product ranges. Such applications include additive manufacturing, such as Selective Cement Activation, thermophore coatings, security prints, or electro conductive printing – to mention some of the special applications.

**ZIMMER AUSTRIA Digital Printing Systems is the competent partner to your success in printing and finishing of textile-based substrates and specialty goods.**





COLARIS



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DIGITAL PRINTING SYSTEMS

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manufacturing and implementation of industrial printing and coating systems.

# Zimmer Austria Will Open New Fields for Textile and Carpet Digital Printing During ITMA Milano



**Interview with Mr Josef Osl, GM Marketing at ZIMMER AUSTRIA | Digital Printing Systems**



ITMA is the best platform for innovations in machines and technologies for the textile industry. The fair only takes place every four years. Actually, it is ideal for presenting developments of conventional production machines. However, developments are much faster in digital systems as they need to cope with the volatile environment that the industry has to face. Waiting for an ITMA trade fair to come up with innovations would mean that some developments might already be outdated by the time they are presented.

**First of all, please let us know about ZIMMER AUSTRIA's participation at ITMA Milano 2023. Do you have any new technology to exhibit at ITMA for the first time?**

Thanks to digital technology, development is much faster and one has to enter the market with innovations immediately and without delay. Nevertheless, even at a trade fair event that only takes place every four years, there are innovations that will change the market.

ZIMMER AUSTRIA showcases innovations in both screen and digital printing, which will support the textile industry in the long term. Some of these innovations will open new fields for textile and carpet printing.

Economical printing is the result of process simplification combined with automation. Other important cost-cutting factors are user and service friendliness. For all these requirements we have updated solutions and will demonstrate and present them to an international audience.

Our sales and technical team would be happy to welcome you to ZIMMER AUSTRIA in Hall 07, booth E105 for detailed discussions on-site.

**What is ZIMMER AUSTRIA's range of products and machinery in the textile industry? Share with us the most important properties of ZIMMER AUSTRIA machinery in different categories.**

We offer a wide range of machines and systems Made in Austria for the textile and carpet industry. The main products are screen and digital printing machines and various other equipment required in the printing shop.

Further products are post-treatment and textile finishing machines for all types of fiber-based substrates.

These include pre-treatment systems for digital printing and machines for rotary screen engraving or dosing & mixing units for print paste production. In addition, ZIMMER AUSTRIA manufactures coating machines with various application systems. Different types of dryers as well as horizontal and loop steamers are part of the production program, as are washing machines for carpets and voluminous textile substrates and machine components to support the penetration of prints on heavy-weight qualities.

ZIMMER AUSTRIA is known for its strong brands ROTASCREEN and MAGNOPRINT as screen printing systems, MAGNOROLL coating machines, THERMOCURE dryers and MODUS loop steamers. Another strong brand is CHROMOJET, a high-speed valve-jet-based digital printing system for deep-pile penetration on heavy-weight carpets. COLARIS brand is a printing technology based on piezo printheads for high-resolution printing on any kind of textile and carpet substrate.

All ZIMMER AUSTRIA brands are 100 percent produced in Austria. With our technology center being equipped according to the latest standards, we offer our customers comprehensive service in process development and the best possible integration of new technologies into their production environment.

**The need for military fabrics is increasing and your company offers**



**HALL 7 - BOOTH E105**

**one of the best digital printing technologies for camouflage fabric. Let us know more about its unique features.**

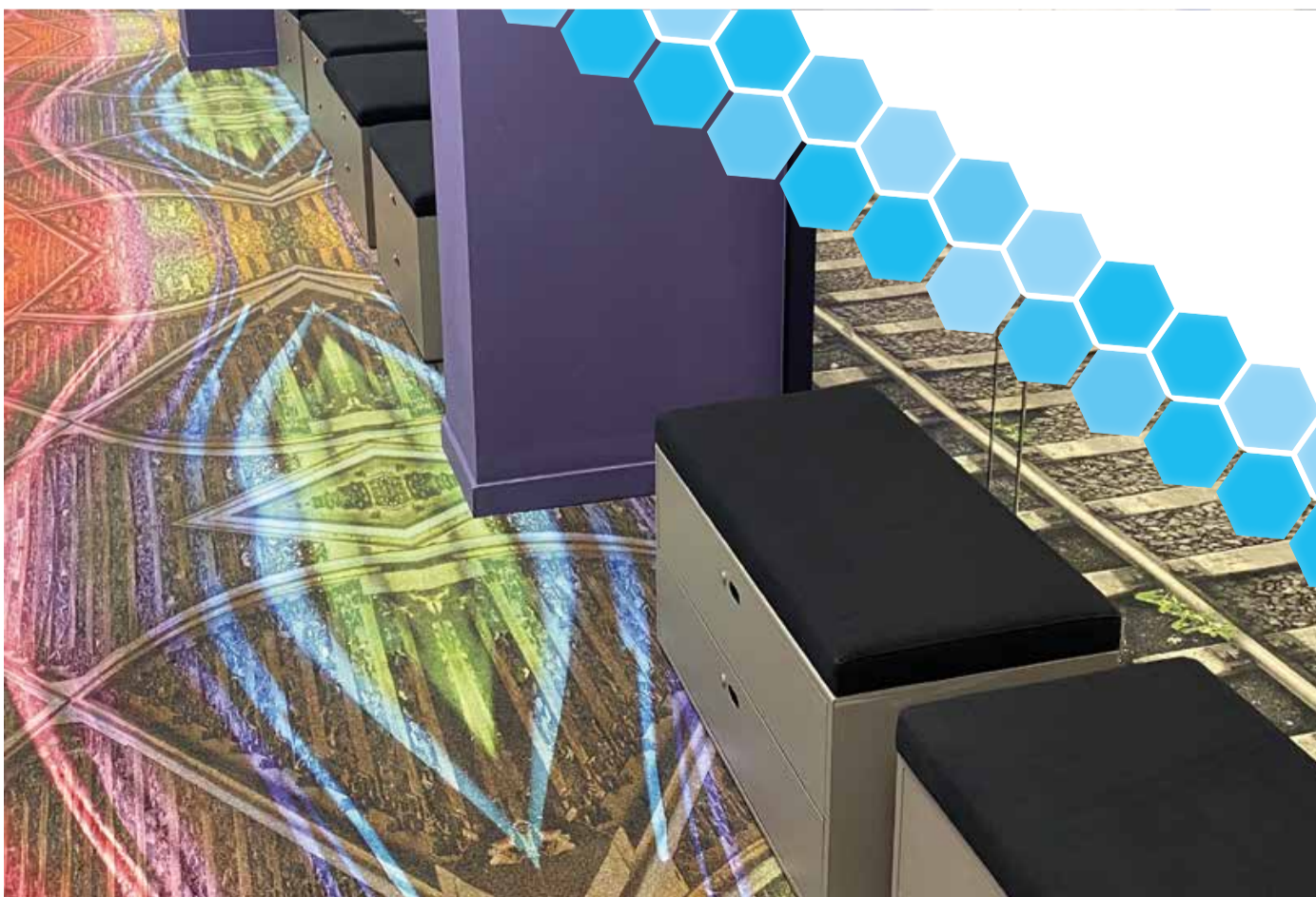
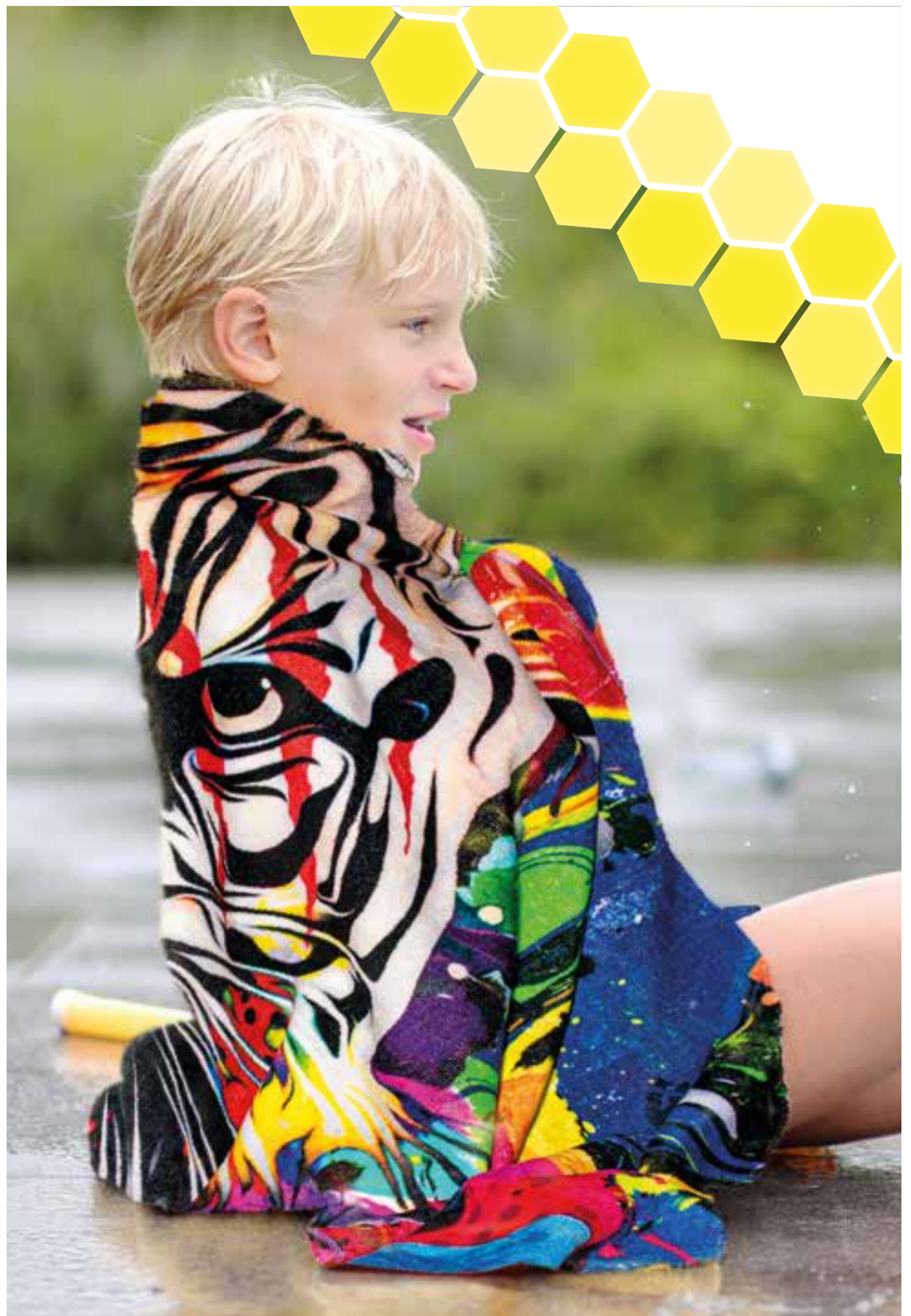
Military and paramilitary services are showing a rapidly growing demand for camouflage products. Combat suits, rain protection, bulletproof vests, ponchos, nets, tent material, carrying systems, hook and loop fastening systems, and various types of belts and straps, all this is part of military camouflage prints with IRR technology.

In recent years, we have carried out extensive research and development work to bring this cutting-edge technology of digital camouflage printing with IR remission control to the market. In a process that is still ongoing, our R&D department team is focused on fine-tuning and developing additional products required by the armed forces.

The constantly growing number of special units and the individual needs of different combat environments require small quantities of high-tech textiles with camouflage prints. New designs are constantly being developed by military designers in order to cover the widest possible range of operational environments. Specific demands with dedicated designs including a growing number of colors and gradients within the print, in literally unlimited repeat lengths have to be produced on short notice. This can only be offered by a digital printing system.

A daily routine at ZIMMER AUSTRIA is in-house product development on customer substrates that have to meet the tight specifications of L\*a\*b color values and infrared reflectance curves, as well as the specified fastness conditions. Proven results and know-how are passed on to the customer when they purchase our print lines.

**Sustainability and recycling are important challenges for textile manufacturers all around the world, what is Zimmer Austria's sustainability policy? And how to help the textile industry?**



A printer manufacturer has few opportunities to work on the recycling side. Therefore, our efforts are aimed at reducing the consumption of resources. In particular, the consumption of water as a limited natural resource and electricity as a costly energy source with a high environmental impact must be reduced to a minimum. Reduction of the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint in the manufacture of the machines is a particular concern of ZIMMER AUSTRIA.

For this reason, we have invested in a photovoltaic installation, which produces the annual electric consumption of our manufacturing plant for digital printers. In addition, it is particularly important to us to support our customers with economic and sustainable print production. A committed R&D team in our technology center is constantly working



on optimizing the process technology.

The reduction of water and energy consumption is the top priority. ZIMMER AUSTRIA Digital Printing Systems is a specialist for printing heavy textiles and carpets. Such products are usually manufactured in steps with several moistening and drying processes, which require a lot of water and drying energy. Not so with our technology. Inline pre-treatment in combination with wet-on-wet printing, in-line color fixing, and in-line post-treatment reduce resource consumption enormously.

In-line process technology is the most economical and ecological solution, enormously reducing both water and energy consumption. Digital pigment printing is becoming more and more popular on flat textiles, which also supports the sustainability of textile printing.

**Why is digital textile printing expanding and developing day by day? What are its unique features and benefits?**

The order of the day is to reduce inventories and bring production as close as possible to the consumer. Digital printing is the only option for on-demand print production. It is the key to Industry 4.0.

Reducing waste chemicals is unmatched by any other solution. The digital printing process has hardly any water consumption and no significant discharge of chemicals into the sewage system.

In-line color fixation is much faster and process times are significantly reduced, offering a great savings potential. In-line printing and post-treat-

ment simplify post-print washing. Wet fabric straight from the steamer does not require swelling of dried thickeners and other chemicals, thus reducing water consumption substantially.

Of course, the benefits of unlimited repeat size, smooth color gradients, and an unlimited number of colors within a design are huge advantages compared to conventional printing.

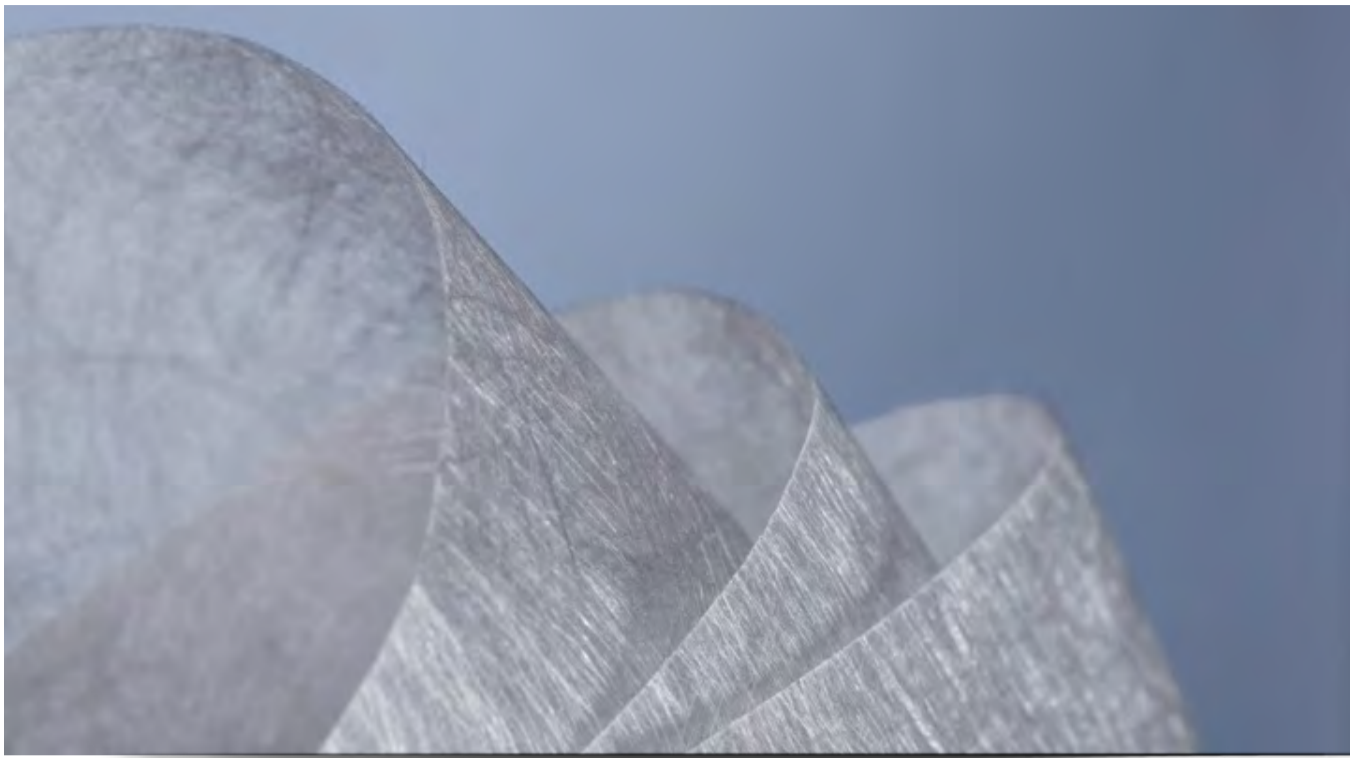
**Mr. Osl, how long is ZIMMER AUSTRIA in the market? Can you tell us about the history?**

An interesting question that I am happy to answer as we can look back on our company history with pride. ZIMMER was founded in 1874 in Warnsdorf, Bohemia, once part of the historic Austrian-Hungarian Empire. This means that we are already in the 150th year of the company's existence. A reason to celebrate. We want to express our sincere gratitude to all of the customers we have had the privilege of serving throughout this long history.

It is thanks to our customers that we have been able to create a basis of trust over the years, in good times as well as in difficult times, which today, together with our highly qualified staff, represent the greatest assets of our company.

We would like to thank our customers and representatives for the trust they have placed in us and for the cooperative partnership, as well as our employees for their commitment, dedication and creativity, which make the overall success possible in the first place.





## FREUDENBERG LAUNCHES SUSTAINABLE CARPET BACKING MATERIAL

**COLBACK ECO, LUTRADOR ECO ARE MADE FROM SPUNBOND NONWOVENS**

**F**reudenberg Performance Materials has launched the next generation range of sustainable carpet backing products for the flooring industry. Next generation sustainable backings support customers in their transition towards producing more sustainable carpets. The range is introduced as Colback ECO and Lutradur ECO and is part of the Freudenberg portfolio of high-performance spunbond nonwoven technical textiles.

“Like many other industries, the flooring industry faces challenges to reduce the environmental impact of their products,” says Michaela Reuter, SVP & General Manager Regional Business Unit Carpet, Filtration & Shoes EMEA at Freudenberg. “Carpet manufacturers approach this challenge in multiple ways: reducing carbon footprint, increasing recycled content, and improving recyclability are key trends. As a long-term partner, we work closely with our customers to support their journey.”

Freudenberg follows a ‘less is more’ principle: the best raw materials are the materials that are not needed at all. For the ECO product range, Freudenberg R&D teams developed a solution to save raw materials in their carpet backings.

Freudenberg redefined its proprietary yarn production technology allowing for extremely thin filaments with a diameter up to 30% smaller than the standard portfolio for carpet backings.

“The sustainability benefits are twofold,” says Dr. Birger Lange, Director R&D Regional Business Unit Carpet, Filtration & Shoes EMEA. “The thin filaments enable us to save raw materials right from the start, which results in backings with a lower carbon footprint. This will help our customers to make their products more sustainable. At the same time, the new backing can contribute to better recyclability of the carpet at the end of its life cycle because its lower PET content benefits certain recycling processes,” Dr. Lange added.

The ECO product range is particularly suitable for carpet tiles and is produced in Europe.

The new thin yarn technology is one of Freudenberg’s sustainable initiatives benefitting the carpet industry. Other developments supporting sustainability include backings with a high recycled content and backings using alternative approaches to facilitate carpet recyclability. They will extend the ECO portfolio in the future.

## CARPETYARN MARKET IS EXPECTED TO SURPASS THE VALUE OF US\$ 26.8 BN BY THE END OF 2031

**T**he global Carpet Yarn market is estimated to attain a valuation of US\$ 26.8 Bn by the end of 2031, states a study by Transparency Market Research (TMR). Besides, the report notes that the market is prognosticated to expand at a CAGR of 5.14% during the forecast period, 2021-2031.

The key objective of the TMR report is to offer a complete assessment of the global market including major leading stakeholders of the Carpet Yarn industry. The current and historical status of the market together with forecasted market size and trends are demonstrated in the assessment in simple manner. In addition, the report delivers data on the volume, share, revenue, production, and sales in the market.

The study on the Carpet Yarn market presents a granular assessment of the macroeconomic and microeconomic factors that have shaped the industry dynamics. An in-depth focus on industry value chain help companies find out effective and pertinent trends that define customer value creation in the market. The analysis presents a data-driven and industry-validated frameworks for understanding the role of government regulations and financial and monetary policies. The analysts offer a deep-dive into the how these factors will shape the value delivery network for companies and firms operating in the market.

The list of key players operating in the Carpet Yarn market includes following names: Aquafil S.p.A., Canan Tekstil, Hyosung Advanced Materials, Meridian Specialty Yarn Group, National Spinning Company, Bonar Yarns, Gulsan Holding, CLC Industries Limited, Kingbird, etc.



# Heimtextil 2024 launches with adapted hall structure and separate segment for Carpets & Rugs

Optimised hall planning and the new Carpets & Rugs product segment await international visitors and exhibitors at the largest and most international trade fair for home and contract textiles. The new developments were immediately met with great interest and positive feedback from the market. Even companies that were not represented in 2023 are relying on Heimtextil 2024 as an important business platform with their registration. With interior design, trends and inspiration, Heimtextil in January 2024 is the reliable kick-off for the new season. For exhibitors, Heimtextil offers an attractive early-booking price until 22 March, 2023.

In 2024, Heimtextil will be even more visitor-friendly with optimised hall planning. The popular, light-flooded hall 3 and the new hall 5 will be added to the line-up. From 9 to 12 January 2024, visitors will find the latest collections from the Wall Decoration segment, Textile Technology, the most international range of Textile Designers and, as a highlight, the Heimtextil Trends 24/25 will be presented compact and centrally located in Hall 3.0.

Here, creativity and innovation are brought together in a unique melting pot of (technical) innovations and impulses for buyers from various segments. Window & Interior Decoration will be located in hall 3.1. Heimtextil thus enables a compact presentation and visitor-friendly connections, also to furnishing fabrics in hall 4.

The new Carpets & Rugs product segment will be presented in hall 5.1. The new hall is optimally connected directly to the Via Mobile and to the transition to hall 4. International visitors will benefit from short and di-





rect walking distances with the relevant product areas in one place. The Fibres & Yarns product segment for decorative and furniture fabrics, which was successfully launched in 2023, will be expanded and presented together with Interior. Architecture.Hospitality and Decorative & Furniture Fabrics, once again in hall 4.0. Visitors to Heimtextil 2024 can also rely on the established offerings of Smart Bedding, Beautiful Living, Bed & Bath Fashion, Asian Excellence and Asian Selection. Halls 10, 11 and 12 on Messe Frankfurt's western fairgrounds will once again be open to German and international buyers at the start of the season.

Heimtextil is offering an attractive early-booking rate for exhibitors until 22 March 2023. The registrations to date reveal: Even companies that had decided not to exhibit at Heimtextil 2023 will be represented again at Heimtextil 2024. German and international exhibitors are thus relying on Heimtextil as an important sales channel for the future.

Heimtextil 2024 is expanding its portfolio with a separate product segment for carpets. The Carpets & Rugs segment will be located exclusively in the new hall 5.1. On display will be: fitted, handmade and custom-made carpets, machine-made woven carpets, mats and dirt-absorbing carpeting as well as rugs and runners. Carpets are traditionally an integral part of Heimtextil and have so far been presented by the exhibitors in different halls. Starting in 2024, this range will be per-



manently combined in a separate segment on an annual basis. Heimtextil is thus responding to the increasing demand from the market. International buyers will thereby receive an optimum, bundled overview of a wide selection of fitted carpets. The segment appeals to international wholesalers as well as DIY and home improvement stores, furniture retailers and furnishing stores and specialised retailers.

"By presenting carpets in a separate product segment, we are creating additional added value for relevant buyers. In the future, exhibitors of fitted carpets can be found bundled and centrally located in the new hall 5.1. The range of textile floor coverings will be optimally integrated into the existing textile environment at Heimtextil. The new area is already attracting great attention. The past months have been characterised by a variety of conversations with companies, potential visitors, associations and publishers - we have received consistently positive feedback from all of them for our decision. We are pleased

to be able to respond to the wishes of the branch with this reliable annual offer", explains Bettina Bär, Director Heimtextil.

The global textile industry was represented in Frankfurt at Heimtextil 2023 with 44,000 visitors and 2,400 exhibitors together from 129 nations. 92 percent of trade visitors and 81 percent of exhibitors achieved their trade-fair goals at Heimtextil 2023, thus confirming the relevance of the trade fair. Heimtextil not only created business opportunities, but also provided valuable content and inspiration. In addition to learning about trends and new products, initiating and maintaining business relationships as well as networking and exchanging experiences were among the most frequently mentioned objectives at the fair. The surveys showed the trend that important purchasing decisions are increasingly being prepared at the fair. Exhibitors were also positive about their post-fair business and benefited from a 72 percent share of executives among the visitors.

## Iran's Handwoven Carpet Exports Lowest In 24 Years

Exports of one of Iran's most famous products, the Persian carpet, are at its lowest levels in 24 years. Official customs reports say the weight value of Iran's handmade carpet exports in the first 11 months of the current Iranian year dropped from 3,800 to 2,900, a 24% decrease in one year alone.

But the decline has been a long time in the making. Persian carpets generated over two billion dollars for Iran in 1994, but sold only \$69 million in 2019, bringing in a mere two million dollars in the second quarter of 2020.

Several factors including the challenges to global logistics chains, rising cost of products and the pandemic, account for the major drop in one of the country's most prized national treasures, famed around the

world for centuries. Sanctions have dealt local industries a fatal blow.

Faisal Mardasi, Head of Iran's National Carpet Center, told local media: "Our Indian, Chinese, Afghan, Pakistani and Turkish competitors have entered the global carpet markets by copying Iranian designs."

Meanwhile, as purchasing power has sharply decreased and the price of hand-woven carpets soared, people are more willing to buy Afghan samples instead of Iranian.

In Iran's rural economy, carpets have been one of the country's most crucial employment opportunities for many years, providing a livelihood for millions of families.



A high value-added commodity with production that does not require large investments, it means the products can create both employment and export capacity.

 By Mette Frydensbjerg Jacobsen

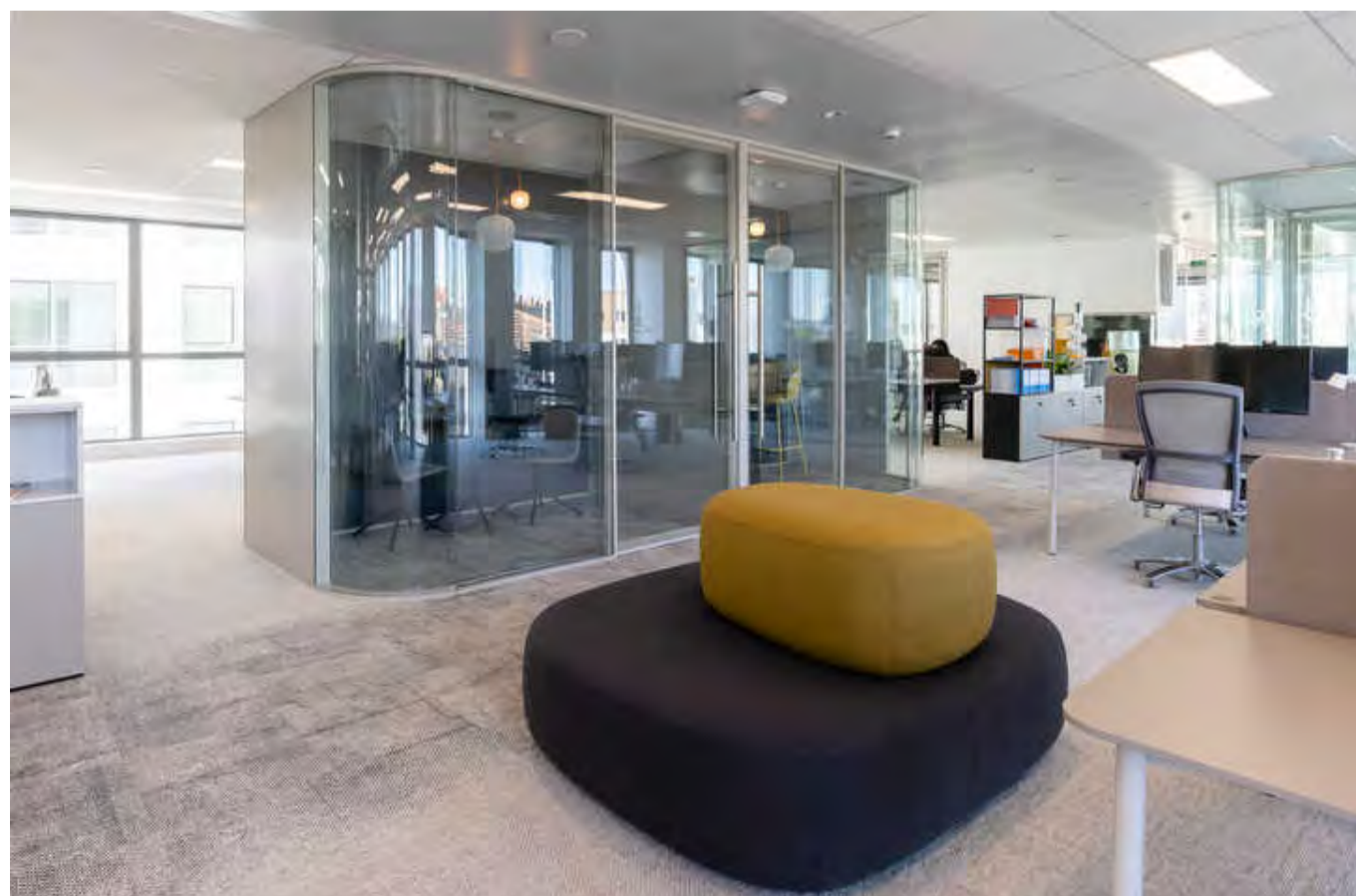
# REFORM TRANSITION: ONE CARPET COLLECTION, SIX AMAZING OFFICE LOOKS

This article features our bestselling ReForm Transition collection including 48x48 cm Mix carpet tiles, an extraordinary tool to create fluid flows between two or more colours.

Join us on an inspirational trip to France, Poland, the United Arab Emirates, Norway and Slovakia to explore six office spaces with one thing in common: ReForm Transition. Coming along, you'll learn how diverse patterns, colours and ways of installation bring completely different looks to contemporary office floors all over the world.

## Carpet design that brings nature inside

ReForm Transition is borne from a desire to transfer the architecture of nature to today's professional interiors. Thus, irregular textures, layers and structures from outdoors translate into interior designs reflecting key elements of this seasonal cycle: Seed, Leaf and Fibre. The organic tactility and sensuous feeling of these materials are defined by a multi-level loop construction that adds depth and interesting detail to pat-



terns and colours.

The Transition designs are available in an extensive range of soft and faded colours reflecting the hues of nature. They've been carefully researched, coordinated and selected in terms of the role they play in facilitating good physical and mental health. In this way greys and browns from the earth provide a soothing, safe and solid ambience, while greens and blues bring new energy, creativity and optimism.

Ready for six quick office stops? Let's go!

## 1. BIC

BIC reimagines everyday essentials, designing products that are part of every home. The company believes it positively impacts the world by offering sustainable solutions that respect the

planet through smart design and the creation of products that last. In line with this belief, BIC has specified sustainable Transition carpet for their French office. Thus, the Seed design in light grey and dark grey are united by light grey/dark grey Mix tiles to create an elegant base for the office interior featuring hints of the yellow tone so iconic for BIC.

## 2. Pepsico

At the Pepsico office in Poland, bubbling energy arises from an innovative combination of light grey, yellow and blue Transition carpet tiles in the Fibre design. In the meeting rooms, blue Fibre tiles therefore merge into vivid floor designs whereas designs structured around the transitioning light grey/yellow Mix tiles create a great visual effect throughout the larger office spaces. Specifying the same carpet pattern in several colours help create a dynamic yet cohesive interior style easily fitted to the visual company identity of Pepsico.

## 3. WOW

At the WOW office in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, the Seed design specified for one meeting room features a light blue/dark blue transition that adds a hint of vibrance to the space. A slightly more toned-down wow-effect is achieved in a larger meeting room where mixed greys beautifully frame the office furniture. In addition, an elegant combination of camel, light grey and dark grey carpet tiles make interesting transitions from camel to light grey and from light grey to dark grey throughout several meeting rooms where the carpet catches the warm tones of the leather chairs as well as the wooden doors and wall panels.





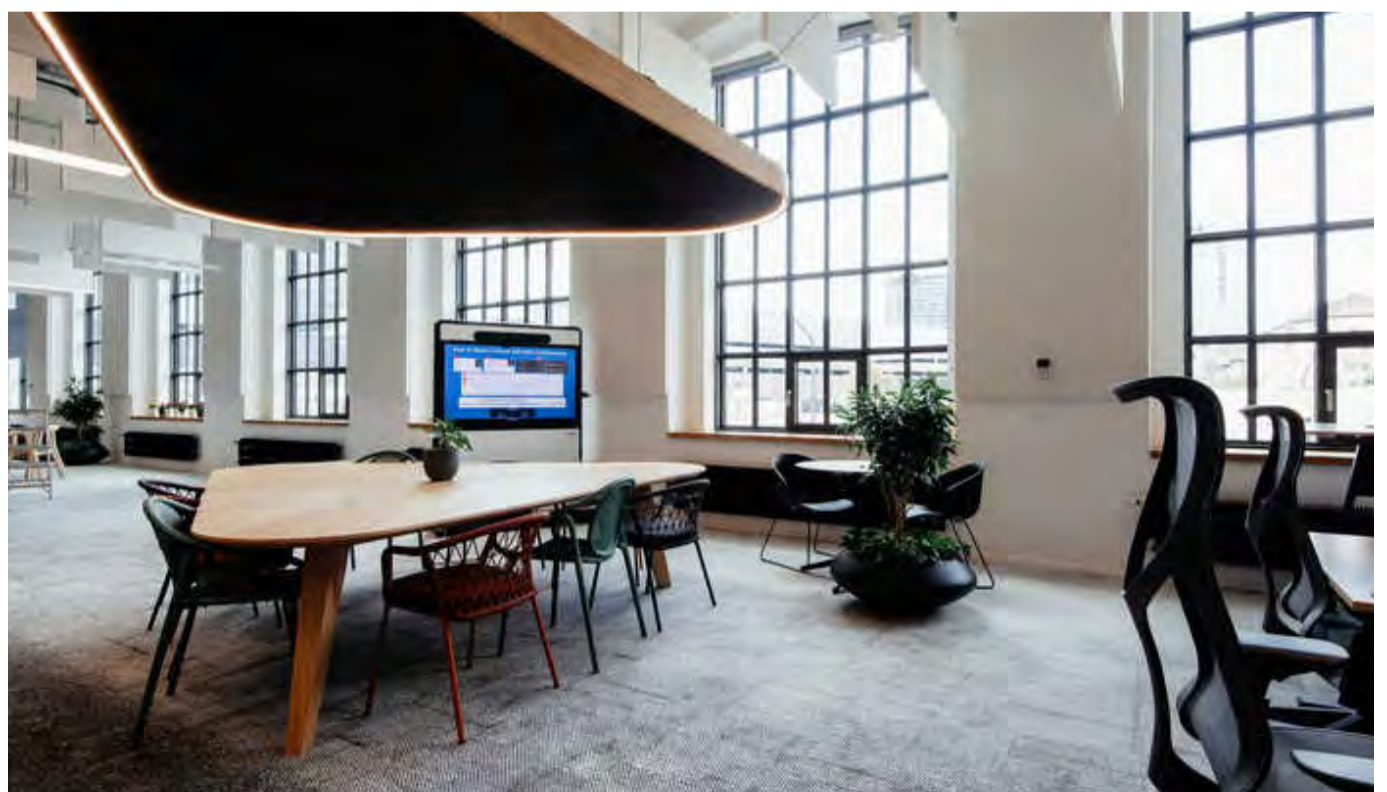
#### 4. Rémy Cointreau

Rémy Cointreau offers a portfolio of high-end spirits and considers the staff as being the most valuable corporate asset. This organisational value among others reflects in the Paris office design, which elegantly communicates the premium brand identity while promoting the personal wellbeing of the staff members. A stylish selection of Leaf carpet tiles is specified in warm grey, olive stone, golden and dark brown and thus a grey base is complemented by rich and warm colours referring to the spirits assortment. An extra refined detail, some carpet tiles are cut into organic shapes used to define workstations or zones of furniture. And in other spaces, warm grey and olive stone carpet tiles are combined into vivid designs exploiting the great modularity of this particular carpet type.



#### 5. Kinnarps

The floor design at Kinnarps in Norway is based on Transition Seed carpet tiles in dark grey, grey and the dark grey/grey Mix tiles combining the two grey shades in a harmonious transition. The textured and roughish Seed pattern helps create a warm and tactile ambience in this cosy and evocative office environment.



#### 6. MPS Logistic

In Slovakia, the MPS Logistic office is tailored to promote personal wellbeing through an effective mix of noise-reducing helpers. In this way, acoustic elements in different shapes, colours and materials are fitted into strategically chosen spots across the space. For instance, the large floor surface is covered with acoustic carpet effectively trapping and holding on to the noise.

The flexible Transition design options are fully exploited as well. This by making not only one or two but three colour transitions across the floor. Thus, the Seed design transitions several times using the light grey/grey, grey/dark grey and dark grey/black Transition Mix tiles to create fluent colour flows.

# CO2 Neutral Textile Finishing a Vision of INTERCARPET



The Dutch floor covering producer INTERCARPET has made a very large investment – driven by the ambitious goal of bringing both a CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral produced and recyclable floor covering to the market. But this major goal in terms of environmental standards was not the only focus of the development. The end product should also surpass any conventionally produced carpet in terms of quality, ease of installation, weight, comfort, maintenance and cleaning properties.

INTERCARPET is a major supplier of textile floor coverings in the medium and higher market segments. In two factories in the Netherlands, woven carpets, tufted carpets, knitted qualities and artificial grass coverings are produced for export worldwide. In addition to the typical carpet qualities made of all common man-made fibers, wool qualities of the highest quality are also produced from virgin wool.

INTERCARPET has always been a pioneer in terms of reducing the burden on nature and the environment, a fact that has been repeatedly questioned in many audits over the years. Waste management and energy efficiency are not only buzzwords at INTERCARPET.

BRÜCKNER Textile Technologies, a medium-sized, owner-managed engineering company, and market leader in the field of textile dry finishing is proud to have been selected as a partner in this

project. BRÜCKNER's delivery includes a stenter with a non-lub ball bearing chain and a DUOTHERM heat treatment oven. The special feature is that the oven is completely electrically heated. With its experience in the field of electric heating, BRÜCKNER makes a valuable contribution on the way to a CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral future. The oven is operated with green electricity and thus offers for the first time the possibility of a CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral production of tufting carpets.

All electricity consumers such as fan drives, exhaust air fans or the drives of the fabric transport system are equipped with energy-efficient motors. The horizontal ball-bearing chain also ensures the lowest drive power due to low rolling friction.

Today BRÜCKNER offers all common heating systems for its thermal treatment and drying lines. This includes direct or indirect gas heating, thermal oil heating, steam heating in low-pressure and high-pressure versions, the described electric heating or also combinations like e.g. steam heating with additional electric heating.

With more than 400 employees BRÜCKNER designs lines for the textile finishing industry, for the production of nonwovens articles or industrial textiles from event tents to advertising banners, automotive textiles and geotextiles for land reinforcement or road construction.

INTERCARPET's new product portfolio offers even more innovations to come. The new recyclable product and its innovative CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral production are in any case an important step towards a green future. This is also sufficient proof that CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral production in textile finishing is not just a vision of the future, but that INTERCARPET has already arrived in the future with its new production line and new technology.

Climate change is undeniably progressing. CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral production is being discussed and there are calls to pay even more attention to the recyclability of end products in the textile chain in the future. This has brought textile producers, machine builders, fiber manufacturers and the chemical industry even closer together. Not only manufacturers of classic textiles, but also producers of industrial textiles or textile floor coverings are challenged here.

Smart solutions for Egyptian textile Industry

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 **NOBELTEX** GIES  
Laila El Gammal & Nayla El Tawil

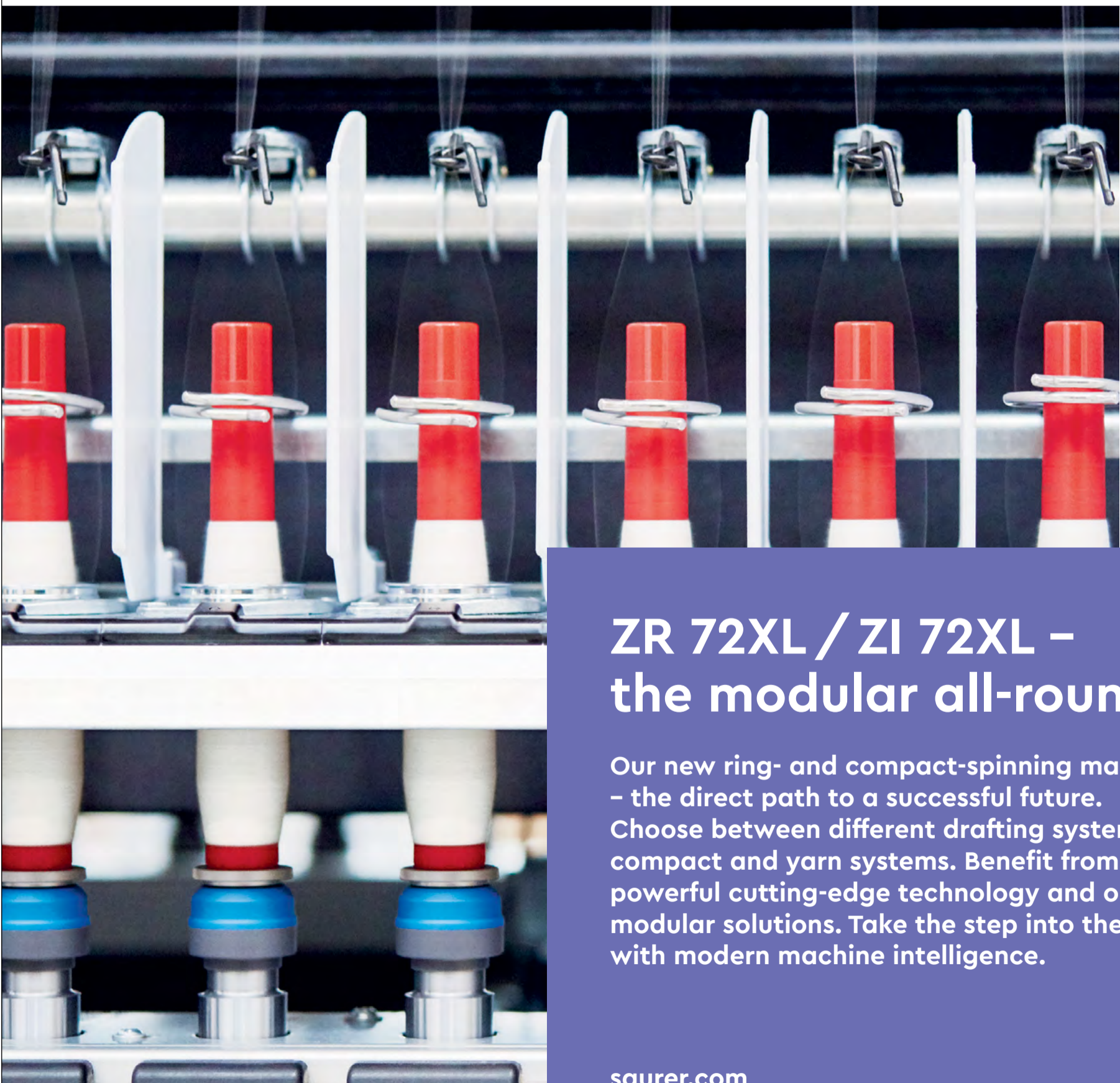
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# Trends at **DOMOTEX 2023:** Hooked on sustainability!

**D**OMOTEX once again proved to be the industry's international trend show from 12 to 15 January 2023. At the world's leading trade fair for carpets and floor coverings, exhibitors and visitors met to discuss product innovations and industry trends. Apart from the positive atmosphere, the value-based orientation of the event was particularly convincing.

The current keynote theme "FLOORED BY NATURE" referred to the megatrend of sustainability and thus focused on green topics such as the sustainable use of resources, recycling management, natural and recycled materials as well as healthy living and work environments. The main theme was divided into the areas "Connecting Markets", "Conscious Living" and "Colourful Nature".

With presentations of sustainable products and current research projects, a haptic material show as well as an inspiring conference program, the special display THE GREEN COLLECTION in Hall 23 formed the creative and communicative heart of the fair.

## GREEN COLLECTION AWARD

Also part of the special display was the award ceremony for the GREEN COLLECTION AWARDS, which was presented for the first time at DOMOTEX and honours sustainable products and production processes as well as particularly committed companies. An independent jury - consisting of Bayram Aslan, Director of TFI Aachen, Joachim Stumpp, Managing Director of the material database raumprobe, Roman Eberharter, President of the European Federation for Furniture Retailers (FENA), Reto Aschwanden, Managing Director of the non-profit organisation Label STEP and Thomas Pfnorr, Sustainability Officer of SN-Verlag - selected nine winners from all the products submitted for the award:

- Le Fil Vert Rugs Collection | ABC Italia SRL (IT)
- Go4cork Plus | Amorim Cork Composites (DE)
- AMORIM WISE cork inspire 700 HRT | Amorim Deutschland GmbH (DE)
- FIBRANO | Li&Co AG (CH)
- Puro | Oriental Weavers (EG)
- Ökologische Trittschalldämmung | STEICO (DE)
- Hywood | ter Hürne GmbH & Co. KG (DE)

Hardly any other topic is as deeply present in our minds as sustainability. It is influencing all areas of our lives – DOMOTEX 2023, the world's leading trade fair for carpets and floor coverings, is no exception.

- Tisca Respect Collection | Tisca Austria GmbH (AT)
- PURLINE BIOBODEN wineo 1000 | Windmüller GmbH (DE)

In addition to the GREEN COLLECTION AWARD, the Parkett Star, Carpet Star and Carpet Design Award ceremonies were also held during the fair.

## Natural and sustainable floor coverings

The sustainable focus was also reflected in the exhibitors' product range in the "FLOORING" section. Cork is one of the rapidly regenerating natural materials. It also has an insulating effect,





reduces sound transmission and temperature fluctuations and improves the indoor climate. As a cork specialist, AMORIM presented several prefabricated floors as well as adhesive parquet made of this sustainable material. The Swiss manufacturer Li&Co also showcased "LICO Kork" and "LICO Printcork" floors made of this material. In addition to natural cork floors, the company also displayed "Fibrano", a plastic-free natural floor composed exclusively of renewable materials such as wood, cork, natural fibres, rubber and other natural raw materials.

In addition to the GREEN COLLECTION winner "Hywood", ter Hürne also presented its sustainable and certified design floor "Avatara", which is made of Talcusan, a formulation of chalk, silicates and the ecologically harmless polymer polypropylene. Windmüller showed "Purline Bio-boden wineo 1500" in numerous colour variations and patterns. This floor covering is based on the composite material ecuran, which is mainly made from regenerative raw materials such as rapeseed or castor oil and chalk. It can be individually printed on demand. With "Woodura", Välinge presented a highly resilient and water-insensitive floor covering which also uses wood in a sustainable way. For this floor covering, wood veneer is only used as a top layer, resulting in a much higher yield of raw materials than with conventional top layers.



### Sustainable carpet trends at DOMOTEX

Exhibitors in the "RUGS" segment, which combines handmade and machine-made carpets, also responded well to the central theme of sustainability.

Wool, silk, fine artisanship: Handmade carpets, such as those on display at DOMOTEX, are unique gems that create a special atmosphere in a room. Thanks to the use of natural materials and their long lifespan, handmade carpets are a sustainable component of furnishings. Made of high-quality sheep's wool or fine silk, they have a heat-insulating effect, feel pleasantly soft and can even absorb dust and pollen from the air and contribute to a comfortable room climate.

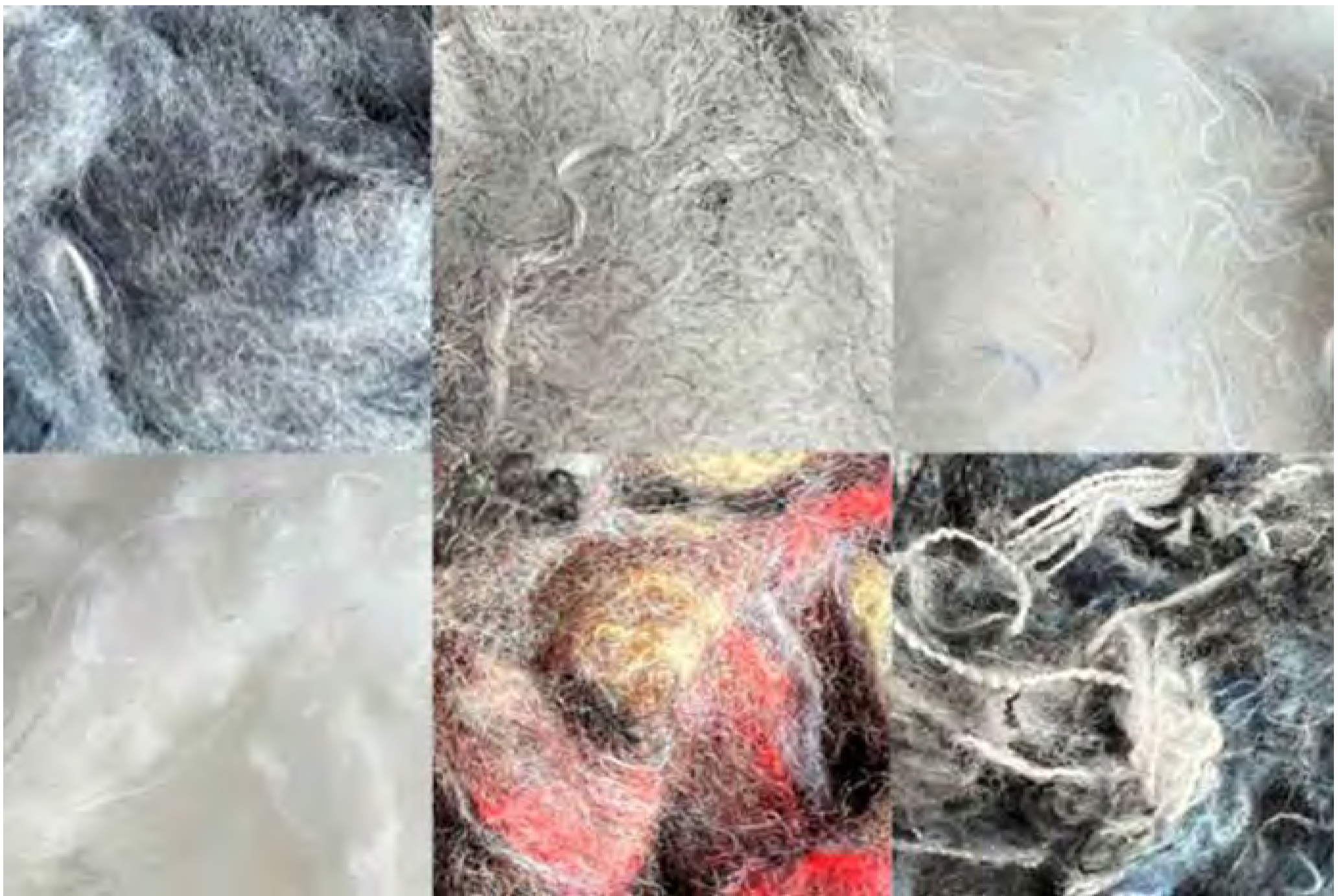
Beyond positive material qualities and fine craftsmanship, committed manufacturers such as Jai-pur Rugs, S.U. RUGS or Theo Keller ensure a positive experience when buying carpets, as these manufacturers are dedicated to fair trade and the fight against child labour. The NGO Good-

Weave International is particularly committed to fight child labour. The corresponding seal of quality is therefore one of the best assurances that a carpet was produced without child labour.

The trend towards increased environmental awareness is accompanied by rising demands on quality, durability and production of machine-made carpets. Oriental Weavers from Egypt presented several sustainable carpet collections at this year's DOMOTEX: "Puro", "Baduhi" and "Mojave". The company won the GREEN COLLECTION AWARD for the "Puro" collection, which is made of 100% recycled cotton fibres. With its viscose carpets, Verbatex proved that it does not have to be classic materials like wool and cotton. The Belgian manufacturer uses viscose produced by SFC from rapidly regenerating wood as a contribution to the circular economy. In addition, Verbatex uses dope-dyed fibres, which reduces water and energy consumption during production. McThree, on the other hand, is increasingly using synthetic yarns. To ensure that production meets the strictest environmental standards, the company cooperates with external specialists. At DOMOTEX, McThree showed two new collections at once: "Mundo", an outdoor collection that also cuts a fine figure indoors, and "Boho Culture" in cheerful colours and a handcrafted Berber look.

Sustainable developments like these are creating curiosity about the next DOMOTEX, which will take place from 11 to 14 January 2024 at the exhibition grounds in Hannover, Germany. Many leading companies have already confirmed their participation for 2024 – including ter Hürne, Windmüller, Neuhofer, NK Sales, Merinos, Oriental Weavers and many more.





## RECYCLED YARN – THE FUTURE REALITY NOW

**U**ster outlines the challenges and solutions. Spinning yarn blends of virgin and recycled fibers is a much bigger challenge than any other commonly used blend. But the results can still be acceptable with comprehensive quality testing, know-how, and experience – as well as the new Uster Statistics 2023 edition as a vital benchmarking tool.

The European Union has defined a strategy for sustainable and circular textile production, to make the sector greener and more competitive. Part of this 2030 Vision for Textiles calls for all textile products on the EU market to be durable, repairable and recyclable – and largely made

of recycled fibers. Many leading retailers are also championing the use of recycled materials from 2030 onwards.

The use of mechanically recycled fibers in spinning has specific quality considerations: such fibers have a higher short fiber and nep content and may often be colored, particularly if post-consumer material is used. It's also true that recycled yarns have limitations in terms of fineness. Officially, a yarn can only be branded 'recycled' when spun with more than 20% recycled fibers. This is set by the Global Recycled Standard (GRS), a voluntary product specification for tracking and verifying the recycled content of materials in a

final product.

### Spinning recycled yarns

Blending virgin and recycled cotton together is well known as a challenge for spinners. The smartest spinners and world-class processes simply can't overcome the fact that some important quality parameters will be adversely affected. It's clear that the use of recycled cotton in a blend with new fiber will impact on both the overall yarn strength and its CV%. Even the most sophisticated spinning machinery won't fix the problem.

Awareness of the risk of yarn quality deteriora-

tion with recycled fiber blends means that quality control is the only way to assure customer satisfaction. Even then, the task is far from simple. When spinning new materials, Uster strongly recommends taking both numeric test results and graphic evaluations into account, to eliminate the risk of problems in further processing.

#### Avoiding fabric defects

Spinners face major difficulties because of the high proportion of short fibers in recycled cotton (CO-R) and the fact that, when mixing with virgin cotton (CO), the fiber length distribution is sometimes suboptimal. This results, for example, in incorrect guidance of short fibers in the drafting system and potential draft errors.

In tests, a Ne 20 rotor yarn of 75% CO and 25% CO-R was compared with a 100% cotton yarn. The values for evenness, imperfections and hairiness were measured and produced a CVM% of 22% in Uster Statistics, which might appear to indicate excellent quality for the recycled yarn if relying on numeric values alone. In fact, closer analysis with Uster Tester spectrograms showed a draft error at the draw frame. In this case, the problem was detected before causing an uneven structure in the subsequent fabric made from the yarn.

#### The common language for better communication

It is an unavoidable fact that blending virgin and recycled cotton will make some quality parameters worse. Using recycled fiber is often desirable, but it creates a new reality for the industry. To cope with the risks, better communication and a common understanding are needed throughout the textile value chain.

Uster's common language of quality will be – once more – vital in improving communication throughout the textile industry. For 66 years, Uster Statistics has been the only globally accepted quality benchmark and the foundation for industry-wide quality improvement. The new edition, to be launched at ITMA 2023, includes for the first time a section for recycled yarn.

The Uster Statistics 2023 edition features an extended range of fiber data, supporting sustainability goals. An ideal fiber mix – with or without recycled content – also ensures meeting quality requirements for the least waste. Fiber graphs will be newly available for every process step.

#### The new reality

Spinners need to find a way to transform their mills into a more sustainable future. The challenge of spinning recycled yarns must be acknowledged, and the big goal here is to succeed with it. Spinners already have the tools they need, allowing them to benefit from both laboratory instruments and quality monitoring systems to optimize quality and productivity. Their experience, combined with Uster's knowledge and the latest technology in quality control and analysis systems, is a promising basis for a sustainable future for the textile industry.

The new reality of the need for closer communication and cooperation will include all players from fiber to fabric. It's an essential debate for everyone – and Uster is ready to take the lead.

## UNIVERSAL FIBERS® LAUNCHES YOU FIRST™ COMMITMENT TO CUSTOMERS



Universal Fibers is proud to announce the launch of You First™, a global commitment to our customers. As a global leader and innovator in solution-dyed, sustainable fiber with limitless color, Universal Fibers has remained focused on fiber only, and on the customers who use that fiber to make carpet. We did not start out as a chemical company. And we have never entered the market space of our carpet customers.

Because of this, we can guarantee that decisions Universal Fibers makes about production are 100 percent committed to the needs of our customers — never to our own end products. And the inputs we use are driven by our customers' unique requirements. We exist for our customers' success, and we support that success with the industry's widest range of fiber options and application support.

Phil Harmon, president of Universal Fibers, explained: "With the disruptions and shortages of the past few years, many companies face tough decisions about how to fill their own internal chemical supply chain or how to sustain their own internal carpet division. At Universal Fibers, we never have to think twice. Because of our focus on fiber, we prioritize what we've always prioritized: our commitments to our customers. That's what You-First is all about."

# READY TO SUPPORT YOU

## challenge us



ZIMMER AUSTRIA Digital Printing Systems is the technology and machinery expert when it comes to digital printing of military camouflage fabrics and webbings. A large variety of substrates incl. polyamide, polyester, cellulosic, special fibers and various blends such as m-Aramide, p-Aramide, Twaron™, Kermel™, Nomex™, Conex™ Kevlar™ or Lenzing™ FR based end-products can be printed with COLARIS and COLARIS-NF digital printers.

ZIMMER AUSTRIA will not only be the machine manufacturer and supplier, but can also assist with the required knowhow for IR-reflectance control for fabrics being used to produce uniforms, FR-products for special forces, bulletproof vests, rain protection, ponchos, nettings tents, carrying systems, sleeping bags, parachutes as well as all kinds of webbings incl. hook & loop quick-fix-and-release products etc.

**Patterns & Colors** must match the environment of a combat area which may include woodlands, urban terrains, deserts, snow or marine surroundings and may include conventional, digital and multicam patterns.

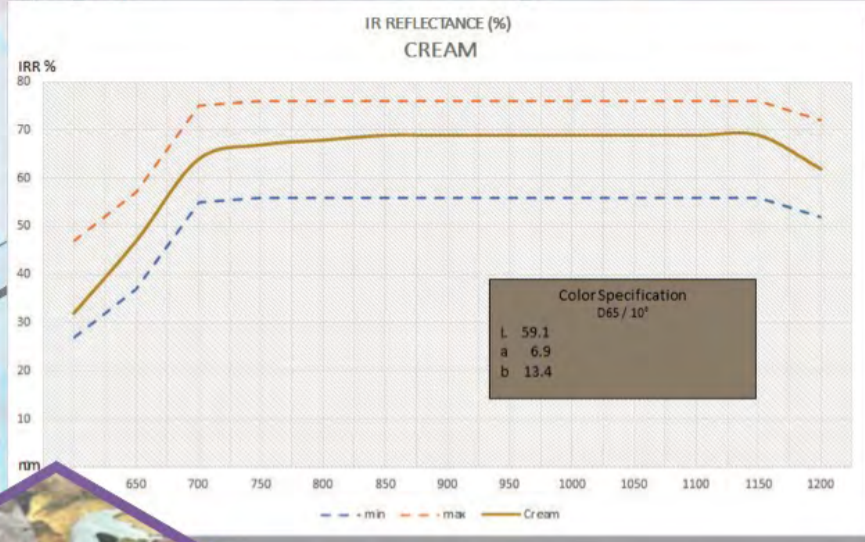
**Color Fastness:** good to excellent fastness to light, rubbing and washing must be matched.

**IR-reflectance control** is the most important feature for camouflage fabrics. It ensures that



forces can't be detected by night vision devices in dark environment. At the same time the L\*a\*b values of specified colors must be in a very close range to remain well camouflaged in daylight. IRR-Control Technology has been developed for digital printing by ZIMMER AUSTRIA and the know-how is available together with COLARIS and COLARIS-NF Digital Camouflage Printing Systems.

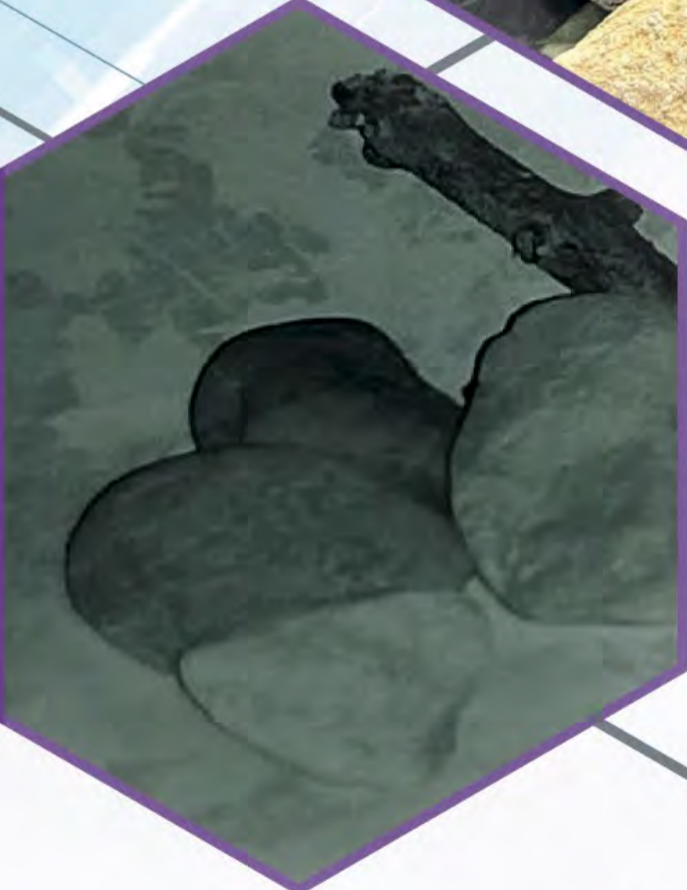
For any of your needs feel free to contact us. We will do our best to find the most economic solution for your project.



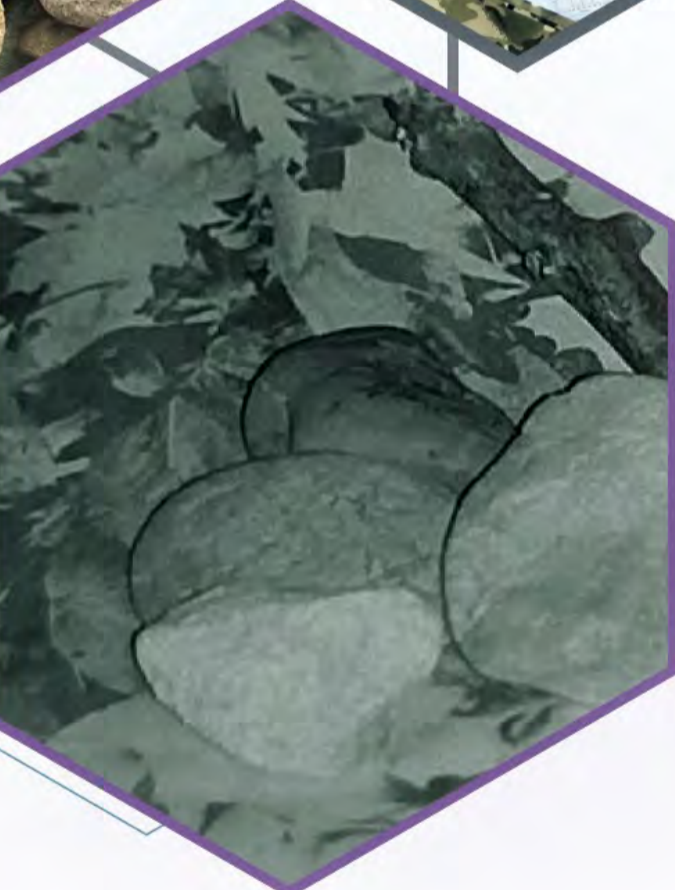
print seen at daylight



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with IRR Control



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# ASIA ALBUM: TRADITIONAL CARPET WEAVING IN AFGHANISTAN

SOURCE: XINHUAEDITOR: HUAXIA

It is almost impossible to ignore the beauty of traditional handmade Afghan rugs after seeing the subtle blend of various patterns and colors.

Pre-dyed wool yarns dance through the fingers of artisans, mostly women, and make images. The rugs surprise others with elaboration and exoticism, attracting customers worldwide.





## INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE AT **HOMETEX ISTANBUL**

This year the 27th HOMETEX Istanbul is inviting home textile manufacturers from around the world to Türkiye from May 16-20, 2023.

HOMETEX 2022 – HTI – at a glance: \$1.5 billion in business, 170,000 visitors, 126 countries, 5 days, 11 halls, and 200,000 square meters of exhibition space. This was a great success.

This year the Turkish Hometextile Association and Bursa Chamber at HOMETEX Istanbul 2023 will surpass these numbers – large participation is expected from China, India, Egypt, Iran, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and Russia. Türkiye sits at the crossroad between Russia, CIS, the Balkan state, and Africa. It has global market access at the nexus, thus creating an efficient and cost-effective hub for major markets.

The exhibit profile of HOMETEX Istanbul includes: Curtain Fabric, Upholstery, Bedroom Textiles, Kitchen & Dining room textiles, Towels and Bathrobes, Wall Cladding, Carpets, Floor Coverings, and much more.

Türkiye offers easy access to 1.3 billion people and a combined market worth 26 trillion GDP in Europe, MENA, and Central Asia within a 4-hour flight radius. Türkiye's strategic location enables easy access to markets across 16 different time zones, from Tokyo to New York. Last but not least, Turkish Airlines connects 323 destinations in 127 countries.

HOMETEX Istanbul is expected to be the biggest textile meeting in Europe, the USA, the Middle East, and Africa. Türkiye will be hosting the world's leading textile companies.



**11 Halls**

**200,000m<sup>2</sup>**

**5 Days**



**Fil Control**  
Aventech groupe

**Sensor's Expert**



**Hall 2 - C305**

**PETIT  
SPARE PARTS**



**Hall 2 - C306**

**HEMP ACT**



**Hall 3 - A201a**

**SUPERBA**  
ADVANCED HEAT-SETTING SOLUTIONS



**Hall 3 - B205b**

**aesa**  
AIR ENGINEERING



**Hall 3 - D305**

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n. schlumberger



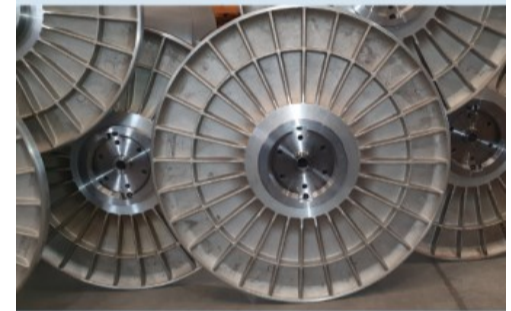
**Hall 3 - E101**

**Ebelmann**  
SAS BARBIER EBELMANN



**Hall 6 - A211**

**MALLEIN**



**Hall 6 - B206**

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Management software for textile companies

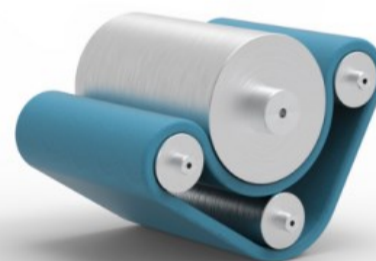
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Think it connected | Make it worldwide

**Hall 9 - B210**



**Hall 10 - A310c**



**Hall 11 - A201**

**Unveiling the future  
of eco-dyeing.**

**Hall 11 - C201**

**SPOOLEX**

**DOZEFUS MULLER**

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**ROUSSELET  
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**Hall 14 - B203**



The Transfer Printing  
Felt Blanket by **DOZEFUS MULLER**  
TECHNOLOGY FOR FASHION

**Hall 14 - C104**



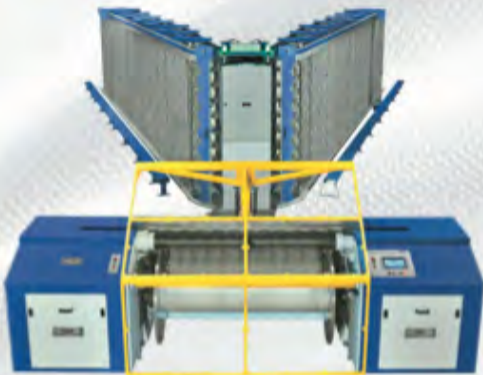
**Hall 18 - A107**



**Hall 18 - A305**



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