

LETTER

CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY

29th

April
2024



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Deloitte Projects 6.6% FY25 GDP Growth In India, FY26 Growth At 6.75%

Since the signing of the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) between European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and India, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) has been working on strategies to promote business collaborations between India and Switzerland. Under a partnership agreement, CITI has been working closely with the National Textile Association of Switzerland for greater engagement. In this context, CITI mounted a Textile CEO Delegation to Techtextil 2024 in Germany, the premier international trade fair for technical textiles and nonwovens that ends today. Led by Dr. S K Sundararaman, the CITI delegation actively participated in a series of engagements, especially with textile companies and associations of Switzerland aimed at fostering collaboration and advancing the global textile industry.

A B2B meeting was organised on the sidelines of Techtextil for CITI members to delve into the full spectrum of technical textiles, nonwovens, functional apparel textiles, and textile technologies. It served as a hub for exploration, knowledge exchange, and the formation of strategic partnerships, CITI said in a media release.

The B2B interactions and tour of the Swiss Textiles booth, facilitated by chairman of Swiss Textiles offered insights into the latest innovations and developments in the textile industry, fostering networking and knowledge-sharing opportunities among industry leaders.

The CITI delegation was the first of many such engagement programmes planned for enhancing strategic partnership between the members of CITI and Swiss Textiles towards their shared commitment to advancing the textile sector.

The partnership between CITI and Swiss Textiles was formalised through a Joint Declaration signed on November 23, 2023, during the 19th Joint Economic Commission (JEC) between India and Switzerland. This declaration underscores the dedication of both parties to fostering collaboration and enhancing trade relations, marking a significant milestone in the textile industry.

Dinesh Nolkha, vice chairman of CITI, played a pivotal role in the JEC session, articulating the strategic objectives of the Joint Declaration and outlining plans for deeper engagement with the Swiss textile industry.



The participation of CITI members in Techtexil 2024 reaffirms the organisation's commitment to leveraging international platforms for driving innovation, collaboration, and growth within the global textile industry.

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ICE Cotton Slips Again Amid Weak Factors; Speculators Reduce Positions

The country's cotton yarn, fabrics/made-ups and handlooms exports rose 6.71 per cent year-on-year to USD 11.7 billion in 2023-24, even as the total exports dipped by 3 per cent in the last fiscal.

According to the commerce ministry data, these exports in March grew by 6.78 per cent to USD 1 billion. In 2022-23, these exports stood at USD 10.95 billion. This is one of the key product categories out of 30 closely monitored by the ministry.

The top five export markets for the sector during the last fiscal year were the US, Bangladesh, China, Sri Lanka, and the UAE. The US accounts for over 25 per cent of India's total cotton yarn, fabrics/made-ups and handlooms exports, followed by Bangladesh (16 per cent), China (6.6 per cent), Sri Lanka (4.4 per cent), and UAE (2.35 per cent). In 2023-24, the outbound shipments also entered new geographies like Anguilla, a British Overseas Territory in the Eastern Caribbean; Serbia; Georgia; Sweden; Cyprus; Azerbaijan; and Iran.

The other new markets explored by domestic exporters from the sector include Zambia, Cote D'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, and Russia. An industry expert said that Brazil and Vietnam are promising markets where these shipments can be potted. On average, India exports of these products worth USD one billion every month.

As per estimates, India is the largest producer of cotton globally, accounting for 23 per cent of the total global cotton production. This category of exports is contributing to pushing up the country's labour-intensive textiles exports. Exporters are looking at increasing textiles shipments to USD 100 billion by 2030.

India's total merchandise exports dipped by 3.11 per cent to USD 437 billion in 2023-24. Imports too dipped to USD 677.24 billion in the last fiscal.



China's share in India's industrial goods imports jump to 30% from 21% in last 15 years: GTRI

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'No magic in it': P Chidambaram says India will become world's third largest economy irrespective of who is PM

Former Finance Minister P Chidambaram has said that India will become the third-largest economy in the world no matter who becomes the Prime Minister. He said India would achieve this feat given the size of its population, and there was "no magic" involved in it. He, however, did not state by when he expects India to progress to the coveted third place in the global ranking.

"Narendra Modi is a master of exaggeration. He is turning an arithmetical inevitability into a guarantee. It is inevitable that India will become the third largest economy in the world (in terms of GDP)," Chidambaram said in an interview with PTI.

"In 2004, India's GDP was at the 12th place. In 2014, it rose to the seventh place. In 2024, it was the fifth largest. No matter who the prime minister is, the GDP will become the third largest in the world. There is no magic in it. It is an arithmetic inevitability given the size of our population."

Chidambaram, however, asserted that the size of the GDP of a country is not the true measure of the prosperity of its people and stressed that per capita income is a more accurate indicator. "In my view, rather than GDP, per capita income is the true measure of prosperity. But India ranks very low on that global yardstick," he said.

As per 2024 estimates of the International Monetary Fund, India, with its \$2,731 per capita GDP, has a global rank of 136. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his rallies, has "guaranteed" the people of the country that he would make India the third largest economy, two notches higher than its current position if he gets a third consecutive term.

According to the World Economy Rankings 2024, India, with a GDP of \$4.8 trillion, is preceded by the United States, China and Japan while currently standing neck and neck with Germany.

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Indian economy remains in bright spot: Ministry of Finance

In contrast to the global scenario, the Indian economy continues to exhibit strong economic performance with broad-based growth across sectors, the Ministry of Finance asserted.

"The optimism regarding growth prospects is also reflected in consumer and investor perceptions," according to the Monthly Economic Review report of the Department of Economic Affairs under the Finance Ministry.

Many international organisations assert India's pivotal role in determining the growth path of Asia in the coming years, the review report said.

Reserve Bank of India also, in its latest Monetary Policy Committee meeting, noted the strong growth momentum in the economy and projected real GDP growth for 2024-25 at 7 per cent, driven by a pickup in rural demand and sustained momentum in the manufacturing sector.

The International Monetary Fund in its latest report forecasted India's growth at a high of 6.8 per cent in 2024-25 and 6.5 per cent in 2025- 26, based on its assessment of continuing strength in domestic demand and a rising working-age population.

"As per the latest consumer confidence survey, households' sentiments on the general economic situation and employment prospects recorded notable improvements for both the current period as well as the upcoming year," said the monthly review report of the finance ministry.

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Lok Sabha Elections 2024: Modi gave the gift of inflation to India, Priyanka Gandhi at poll rally in Maharashtra

Read more at: <https://www.deccanherald.com/elections/india/lok-sabha-elections-2024-modi-gave-the-gift-of-inflation-to-india-priyanka-gandhi-at-poll-rally-in-maharashtra-2998088>



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Handloom workers get a breather; yarn shortage lingers

While weavers under handloom cooperatives in Ernakulam have got a breather after getting their arrears for weaving school uniform fabric, there is crippling shortage of yarn haunting the traditional sector, which is witness to huge attrition and dwindling fresh recruitment. The Khadi school uniform programme for students of government schools was announced in 2016 as a step to boost the sagging fortunes of one of Kerala's oldest traditional economic activities.

“At the same time, however, a serious shortage of yarn has landed the sector in serious trouble,” said T.S. Baby, who is associated with the Paravur Handloom Weavers’ Cooperative Society 3428. He added that the local yarn production unit in the State in the cooperative sector operated from Komalapuram, Alappuzha, was not sufficient to meet the demand of the entire State. Most requirements now are met through imports from other States. Besides the shortage, the price of yarn has spiralled during and after the pandemic, plunging weavers into difficulty.

Weavers in the district had accumulated payment for around 40,000 metres of handloom materials for school uniforms. While the money has not been released, weavers are keeping their fingers crossed over the continuation of the programme, which has been a steady source of income since its launch. There are around 1,000 weavers in Ernakulam district, of whom around 75% are also engaged in weaving handloom materials for the school uniform programme.

Meanwhile, Mr. Baby said Vishu sales were not promising, coming as it was, in the middle of the campaign for the Lok Sabha elections. He said the rising atmospheric temperature had not triggered a perceivable improvement in the sale of original handloom clothing materials though initially there was a big push for materials of proven Khadi quality.

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Tiruppur garment producers to collaborate with Coimbatore engineering industry for machinery spares



The garment producers in Tiruppur and the engineering industry in Coimbatore plan to work together to make machinery spares required for the knitwear supply chain.

K.M. Subramanian, president of Tiruppur Exporters' Association (TEA), told *The Hindu* the knitwear industry in Tiruppur imports majority of the machinery and just 10 % of the spares for the machinery are critical and need to be purchased from the original manufacturers. The electronic circuits for many of the machinery can be sourced locally at very less prices compared to imports. By buying the spares locally, the knitwear units can realise significant cost savings. Hence, the TEA has initiated a project with all industrial associations in Tiruppur, the Coimbatore District Small Industries Association (Codissia) in Coimbatore, and PSG College of Technology and Sri Eshwar College of Engineering in Coimbatore.

A meeting was held in Tiruppur recently with all the stakeholders. The colleges will prepare a detailed project report for this initiative, he said.

Joint Secretary of TEA Kumar Duraisamy said almost 90 % of the machinery used by the knitwear supply chain in Tiruppur is imported from the US, EU, China, and Taiwan. Import of spares for the machinery is not only expensive but also challenging because of the shipment time, import levies, restrictions, and servicing time.

Further, most of the machinery have electronic components now and the small and medium-scale enterprises are unable to source these components at high prices from other countries. Hence, the TEA took the initiative to encourage local production of the spares. "This can lead to the big overseas machinery manufacturers exploring possibilities at a later stage of Indian production of the spares and even the machinery," he said.

All the industry associations will submit details of the machinery used by their members, the main spares in need, the costs, etc. The TEA will then display the main spares for the Codissia members who can take production of these spares. The individual associations in Tiruppur can also look at bulk sourcing of the spares depending on the requirement and the data collected, he said.

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Govt evaluating usefulness of interest equalisation scheme in promoting exports

The government is scrutinising the interest equalisation scheme for exporters to analyse its usefulness in promoting exports so far, including from the MSME sector, to decide if it should be continued beyond June 30 2024, sources have said.

“The DGFT office is holding consultations with various export bodies and banks to have more clarity on those benefitting from the scheme and find out if it actually played a role in promoting exports,” an official told *businessline*.

The interest equalisation scheme, first implemented in April 2015 for five years, allows exporters of 410 identified products and all exporters from the MSME sector, to get bank credit at a subsidised interest rate determined by the government. The banks are later reimbursed by the government for their lower interest earnings. The scheme has since got a number of extensions and the last one is set to lapse on June 30, 2024.

“There is a need for a detailed analysis of beneficiaries of the scheme under various sectors to pinpoint where the benefits are accruing and if a correlation can be established with growth in exports. If no direct correlation can be established, then the government will take a call on whether it should be withdrawn completely or for certain sectors,” the official said.

The Commerce and Industry Ministry has already been taking steps to ensure a better distribution of the outlay set aside for the interest equalisation scheme to ensure that it is not cornered by just a few.

Last year, the government introduced a cap of ₹10 crore per Importer Exporter Code (IEC) on the annual net subvention amount. This means that an individual unit cannot claim equalisation benefits beyond ₹10 crore.

In December 2023, an additional outlay of ₹2,500 crore, over and above the current outlay of ₹9,538 crore under the scheme, was approved by the Union Cabinet to bridge the funding gap to continue the scheme up to June 30, 2024.

Currently the scheme provides an interest equalisation benefit at the rate of 2 per cent on pre and post shipment rupee export credit to merchant and manufacturer exporters of 410 identified tariff lines at four digit level and 3 per cent to all MSME manufacturer exporters.



Exporter bodies have been asking the government to increase the subsidy rate to 5 per cent for MSME exporters and 3 per cent for others to help them be more competitive and cope better with global headwinds and the uncertain geopolitical scenario. In FY2023-24, India's goods exports declined 3.11 per cent to \$437.06 billion.

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Export figures for FY04, FY14, and FY24 show interesting trends

[Export figures for FY04, FY14, and FY24 show interesting trends | Expert Views - Business Standard \(business-standard.com\)](#)

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India set to sign trade deal with Oman to expand its Middle East ties

India and Oman will sign a trade deal in the coming months, two Indian government officials said, as New Delhi seeks to expand its ties in the Middle East, where rising tensions are putting major shipping routes at risk.

"It will help India with a strategic partner and access to key trade routes in a volatile region," one official told Reuters.

India and Oman have annual trade of less than \$13 billion, but the relationship is important for New Delhi as the Gulf nation is a gateway to the narrow Strait of Hormuz between Oman and Iran, a major transit point for global oil shipments.

Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza has spread to hostilities with Iran, and Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi militants have launched repeated drone and missile strikes in the Red Sea area, claiming solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza.

The trade deal requires the approval of the government that wins India's ongoing national elections, whose results are to be announced on June 4, the officials said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is widely expected to win a rare third term.

The officials asked not to be named as the discussions are private.



India's trade and Foreign Ministries and Oman's embassy in India and Foreign Ministry did not respond to emails seeking comment.

Making little progress on a deal with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), India has pivoted to seeking bilateral deals with GCC member nations such as Oman and United Arab Emirates.

The planned deal with Oman "also gives a competitive edge as GCC is negotiating trade agreements with Pakistan and China," the official said.

Oman has agreed to eliminate duties on Indian exports worth an annual \$3 billion including agricultural products, gems and jewellery, leather, automobiles, medical devices, engineering products and textiles, the officials said

India has agreed to reduce duties on some petrochemicals, aluminium and copper from Oman, while capping imports of such goods, the officials said.

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Labour Taxes In OECD Increase For Second Consecutive Year: Report

Labour taxes have increased across most Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries in 2023, marking a second consecutive year of rises due to sustained high inflation, according to the latest OECD report, 'Taxing Wages 2024'. The report details that effective tax rates on labour incomes have climbed, leading to a decline in the post-tax income of single workers earning an average wage in 21 out of 38 OECD countries.

The analysis revealed that in the majority of these nations, the hike in labour taxation was mainly due to increases in personal income taxes. Despite nominal wage increases in 37 out of 38 countries, real wages fell in 18 countries as inflation continued to exceed historical levels. The lack of automatic indexation in many tax systems has resulted in higher tax liabilities for workers, pushing them into higher tax brackets and diminishing the value of tax reliefs and cash benefits.



For 2023, the average tax wedge—the total tax on labour costs paid by employees and employers—was 34.8 per cent across the OECD. The wedge ranged significantly from a high of 53 per cent in Belgium to no taxation in Colombia. This represents a slight increase of 0.13 percentage points from the previous year, indicating a continued upward trend, as per the report.

Additionally, this year's report includes a special feature focusing on the disparity in taxation between first and second earners in households. It was found that second earners, predominantly women, face higher effective tax rates than single workers at equivalent wage levels in most OECD countries. This is particularly pronounced in countries where taxes are calculated at the household level or where individual tax reliefs are applied based on household income.

The report illustrates that a second earner in a couple without children who earns 67 per cent of the average wage faces a tax wedge of 34 per cent, compared to 31 per cent for a single worker at the same wage level.

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Bangladesh, Thailand Set To Kickstart FTA Talks This Year: Reports

Bangladesh and Thailand have cemented their commitment to commence negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) by 2024. The announcement came after the two nations signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) following a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Thai counterpart Srettha Thavasin at the Thai Prime Minister's Office in Bangkok recently.

The agreement underscores a mutual intent to bolster economic ties and enhance trade relations between the two countries even as during the meeting, aside from the FTA negotiations, an additional agreement and three memorandums of understanding (MoUs) were inked in the presence of the Prime Ministers.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina emphasised the importance of Thai investment in Bangladesh's healthcare sector, urging exploration into investments in hospitals and medical facilities. She also extended invitations for Thai investments in Bangladesh's special economic zones and hi-tech parks, underscoring avenues for mutually beneficial collaboration.



Addressing the joint press conference, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina highlighted the signing of an agreement on visa exemption for holders of official passports, facilitating smoother interactions between officials from both nations.

Additionally, an MoU was signed to explore energy cooperation potential, positioning Thailand as a key partner for Bangladesh in this sector.

Another MoU focused on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters, aiming to streamline customs procedures and enhance trade efficiency.

Furthermore, an MoU on cooperation in the field of tourism was signed, reflecting efforts to leverage Thai expertise and best practices to enhance Bangladesh's tourism sector.

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Kenyan Cabinet Secretary Hints Progress In Kenya-US Trade Talks

Kenya's cabinet secretary for Investment, Trade and Industry Rebecca Miano has hinted at the nearing completion of trade negotiations between Kenya and the US, suggesting the possibility of a finalised pact by year-end.

This development comes amidst US confidence in the renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), set to expire next year, ensuring continued preferential export terms for Sub-Saharan nations to the US market.

The fifth round of in-person talks between Kenyan and US trade experts follows the conclusion of the fourth round in Washington DC. Miano indicated that negotiations are advancing, aligning with the commitment made by Presidents William Ruto and Joe Biden in October last year.

Speaking at this year's American Chamber of Commerce in Kenya (AmCham) 2024 Business Summit, Miano emphasised progress in the discussions, suggesting a potential deal before the US November elections.

Key topics during recent talks in Washington included agriculture, environment, workers' rights, anticorruption measures, and support for Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs).

Assistant United States Trade Representative (USTR) Constance Hamilton led the US delegation, while Kenya was represented by principal secretary for Trade Alfred K'Ombudo.



Concerns have been raised regarding potential delays due to the US presidential elections, prompting efforts to expedite negotiations.

The US has advocated for transparent procurement processes and protection of intellectual property rights in Kenya, aiming to secure market access for US companies and agricultural goods.

Additionally, Kenya has secured technical assistance from the US to strengthen public procurement processes.

Miano highlighted efforts to enhance transparency in government procurement and urged US companies to invest in Kenya, emphasising the government's commitment to facilitating business operations.

The AmCham Summit aims to facilitate deals in various sectors, surpassing last year's \$700 million worth of agreements.

US commerce secretary Gina Raimondo affirmed AGOA's priority for the Biden administration and discussed modalities for its renewal during her visit to Kenya. Both African states and US officials are working towards AGOA's extension by a further ten years.

Negotiations for the Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership (STIP) aim to boost investment and economic growth, with Kenya targeting at least five per cent of the US market, potentially generating significant export revenues annually.

Key sectors poised to benefit include agriculture, manufacturing, textiles, and mining, as Kenya seeks to bolster SMEs and establish economic zones to enhance exports and reduce imports.

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Techtextil & Texprocess 2024 Highlight Future Of Textile Processing

High-tech textiles in twelve application areas, the global innovative power of technical textiles and nonwovens as well as the digitalisation of the textile-processing industry: with 38,000 visitors from 102 countries and 1,700 exhibitors from 53 countries, Techtextil and Texprocess have grown in terms of exhibitor numbers and recorded a 29 percent increase in visitor numbers. At the leading trade fairs, the density of forward-looking textile solutions that are transforming entire industries was particularly noticeable.

Techtextil and Texprocess 2024 ended with 1,700 exhibitors from 53 countries, 38,000 visitors from 102 countries and a 29 percent increase in visitor numbers. The top visitor



nations were Germany, Italy, France, Turkey and the Netherlands. The top exhibitor nations were Germany, Italy, China, France and Turkey. Countries such as Egypt, China, Indonesia, Kosovo, Luxembourg, Moldova and Thailand contributed to the expansion of exhibitors, among others.

In times of emerging AI technologies, increasing legislative requirements and high energy costs, both trade fairs offered the markets the most important international marketplace for product innovations along the textile value chain at the right time: "With an overwhelming atmosphere and growth in size, exhibitors and visitors, Techtextil and Texprocess made it clear: textile innovation for a wide range of industries can only be found in this global width and strength here in Frankfurt. The textile industry, through both leading trade fairs, becomes the driving force and enabler for cross-industry transformations and a globally future-proof economy", said *Detlef Braun, member of the Executive Board, Messe Frankfurt GmbH*.

75 percent of visitors - including producers, engineers from various industries, architects, processors, industrial designers, clothing and construction material manufacturers, R&D decision-makers, medical developers, product developers and other top executives - thoroughly leveraged the cross-networking opportunities, spanning from the preliminary stages of Techtextil to the wide array of processing and clothing technologies offered at Texprocess. The trade fair duo thereby set the stage for numerous international collaborations and business initiations, fostering innovation across sectors and making them market-ready.

Visitor satisfaction at a very high level

Exhibitors and visitors made intensive use of the trade fairs as efficient sales channels, made new international contacts and gained a concentrated overview of the global spectrum of high-tech textiles that can be used across industries, as well as the latest machines and technologies for textile processing. Visitor satisfaction at both events was at a very high level: 95 percent of visitors were satisfied overall with their trade fair visit, achieved their trade fair objectives and were impressed by the range of exhibitors.

20 years of Techtextil: biggest edition sets new standards

In its anniversary edition, Techtextil set a record in terms of size and underlined the dynamic growth and innovative strength of the textile industry.

Studies confirm the enormous future prospects of technical textiles: Fortune Business Insights estimates the global market at 225.99 billion dollars in 2023 and forecasts an increase to 346.67 billion dollars by 2030. Similar forecasts by Allied Market Research



expect an increase to 331.8 billion dollars by 2032. Within the EU textile industry, technical textiles are the most dynamic drivers of demand in sectors such as medicine, agriculture, construction, outdoor clothing and automotive.

Techtextil is the only platform in the world to showcase the entire range of high-tech textiles across 12 application areas. In addition to examples such as medical textiles with a virus barrier, fibre structures for sound insulation in the construction industry or technical nonwovens for the automotive industry, these also included innovative world firsts in 2024: from the latest weaving technology with an open shed from the start-up Casmue, a new type of coating for self-cooling textiles from the German Institutes of Textile and Fibre Research Denkendorf to recyclable insulating textiles made of bio-based aerogel fibres from the start-up SA-Dynamics. Techtextil also placed a clear focus on sustainable action and production. More than 15 percent of the exhibitors presented natural fibres and materials.

"Techtextil is the most important industry event of the year for us and went really well for us in 2024. Once again, we were able to showcase our technology expertise to visitors. The special aspect about this global industry meeting place is that it not only brings us potential new customers, but we also meet our partner companies and suppliers here. The connection with Texprocess creates fantastic synergies. Techtextil 2024 has made it clear that the industry is on the move and sustainability is the overarching theme. We were surprised and pleased that we were visited by a particularly large number of young visitors - students as well as young innovators - with very specific requests for cooperation, also with regard to our sustainable solutions," says *Holger Michael Steingräber, senior vice president Global Marketing & Communications, Freudenberg Performance Materials*.

"Techtextil 2024 has shown: We are on the right track with investments in circular economy. The response to our scalable solution that recycles garments into multifibres was downright enthusiastic. The trade fair went very well for us. We met existing and new customers, especially from Scandinavia and Southern Europe. What we really appreciate about Techtextil: Our end customers come to the show and exchange ideas with us in order to understand the benefits of our developments for their employees. And last but not least, Techtextil is simply the right place to present your innovation," says *Amaury Sartorius, managing director, Klopman*.

"Techtextil is extremely important and very valuable for us. We see and feel the market, meet our customers, suppliers and new interested parties from all over the world, especially from Europe and overseas. Sustainability is the hot topic here in the exhibition halls and is much more present than it was two years ago. Textile companies around the world are working hard to reduce CO2 emissions and comply with CSR regulations. The



tightening European regulations are playing a large part in this. Accordingly, the demand here at Techtextil for our sustainable developments, such as our PVC alternative with fifty percent CO2 savings, is strong," says *Michèle Sioen, CEO, Sioen Industries*.

"Techtextil was an outstanding experience for us at Lenzing. The trade fair was very well attended and we were able to maintain valuable customer contacts and gain new ones. The diversity of visitors was particularly impressive - from experienced experts to curious students who came to find out about our innovative and sustainable fibre technologies. It is clearly noticeable that the topic of recycling is becoming increasingly important. Techtextil was a complete success for us," says *Oliver Spöcker, global sales director, Lenzing AG*.

Texprocess strengthens its pioneering role in digitalisation and automation

At Texprocess, a vast array of cutting-edge machines, processes, and services for textile and apparel processing were exhibited, spanning from innovative AI technologies to design systems and visualization tools, along with highly efficient cutting and state-of-the-art sewing machines. Texprocess presented pivotal solutions harnessing the latest technologies.

"For the Texprocess exhibitors, this trade fair was more important than ever before. The entire textile processing industry is facing enormous challenges worldwide, such as changing trade conditions or labor shortages. Many new technological solutions to these challenges were on show at Texprocess. There are great new developments, especially in the areas of digitalisation, automation and AI. Texprocess has thus focused on the future and highlighted many new opportunities", says *Elgar Straub, managing director, VDMA Textile Care, Fabrics and Leather Technologies*.

"Against the backdrop of the current industry situation, our expectations were rather muted. The trade fair really exceeded them. The visitors were very well balanced in terms of internationality and fields of application. Europe was there entirely, but also the Middle East, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, the USA and Mexico. Our customers drive automation and process optimisation. We presented future-oriented solutions in this field - including our CNC sewing unit with rotating sewing kinematics, which won the Innovation Award, as well as an AI-based seam correction", says *Michael Kilian, COO, Dürkopp Adler*.

In the areas of sewing technology and cutting solutions, Texprocess offered the world's most comprehensive range of suppliers presenting pioneering solutions for efficient and advanced manufacturing processes - also through AI: "This year, we presented our latest innovation, which integrates AI directly on the machine. Texprocess is exactly the right platform for this: a meeting point for technology, partnerships, customers from all over the world and indispensable for the global fashion industry. We made numerous new contacts,



including from markets new to us such as South Africa and Australia," emphasises *Marta Maiandi, CTO, Orox Group*. The exhibitor Eurolaser was also delighted: "The trade fair went excellently for us. Visitors came from all over Europe, the USA, Mexico and further interesting markets and, of course, from very diverse application areas such as protective clothing, medicine and automotive. The format trade fair is back in full force. Our biggest innovation is our camera system, which sits directly on the bar. It scans the entire table in three seconds and optimises the cut and contours," says *Laura Capone, chief sales officer, Eurolaser*.

The exhibitor Assyst provided insights into what a completely digital, sustainable and profitable future for the fashion industry looks like - with AI-driven solutions that support design in the creative process and visualise styles in real time: "Texprocess 2024 was extremely successful for us. Our visitors were enthusiastic about how uncomplicated digitalisation becomes for the apparel industry when AI, 3D simulation and 2D CAD are seamlessly integrated. With a highly interested international trade audience, the trade fair offers the ideal environment to present this type of product innovation," says *Hans Peter Hiemer, managing director, Style3D | Assyst*.

Trade fair duo shines with research, knowledge transfer and high-quality content

A powerful mix of topics drove the intensive exchange between research and industry and provided visitors with important impulses on the newest textile solutions, intelligent materials and the latest research results in the sectors. Numerous exhibitors, start-ups and renowned research institutes demonstrated at both trade fairs that AI, digitalisation and automation are significantly advancing the industry. Whether textile recycling, fault detection in production and processing, networked production steps or smart clothing that monitors the wearer's physical functions - the new opportunities offered by AI and digitalisation are multifaceted. These technologies are paving the way for the future of the industry.

Latest materials and recycling technologies in times of legislative requirements

In times of upcoming legislative requirements as part of the EU strategy for sustainable textiles, Techtexil and Texprocess focussed on recyclable solutions and the latest research results on resource efficiency and recyclability. This was also reflected in the increased number of exhibitors in the Econogy Finder: more than twice as many exhibitors were checked against the criteria of recognised labels and certificates as well as the Sustainable Development Goals and were included in the Finder. In addition, the Econogy Talks provided a platform for dialogue on resource-saving solutions, while the Econogy Tours led by an independent expert provided first-hand insights on sustainable products.



The next edition of Tectextil and Texprocess will be held from 21 to 24 April 2026.

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