

Looking back

*Textile Machinery Industry
in 2012*



By:
Fibre2Fashion.com

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A recap of the noteworthy events in the global textile machinery industry during 2012.

Texkimp & Web processing teams up to form Cygnet Tex-Web:



Two of the longest established names in the fibre and fabric processing industry merged to create a new UK-based business providing complete downstream machinery solutions to the international performance textiles, automotive and aerospace industries. Creel manufacturer Texkimp has joined forces with Web Processing, the prepreg, coating and laminating specialist recently acquired by Texkimp's parent company Cygnet Group, to form Cygnet Tex-Web.

The new business combines over 80 years of experience designing and manufacturing engineering solutions to process fibre and fabric for uses including tyre cord, plane engines and high performance clothing.

The merger is expected to bring £50m of manufacturing projects to the UK in the next five years with over 95 per cent of solutions destined for global export. Projects previously subcontracted overseas by Web Processing will now be completed at Cygnet Tex-Web's state-of-the-art design, assembly and machinery testing facility in Northwich, Cheshire.

“Acquiring Web Processing has taken our process expertise down-line and enabled us to expand the services we can offer,” says Mark Smith, commercial director of Cygnet Tex-Web, who was appointed to lead the merger following a 22-year career with leading textile machinery company Karl Mayer.

“Texkimp is a highly reputable name in the international fibre and fabric processing industry and great ambassador for British engineering and manufacturing. More than 95 per cent of the machines we manufacture are delivered overseas to some of the most prolific businesses in the world and we intend to replicate this success to drive growth across the whole of the Cygnet Tex-Web business.

“With the right design and manufacturing expertise, potential business opportunities for our prepreg, coating and laminating machinery division are considerable. “Using our established in-house engineering capabilities, space and facilities, we plan to double this size of the business in the next three years while protecting our strength as a niche provider of bespoke engineering solutions and maintaining a flexible, partnership approach to business.”

Texkimp was founded in 1974 and is the only independent creel specialist in the world, designing and manufacturing solutions used in the unwinding and tensioning of fibre. It manufactures 99 per cent of the solutions it designs in the UK and counts of 90 per cent of its business as global export.

Established in 1969, Web Processing is a specialist supplier of machinery equipment used to carry out coating, laminating and flocking processes in a range of industries including technical textiles, composites, paper, plastics, film and foil.

Epson India plans customized solutions for textile sector:



Epson India, a digital imaging and printing solutions provider, plans presenting customized solutions for the textile industry. The Indian subsidiary of Japan-based Seiko Epson Corporation said the launch of several new textile related products is on the cards for the current fiscal.

Epson Deputy General Manager SM Ramprasad said the company has always remained focused on delivering industry-specific solutions – whether it be for digital projection space or for activity-based printing requirements. Targeting textile industry, Epson is working to develop ‘dye-sublimation’ printers for T-shirt printing, which would be followed by a direct garment printer for printing on sarees, he said.

Robotics and factory automation, portable label printing, short run label printing and wearable imaging devices are the other products that the company would shortly launch in the market, he added. The company is presently appointing new sub-distributors, particularly for its textile-centric products, said Mr. Ramprasad.

ParAid Textile invests in latest hi-tech machinery:

Telford-based ParAid Textile Services, which specialises in the design and assembly of straps, harnesses and other sewn products, has significantly boosted its infrastructure and expanded its workforce, following its investment



in the latest hi-tech machinery.

The new Genesis 2300 conveyorised textile cutting machine is manufactured by Blackman & White Ltd and is known for its speed and cut accuracy. One specific feature of the machine is its optical recognition camera which allows it to cut individual pattern graphics precisely and quickly.

The purchase will allow ParAid Textile Services to bring all its fabric cutting and preparation in-house instead of outsourcing. The new machine will also allow the company to offer an additional bespoke cutting service to new and existing customers. Mark Wallace, Managing Director at ParAid Textile Services, said: "This latest purchase is a significant addition to our production process and supports the firm's ongoing efforts to strengthen its business continuity and overall service delivery. We have also boosted our workforce by 20% in order to meet the demands of this additional service."

Indonesia trims budget for textile machinery upgrade:



Indonesian Ministry of Industry has announced a reduction in the budget allocated for machine upgradation programme, which aims at enhancing the competitiveness of textile, leather and footwear industries.

Industry Ministry's Textiles and Miscellaneous Industries Chief, Ramon Bangun, said the Ministry would cut the budget allocation for the programme by 4.6 percent from last year's Rp 152.5 billion to

Rp 145.5 billion this year. The reduction in budget allocation followed a need for budget efficiency required to balance the delay in fuel price rise.

Mr. Ramon informed that a sum of Rp 34 billion, which is equal to 23.37 percent of the Ministry's total budget allocation for restoration of aging industrial machinery, has been released to 32 companies by May 2012. The Ministry originally sanctioned the aid for 100 firms, but so far it has disbursed the amount only to 32 firms, he added.

Mr. Ramon said the Ministry was also assessing another 18 firms for the programme, and added that more than 173 firms were asked to benefit from the programme this year. With an aim to rejuvenate the industries and to draw private investment, the machine upgradation programme was launched for the textile industry in 2007 and for the leather and footwear industries in 2009.

According to the Ministry's 2011 data, thousands of textile industries across Indonesia use about four million spinning spindles, 34,000 knitting machines and 200,000 weaving machines that are over 20 years old.

DyeCoo bags 'Material of the Year Medium' award:

Global materials resource and innovation consultancy Material ConneXion, announced the winner of the third annual Medium award for Material of the Year, naming Netherlands-based DyeCoo Textile Systems B.V. as the winner. Material ConneXion has cited the company for the development of revolutionary commercial dyeing machine technology.

Its ability to use supercritical CO₂ as a replacement for water is an innovation that will make enormous contributions in terms of reducing energy consumption, environmental pollution and pioneering water stewardship. The award recognizes materials and processes juried into the company's materials library within the past year that demonstrate outstanding technological innovation and the potential to make a significant contribution to the advancement of design, industry, society and the economy.

As the world's leading materials library of innovative and sustainable materials and innovation consultancy, Material ConneXion has unparalleled insight into the materials, processes and emerging technologies that are having the greatest impact on design worldwide and, ultimately the consumer. In addition to DyeCoo, the company is recognizing nine Material of the Year honorable mentions whose exemplary material and process innovation makes them particularly worthy of note.

With climate change threatening harsher droughts and water scarcity for nearly 60% of humanity, water is critical to any vision of sustainability. The textile industry is one of the biggest consumers of water. In conventional dyeing, large amounts of water are used both in terms of intake of fresh water and disposal of wastewater.

DyeCoo uses supercritical CO₂ gas rather than water to infuse fabric with color. Special temperature controlled pressure chambers force the carbon dioxide to act as a fluid similar to water (the supercritical fluid CO₂) which causes the polymer fiber to swell allowing the dispersed dye to easily diffuse within the polymer, penetrating the fibers, and carrying the pigments into fabric bolts and dyeing them.

DyeCoo is believed to be the first company to successfully apply the SCF CO₂ process to the commercial dyeing of polyester fabric (the most used fabric in the world), and research is already underway to apply the technology to other natural and synthetic fabrics.

DyeCoo recently entered into an important strategic partnership with NIKE, Inc. "Waterless dyeing is a significant step in our journey to serve both the athlete and the planet, and our partnership with DyeCoo reinforces Nike's long-term strategy and deep commitment to innovation and sustainability," says Eric Sprunk, Nike's Vice President of Merchandising and Product.

“We believe this technology has the potential to revolutionize textile manufacturing, and we want to collaborate with progressive dye houses, textile manufacturers and consumer apparel brands to scale this technology and push it throughout the industry.”

“DyeCoo’s new process has the potential to significantly lower the environmental impact of dyeing. The elimination of process-water and chemicals are a breakthrough for the textile dyeing industry. Combine that with the reduction in energy use, and the process is twice as fast.

The technology can also improve the quality of the dyed fabric, allows for greater control over the dyeing process, enabling new dye capabilities and transforming fabric dyeing so that it can take place just about anywhere,” says Dr. Andrew H. Dent, VP Materials Research at Material ConneXion.

“We chose DyeCoo as the winner of this year’s award because it embodies the direction that materials and processes are taking: sustainability and high performance.”

“DyeCoo is honored to accept the Medium award,” says Reinier Mommaal, CEO of DyeCoo. “We hope more industry leaders will join us in leveraging this innovative technology in the near future,” he added. DyeCoo Textile Systems B.V. was founded in March 2008 and is the world's first supplier of industrial CO₂ dyeing equipment and is a leading innovator in CO₂ dyeing technology and processes. DyeCoo Textile Systems B.V. is a spin-off of the Dutch Feyecon Group, an innovator in the field of CO₂ process technology.

The ten materials and processes are handpicked according to the far reaching results they can achieve and to Material ConneXion’s innovation parameters which include: being a new process, an advancement to an existing material or process, technology transfer and sustainability.

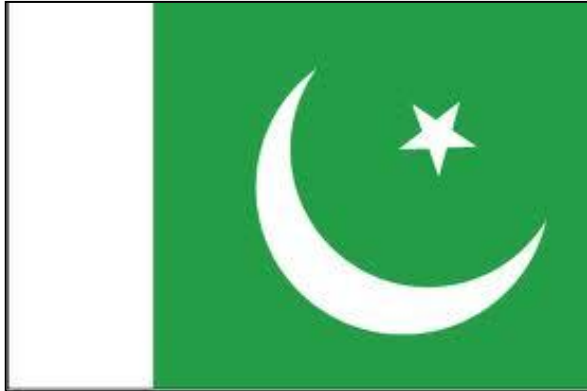
Significant advances in sustainable material innovation can be seen in materials such as Arnitelz Eco which uses an alternative source for plastic and rubber products that can now be manufactured from rapeseed oil and harvested industrial oil.

With equivalent properties to existing nylon-based plastics and rubbers, it has a lower carbon footprint and reduces reliance on oil. Other honorable mentions, such as Eastman Chemical Company’s Perennial Wood, are recognized for increasing construction capabilities, improving performance, and lowering costs in a wide range of applications—from furniture to buildings and structures—all while lowering toxicity and increasing sustainability.

Cutting-edge processes such as DyeCoo’s and PURETi are recognized for their significant contribution to the environment. PURETi, a photo catalytic coating based on TiO₂ that offers an effective self-cleaning surface, reduces cleaning maintenance costs by 50% and reduces water and energy consumption, chemicals and labor. “The Medium award for Material of the Year is an opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary breadth and scope of material and process innovation today,” says Adam I. Sandow, CEO of

Sandow Media, the parent company of Material ConneXion. “The winner is distinguished not only for its technical innovation, but for its capacity to make a lasting impact on the environment.” Material ConneXion is a global materials and innovation consultancy that helps companies create the products and services of tomorrow through smart materials and design thinking.

Pakistan textile spinning machinery imports skyrocket:



The imports of textile spinning machinery and its spare parts by Pakistan have grown enormously during the last fiscal compared to 2009-10. Pakistan imported textile spinning machines and spare parts worth Pk Rs. 5.28 billion during the fiscal year 2010-11 that ended on June 30, 2011, according to the statistics released by the Federal Bureau of Statistics.

In fiscal 2009-10, Pakistan imported textile spinning machinery and spare parts worth Rs. 2.26 billion. The maximum growth in imports was witnessed in textile spinning machinery. In 2010-11, Pakistan imported textile spinning machines worth Rs. 4.168 billion as against imports of Rs. 1.296 billion during a year ago period, showing a sharp growth of more than 221 percent year-on-year.

The imports of spinning machines spindles grew from Rs. 226 million in 2009-10 to Rs. 366 million last fiscal, thus registering a rise of nearly 62 percent. Similarly, the imports of spinning rings increased from Rs. 278 million in 2009-10 to Rs. 293 million in 2010-11, posting a 5 percent growth.

However, the imports of simplex flyers and ring travelers declined during the period under review to Rs. 454 million from Rs. 466 million during the year ago period.

SGS testing laboratory for Egyptian textile market:



SGS has announced the opening of its new premises in Cairo offering a complete suite of facilities and services, enhanced in capacity and capability, for the testing of textile and leather goods. The relocated testing laboratory is able to serve clients in local and international regions who are seeking access to the Egyptian textile market.

With significant increases of textile exports and the newly enforced inspection certificate requirement for imported textile and leather products, the demand for consumer product testing services has been rising in Egypt.

SGS has relocated its existing Egyptian textile testing laboratory, founded in 1996, and is now able to provide textile testing solutions which will satisfy this need.

The Egyptian textile industry is an attractive business proposition and its proximity to European markets gives manufacturers a logistical advantage. With low-capital cost and a high-labor intensive industry, serviced by a ready workforce, there is strong potential in the local consumer markets and the further area of exports.

Egypt has seen a substantial increase in its textile product exports with values in 2010 reaching nearly 0.3 million US dollars. With export values of textile products reaching record numbers, exports increased 52% compared to the same first six month period of the previous year.

With its new premises in Cairo, SGS Egypt offers a full complement of inspection, testing and certification services which will give manufacturers straightforward access to the Egyptian market. Supported by a team of technical experts and comprehensive consumer testing services, SGS helps manufacturers to create a competitive edge in a demanding environment.

Since April 1st, 2012, shipments of textiles and leather products imported into Egypt need an inspection certificate issued by an accredited inspection company. The Egyptian Ministry of Trade and Industry (MFTI) requires that such shipments be inspected and certified by an ISO 17020 recognized body.

SGS Egypt has been approved as a third party inspecting company by the General Organization for Import and Export Control Egypt (GOIEC) and the Egyptian Accreditation Council (EGAC) and can provide certified testing to ensure manufacturer compliance with product safety regulations, performance and reliability standards. This accreditation is recognized by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).

SGS is the world's leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company. SGS is recognized as the global benchmark for quality and integrity. With more than 70,000 employees, SGS operates a network of over 1,350 offices and laboratories around the world.

Chinese textile machinery sector attains new highs:

The industrial output value of the Chinese textile machinery sector has exceeded 100 billion Yuan in 2011. This means that the Chinese textile machinery sector has entered a new development stage, members of China Textile



Machinery Association (CTMA) said at a meeting. According to the statistics, China's textile machinery industry achieved an industrial output value of 107.367 billion Yuan in 2011, up 27.44 percent from a year earlier.

Profits from the sector stood at 7.143 billion Yuan, a rise of 33.39 percent and exports registered US \$2.245 billion, an increase of 27.81 percent year on year. China's textile industry suffered twin blows of European debt crisis and fluctuations of raw material prices in 2011, but the industry still maintained a steady growth trend.

This shows that the technical level and product quality of domestic textile machinery has been greatly improved; on the other hand, it also reveals that Chinese textile enterprises still have huge demand potential of equipment.

Navis TubeTex's latest CQC system gets a Pak buyer:



Masood Textile Mills, the Faisalabad-based vertically integrated textile manufacturing company, has become the first company in Pakistan to purchase the new Constant Quality Concentration (CQC) system, Navis TubeTex, the US-based manufacturer of CQC system, has announced.

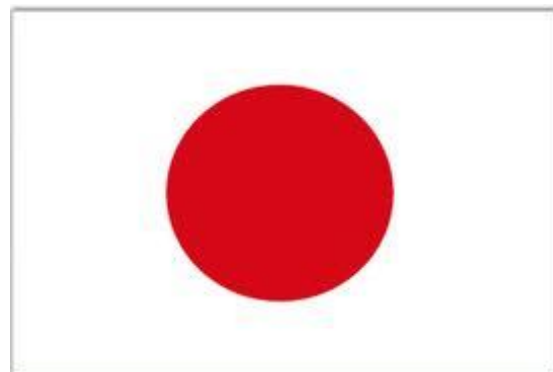
The CQC system actively measures and controls chemical concentrations with an accuracy of 0.1 percent in any wet process. It was unveiled at the ITMA Exposition in Barcelona, Spain last year, by the US textile finishing machinery maker.

The system is useful in all applications where precise measurement of chemical concentration and control is required. It can result in reduced expenses, and enhanced quality and profits for the textile manufacturers.

Navis TubeTex said the response from textile manufacturers for its latest CQC system has been good and it has already installed the machine at multiple locations in the US, Honduras, El Salvador and China.

Japanese exports of shuttle-less looms up in 2011:

Exports of Japanese shuttle-less looms rose in value as well as volume in 2011. Shipments of shuttle-less powerlooms (reed-width 30 cms or more) increased by 6.3 percent to 17,632 looms from a year earlier and by 3.7 percent to 51,839 million yen in value, in the previous year.



Exports to its biggest market – China rose to 10,775 looms or 3.5 percent and to South Korea it grew by a massive 157.7 percent to 1,326 looms. Shipments of shuttle-less looms to Indonesia hiked 8.5 percent to 806 looms and those to India increased to 1,847 looms or by 15.9 percent.

Chinese textile machinery exports zoom:



Reflecting a positive trend, textile machinery exports from China surged significantly during first three quarters of the current year. As per the National Bureau of Statistics of China data, textile machinery exports grew at a year-on-year rate of 33.04 percent to touch US\$ 1.65 billion during the period.

Knitting machinery turned out to be the largest contributor with a share of 29.06 percent in textile machinery exports and clocked US\$ 480 million, up a stupendous 35.95 percent, which however fell 12.12 percent, when compared with first two quarter of 2011.

Next to knitting machinery, auxiliary equipment and parts, chemical fibre machinery, nonwoven fabric machinery, dyeing, finishing and post-treatment machinery, weaving machinery, spinning machinery and weaving preparation machinery largely contributed to textile machinery exports from the country.

China shipped its textile machinery to 165 countries during the period, with Japan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Indonesia being the top five importers, accounting for around 50.16 percent of total exports. Further, as revealed by the Bureau's statistics for 676 textile machinery manufacturers, the domestic industry produced RMB 77.49 billion or US\$ 12.26 billion worth of textile machines during the review period, a 28.48 percent hike from a year ago.

According to experts, such a significant rise in country's textile machinery sales volume is attributable to the extra efforts made by the textile businesses towards fine-tuning their product portfolio's rising labor costs.

This kindled the demand for upgrading and substituting the existing textile machinery with new automatic, high speed, continuous, intelligent machines with better production capacity. Moreover, during 2010, the textile machinery suppliers fell short of meeting the demand, due to which, some of the orders were carried forward to this year. However, in the second half of the year, particularly after October, comparatively less number of fresh orders has been booked by these textile machinery producers.