

Picanol: Latest weaving solutions for technical fabrics

In recent decades, the Picanol Group has evolved from a traditional weaving machine builder to a worldwide supplier of total solutions for the textile industry and other sectors. Picanol will present its latest weaving solutions for technical fabrics at Techtex in Frankfurt, from 16 to 18 June 2009, at the Elmatex booth, Hall 3.0, booth D05. Techtex is a good opportunity to discover what Picanol has on offer specifically for this niche market. In terms of weaving solutions Picanol develops, manufactures and sells high-tech weaving machines based on air (airjet) or rapier technology (rapier). It supplies weaving machines to weaving mills worldwide, and also offers its customers such products and services as training, upgrade kits, spare parts and service contracts. Picanol also markets accessories via GTP Global Textile Partner, Steel Heddle, Burcklé and Te Strake Textile.

In 1995 Picanol re-entered the specialty markets with a tire cord airjet weaving machine built at Günne, Germany. This development came after a 10-year period of redefining Picanol's strategy based on two new technologies: airjet and fast rapiers. Between 1975 and 1985, Picanol slowly abandoned the highly successful flying shuttle technology.

In an established market dominated by few players, a new entrant has to formulate its own strategy. Picanol decided to use its proven strengths to be successful in the demanding field of technical textiles.

Technologically, the **OMNIplus 800 airjet** and the **OptiMax rapier** platforms are both state-of-the-art and very recent in comparison with competitors' machines. Producing about five times more units per year than its closest competitor and having been in business for over 70 years, Picanol has a much more extensive customer base. Weavers venturing into new markets particularly appreciate the excellent price/performance ratio for their upcoming investments when choosing Picanol.



As for services, our local staff too are accustomed to new developments, so that consulting and installation of machines for more demanding fabrics does not pose any difficulties.

As a frontrunner in innovation when it

comes to textile machinery, Picanol dedicates 30% of its product management capacity to technical textiles. An equal part of the R&D effort is devoted to novelty applications. New developments that serve real customer requirements can be brought to market very rapidly.



In the last couple of years, Picanol has developed technically advanced solutions in fields such as tire cord, conveyor belts, canvas, industrial glass, monofilaments, decatizing cloth, one-piece-woven airbags, awnings, spinnaker, medical textiles, coating fabrics, high-speed leno weaving, car seats etc.

Picanol always pays attention to user-friendliness and modularity, and indeed it pioneered the Quick-Style-Change system.

With the present OMNIplus 800 and OptiMax platforms, customers are not left floundering when market requirements change. These platforms are highly modular, so that when e.g. jacquards are needed instead of dobbies, this and similar retrofits can be made without much effort. In the latest development, a rapier machine weaving leno can be converted to standard harness movements in a matter of hours.

Courtesy: Picanol NV. ♦

Oerlikon Neumag at Techtex Frankfurt

From parts, key components, individual machines up to complete lines or even to turnkey installations, Oerlikon Neumag provides the most comprehensive portfolio of products and services for the production of staple fibers and nonwovens. The latest developments in the Oerlikon Neumag nonwoven and staple fiber segment will be presented at Techtex at booth H27, hall 3.0.

The focus will be the carding technology with a series of improvements on FOR preparation and carding, Fehrer needle punching and Autefa in crosslapping for applications like geotextiles, automotive, filtration or roofing.

Besides the new modular card system, lines for the production of nanofiber nonwovens for acoustic application which base on the cooperation with Elmarco, will be one of the highlights in the carding area.

The capability of Oerlikon Neumag's spunlaid technology to produce nonwoven materials out of a wide variety of different polymers like PP, PA, PET or bicomponents, or the ability to produce microdenier filaments, offers a huge potential for a wide range of technical applications. Even the J&M meltblown technology has a worldwide good reputation for filtration materials.

Besides Nonwovens, Oerlikon Neumag presents its traditional staple fiber business with production plants for indus-

trial applications and nonwovens. Depending on the capacities and fiber characteristics, Oerlikon Neumag offers different configurations of 1-step (continuous process) or 2-step (discontinuous) lines. One of the strengths of Oerlikon Neumag is its long-lasting experience with the development of advanced staple fibers like self-crimp, hollow, bicomponent, spiral crimp or PP high tenacity fibers.

Courtesy: Oerlikon Neumag
Zweigniederlassung der Oerlikon Textile
GmbH & Co. KG. ♦