

## Songwol selects Thies dyeing technology for new Vietnam terry towelling plant

Songwol Co Ltd - Korea's leading producer of terry towelling products is planning to become a major international supplier with its newly created Terry Gallery brand and has built a new plant in Vietnam, equipped with Thies dyeing technology, as the major part of its expansion strategy. The dyeing equipment, manufactured by Thies GmbH & Co in Germany and ordered through the company's distributor in Korea, C Illies & Co, was commissioned on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.

Songwol's investment in Vietnam, known as Songwol Vina, represents an important part of the company's strategy to expand beyond Korea and position itself as a major world supplier of the highest quality terry towelling, rebranding as Terry Gallery to enhance the international appeal of its products.

"We have four production plants in Korea, where we have 35% of the domestic market for terry towelling, and where our Songwol brand has very wide recognition," says Mr Kim Woo Ram, President of Songwol Vina. "Terry Gallery is however a new name on the overseas markets, and it is our intention to become a world-famous brand name."

Mr Kim Woo Ram also says that the company is targeting the US, Europe and Japan with Songwol Vina production. Located at the newly established Tan Duc Industrial Park in Long An Province, about 1.5 hours by road from the centre of Ho Chi Minh City, Songwol Vina is capitalised at US\$50 million and is 100 percent Korean-owned.

There are five production units on the site, four of them for the sizing, weaving, dyeing and sewing of cotton towelling products, with the fifth for rayon.

Manager of the dyeing department, Mr Lee Byung Jin, says that the intention is to produce premium quality products - with 60 years experience in towel manufacturing,

consequently the plant has been equipped with technology that is recognized as the best in its field; including Benninger warp preparing machines, Sulzer weaving machines, TSR drier machines, Schmale Durate hemming machines, and Thies dyeing machines.

"The intention has been to automate the production process as far as possible for maximum quality, while reducing production time and minimising inferior goods and rejects," he added, "Our company was founded 60 years ago, and this is the first time we have used Thies technology. Thies machines give us high temperature, high pressure and accurate colour, and by reducing the dyeing process time, we minimize damage and faulty production."

The Thies equipment is for the dyeing of both yarn and fabrics, with an initial capacity for yarn dyeing of 3,500 kg/day, and for fabric dyeing 10,000 kg/day.

"When we are fully operational, the capacity for yarn dyeing will be 6,000 kg/day and for fabrics 30,000 kg/day," says Mr Lee. "For fabrics, our ultimate target is 11,000 tonnes per year."

For fabrics, there are five ecoMaster F short liquor fabric-dyeing machines with different capacities to cater for different production volumes: the 140/1-PL has a capacity of 250 kg, the two 140/2-PL units each have a capacity of 500 kg, and the two 140/3-PL units each have a capacity of 750 kg.

The ecoMaster, a development of Thies's internationally successful eco-soft plus fabric dyeing machine, combines safe fabric transport and flexibility with innovations in liquor transfer, liquor penetration and process technology, reducing energy consumption and providing shorter process times.

Optimised configuration of the dyeing kier and liquor pump combined with a newly developed heat exchanger makes it possible to dye cotton articles at a liquor ratio of 1:5. Songwol Vina's five eco-bloc X yarn-dyeing machines also provide a wide range of capacities:

the 1400 D-KB can hold 600 kg, the 1400 KB holds 300 kg, the 1000 KB holds 150 kg, the 600 KB holds 50 kg, and the 450 KB holds 20 kg.

"This range of capacities means that we can handle big production runs and also smaller items, and also that we can test designs and products," says Mr Lee.

The eco-bloc X is laid out for an ultimate liquor ratio; depending on the dyeing method, package form and substrate, a liquor ratio of 1:6 is gained. This short liquor process grants a gentle treatment of the yarn. Thread breakages in the later processes are minimised. High rates of passages provide fast and even dyes. By regulation of flow rates and the differential pressure, high rates of liquor circulation provide a gentle treatment of sensitive articles. The yarn dyeing production includes an RIII Type 1400 KB pressure dryer with satellite kier. This optimizes handling and reduces labour costs, as after dyeing the package carriers are lifted out of the kiers and placed directly into the dryer without any intermediate handling.

Automation of the chemical and auxiliaries supply is another important factor in quality and economic efficiency, and the Thies installation includes an automated MPS-L chemical supply system for liquids and an MPS-D dyestuff dissolving system, with 300-litre capacity.

The MPS system (Multi Product Supply) uses a joint control management and data structure. A general control system ranging from the machine control to the overhead system serves for the coordination of all processes in the dye house.

Songwol personnel from Korea are training Songwol Vina employees, with specialists from Thies and Illies Vietnam handling the training for the Thies technology.

Terry Gallery products include wash, hand, bath, beach and kitchen towelling, and towel bathrobes. ♦



### X-Rite receives award from prestigious Chinese organization

The most prestigious organization in China for fashion color research, forecast and design gave X-Rite Incorporated its top award for innovation recently for ColorMunki™ Design, a instrument/software package that delivers color control and color creation tools for digital workflows.

Award judges for the China Fashion Color Association (CFCA) said ColorMunki provides a strong platform for designers in the fashion, consumer product and the graphic arts, industries to develop and communicate new color schemes. The award was given to X-Rite at the association's Fifth Annual ColorChina event held during December 3-4 in Beijing.

Since its launch during August 2009 in China, ColorMunki Design has been adopted by some of that country's largest companies and organizations involved in color design, including Li Ning Co. Ltd., Kappa, Ozoka, LKK Design, and the Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology.

"We are extremely honored that the Association would recognize that ColorMunki Design is inspiring a whole new generation of designers in China to apply their craft in a wide range of industries," said Pantone Asia Vice President Terence Lam, who attended the Beijing ceremony to accept the award from Madam Cheng DongHong, Secretary of the China Association for Science and Technology. X-Rite|Pantone is the corporate entity that markets the ColorMunki Design product in China, and the CFCA is a member organization of the China Association for Science and Technology.

Founded in 1982, the CFCA serves 420 organizations and 3,800 individuals in the textile, garment, chemical, architectural, automotive and other industries in its mission to promote the creative use of color in the design process. The association conducts research and market analysis, provides color training courses and offers customized services in color coordination and product design.

"China still has a long way to go to implement color science and technology," said Liang Yong, Director of CFCA. "We look forward to working with X-Rite|Pantone on a broad and all-round basis to introduce leading color technology and color management solution to CFCA members and to bring China color application to a higher level." He said X-Rite |Pantone recently reached agreement with CFCA to jointly promote color science and technology on both color education and color technology applications.

The ColorMunki Design package offers solutions to give designers and the freedom to work with any color from the visible spectrum. The package includes ColorMunki spectrophotometer, palette creation software, color calibration software, protection bag/monitor holder, Quick Start Guide and USB power cord.

The ColorMunki Design Palette Creation software allows designers to easily: Create and name unlimited custom color palettes, select colors from PANTONE® and other built-in libraries, select colors from dynamically associated Harmony, Variation and Similar colors, capture any color from any substrate, automatically extract color from any image.

ColorMunki Design provides unique verification tools that allow designers to quickly preview colors before production, including: PrintSafe™ one-click out-of-gamut view for different printer and paper combinations, preview palette for CMYK or Spot color print, evaluate colors under different light sources.

### Rieter sells nonwovens activities

Rieter signed a contract with the international technology group Andritz, based in Graz, Austria, for the sale of the French company Rieter Perfojet S.A.S, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Rieter Group. This divestment is being made in the context of focusing on core activities in the Textile Division of Rieter.

Located in Montbonnot, France, the company is engaged in the development and manufacture of machinery and systems for producing nonwovens.

It has 50 employees and generates sales of some 40 million CHF. Rieter Perfojet's

products and technologies, marketed under the "JetLace" and "Spunjet" brand names, are highly acclaimed in the marketplace and are in use worldwide for the hydroentanglement of nonwoven fabrics.

As a consequence of the current economic crisis Rieter has intensified its efforts to concentrate its resources in the Textile Division on its core competencies in the field of spinning machinery for short staple fibers, together with technology components and service offerings. The parties have agreed not to disclose the purchase price. Completion of the transaction is subject to the consent of the anti-trust authorities. This is expected at the beginning of 2010.

Andritz is a publicly listed, international technology group with more than 13 000 employees and generated sales of some 3.6 billion Euros in 2008. The Andritz Group already operates in the nonwovens business through its subsidiary Andritz Küsters GmbH in Krefeld (Germany). With its global presence and its systems engineering know-how the new owner is therefore ideally equipped to ensure the sustained business development of Rieter Perfojet.

Courtesy: Peter Grädel, Head Corporate Communications, Rieter Management AG. (Winterthur-Switzerland).

### ELMARCO and National University of Singapore have started joint projects

ELMARCO, industry's first supplier of industrial scale nanofiber production equipment, and National University of Singapore (NUS), a leading global university centered in Asia, have started work on joint development projects. ELMARCO and NUS signed a Memorandum of Understanding on March 2009 and agreed to explore novel nanoscale materials at industrial scale and contributing their respective expertise, know-how and access to relevant academic and industry networks. Successful outcomes of the agreement are anticipated to provide breakthrough in water treatment, health, energy and environment related applications.

One of the results of partnership between NUS, ELMARCO and other partners will be a water filtration equipment that will use nanofiber membranes. This equipment should solve problems with drinking water in the regions, where people suffer from water contamination.

"Water is expected to be more and more valuable in the future. Therefore water pollution is becoming a global problem. New materials contribute to solving the global issue with safe drinking water" said Mr. Ladislav Mares, Executive Director of ELMARCO. Other key research topics are the development of dye-sensitized solar cells (DSSC) and Li-ion batteries for EV by introducing nanofibers.

"The new joint development represents an important and exciting partnership" said Prof. Seeram Ramakrishna, who serves as the Vice President (Research Strategy) at the National University of Singapore. He is an acknowledged global leader for his pioneering work on engineering of nanofibers for regenerative medicine, harvesting solar energy, and water treatment.

"We think it is important to pursue research that could accelerate the use of nanofibers since we believe they may play an important role in manufacturing high value added products in emerging markets" noted Ladislav Mares.



From right side: Ladislav Mares (Executive Director of ELMARCO s.r.o.), Prof. Seeram Ramakrishna and Kaz Nomoto (Managing Director of ELMARCO Ltd., Japonsko).

### Gerber Technology announces acquisition of Yunique Solutions

Gerber Technology, a business unit of Gerber Scientific, Inc. world leader in automated CAD/CAM and PLM solutions for the apparel and flexible materials industry, recently announced the strategic acquisition of Yunique Solutions, Inc., developer of the fashion industry's top-ranked PLM solution. This acquisition will ensure that Gerber provides an innovative end-to-end solution with user productivity and enterprise connectivity at its core.

"The Yunique acquisition is another step in expanding our investment in our software business by instantly upgrading Gerber's PLM technology platform," said John Hancock, President, Gerber Technology. "As a result of our intensified focus on software, Yunique becomes part of the recently formed Gerber Technology Software Systems Group – created with the primary focus of helping customers deliver products to market in less time, with reduced cost, higher quality and improved visibility."

"Yunique's employees, innovative spirit and proven Microsoft .NET technology platform make it an ideal fit with Gerber's unparalleled industry expertise and global sales and service – creating a combined powerhouse PLM solution," added Hancock.

"The combination of Yunique and Gerber Technology represents an enormous opportunity for users, design houses, manufacturers and retailers seeking innovation, leading technology, flexibility, and global service and support," said Daniel Pak and Darioush Nikpour, Yunique's co-founders and principal owners. "With both native MAC and PC compatibility, our software applications fit the requirements of the diverse demands, locations and working styles of users in the fields of design, development, sourcing, planning, operations, manufacturing, production and retail."

Together, Gerber Technology and Yunique will engage and work with their customers to continue the history of innovation and best serve the industry's needs throughout the entire supply chain. Continued commitment to maintain and support existing systems and ease the transition to the new platform will remain a top priority as this evolution continues.

### Jabtex International appointed as exclusive distributors of Panaz Ltd.

Jabtex International has been appointed to be the exclusive distributors of Panaz Ltd., a specialist converter and weaver of fabrics for the hotel and contract markets in the Middle East. The two companies have been working together since November 2008 and have now made a formal partnership. The Jabtex portfolio consists of 7,500 patterns designs used for upholstery, screen and wall partitioning, curtains, privacy screens and bed covers.

Panaz fabrics are made from TreviraCS and are inherently flame retardant and very durable. Jabtex strives to provide solutions in the fabric sector by bonding strategic partnerships with leading global producers like Panaz.

Jabtex opened in a 4,500-meter showroom in Dubai in January 2008, after a long and extensive involvement within the textile industry as the JAB distributor.

Jabtex began trading in the Netherlands during 1987 under a different name and later moved to Sharjah as Anna Export in 1997 and until the end of 2007 as JAB. Jabtex is owned and run by Nader Oubari and his wife Nadera.

The Jabtex fabric collections for curtain and upholstery are sourced from well-

known brands in the UK, USA, Canada, France, Holland, Italy, Germany, South Africa and Thailand. These fabrics are geared for either residential, hospitality or healthcare applications.

### Compact dryer for textile screen printers

The Compact Dryer is designed for textile screen printers who are limited by space or budget. It produces professional results for a wide variety of imprints including caps, jackets, sweats, and transfers.

The dryer is 67 inches long by 30 inches wide and has a wide 20-inch conveyor belt that facilitates garment loading. The large IR heat panel can achieve fast belt speeds up to 72 pieces an hour. It also has adjustable belt speed.

It features double-wall construction and adjustable oven doors that will retain oven heat but keep the exterior cool to the touch. The power exhaust removes fumes from the shop. Compact Dryer comes in two models, 11208 is 115 vac and 11209 is 230 vac. ♦



Compact dryer for textile screen printers.