ITMA 2019 – Focus Industry 4.0

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The future of the textile industry is more and more determined by Industry 4.0! Industry 4.0 has many dimensions and possible fields of application. In three of them (Smart Services, Operations and Factory), key solutions are provided by the machinery industry. The other ones from smart textile products, marketing and sales, employees up to strategy and organization are specific know-how issues for textile mills.
With regard to business models for the textile industry, the Speedfactory project of the manufacturer of sports articles with the three stripes is challenging. It shows where one major road leads to: Fast and flexible production up to batch size 1. Industry 4.0 paves the way to individualized mass production.

In what ways will Industry 4.0 technology improve textile the textile production?
The main benefit is the interconnection of information technology and manufacturing processes. Leading customers are increasingly interested in condition monitoring and predictive maintenance, including remote services. Other improvements are virtual machines, traceability, remote control data exchange, self-optimising, intelligent user interfaces or individualisation. Generally speaking, smart machine controllers will correct process parameters automatically according to the sensors report. Or, if delivery deadlines are not met, downstream production processes will be adjusted immediately. Without discussing the potential of new business models, immediate advantages of Industry 4.0 are improved plant efficiency, more economical production processes, energy savings, more flexible production, just to name a few.

At ITMA in Milan 4.0 was not a big issue. One could at least speak of first steps towards Industry 4.0. But in Barcelona we will already see real Industry 4.0 solutions. For example, intelligent machine assistance systems that monitor the settings of the entire production in the background. Deviations are immediately signalled to the machine operator and suggestions for trouble shooting or optimisation are displayed.

The VDMA member companies exhibiting at ITMA 2019 in Barcelona welcome the visitors from India and other Asian countries. A useful pocket guide distributed a the fair provides a compact overview of manufacturers and their products, listing all exhibiting

VDMA members by halls and showing their stand location in hall plans. More information online at www.machines-for-textiles.com.