

## Future trends are definitely digitisation and automation



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### 1) Present Status of German Textile Machinery?

The sector faces multiple challenges. The supply chain problem has still not eased. Prices for gas and steel are increasing more and more. The energy crisis is causing great uncertainty in European customer industries, especially in textile finishing. The order backlog is still large. Due to the supply bottlenecks, however, orders cannot be converted into sales timely.

For 2023, the companies in the industry are expecting business to be below the good figures of 2022 and 2021. VDMA's sales forecast for the German textile machinery sector is minus 5% (2023/2022). The prospects in China are assessed negatively, which could be of benefit for the second largest market India. The markets in Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, the USA and Central America are expected to perform well in 2023. Turkey continues to do exceptionally well. The ITMA in Milan, taking place in June next year could provide new impetus for the industry.

## 2) German Textile Machinery strategy in case of sustainability?

The companies organised in the VDMA Textile Machinery Association welcome the ambitions around the world to promote climate protection.

Up to now, the increasing textile consumption around the world, due to growing population and purchasing power has been accompanied by a rising use of resources. The textile machinery companies organised in the VDMA are geared towards a functioning circular economy. With our highly efficient technologies we are an indispensable partner in this transition process.

With regard to energy, the sector already makes a significant contribution: An increasing amount of power we consume in Germany is produced by modern wind generators. The rotor blades of these generators are made of composites. German textile machines such as warp knitting machines, braiding machines etc are used to process fibre-reinforced composites. So, innovations in the textile machinery industry are the launch pad for intelligent applications and products.

Energy generation is one aspect, energy saving another important one. An expert team of member companies of the VDMA Textile Machinery Association has studied the energy-saving effects across the entire production chain of five textile products: a cotton T-shirt, a functional T-shirt, a textile billboard, an architectural fabric and a hygienic nonwoven. The result of this analysis: in the manufacture of these products, today's technologies of the VDMA member companies can save up to 30% of energy compared to what was available 10 to 15 years ago. In view of the uncertainties in the international oil and gas markets, energy efficiency is more topical than ever before.

## 3) How do you see future trends in case of Innovation?

Future trends are definitely digitisation and automation. An increasing level of automation and remote services characterizes the textile industry. Serving these markets, VDMA member companies see themselves not only as machine suppliers but also as competent partners on the technological aspects of digitalisation and the processes of their customers. An intensive relationship between spinners, weavers, knitters or finishers, machine suppliers, chemistry suppliers and other technology providers is the key to future success. Assistance via remote services/teleservice and predictive maintenance software to avoid machine stops are provided by numerous VDMA textile technology suppliers. Digitalisation and Industry 4.0 also help to counter the increasing shortage of skilled workers, and the

machines of many VDMA companies offer many useful features to assure reproducible quality results. They include process simulation on a PC to optimise the process parameters before production even starts. Another issue worth to mention is the digital product passport and the efforts in progress to enable this from our side.

#### 4) What growth have you seen in the Indian Market?

In 2021 the German exports of textile machinery and accessories to India reached roundabout 200 million Euros. Between January and August this year, the shippings already summed up to roundabout 225 million Euros.

According to a business survey we did in September, a majority of the responding companies expect business with India in 2023 to be on a good or a least satisfying level. As already mentioned, India could benefit from the difficulties in China.

#### 5) What is your's message to Indian Textile Customers? German Textile Machinery at ITMA 2023?

See you in Noida and Milan! Numerous member companies of VDMA will exhibit at India ITME in December in Noida. After almost three years without bigger trade shows in India, the companies are very much looking forward to deep existing business relationships and build new ones.

The world's largest textile and garment technology showcase, ITMA will continue to present and share innovative manufacturing technology and materials with the industry at its 19th edition in Milan, taking place next June. The presence of VDMA companies in Milan will be themed

“Transforming the World of Textiles: efficient – digital – circular”

Exhibiting VDMA member companies will demonstrate what transforming means in concrete terms and show what solutions they offer for e.g. digitalisation, sustainability, circular economy, lightweight construction and automation.