

## **ITEMA Weaving: innovation and substance at ITMA 2007**

The Munich exhibition came at a time when market signs, particularly in Europe, were encouraging trade visitors and manufacturers alike to be looking for really positive results.

But ITMA 2007 was of vital importance for ITEMA, with the curtain rising on its new group setup, for the first time organised in four Business Units (Weaving, Spinning, Electronics and Knitting).

Success could not have been greater for ITEMA WEAVING, the BU for activities of group companies Promatech, Sultex, ITEMA Shanghai and First. A constant, steady flow of visitors to our booth (more than 3000 over the eight-day period) turned the launching of ITEMA Weaving into an outstanding achievement.

This success story was entirely satisfactory, and for many reasons.

The high-standing of the visitors who came, the large number of meetings and business dealings which took place, with large textile groups from various countries including, to our great satisfaction, European customers, once again confirmed the position of leadership that our group enjoys, along with its prestige brands (Somert, Vamatex and Sulzer Textil in pole position).

The way this new organisation was accepted is further confirmation of the new group's enormous potential, and the synergy it has demonstrated, during this trade fair, will lead to new horizons in the future.

From a strictly technical point of view, trade visitors and engineers were favourably impressed by the two major firms in the group, both focussing on two particularly important aspects, innovation and also substance in the variety of solutions provided.

### **Promatech: substance and versatility.**

Improvements and changes made both consolidate and emphasise the well-known features of versatility of Somert rapier weaving machines and the superior performance of Vamatex weaving machines (Silver HS and Silver Dynaterry) and the quality and economy of Somert (Mythos E-Tec) air-jet weaving machines.

The extraordinary capacity of the ALPHA PGA weaving machine to weave an extremely wide range of yarns, based on the new PGA (Positive Gripper Approach) weft insertion system, certainly caught the attention of visitors, while the Silver HS, benefits from a further development in "Mechatronics", confirming its amazing capacity for high performance weaving at low cost. Likewise, the Silver Dynaterry, shown weaving a high-end fancy style, further increases its productivity level which, together with the extreme versatility, represents the basis of its market success.

Besides the rapier machines, the Mythos E-Tec air-jet weaving machine was shown featuring a new electronic system for handling weft insertion, which drastically reduces air consumption while still maintaining high standards of quality, giving this weaving machine a clear competitive edge on world markets.

### **Sultex: innovation leader.**

Sultex exhibited its new G6500F rapier weaving machine for terry cloth for the very first time. This version, which Sultex has based on the G6500 rapier loom, satisfies all requirements where productivity, versatility and fabric quality are concerned.

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The swinging reed technique for forming the loop ensures that the warp is treated with the utmost delicacy even at high performance levels, with a loop height up to 24 mm.

True to the motto “we rule the weft” exhibits included innovative systems for weft insertion control, with different solutions dedicated to the various looms: the rapier weaving machine G6500 ART (Active Rapier Technology) controls the entire weft insertion cycle using an “active” method; the result is increased versatility and reduced weft wastage; the air-jet weaving machine L5500 AWC (Active Weft Control) reduces consumption by as much as 20% and, lastly, the projectile weaving machine P7300HP APS (Active Projectile System), by optimising and stabilising the entire weft insertion process, controls weft tension right up to the complete reed beat-up, ensuring maximum fabric quality.

**First: plenty of new features for solid reliability.**

Plenty of new ideas from First in the field of shedding machines (Fimtextile) and accessories (Actex, Cincla and OMV), developed to provide OEMs and final customers with increased reliability and better performance. Notably the new X7 electronic dobbie and the XP11 cam machine were reengineered to cater for ever-increasing weaving machine performance, using original technological solutions in the design of accessories (particularly heald frames) to reduce weight and increase resistance to stress.

These new concepts all reflect the thought of ITEMA CEO Miro Radici: “The world is changing all the time, and we must be in a position to adapt our state of the art - anticipating change whenever possible - taking advantage of all the opportunities which these new variables present, earlier and better than our competitors.



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ITEMA Weaving booth at ITMA 2007

Contact:

Promatech: Ricardo Mautino, <mailto:riccardo.mautino@promatech.it>

Sultex: Juerg Kundert, <mailto:juerg.kundert@sultex.com>

First: Enrico De Cesaris, <mailto:enrico.decesaris@firstitaly.com>