Technical textiles which have a wide place in the product and application fields of different sector groups, continue to progress with R&D and technological developments.
FUTURE TREND: TECHNICAL TEXTILES

Technical textiles, which already have a wide range of products and applications in different sector groups, continue to progress with R & D studies and technological developments. Textile industry, both in Turkey and in the world, is now heading for technological products, technical textile products, smart products with high performance and multifunctionality.

Technical textiles are textile products produced due to their technical and performance characteristics rather than aesthetic and decorative features. Technical textiles; are textile products that require functionality that is used in the industry, military space, maritime, civil engineering, construction, geotextiles, transportation and high technology applications. The main difference that distinguishes technical textiles from other textiles is that it is applied in / is in use in a narrower area of industrial textiles that excludes apparels (except for protective clothing) and interior space textiles. Technical textile products are divided into 12 sub-groups according to usage areas. These; Agrotech, Buildtech, Clothtech, Geotech, Indutech, Hygiene and Medical Textiles (Medtech), Household Technical Textiles (Hometech), Transport Textiles (Mobiltech), Packaging Textiles (Packtech), Protective Textiles (Protech), Sport Technical Textiles (Sportech), Ecological and Environmental Technical Textiles (Ecotech).

BUTEKOM & TEXTILE AND TECHNICAL TEXTILE EXCELLENCE CENTRE

In order to add new visions to the textile sector, BUTEKOM started its activities as “Research Center” in 2008. The purpose of BUTEKOM; the development of high value-added products aimed at innovative, fashion and branding of companies, increasing production efficiency, and ensuring the necessary cooperation and coordination among stakeholders. BUTEKOM has organized nearly 200 trainings since its inception in 2008, allowing 6000 people to receive training.

Textile and Technical Textile Excellence Centre (TTTMM) project is one of the most comprehensive sectoral projects of the last year which will be carried out under BUTEKOM umbrella. TTTMM was realized with 75% grant support of Bursa Eskişehir Bilecik Development Agency and is carried out by Bursa Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The project is one of the most comprehensive sectoral projects which will be carried out under BUTEKOM umbrella and will give direction to Turkish textile industry. The aim of the project is to establish and strengthen the R&D infrastructure in order to contribute and to direct the sustainability of the textile and ready-to-wear sectors (especially in the technical textile group) both in the region and in our country.
Export Target for Technical Textiles is 5 Billion Dollars

10th Turkey Textile and Apparel Sector R & D Project Brokerage Summit was organized by Uludag Textile Exporters Association (UTIB), Bursa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BTSO) and Bursa Eskisehir Bilecik Development Agency (BEBKA). Along with the conference, successful projects were also awarded at the event.

Speaking at the opening ceremony UTIB and BTSO president Ibrahim Burkay, said that they were proud of what the textile industry achieved as the leading sector of Turkey. Burkay, “The share we get from world textile exports is 3 percent, while the share we get from home textiles is 4.5 percent, unfortunately it is just 1.5 percent in technical textiles. In order to increase our market share in this market which constitutes 25 percent of the world textile sector, we have been organizing the Project Brokerage Event for 10 years”. At the award ceremony held immediately after the opening speeches, 47 projects in 16 categories such as functional textiles, smart textiles as well as textiles for the aerospace industry and defence were awarded. Besides, 108 innovative and original project proposals of qualified national and international universities were presented at the event.

The summit helped sector leaders and exporters to meet with academicians and students.

“We Need to Foresee the Future in Textiles”

Having a considerable share of the world textile industry, export potential in Turkey is increasing every year. Bursa, which has a significant share in this success, has become one of the world’s exemplary cities with its projects. Osman Nuri Canik, the President of the Sustainable Home Textile Cluster (SETEK), talked about the development of the sector.

Canik said that they attach great importance to sustainability studies and underlined that it is necessary to see the future well in order to have a say in the international market. Canik pointed out Turkey’s textile place in the world rankings and said that many studies have been done to move the bar up. He said that “The government support R & D activities, design centres, R & D centres in home textile sector in. Clusters are being set up in this regard. I am also the Chairman of the Sustainable Home Textile Cluster (SETEK). SETEK project is supported by the Ministry of Science Industry and Technology with a grant of 50%. The scope of project includes awareness-raising and coordination, increasing the marketing power by joint movement, creating the innovation infrastructure to enable the transition to the value-added products, and improving the existing sub-structures of the companies.”
GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST TO 3 CITIES AT EMITT

The booths of Bursa, Eskişehir and Bilecik, which was prepared in cooperation with tourism stakeholders in the region under the coordination of Bursa, Eskişehir and Bilecik Governorships, attracted a great deal of attention in the 22nd Eastern Mediterranean International Tourism and Travel Fair (EMITT).

Numan Kurtulmuş, Minister of Culture and Tourism and Vasip Şahin, Governor of Istanbul attended to the opening ceremony of the 5th biggest tourism fair of the World. EMITT, which has attracted 2,668 tour operators from 106 countries, has also received a great deal of interest this year. The stands of the three provinces of our region with the cultural and natural beauties, were the focus of attention of the visitors.

LATEST DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO CARRY TURKEY TOWARDS 2023 TARGETS

Focused on its development goals toward 2023, Turkey unveiled the latest development plan that was prepared in due consideration of the country’s recent achievements in areas such as economic growth, exports and inflation. Covering a four-year period from 2019 to 2023, the plan was introduced in a ceremony at the Presidential Complex with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım and Development Minister Lütfi Elvan in attendance.

Speaking at the ceremony, President Erdoğan underscored, the government has focused on the development and improvement of Turkey’s natural resources while accomplishing energy investments required by fast industrialization.

While Turkey will continue its diversified economic development program with a focus on digital transformation and technology-intensive industrial production, it will also keep carrying out renewable energy projects to respond to the needs of growing industry and population, President Erdoğan said. Erdoğan emphasized that the government does not limit development to only the economic field, but also cares about social and spiritual development.

In the preparation process for the 11th Development Plan, 43 specialized commissions and working groups and more than 3,500 experts participated. Moreover, a total of 27,500 individuals have so far been surveyed while setting the overall plan. Also, in the coordination of Development Ministry and development agencies, 250 meetings were held with over 12 thousand participants in 81 provinces.
“WE CANNOT LEAVE TEXTILE INDUSTRY OUT OF DIGITALIZATION ERA”

Speaking at the 10th Turkey Textile and Apparel Sector R & D Project Brokerage Summit, HUGO BOSS Textile Industry Managing Director Joachim Hensch has talked about innovative practices in the textile industry, stating that the 4th industrial revolution is an indispensable competitive element for textile manufacturing companies. In his speech, he also talked about how HUGO BOSS, which is one of the important foreign investors in Turkey with 3 thousand 800 employees, went through the Industry 4.0 adventure. Referring to the importance of digitalization in the industry, Hensch said: “If you have a product which eases the life of our consumers or make something more comfortable or gives additional value because of some additional functionality, it is always welcome... Wearables are the same. If I have a heated jacket which knows not only heat me but also knows I am sitting in a bus, it is anyway hot, or I am riding a bicycle outside I am freezing. The jacket knows now I have to heat or I have to cool. When you have this kind of systems, they will always be welcomed. This is how you enter technology into consumer goods, into our fashion business.”

“TURKEY ALWAYS ONE OF THE BEST MARKETS”

On the second day of the Summit, Julius Sobizack, President of ZSK Stickmaschinen, the market leader in industrial embroidery machines, talked about developments in the world and their business on tailored fibre placement (TFP) and smart textiles. Sobizack, assessing Turkey’s textile industry, underlined that Turkey has always been a good market. Sobizack, evaluating the development of the textile sector, said: For the companies in the textile industry, new investments wouldn’t solve the problem itself. It is not about buying a new machine today and production tomorrow. Main thing is one step ahead, industry and researchers need to be connected. We need electronic companies, we need fashion companies. For example, when a designer has a new product idea in the field of smart textiles, it will need the support of an electronics company to develop software to collect data and analyse data. When it is there, then having the highly experienced staff and having the know-how here, having universities that train textile engineers, that is going to be the huge benefit that you are going to have compare to Africa.”