

Biggest International Nonwovens Fair Index 2008 Expecting Record Figures in Geneva

For the first time more than 500 exhibitors from 36 countries will participate in the biggest nonwovens fair worldwide, Index 2008 (www.index08.org), which is taking place from 15 to 18 April in the halls of the Geneva Palexpo in Geneva/ Switzerland.

According to the organizer Fondation Or-gexpo the international event is held since 1973 (called Idea at that time) and is taking place now every three years. This year they are expecting a new record number of more than 13,000 visitors.

On nearly 21,000 sqm occupied stand area the newest developments with nonwoven applications and –technologies are shown. “The Index has developed to the most important event in the nonwovens-industry and the expected number of exhibitors and visitors this year confirms this”, said Pierre Wiertz, general manager with Edana – European Disposales and Nonwoven Association (www.edana.org), the association of the nonwovens branch and related branches, “The Voice of Nonwovens“, which is at the same time sponsor of the Index.

This year the “2008 Global Nonwovens Summit“ is running parallel. It focusses on raw materials, energy and ideas for joint global projects on a non-profit base. The coveted Index Awards will be awarded in a special ceremony.

The pavilion of innovations is a forum for research groups, whose results offer new possibilities for nonwovens. These groups are promoted in the scope of the European Framework Programmes for Research and Technology Development. Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hol-

ger Erth, managing director of the Sächsischen Textilforschungsinstitut/STFI (Saxonian Textile Research Institute) (www.stfi.de), Chemnitz, told Textination that the Institute – Competency Center Nonwovens – will present their newest developments in the area of filament- and fiber nonwovens. A specific focus is this year on the functionality of the nonwovens according to purpose. Besides nonwoven composites for the automobile industry also applications for spinning nonwovens in the house- and home textiles area are shown. Furthermore the STFI present themselves as a competent partner for research- and development tasks as well as for testing- and certification services.

Due to their numerous product innovations in the applications automobile-, furniture- and general industry the nonwovens producer J.H. Ziegler (www.ziegler.eu) with plants in Achern and Hungary has decided to be present in Geneva for the first time. As managing director Dr. Peter Hartwig stated is his company nominated for the Index-Marketing Award. In the last two years the company has invested about half a yearly sales into new nonwovens installations but also in the expansion of their ready-made clothing activities.

The Sandler AG (www.sandler.de) from Schwarzenbach/Saale presented on the Index besides hygiene-, medical- and wipes applications technical nonwovens for the filtration- and the automobile industry. The high-quality products are manufactured under the aspect of sustainability and environmental protection exclusively at the German site.

Michael Kröner, business director of Eswegee Vliesstoff GmbH (www.eswegee.com), stated to Textination: “The Textile Group Hof (www.textilgruppehof.com), represented on the Index by Eswegee Vliesstoff, develops, produces and distributes worldwide a broad range of technologies, like binder strengthened, thermically strengthened or mechanically strengthened nonwovens. Also we present the whole spectrum of sewing-woven nonwovens of our subsidiary company Tectex. Special focus is with our fair appearance this year on Zetajet, water jet-strengthened nonwovens, which are produced in our brand-new plant in Reichenbach. Additionally to the basic technologies there are the nonwovens which are finished in our own plants, like thermically reactive adhesive, water- and oil repellent or also flame resistant at established standards, to name only a few possibilities. Production plants are also in the USA and in a cooperation in India. The application of the nonwovens goes from clothing, automobiles, lamination carriers, construction up to hygiene among other things.

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