

**Texcare: Middle Class Companies Excel with Innovations in the Environmental Sector**

The Texcare International – world market for modern textile care ([www.texcare.com](http://www.texcare.com)) from 31 May to 4 June on the grounds of the Frankfurt Fair – showed the high innovational power of German enterprises in the matter of saving energy and water, conservation of resources and input to climate protection.

The Herbert Kannegiesser GmbH ([www.kannegiesser.de](http://www.kannegiesser.de)), Vlotho/ Westfalen, showed the fair banner "Perspektiven der Wäschereitechnik 2008" (perspectives of the laundry technology 2008). The focus was on the automatic operational process with use of modern sensory and robotic technologies in the laundry and the "Green Laundry" with energy optimized individual units and comprehensive energy- and water management-systems. Press spokesman Dipl.-Kfm. Matthias Schäfer reported that the fair result had been very good with a high-quality competent trade clientele. At this fair there were no price increases – in the face of the pressure on the margins with the customers. The owner-directed company with Herbert Kannegiesser in the lead employs currently in the plant in Vlotho (headquarters) alone 650 workers of the worldwide 1,200 employees. The yearly sales comes up to 230 Mill EUR (sales each 50% export and import). There are 6 production locations, 14 country organizations as well as marketing- and service presence in 43 states.

Samir A. Tadros, managing director Lavatec Wäschereimaschinen GmbH & Co, KG ([www.lavatec.com](http://www.lavatec.com)), Heilbronn, said that they were satisfied with the course of the fair. "You meet the world here, learn and hear opinions of professionals". The company – yearly sales 100 Mill EUR (export share 35%) - employs 450

workers and still has stable prices. The two US-plants run well.

The Hch. Kettelhack GmbH & Co. KG ([www.kettelhack.de](http://www.kettelhack.de)) – successful since more than 130 years in the textile market, producing today full time at the company location Rheine – showed weaves for working clothes (Jobfit) and bed linen for the hotel- and hospital segment (Wellfit). New is the top-store assortment. Director Dr. Uwe Steinmeyer informed that the fair ran much better than 4 years ago. More new products and new concepts were presented. With 200 employees and 144 of the most modern weaving machines a yearly sales of 30 Mill EUR is achieved, whereof a third is due to the export (Europe). They are operating in the black and are working 5 days a week in three shifts. In 2008, 3 Mill EUR will be invested.

Manfred Nieberle, salesmanager textile care of the Veit GmbH ([www.veit-group.com](http://www.veit-group.com)), Landsberg am Lech, said they were really satisfied about the fair. By doubling the fair area and with a new stand they had been able to sell many of the shown aggregates of the clothing technology right there and then.

For Heike Fritsche, chief press officer of the Deutscher Textilreinigungs-Verband (German association for textile care) ([www.dtv-bonn.de](http://www.dtv-bonn.de)), Bonn, with 1,200 members (800 dry cleaners, rest laundries), the fair ran very well. Altogether interesting innovative technologies were to be seen and exciting discussions – also at the fair booth – were held. However, the rising energy-, water- and gas prices and the high personal costs (40 to 45% of the total cost sector) were cause for concern. Help came here from the trend-setting international professional lectures on the Texcare Fo-

rum. Altogether the branch is in the ascendant. The sector textile services/ laundry is growing. 500 trainees take care of continuity, however, more of them are welcome.

Andreas Schumacher, communications director Industrieverband Textil Service – intex e.V. (industrial association textile service) ([www.intex-verband.de](http://www.intex-verband.de)), Eschborn – they were co-organizers of the Texcare Forum – spoke of a very good Texcare with many professional discussions. The organization by the Frankfurt Fair was perfect, as was pointed out. Schumacher held at the Forum a lecture about “Anforderungen an den Textil-Service im Gesundheitswesen“ (requests to the textile service in healthcare). For the first time intex met also with other international associations including the Americans, and is going on with these meetings on “the clean Show“ from 18 to 21 June 2009 in New Orleans.

The Datamars SA ([www.datamars.com](http://www.datamars.com)), Bedano-Lugana, a worldwide leading offerer of innovative RFID-solutions for the textile tagging, showed their comprehensive identification solutions for the industrial laundry process. The enterprise designs, develops and manufactures the tags, reading devices and antennae for their RFID-based solutions. On the fair the worldwide smallest and thinnest linen chip was presented. On the Texcare it was announced that they are working together now officially with the Dutch ABS Laundry Business Solutions ([www.abslbs.com](http://www.abslbs.com)), Boxtel, a renowned provider of automatization- and logistics solutions for the textile leasing business.

*Gert Krockert  
Translation: Dr. Heidi Arndt*