

percent share by 2017.

Digital textile printing has a number of important advantages over screen printing. For example, it offers greater freedom of creativity and flexibility in design and is more cost efficient for short print runs, says Textiles Intelligence.

There are many opportunities which provide the digital textile printing industry with scope for future expansion.

In particular, whereas the production of digitally printed textiles is currently weighted heavily towards developing countries, there is likely to be an increase in production in European countries in the future.

The increase in production in European countries will be driven by the fact that some European textile companies are looking to reshore a proportion of their production operations from developing countries to European countries in order to satisfy local tastes, facilitate quick response (QR) manufacturing, release a greater number of collections each year and hence serve the fast fashion market better.

There are also opportunities for expansion in the luxury apparel segment as digital textile printing enables retailers of luxury apparel to produce small quantities of high quality, limited edition pieces cost efficiently.

Further scope for expansion lies in the area of mass customisation, whereby a consumer is able to personalise a product by choosing a design on a dedicated web page in a retailer's online store for subsequent production by a digital textile printer.

Among non-consumer applications, there are major opportunities for the digital textile printing market in soft signage. This field is ideally suited to digital printing as customers in this sector usually order in small quantities and digital textile printing is capable of producing short print runs cost effectively.

Soft signage made from digitally printed polyester fabric has some practical advantages over traditional hard signage and PVC signage. In particular, it is stable in hot environments whereas the performance of hard signage and PVC signage can be adversely affected by hot weather and variable humidity.

As such, the use of digitally printed polyester fabric provides manufacturers of signage with scope for expanding their businesses to countries with warm climates in which hard signage and PVC signage would not be suitable.

However, the widespread adoption of digital textile printing as a tool for commercial-scale print production will ultimately depend on the ability of machinery manufacturers to develop digital textile printers with production speeds which rival those of conventional textile printing machinery.

– the technical textiles and nonwovens trade show opens its doors, 80 percent of the exhibition space occupied in 2013, has already been booked for the 2015 show, say organisers of the trade show.

Messe Frankfurt, organisers of the trade fair which will run from May 4 to 7, 2015 say that once again, it is heading for new exhibitor and exhibition-space records.

“At present, we have sold ten percent more exhibition space than at the same time two years ago. Thus, given the positive situation in the world market, we expect to have four full exhibition halls at Techtextil 2015, says Detlef Braun, Member of the Executive Board of Messe Frankfurt GmbH.

Messe informs that, Techtextil is growing thanks on one hand, to its regular exhibitors, many of whom want to enlarge their exhibition stands, while on the other hand; almost 15 percent of registrations come from companies returning to the fair or taking part for the first time.

Messe Frankfurt has added a fourth day to the fair, which has been greeted by exhibitors because it leaves them more time for meeting customers, as well as for visiting the concurrent Texprocess trade fair and attending the Techtextil Symposium.

South Korea, a growing market with a great export potential, will be represented by a joint stand for the first time. Belgium, China, France, India, Italy, Portugal, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey and the USA have also confirmed they will be taking part.

According to the Confederation of the German Textile and Fashion Industry (Gesamtverband textil+mode), sales of non-woven products and technical textiles were positive in the first half of 2014.

The Euratex association noted a rise of 4% year-on-year in European production of technical and industrial textiles from January to May 2014. Exports within the EU rose 4%, while exports to non EU-countries went up by 7%, whereas Belgium and Great Britain stood out with double-digit rates of growth.

The economic data from the leading textile nations outside Europe are also positive. The US textile industry reported growth of five percent in 2013 whereby sales of technical textiles are also up.

China continues to expect a double-digit rate of growth in terms of sales and the production of technical textiles because domestic demand for automobiles, medical supplies and infrastructure is rising steadily.

Messe Frankfurt says, thanks to the buoyant export market, the Indian textile industry is also doing extremely well.

Texprocess, a trade fair for processing textile and flexible materials, will also be held concurrently with Techtextil from May 4 to 7, 2015.

Techtextil 2015 heading for new exhibitor & space records

With still around eight months to go before Techtextil 2015

ITMA 2015, like European Specialist Printing Manufacturers Association (ESMA), the China Screen Printing & Graphics Imaging Association, and others, ITMA is planning to host a conference on digital printing soon in the near future.

Shima Seiki to show 3D design system at Spin Expo

Japan-based SHIMA SEIKI Mfg., Ltd., a leading manufacturer in the computerized flatbed knitting machine industry, along with its Hong Kong subsidiary SHIMA SEIKI (Hong Kong) Ltd., will be showcasing its latest 3D apparel design system at the upcoming 24th session of Spin Expo in Shanghai, China.

The company will display its latest "SDS-ONE APEX3" 3D design system at Booth J14, Shanghai World Expo Exhibition & Convention Center, from September 2-4, 2014.

APEX3 is at the core of SHIMA SEIKI's "Total Fashion System" concept, made possible due to its comprehensive support of the knit apparel production process from planning and production to sales promotion, as well as its capability for Virtual Sampling.

Ultra-realistic simulation capability allows Virtual Sampling to minimize the costly time- and resource-consuming sample-making process.

Moreover, APEX3 also supports design and simulation in a variety of other industries such as circular knitting, weaving, pile weaving and printing. For these processes, SHIMA SEIKI also offers Virtual sampling, along with 3D modeling, 3D mapping and 3D fitting simulation.

At the exhibition, SHIMA SEIKI will also display its latest collection of knit samples, including seam-free WHOLEGARMENT knitwear that features superior fit, comfort and draping characteristics.

Since its commercial introduction in 1995, SHIMA SEIKI has been the undisputed leader in WHOLEGARMENT knitting technology with almost 30 years of on-going research and almost 20 years of proprietary field experience and know-how, not to mention over one thousand patents worldwide concerning machinery, programming, and stitch structure, according to a statement issued by the company.

Nicaraguan textile industry tries to attract new investors

In order to sustain the employment of people working in the textile and apparel industries in Nicaragua, the Nicaraguan Association of Textile and Apparel (Anitec) is ardently attempting to attract new investors, according to an El Nuevo Diario report.

Attracting new investors has become important for Nicaraguan textile and garment industry in view of the possibility of non-approval of the extension of the Tariff Preference Level (TPL)

by the United States for ten more years. TPL allows Nicaragua to duty-free export clothing made of yarns and fabrics from third countries, to US for a maximum of 100 million square meters per year.

Executive director of Anitec Dean Garcia said, the Nicaraguan Government is now working on a "Plan B" with the American Chamber of Commerce of Nicaragua (Amcham), in case the US rejects the request for extension of TPL.

According to this plan, Garcia said, Anitec aims at expanding the production and increasing investments in Denim Mills Pride plant located in Las Mercedes. The Denim Mills Pride plant is currently in a testing phase and is expected to begin 100% production by next year. Once fully operational, the plant is expected to have annual capacity to produce 28 million yards of denim, from spinning to finished fabric.

Anitec estimates that without TPL the production costs would increase by 40 percent and will affect jobs in factories that operate in free zone, which covers about 30,000 work places. However, Garcia said, that the industry too has its own plan, based on technical training and productivity improvement, to draw more investment, which is essential to retain employment.

Nicaragua has over 215 free zone companies employing more than 103,000 people, with around 70 percent of them being in the textile and garment sector.

Bangladesh plans seven-fold hike in cotton output

The Bangladesh has approved a Taka 105 crore proposal, which will help annual cotton output in the country to soar seven-fold by 2018.

Currently, Bangladesh produces only 100,000 bales of cotton, which meets only 3 percent of the annual requirement of the textile mills in the country, the Daily Star reported.

By implementing this project, it is expected that cotton production in the country will touch 700,000 cotton bales.

By means of planned cotton farming, output will be hiked by implementing the project in 35 upazilas under 10 districts.

If the project is implemented properly, it is expected that the enhanced cotton production will be able to meet around 20 percent of the Bangladesh cotton demand.

Cotton farmers will be provided high quality seeds, advice on best practices and also be taken on motivational tours to other cotton producing countries, under the project.

Digitally printed textiles set for strong growth

Global production of digitally printed textiles is growing at an annual rate of 25 percent and at present, digitally printed textiles account for just 2 percent of total printed textile production worldwide and are expected to account for 5





World Textile News

ITMA 2015 to bring out a dedicated section for digital printing technology

Innovation has always been an integral part of ITMA's DNA. In 2015, in line with industry trends and needs, the exhibition will spotlight innovations that promote sustainability. ITMA 2015 set to take place from 12-19 November in Milan, Italy, will be featuring a dedicated chapter on digital printing technology to provide enhanced access to the vast business potential of this sector. As innovations and growing adoption of digital technological solutions aims at improving print speed, design and efficiency are driving the next growth wave in the printing sector. The Global Industry Analyst has projected global production of printed textiles to reach 27.8 billion square metres by 2018. At ITMA 2015, global textile and garment technology suppliers have snapped up over 95% of the 200,000 square metres of space. While, the printing sector makes up 10% of the space booked by exhibitors, more than double the space occupied by the sector at the 2011 show.

The printing industry associations have also given strong support. The latest organization to pledge its support is the European Specialist Printing Manufacturers Association (ESMA).

Peter Buttiens, Chief Executive Officer, European Specialist Printing Manufacturers Association said that their members are highly regarded for their level of technical expertise and knowledge. They have made significant commitments to sustainability and ecological optimization. They look forward to showcasing their latest innovations in screen and digital printing that promote sustainability at ITMA 2015.

Other associations to be part of ITMA 2015 include, China Screen Printing & Graphics Imaging Association, Taiwan Regional Association of Filament Fabrics Printing, Dyeing & Finishing Industries and Taiwan Textile Printing, Dyeing & Finishing Industrial Association.

ITMA, one of the world's most recognized textile and garment machinery exhibition, to be held in Milan next year, will have a complete section on digital printing technology.

The textile printing industry is now gripped by digital technology. Manufacturers, trying to carve a niche in the global market, now need to invest in digital technology to raise productivity and meet more stringent demands on quality.

In order to accentuate the value of digital technology, ITMA 2015 will have a dedicated chapter on printing technology to provide an improved access to the vast business potential of this sector.

With the invention and increasing acceptance of digital technological solutions, digital printing technology is targeted at improving print speed, design, and competence as the next step in the growth of printing sector.

Digitally printed textiles are now the next big thing in the global market. According to a report released by Global Industry Analyst Inc., the global production of printed textiles is estimated to reach 27.8 billion square meters by 2018.

Digital textile printing has a number of important advantages over screen printing. For example, it offers greater freedom of creativity and flexibility in design and is more cost efficient for short print runs, according to a recent report from Textiles Intelligence. Digital printing can also be expanded in the luxury apparel segment as digital textile printing enables retailers of luxury apparel to produce small quantities of high quality, limited edition pieces cost efficiently.

With an encouraging response from the printing sector, exhibitors have already booked 10 percent of the total 200,000 square meters space at ITMA 2015, which is double the space booked by the exhibitors at ITMA 2011.

With a strong support from various printing associations for

Iran to cut gasoline imports by 2015: Oil minister

Iran's minister of oil has said the country will cut all gasoline imports by 2015.

Bijan Namdar Zanganeh who was speaking to Iran's IRIB Channel Two Special Newstalk last night told that in the first year, the new cabinet had sought to increase oil and gas production from shared fields. "Currently, we have \$60bn in oil and gas projects underway; we now produce Euro-4 standard gasoline in country's major cities, with tangible changes in air quality in Tehran and those major cities," Zanganeh cited as the government's achievements in oil and gas.

He also noted that by next 3 years, Iran would increase oil production with 700,000 barrels from South Pars, North Azadegan, and Yadavaran oil fields to 4.7m barrels per day. "In addition, with South Pars phases going into operation, LNG production will be increased to over 1mn barrels per day," added the minister.

Zanganeh also added that by the next year, "the first

phase of Persian Gulf Star refinery will start operation as the second strategic project of oil ministry." "By 2015, the refinery will help cut imports of gasoline; it will also help export naphtha, diesel, kerosene and LPG," he added.

Zanganeh said that the Persian Gulf Star would produce 36mn liters of gasoline per day. "With improvements in management and removing glitches, the project goes forward, and we have defined a short-term objective for the first half of the year (March-September 2015) to operate the first phase of the refinery first, and to operate other phases in the course of few months," said the minister.

Zanganeh told Iran's IRIB Channel Two Special Newstalk that Iran imported 6-7mn liters of gasoline per day. He praised stock market as most healthy and logical path for oil and gas to enter markets. "Gas condensates are now supplied in energy stock unlimitedly, thus feeding the domestic industries completely," said he. However, he added that the ministry would not sell oil to rentier buyers.



Iran Textile News

Iran's petrochemical exports touch \$838mn in 4 months

The exports of petrochemical products from Iran earned US\$ 838 million in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year that began on March 21, 2014, according to an IRNA report.

During the four-month period, Iran exported 831,000 tons of petrochemical products, which mainly included propane and butane, followed by styrene, paraxylene, benzene, polyethylene, PET and other petrochemicals.

According to the data, Iran's petrochemical exports increased by about five percent year-on-year during the four-month period

In the last calendar year, Iran's petrochemical exports increased by about one percent year-on-year to US\$ 10.723 billion. Asian, African and Eastern European countries were the main buyers of Iran's petrochemical products.

In the current Iranian calendar year, Iran's petrochemical exports are likely to touch \$12 billion.

At present, over 70 petrochemical projects are under construction in Iran, of which, around 12 to 15 projects are likely to come on stream within the next four years. Once operational, these projects are estimated to raise Iran's petrochemical output by 10 million tons and bring \$26 million in foreign exchange for the country. Iran has the world's largest natural gas reserves and the third-largest proven oil reserves. The country is now aiming to become the largest petrochemical producer in the Middle East region, and it has significantly expanded the

range and volume of its petrochemical production over the past few years.

Iran's carpet exports touch \$57mn in 3 months

In the first three months of the ongoing Iranian calendar year that began on March 21, 2014, Iran exported 1,000 tons of hand-woven carpets, valued at US\$ 57 million, according to Iran's National Carpet Center, Tehran Times reported.

In last calendar year that ended on March 20, 2014, exports of hand-woven carpets from Iran dropped by 26.35 percent year-on-year to \$314.8 million, which was the lowest in recent years. During the year, Iran's hand-woven carpets were exported to nearly 80 countries. Major importers of Iranian carpets during the period were Germany, the UAE, Japan, Lebanon, Italy, the UK, Pakistan, Qatar, Switzerland and Sweden.

The US also imported \$51,000 worth of Iranian hand-made carpets during the period.

In calendar year 2012-13, Iran's hand-woven carpet exports earned \$427 million, while they earned \$560 million in 2011-12. Identified as one of the most illustrious expressions of the Persian culture, Persian carpets are known for their intricate design and skilful making.

Over 1.2 million weavers in Iran engage in carpet weaving and produce around five million square meters of carpets each year, 80 percent of which are exported.