Renewell x Inovafil x Saurer—The story of a sustainable fibers’ journey to ITMA

MUMBAI, JUNE 07—
At ITMA in Milan, on the Saurer booth in Hall 2 B 101, visitors can experience what happens when three innovative companies come together to focus on increasing sustainability in the textile value chain, meet, and decide to showcase how a new innovative sustainable fiber is turned into yarn.

Renewell’s circular fiber, prepared by Inovafil for Saurer, is being spun simultaneously in three different spinning applications: air, rotor and on selected days also on ring. The ITMA2023 motto “Transforming the World of Textiles” is excellently chosen, as the upcoming European Union (EU) directives as part of the EU textile vision 2030 set a framework for driving positive change and creating a more sustainable and resilient textile sector within the European Union.

The textile industry will look for new sustainable solutions and new business models. New fibers, using textile waste as raw material, are being developed and brought into the markets. This is especially true for Scandinavia with its long history of paper production. This industry has fostered a deep understanding of pulp processing technique, equipment, and technology.

The extensive knowledge in pulp processing has given the region a head start and empty paper mills have offered space where discarded textiles are given a new life. One of the frontrunners in the new textile recycling development and the first for industrial scale of production is Renewell from Sweden.

Founded by innovators from Stockholm’s KTH Royal Institute of Technology in 2012, the award-winning, Sweden-based sustainability company’s vision is to make fashion circular. Through its patented process, Renewell is able to recycle cellulose-rich textile waste, such as worn-out cotton clothes and production scraps, transforming it into a pristine new material called CIRCULLOSE which is then processed to fibers and spun into new yarn for textile production.

Inovafil in Portugal is one of these spinners in the early stages of commercialization. Inovafil Fração, S.A. spinning mill was founded in 2011 in Portugal. The company’s CEO Rui Martins is

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European textile and apparel industry increasingly exposed to global pressures

MUMBAI, JUNE 07—
The European Apparel and Textile Industry Association (EURATEX) has released its 2023 Spring Report, which analyses latest trade flows for textiles and clothing products. In 2022, EU trade in textiles and clothing has exceeded, for the first time in history, the €200 billion mark. This record growth is 48% higher than the year before.

The trade deficit in textiles and clothing has increased to €70 billion, (+36,6% in value), especially from China and Bangladesh, which is 51% of respondents to the 20th ITMF Global Textile Industry Survey released today. The survey informs that industry is faced with the ingredients of a “perfect storm”. The majority of global textile value chain is expecting this current scenario to last until the end of 2023. Since the beginning of the year business expectations have been back to positive territory. While in November 2022 they were still at -10 pp, they reached +22 pp in March. In May they fell slightly back to +18 pp.

At the same time, companies’ expectations for the business climate in 6 months’ time have been improving since November 2022. This is unclear if this growing optimism about the mid-term future is due to a belief that the situation cannot get much worse or anticipation for a well-founded economic normalisation.

Order intake dropped further in May 2023 to a new low. Most regions and segments saw a fall in order intake, especially North & Central America and in the segment of fibers. “Weakening demand” remained the major concern for the global textile industry since July 2022. “Inflation” remains the second major concern worldwide and gained importance. Worries about “Geopolitics” have increased and now feature among the main concerns.

The survey also shows that the level of order cancellations remains low, albeit slightly higher than four months ago. 51% of respondents to the 20th GTIS recorded no order cancellations during the last 4 months (down from 53% in March and 58% in January). South America is the region with the highest level of order cancellations, segment-wise fiber producers were impacted the most.

Inventory levels fell slightly in May compared to March. South America recorded the highest inventory level. As segments, home textile producers as well as dyers/finishers/printers reported the highest inventory levels.

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