

# LEGWEAR Trends

& TEXTILES OF TOMORROW

VOLUME 48 NUMBER 06

SERVING THE HOSIERY AND TEXTILE INDUSTRIES EACH MONTH

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# LEGWEAR TRENDS

## & TEXTILES OF TOMORROW

VOLUME 48 NUMBER 06

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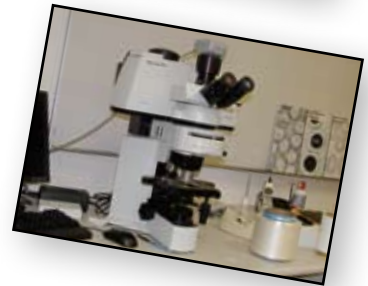
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# legislative column

by PAUL FOGLEMAN, Director, Hosiery Governmental Affairs Council

Is the movement toward sustainable energy and commodities a trend or a fad?

Many legislators in Raleigh feel the “green” movement is real and some of the 3,600 bills introduced in the current session reflect this.

North Carolina will invest millions of dollars in the emerging biotechnology sector. Additionally, there are bills to support organic farming and marketing, and tax breaks that would help small, independent farmers. Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler recently cited his department’s support of green

St.Louis, manager of the center.

There’s an even bigger picture. Officials at Catawba Valley Community College now envision a complex with the new Engineering Center, the hosiery center, and a furniture technology center, all focused on “green manufacturing.” The Hickory community acquired the building and raised private funds for renovations. With operating funds from the General Assembly, the center is poised to help manufacturers make the transitions required in the new economy.

the “temporary” half-cent sales tax that was adopted to cover shortfalls eight years ago. They also want the income tax rate reduced for the highest wage earners to make the state more competitive for recruiting new business.

House budget writers crafted a plan without a clear picture of the revenue flow. By early May, there still was no clear picture in the House. When the Senate gets the budget, more issues will surface.

Counties facing their biggest challenge-rising Medicaid costs-will get some relief as proposals are floating in both Chambers.

## *The Hosiery Technology Center has been in the forefront of sustainable manufacturing.*

farmers in his presentation to the Appropriations Committee on Economic and Natural Resources.

The Hosiery Technology Center has been in the forefront of sustainable manufacturing. The center’s research and development team is credited with refining Ingeo yarn for textiles production. The yarn is made from corn extrusion and is marketed by socks makers catering to high-end sporting goods retailers. The center also has help manufacturers with yarns made from bamboo and alpaca.

If budget writers approve \$250,000 to expand the hosiery laboratory into seamless research, the opportunities will expand to manufacturers of apparel and even furniture, according to Dan

•••

Textiles and hosiery manufacturers will be among those following the financial issues confronting the North Carolina legislature. Counties depending on property taxes are looking for other options as their manufacturing base shrinks. Surviving manufacturers are facing higher property taxes to make up losses.

A large number of counties are seeking permission to increase sales taxes or levy a 1 per cent real estate transfer tax to covering rising costs in education, Medicaid, payrolls, public safety and recreation. On the other hand, some GOP legislators are pushing for a rollback in

•••

New to the N.C. House this year are the business caucuses. Reps. Jim Crawford and Bill Faison have each organized a caucus to hear from business interests. So has Rep. Jerry Dockerman.

Darrell Frye, chairman of the Hosiery Governmental Affairs Council, addressed the Faison caucus May 23. Frye talked about issues facing hosiery producers and what role the state government can play in keeping the industry strong in North Carolina. ■

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# Textile Industry Going Green



*O'Mara Incorporated introduced its Eco-Fil™ product in June of 2006. Eco-Fil is billed as the world's only filament polyester yarn that is made from 100 percent post-consumer recycled soda and water bottles.*

by Kyle Phipps, writer

**Hybrid cars are selling faster than dealerships can keep them on the lots.**

**The documentary on global warming, “An Inconvenient Truth” brought home an Oscar.**

**Certainly the environment and people trying to improve it are taking center stage.**

That has carried over into the hosiery and textile business as well, with several companies putting an emphasis on producing environmentally-friendly products.

O'Mara Inc., based in Rutherford College, N.C., launched its Eco-Fil™ line into production June 2006 after three years of research and development.

O'Mara Inc. President Tim O'Mara says Eco-Fil is the world's only filament polyester yarn that is made from 100 percent post-consumer recycled soda and water bottles.

According to O'Mara, this is different from all the other similar products on the market.

“It's a 100-percent, post-consumer product,” O'Mara said of Eco-Fil. “The competition today has blends of post industrial and post consumer (recycled materials), but not nearly to the percentage of 100 percent post consumer.

Everything that goes into this yarn that we make is being redirected from a landfill into a recycled yarn – which is not what a competing product can say.

“They're using some smoke and mirrors in terms of calling it a recycled product. It is recycled, but it's not post consumer.

“We could blend it, but we're choosing not to blend it. We feel as though we want to take the high road and offer a 100 percent post consumer product.”

Not only a “green” product, Eco-Fil's performance characteristics make it usable for a wide range of products.

Current uses include contract upholstery, home furnishings, rugged fabrics for marine and outdoor recreation, sports and high-tech performance apparel, hosiery, narrow fabrics and fine fabrics for designer clothing lines.

Eco-Fil is made from Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) used bottles, meaning there is less strain put on natural resources. It reduces waste from landfills, needs less energy to produce and all the while, reducing America's need for imported petrochemicals.

As a synthetic fiber, Eco-Fil does not need herbicides and pesticides used in natural fibers.

But Eco-Fil isn't just an environmentally-friendly product. It's a quality yarn as well.

The fiber still offers the physical properties that textile and apparel manufacturers demand – softness,

strength, shrink resistance as well as dye uptake, colorfastness, durability and manufacture-ability.

“There are really no performance advantages from a yarn standpoint,” O'Mara said. “But in the same breath, there are no disadvantages. It has the exact same characteristics as a virgin polyester – from tinsel strength to dye take up to texture and performance to hand softness. It has all the same characteristics.”

The yarn can be fully or partially oriented, texturized, dyed, woven, knit, spun and finished to meet the needs of diverse textile markets.

O'Mara said the product had gotten positive reviews, but he's still waiting for production to really take off.

“(We've gotten) a very favorable (reaction),” O'Mara said. “Unfortunately, there's just a lot of talk about it but not a lot of walk with it. (O'Mara has done) a done of sampling, a ton of development across all end applications but haven't really hit our stride yet with production.

“But we feel as if production is starting to gear up now. The reaction to it has been very positive and very favorable.”

O'Mara said as the recycling effort continues to grow, he believes it will help his product become more popular to consumers. But as with most things, the market will drive the direction of environmentally-yarns and textiles.

“I think price is going to play a large roll in it,” said O'Mara. “I don't see Eco-Fil



*From the research labs (left photos), to production (top right), to the finished product (middle and bottom right photos), Eco-Fil is produced at O'Mara Incorporated's facility in Monroe, NC.*



necessarily replacing your commodity, hohum, polyester products that you would find at the big retailers.”

“But I do see it stepping in and replacing things on a higher end that sell to either retailers or consumers that have strong feelings to environmentally healthiness.”

“I think it’s going to grow. I don’t think it’s a fad,” O’Mara added.

Working on a product like Eco-Fil served two purposes for O’Mara, Inc.

“Were we on a singular-mindset venture to help the environment? No, we’re in business to make money - as is anyone else,” said O’Mara. “But a way of doing it - while putting our arms around a popular, well thought of, important mission like the continued environmental needs - that does play a part in it.”

O’Mara Inc. also saw a market need that it could fill.

“A lot of the mindset was (looking for) an avenue to find other business pursuits outside of commodity products,” O’Mara said. “It was a way to continue to run equipment without competing with the Chinese or imported yarns.”

A similar product is Foss Manufacturing’s EcoSpun®. EcoSpun is another polyester fiber made from recycled plastic PET bottles.

The fiber can become a part of any textile product like clothing, blankets, auto interiors, carpets, wall coverings, home furnishings and craft felt.

Additionally, EcoSpun can be blended

into wool, cotton and rayon.

Foss Manufacturing National Sales and Marketing Manager George Stellmach said the felt and fabric line of EcoSpun had already started to find its niche.

“The two major (companies) we deal with right now are definitely interested in the recycled (product) because of their own sustainability campaigns,” Stellmach said. “We kind of fit in. I hate to say we kind of stumbled into it. We thought maybe we’d have to fight with them about it. But, instead, they’ve embraced it.”

“For us, since we’ve announced it, it’s just kind of blossomed. There’s definitely a demand out there. It’s not new technology - it’s kind of old - but what I’m thinking is that the consumer world wasn’t quite ready for it. We know there are people out there that are looking for eco-friendly fabrics. But for whatever reasons, we know the consumers are really embracing it this generation.”

A unique angle on Foss’s part is the way it colors its EcoSpun product.

“If we’re producing a dark fiber, then we can use a green bottle,” Stellmach said. “Kunin® Group has 42 colors. Then we need clear bottles, and we actually at the time of melting load pigment up. It’s just like the polyester fiber we usually use here and we spin here, but in this case we’re just using recycled bottle flake.”

“It’s a pretty unique process. We’re not a dyed fiber, so it’s not like it’s made white and then dyed. It’s actually colored from

inside out.”

Fox River, in Osage, Iowa, has introduced socks that are made from corn, or Ingeo™ Fiber – manufactured by NatureWorks LLC.

NatureWorks says Ingeo provides the performance of a synthetic fiber and the appeal of a natural material without using fossil fuels.

Ingeo can also be used for apparel, bedding, furniture, personal care products and carpet.

Fox River also sells organic Merino wool socks, made from the organic wool from sheep raised according to federal organic livestock production standards.

Unifi, Inc., based in Greensboro, N.C., takes advantage of modern technologies to produce environmentally-friendly products. The company has made an effort to reduce waste, reuse water and energy and take an active role in recycling.

SanSegal Sportswear introduced its Green Brand products in 2002. The garments are made from recycled cotton fleece.

Bamboo fabrics have grown in popularity in recent years, thanks to the increased sustainability of the raw product.

Bamboo fabrics are noted for their lightness and strength. The fabric has excellent wicking properties and is antibacterial.

Additionally, organic cotton has come

*(see Going Green on page 14)*

# Speed Sells For Vanguard Supreme

By Kyle S. Phipps, writer



Speed is what counts at Vanguard Supreme.

The Monroe, N.C.-based company produces high end circular knitting machines that are used in the production of underwear, t-shirts, fleece wear, casual wear, industrial fabrics, medical fabrics and packaging fabrics.

But it's the speed of the Vanguard machines that sets them apart from other circular knitting machines.

"Productivity and efficiency (set the Vanguard Supreme machines apart)," said Todd Diggs, International Sales Manager for Vanguard Supreme. "They are all based on the cost per pound. What we always try to do is lower our customer's cost per pound. In the productivity, we make a machine that we think is the fastest on the market - right now it's a 2,000 speed factor jersey machine on a jumbo frame. That allows them to make a big roll so the machine stops less. It stops less and runs longer. It allows them to eliminate the seams on rolls so they can



continued success.

"I would say it's a good product and good customer service," Diggs said. "We really take pride in servicing our customers to give them what they need in a timely manner. We give them the products that they need. We can adapt to some of their needs. If they need a certain type of cam to produce a certain type of fabric, we can do that. If they need a certain type of take up, we can do that."

Vanguard Supreme also manufactures the Filter Flow 2000, an air flow system that can prevent the accumulation of lint and debris in the needles and sinker sections. This improves a machine's operating and maintenance costs by lowering the machine temperature and improving needle life.

"It does two things," Diggs said of the Filter Flow 2000. "One, it doesn't eliminate the lint, but it does blow a lot of lint out. The second thing is it keeps the machine clean and cool. What you can do with that is reduce the amount of oil, because oil attracts lint. You can reduce the flushing of the machine, which saves

*Diggs said the company produces between 300 and 500 machines per year. During its peak years of production, some 1,500 circular knitting machines were leaving the company per year.*



take a whole roll and put it into one dye beck."

The 4SJ4/HAC12 jumbo machine has a speed factor of up to 1,500 for jersey fabric and 1,000 for fleece, depending on the yard quality and fabric type, while the 2SR2/HI2 has a speed factor of up to 1,500 for rib and 1,200 for interlock.

Vanguard Supreme machines can be found in the manufacturing facilities of Fruit of the Loom, Gildan Activewear and Hanes.

Diggs said the company produces between 300 and 500 machines per year. During its peak years of production, some 1,500 circular knitting machines were leaving the company per year.

Vanguard Supreme employees around 165 people at its Monroe facility.

Diggs said there were several factors that figured into Vanguard Supreme's

in fabric. When you flush it, you create an oil band in your fabric. You can't really use that, so you have to cut it out, so you're saving that amount of fabric."

In addition to making its own product, Vanguard Supreme remanufactures older machines to bring them up to speed with the current needs in the textile industry.

Vanguard Supreme is a division of Monarch Knitting Machinery Corporation in Brooklyn, N.Y.

The company was founded in 1918 as Supreme Knitting Machine Company. It was acquired by Singer in 1961 before returning to private ownership in 1978 as Vanguard Supreme. Vanguard Supreme became part of Monarch Knitting in 1986.

The manufacturing facility in Monroe was built in the 1960s. ■



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# legwear fashions

by Charlene H. Carpenter,  
Assistant Editor



## Fall Legwear Accessorizes



Gearing up for the fall buying season, manufacturers are producing high-fashion legwear to step up to the plate as the must-have accessory for fall.

Tights, trousers, leggings over-the-knee and thigh-highs are expected to do well as consumers dress their legs to go with skirts, dresses and tailored apparel. Layering will continue to be an important trend, and capris and leggings are expected to sell well.

Skirts of all lengths will call for fashion legwear to accompany them.

"We are trying to let the consumer know that hosiery is a fashion accessory," says Linda Measmer of Wells Hosiery and Apparel of Asheboro, N.C.

Opaque black tights will take center stage along with rib tights and leggings, says the designer.

"Black tights will be worn with everything, long skirts, short skirts, boots etc," says Measmer. "Thigh-highs and over-the-knees will work with the shorter skirts and the younger consumer. And, leggings will be worn under dresses, skirts, or by themselves in a heavy weight with a long shirt or sweater over them."

Menswear patterns including herringbones, hound's-tooth, stripes and chevrons in tights and trousers will be prevalent.

"The menswear trend will be strong but in a more subdued way, not overstated like it was in the '80's," explains Kim Smith of Acme-McCrary of Asheboro, N.C.

Acme-McCrary is also making tights and trousers in sweater knits cables, ribs and crochets.

"They will be worn with casual dresses and denim skirts and shorter silhouettes," says Smith.

There will still be room for feminine styles including fishnets with a twist, say manufacturers.

"People are still wanting fishnets but they want things that are out of the ordinary," says Lisa Elliott of Fine Line Hosiery of Randleman, N.C.

Both Fine Line and Central Carolina Hosiery of Biscoe N.C. are making fishnets with larger and different shaped holes.

"We are making a thicker type fishnet that has more texture and larger openings, and we are making some with holes that are about four times the size. They are not an exact diamond shape; it is more like a teardrop," says Elliott.

"Some people are wearing fishnets over their clothing like stretch pants or nylon Lycra capris," says Elliott.

Black and chocolate will be the hottest colors for fall along with charcoal. Burgundy, deep purple and some shades of plum also are expected to do well, especially as accents.

"Chocolate is up there. It is not as big as black but it weighs in pretty heavy," says Smith. ■



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## Legislative Business Caucuses Respond To Hosiery Speaker

North Carolina legislators heard why some hosiery and textile manufacturers survive. And also why others have closed their mills.

Darrell Frye, vice president of Harriss and Covington Hosiery Co. in High Point recently addressed a joint meeting of the House Democratic and Republican business caucuses with something like a 101 class in business survival. Legislators listened and got the message.

Rising property taxes, dramatic increases in workers compensation assessments, and dramatic escalation of paperwork from state regulatory and revenue agencies have increased overhead, Frye asserted. But manufacturers are producing goods at the same price they received 10 years ago, he added. Price increases for hosiery companies are "off the table."

Frye, who is chairman of the Hosiery Governmental Affairs Council, offered a perspective on business issues from local and state levels.

As vice chairman of the Randolph County Board of Commissioners, Frye noted the impact of higher property taxes on businesses. He cited the costs of schools and healthcare as part of the balancing act. At the same time, he recognized rising Medicaid costs as revenue issues for the state government.

A quote that stuck in the minds of the House members was Frye's comment that as recent as 1978 there were 28 family-owned hosiery companies in High Point. Today only Harriss and Covington remains.

Still, Frye insisted there are other companies, like Harriss and Covington, that are doing well. They have found a niche and also have found ways to improve productivity with a diverse workforce. In his company, there are 11 nationalities that speak nine different languages. "Naturally, communications is an issue with us," he added.

During his comments, Frye mentioned three bills that are important to the industry: (1) approval of a \$250,000 appropriation for the Hosiery Technology Center to fund a new laboratory for the seamless industry; (2) approval of a bill to exempt textiles machinery from the state building code; and (3)

*(see The Caucuses Respond on page 14)*

## VI Prewett Acquires Clayson

VI Prewett & Son has acquired all of the retail hosiery business of Clayson Knitting Co., of Star N.C. Clayson reported sales of around \$30 million in 2006.

VI Prewett is based in Fort Payne, Indiana.

Bobby Cole, President of VI Prewett and Son, told the Fort Payne Times-Journal, "As our hosiery industry continues to consolidate, this acquisition allows us to maintain our position as one of the leaders in this industry. We also consider this acquisition another major commitment to our more than 1,400 employees here in Fort Payne."



## From Washington

*The editorial board of Legwear Trends And Textiles Tomorrow enthusiastically supports the hundreds of domestic hosiery and textile companies across America that are continuing to produce innovative products that bring satisfaction to consumers in quality, fashion and comfort. As the manufacturing sector over the last six years has been decimated by what is often termed "free trade," we support the efforts of those in Washington, D.C. and beyond who are working to promote fair trade policies that do not put U.S. manufacturers at huge disadvantages. Our goal is to highlight for you, the manufacturer, some of with important news related to these policies each month in the "From Washington" segment.*

# Is Africa Chasing China For Wal-Mart Business?

## And Are They Prepared For The Volatile Rules?

U.S. trade authorities predict Africa will become the next major player in the global marketplace. U.S. State Department officials, in fact, are working to make that happen.

Trade facilitation will share the stage with finance, infrastructure development, product quality standards and other economic issues at the upcoming African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), U.S. officials say.

The forum, which annually brings together high level officials from the United States and representatives of 38 African countries, will take place in Accra, Ghana July 18-19. U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns will carry the U.S. flag.

U.S. imports of AGOA-eligible products totaled \$44.2 billion in 2006, up 16 per cent from the year before. Excluding petroleum, imports climbed 7 per

cent, including socks, footwear, automobiles, prepared vegetables and processed fruits.

Now textiles are on the list for major growth, according to U.S. Trade Representative for Africa Florizelle Liser. Liser and Walter North, acting USAID administrator for African affairs said the United States is committed to expanding capacity-building assistance in Africa.

"We know that simply providing market access and duty free treatment...is not enough," Liser said.

"We're working to strengthen the knowledge and skills of sub-Saharan African private-sector enterprises to take advantage of our market opportunities," North added.

Liser said that Wal-Mart and Target have been increasing their imports of textiles and apparel from Africa. But this could be a mixed picture for African companies.

The Wall Street Journal recently reported that Wal-Mart had cancelled orders from some Chinese manufacturers due to a build-up in inventory. That left

Chinese executives scrambling for orders from buyers in Japan, Korea and Europe.

The response was similar to the scene played out with U.S. vendors for Wal-Mart over the past two decades. "It's always hard to make money from Wal-Mart orders, but without them we are dead," said Shao Zhuliang, executive with Boshan Linar Garments in China's Shandong province.

The Journal reported that a softer U.S. economy, rising gasoline prices and some business miscues have left the world's largest retailer with a pile of unsold apparel and home decor items worth about \$2 billion. As Wal-Mart pares down its stocks and struggles to get sale growth back on track, suppliers in China a feeling the pinch. Chinese exports to the U.S. in 2004 exceeded \$18 billion.

It is estimated that 16 to 19 percent of the world's garments are made in China. About 20 percent of Chinese exports are to the U.S., giving them a huge stockpile of U.S. dollars.

# Textile Technology Center Adds New Dimension

by John Anderson, columnist

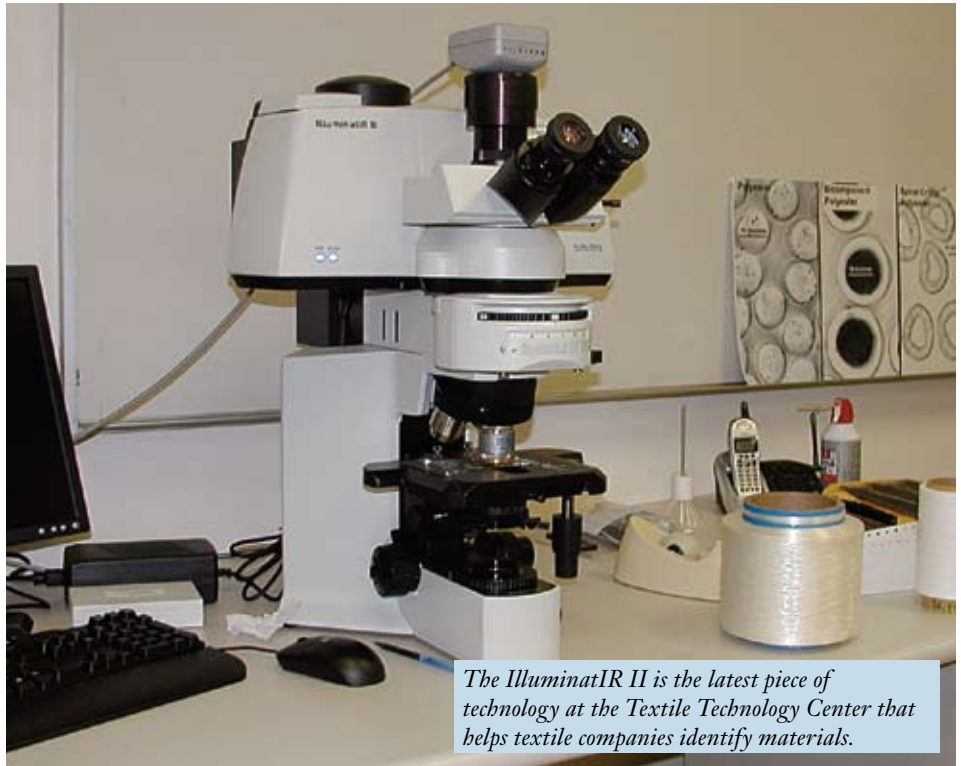
The Textile Technology Center at Gaston College East Campus has recently added a high-tech capability that will enable a whole new service area for the textile industry, as well as other industries and government agencies which will need rapid and reliable identification of materials.

The technology is provided by a device called the IlluminatIR II. Built by Smiths Detection Systems, the device combines a high resolution illuminated optical microscope with a diamond Internal Reflection Element (IRE) that transmits the infrared spectroscopic “molecular fingerprint” of an unknown to a very large database. According to Smith Detection, “Fourier-Transform Infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR) is a well-established and proven analytical technique for the identification of unknown chemicals. The method relies on the microscopic interaction of infrared light with chemical matter via a process of absorption and results in a pattern of bands called a spectrum. This spectrum is unique to the chemical and acts like a ‘molecular fingerprint’ in the same way a humans’ fingerprint is distinct.

FT-IR exploits the intrinsic properties of a chemical, in addition to being broadly-applicable. These features make FT-IR very amenable to spectral library-matching. With the help of an extensive database, the library-matching approach makes it possible to identify rapidly thousands of chemicals on the basis of their distinct ‘molecular fingerprint.’”

What this means to the layperson is that an unknown fabric, fiber or material can be brought to the Textile Technology Center in very short order, it can be examined under the microscope, touched by the stylus and identified. By applying certain standard microscopy techniques, materials that are coated, layered or mixed can be analyzed component by component.

For the Textile Technology Center’s primary clients, the answers to questions like, “What’s is that yarn made of? What is that dark fleck in my white fabric? or Why does this fabric have streaks?” can be answered in a matter of minutes instead



*The IlluminatIR II is the latest piece of technology at the Textile Technology Center that helps textile companies identify materials.*




John Anderson

of days. IR technology is also used widely in forensic and security work, and the center hopes to be of assistance to police departments, safety agencies and a host of other entities who need to identify unknown substances readily (What is that white powder?), for example.

This latest acquisition is one more example of the way that the Textile Technology Center is adapting technology to be of service to the major

employers in North Carolina and in the community at large.

For more information, contact John Anderson, Director of the Textile Technology Center, at [anderson.john@gaston.edu](mailto:anderson.john@gaston.edu) or at (704) 825-3737, ext. 254. 

## Textile Industry Going Green .....from page 7

to prominence. Conventional cotton farming is strenuous on the earth's air and water. It also impacts the health of people living close to the cotton fields.

But there has been a recent surge in the production of organic cotton, which has far less impact on the environment.

Composted manures and cover crops replace synthetic fertilizers; innovative weeding strategies are used instead of herbicides; beneficial insects and trap crops control insect pests; and alternatives to toxic defoliants prepare plants for harvest, according to sustainablecotton.org.

Since a technological advancement in the late 1990s, soybean fibers have started to find their way onto the market. Soybean fiber is smooth, soft and light with somewhat of a cashmere feel. It has the same moisture absorption as cotton, but it transmits moisture better.

The fiber also has a stronger tensile strength than wool.

Victor Innovatex produces Eco Intelligent® polyester, which it boasts as a synthetic fiber designed for sustainability from start to finish. ■

## The Caucuses Respond .....from page 11

defeat of a bill that would extend product liability from six to 12 years which would "encourage frivolous lawsuits."

Rep. Bill Faison, head of the Democratic caucus, invited Frye to speak and arranged for the Republican caucus, chaired by Rep. Jerry Dockerman, to participate. ■

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# A New Approach Yields Results

A new approach to the MAGIC show in February of 2007 got positive results for hosiery manufacturers and their suppliers, according to Dan St. Louis and Tony Whitener of the Hosiery Technology Center.

At the Hosiery Suppliers Luncheon April 24 at the Hosiery Technology Center in Hickory NC, St. Louis and Whitener said joining both apparel and hosiery manufacturers and suppliers paid real dividends.

St. Louis and Whitener said that at least six companies that had show space at MAGIC reported getting orders from the world's largest apparel show.

The 28-company You Wear US Well™ contingent at the show had two large booths – a 30x30 space for hosiery and apparel companies and a 40x20 area for fiber, fabric and yarn manufacturers – close to the front of the show and had significant crowds throughout the event.

St. Louis said the top question the You Wear US Well group wanted answers to was if the retail market was interested in American-made products.

In order to get the message out, the sponsors used an informative catalog and press kits for national and local media outlets. Additionally, a Web page was set up to provide information to anyone in the world.

Sponsors of the You Wear US Well display were the Hosiery Technology Center, the National Council for Textile Organizations, SEAMS (the National Association for the Sewn Products Industry), The Hosiery Association and the Textile Technology Center. Additionally, grant money from the U.S.



*At the Hosiery Suppliers Luncheon April 24 at the Hosiery Technology Center in Hickory NC, participants learned of the successes at February's MAGIC show in Las Vegas.*

Commerce Department was used for the show.

St. Louis and Whitener also encouraged companies to take part in two shows this summer in Europe.

St. Louis said the marketing for the shows will be expanded, and there is a strong chance of companies expanding their markets into Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

The first of these shows will be the ISPO show in Munich July 8, 9 and 10. The next opportunity will be the European Outdoor Trade Fair July 19-22 in Friedrichshafen, Germany. ■

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## HYOSUNG To Build A New Creora® Spandex Facility In Turkey To Get Closer To Its Western Customers

Hyosung, currently the second largest spandex producer in the world, will invest \$130 million in a new cost-competitive spandex facility in Turkey. This plant will manufacture 15,000 tons of spandex per year and is aiming to be operational by the end of 2007.

“We are investing in Turkey as part of Hyosung’s global growth strategy and to demonstrate our commitment to the textile industry. The new factory will be located in Cerkezkoy, near Istanbul, to ensure fast and reliable delivery locally as well as to African and European regional customers,” said Greg Vas Nunes, President of Europe and the Americas.

“We will be able to better meet the needs of customers for innovation and cost competitiveness with this state-of-the-art facility using our patented creora® technology. As Turkey, Israel, Jordan and Morocco are important sourcing areas for the U.S., with increasing demand for shorter lead times, we believe it is essential to install production closer to our customers to better service their needs,” says Vas Nunes.

Also, Hyosung will invest to further expand capacity in their Guangdong plant in Zhuhai, China. These investments, combined with the previous acquisition of Tongkook and

additional investment in Korea, will take Hyosung to a total capacity of 87,000 tons per year by 2008 and closer to its goal of becoming the spandex global leader.

For further information about creora® products please contact:

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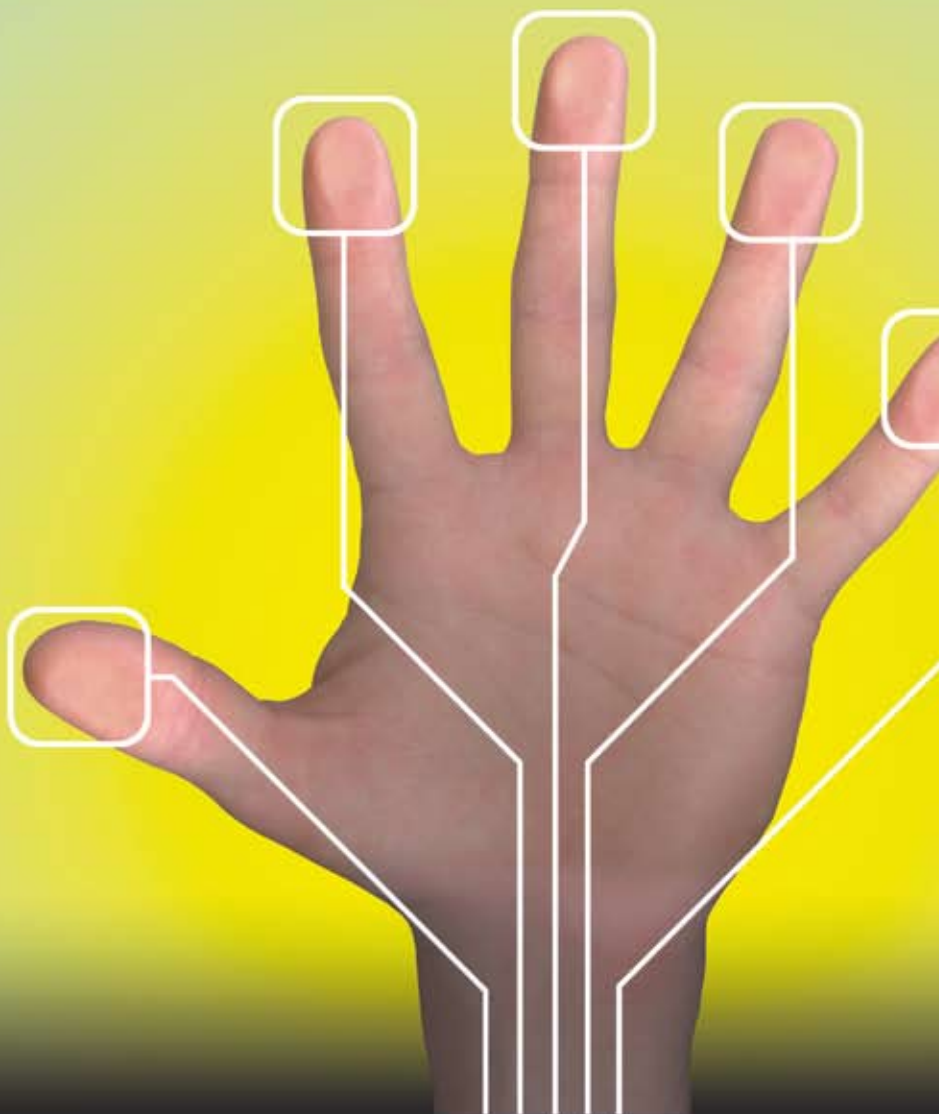
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Hyosung Corporation is one of Korea’s leading multinational conglomerates, with annual worldwide sales of more than \$5.5 billion. Hyosung maintains a global network of more than 36 subsidiaries and international branch offices around the globe. Hyosung operates in seven performance groups: Chemicals, Construction, Industrial Materials, Information & Communication, Power & Industrial Systems, Textiles and Trading. ■

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