

UNGRICHT

ROLLER + ENGRAVING TECHNOLOGY

are preparing for ITMA Asia + CITME 2010 with a real optimism, according to the UCMTF, which represents the French industry.

"We are now seeing warmer prospects," says UCMTF president Bruno Ameline. "The spare parts business is getting back to its usual level, which means the utilisation of existing production plants has improved. Orders for new machines are also picking up and many new projects are under discussion. I expect a robust rebound towards the end of 2010 and into 2011.

"In China, for example, the government has announced a series of measures, one of which involves doubling investment in rail networks. It will require millions of square metres of nonwoven geotextiles. During the crisis, our companies have continued to invest in research and development, in close relationship with clients, as well as on achieving energy savings with their technologies."

"China and other Asian manufacturers offer low cost machines, but specialised manufacturers take a tailor-made approach to address customer needs in depth," adds UCMTF secretary general Evelyne Cholet. "This is once again what our manufacturers will emphasise in Shanghai."

NSC options

NSC nonwoven will be among the leading French companies in Shanghai, as a supplier of turnkey nonwoven lines for spunlacing, needlepunching and thermobonding. These lines are equipped with a supervisory control assistance system which includes production recipes, maintenance and assistance to line management.

The NSC Asselin-Thibeau product range includes Axxess and Excelle cards, crosslappers, the IsoProdyn weight distribution regulator, drafters, needlelooms, winders and slitter-rewinders.

These options meet the need for lines adapted to local market size, cost reduction with faster production lines, lower average fabric weight, lower maintenance requirements and also customised products.

Also for the nonwoven market, Laroche will display its new Airfelt line, designed to produce insulation felts and including fibre opening and blending, web forming with a steam or thermobonding oven and cutting, slitting and packaging units.

Felts can be resin bonded or bonded with low melt fibres, semicured or fully cured, to meet all the needs of the automotive, appliance and furniture industries.

Cutting options

Flexible slitting, rewinding and spooling solutions for technical textiles and nonwovens are designed by Calemar, while continuous ultrasonic cutting and sealing is the area of expertise of Decoup+.

Calemar's range includes crush, shear and razor technologies, as well as sealing and cutting technologies.

Technical Textiles typically processed with the company's machines are filtration fabrics, conveyor belts, dipped fabrics, rubberised fabrics and automotive materials.

Originally focused on narrow web slitting, the company

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has also expanded its knowledge in spooling technology and has been present for more than ten years in the hygiene business, with high performance and very sensitive equipment designed to handle delicate material. Calemard also provides wide slitters for processing bulky and/or fragile large rolls. The development of new products has included higher capacity slitters and very specialised units for niche markets and the company supplies a lot of equipment to commission slitter companies for processing various nonwovens for roofing, filtration, flooring, automotive and medical applications.

Decoup+ supplies compact and easy to install devices for cutting on looms which produce stable and consistent

edges, while maintaining fabric properties and avoiding the drawbacks associated with hot cutting.

For the high quality needed for technical textiles, Decoup+ offers accurate devices to cut and/or seal edges on stenters and inspection machines. The company has also developed an ultrasonic forging solution to reinforce fabric edges and is a leader in the supply of splicing benches. Installed at the exit of nonwoven production lines, splicing benches are used to join two rolls together or to eliminate defects during control processes.

Control from the UK

The UK will also have a strong presence at ITMA ASIA + CITME

2010, with 18 companies exhibiting at the show under the umbrella of the British Textile Machinery Association (BTMA)

“The BTMA never misses a chance to promote the benefits of working with companies who are often the source of the quality standards everyone is chasing,” says director Alan Little. “Anyone who thinks that lower production costs in major textile centres are achieved by compromising on quality couldn’t be more wrong. Many of these manufacturers are almost fanatical about quality control and process improvement, because they know it will make or break their reputations internationally. These companies are ideal partners for the BTMA’s members with the right products and expertise, because that urgency to improve performance raises everyone’s game.”

Wide range

Among UK leaders in quality control technology is James H. Heal, which has a product range extending from simple devices such as hand-driven and motorised crockmeters to the most sophisticated computer-controlled units.

Among Heal’s most recent developments is the Apollo2 xenon arc light and weather fastness tester.

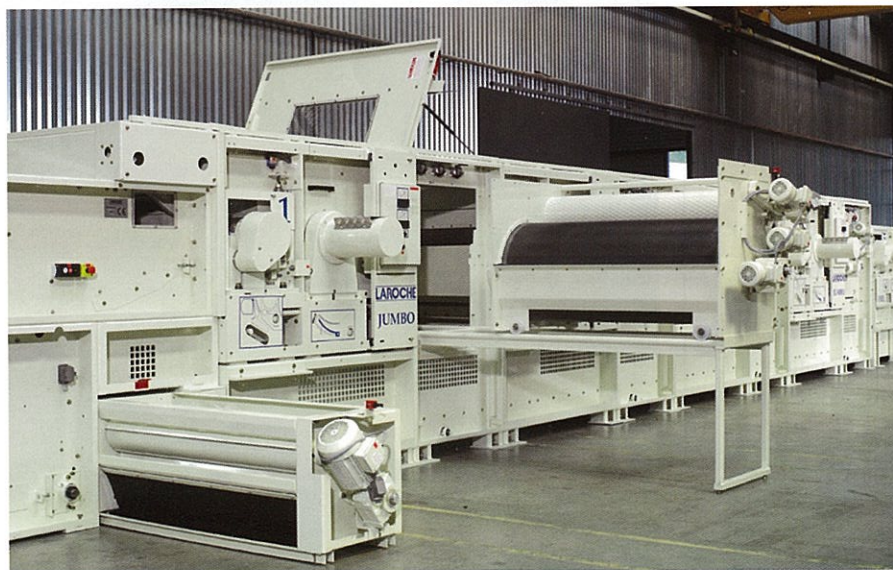
In colour fastness testing, the company points out, gauging a material’s reaction to light is probably one of the most important, but it is also one of the most difficult tests to get right. Most manufacturers wanting to run light fastness tests on their materials have to send everything out to specialist laboratories or invest in intricate instruments that are extremely difficult to operate accurately and maintain.

The Apollo2, however, not only simulates sunlight faithfully, it also replicates a wide range of temperatures and humidity levels in closely-controlled conditions, and its operation can be as simple or as complex as required.

Heal’s Elmatear 2, meanwhile, is a powerful and versatile digital tear tester for accurately testing textiles,



NSC turnkey nonwoven carding line.



The Jumbo tearing machine is among a wide range of specialised systems developed by Laroche of France.