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ITMA 2003 Mechanical Finishing

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ABSTRACT

Many general trends in the mechanical finishing area follow those in other areas of the textile world. Many of the companies are consolidating and combining representatives in the market place. Other trends include incremental improvements in machinery and monitoring techniques. There is a noted increase in the degree of technology used to monitor machines both visually and otherwise. The greatest emphasis in the mechanical finishing areas was obviously more efficient and higher quality means to alter the hand characteristic of fabrics. These techniques are seen as cost effective means to add value to a finished fabric and create distinction in finished products. Finally, many vendors highlighted changes and modifications to equipment designed to reduce costs. Energy savings, consumption data, and reducing required operator intervention were highlights in many vendors' presentations. Following are some specific vendor highlights to elaborate on theses trends. Other vendors may offer similar features. This is not intended to be exhaustive, but representative of general trends.

Keywords: Finish, singe, polish, shear, coat, emerize, suede, solvent scour, weft straightener, heat exchanger, nap, pile

General Trends in Mechanical Finishing

Many general trends in the mechanical finishing area follow those in other areas of the textile world. Many of the companies are consolidating and combining representatives in the market place. Examples of this include the alliance of Gematex and Vollenweider to form Xetma and the merger of Sistig, Menschner, Hemmer, and Kettling+Braun to form m-tec.

Other trends include incremental improvements in machinery and monitoring techniques. There is a noted increase in the degree of technology used to monitor machines both visually and otherwise. Several vendors are featuring integrated visual digital cameras in which other areas of processing can be monitored from the machine control panels such as monitoring the exit from the entry end and vice versa. This will allow operators at the entry to visually monitor activities at the exit and vice versa. This may potentially allow for a lower complement of operators to effectively run machines and thereby reduce operating costs.

The greatest emphasis in the mechanical finishing areas was obviously more efficient and higher quality means to alter the hand characteristic of fabrics. These techniques are seen as cost effective means to add value to a finished fabric and create distinction in finished products. These types of enhancements done later in processing than