

monforized <<

monforts · textile · magazine

2023



CONTEXT

THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY IS BECOMING MORE SUSTAINABLE

TECHNOLOGY

MONFORTS PRESENTS INNOVATIONS AT ITMA 2023

INSIGHT

UNITY IS STRENGTH



monforized 2023

Dear Readers,

The textile industry is under pressure. Exploding energy costs, rising inflation and the climate crisis require a rapid rethink and tangible action from all stakeholders. Sustainability is more than a marketing buzzword for our energy-intensive industry – it is an absolute necessity.

As a leading manufacturer of textile finishing machines, we have a responsibility. That is why along with our engineers and technologists, we have developed a series of measures to make our machines and finishing processes more efficient, environmentally compatible and sustainable. We will be revealing more about them on the following pages.

I am pleased to present the first issue of our new customer magazine monforized to you! You will see that Monforts is committed to the future. We cordially invite you to accompany us on this journey.

Yours sincerely



Gunnar Meyer

IMPRINT

PUBLISHER:

A. Monforts Textilmaschinen GmbH & Co. KG
Blumenberger Str. 143–145
41061 Mönchengladbach, Germany
www.monforts.de

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Nicole Croonenbroek
marketing@monforts.de

LAYOUT AND EXECUTION:

C&G: Strategische Kommunikation GmbH
www.wir-verstehen-technik.de





CONTENT

CONTEXT

- 04 The Textile Industry is Becoming More Sustainable

TECHNOLOGY

- 06 More Efficient, More Sustainable, Simpler

STORIES

- 10 State-of-the-art Technology for a Traditional Craft
- 12 Specialist in Special Assignments

BENEFIT

- 14 Extensive Tests in Realistic Conditions
- 16 Global Service Network for Production Reliability

INSIGHT

- 17 Unity is Strength

SHORTS

- 19 Company News

THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY IS BECOMING MORE SUSTAINABLE

These are challenging times for the textile industry. Firstly, the Corona pandemic led to a drop in demand and significant supply chain disruptions, followed by the Ukraine war, which has caused energy prices to explode and inflation to rise. And finally, the climate crisis is also having a massive impact on the industry, meaning that a new understanding of the environment and sustainability is emerging.

Sustainability means a new, more conscious use of resources and raw materials, not only in environmental but also in economic terms. It is therefore no surprise that this topic is a major focus for many exhibitors at this year's ITMA trade fair in Milan. Irrespective of whether it is a question of energy-saving measures or more environmentally compatible production.

A tradition of sustainability

As one of the leading manufacturers of machinery for the textile industry, A. Monforts Textilmaschinen GmbH & Co. KG has decades of expertise in optimising its rang-

es in terms of efficiency and economy. Numerous patents are testimony to the company's aspiration of continuously improving and enhancing all production processes and technical details. "As finishing is a particularly energy-intensive part of the textile production chain, this is exactly where palpable results can be achieved. At ITMA 2023, we are proud to be able to demonstrate how our customers can exploit considerable savings potential," says Managing Director Gunnar Meyer.

A wide range of energy-saving measures

This not only includes state-of-the-art machine chamber insulation, but also heat

"Even though we have already achieved a great deal, we are not resting on our laurels."

Gunnar Meyer,
Managing Director of A. Monforts Textilmaschinen GmbH & Co. KG



recovery systems. The Monforts Universal Energy Tower, for example, is a free-standing air/air heat exchanger that achieves energy savings of up to 25 per cent. Here, the dryer heat contained in the exhaust air is used with the aid of a heat exchanger to preheat up to 60 per cent of the fresh air required in the stenter. The ECO Booster heat recovery system with integrated automatic cleaning is directly integrated into the chamber design of the Montex stenter and enables energy savings of up to 35 per cent, depending on the application. One ECO Booster module is sufficient for ranges with up to eight chambers. Both the ECO Booster and the Energy Tower can be retrofitted to existing ranges, in order to make production more resource-efficient and economical, yet without having to invest into a new machine. The modular MonforClean heat recovery system as an air/air or air/water heat exchanger is integrated in a compact, space-saving way into the stenter chamber, and can be upgraded to include exhaust air purification using an electrostatic precipitator and a module for odour elimination using UV light. This is of particular interest to textile factories in the vicinity of residential areas.

However, expensive energy can also be saved through less extensive measures. For example, heat loss can be significantly reduced using the innovative and specifically adaptable BionicFin slot cover. Alternative and combined heating systems featuring burners and heat exchangers, such as gas-steam, gas-oil or electric-steam are also available for retrofitting. This offers textile manufacturers greater flexibility in their choice of energy source. The amount of water applied to the fabric web also has a major influence on energy inputs into any process. Therefore, it makes sense to consider a minimal application system like the EcoApplicator for a variety of finishing processes. Less water means less energy for drying, as well as a faster, more economical production process.

"Their durability gives our products a particular appeal," explains Jonas Beisel, Textile Technologist at Monforts. "To enable older ranges to benefit from these product innovations and save expensive energy, numerous retrofitting measures can also be actioned. This way, we can make existing ranges fit for the future and raise them to a new level."

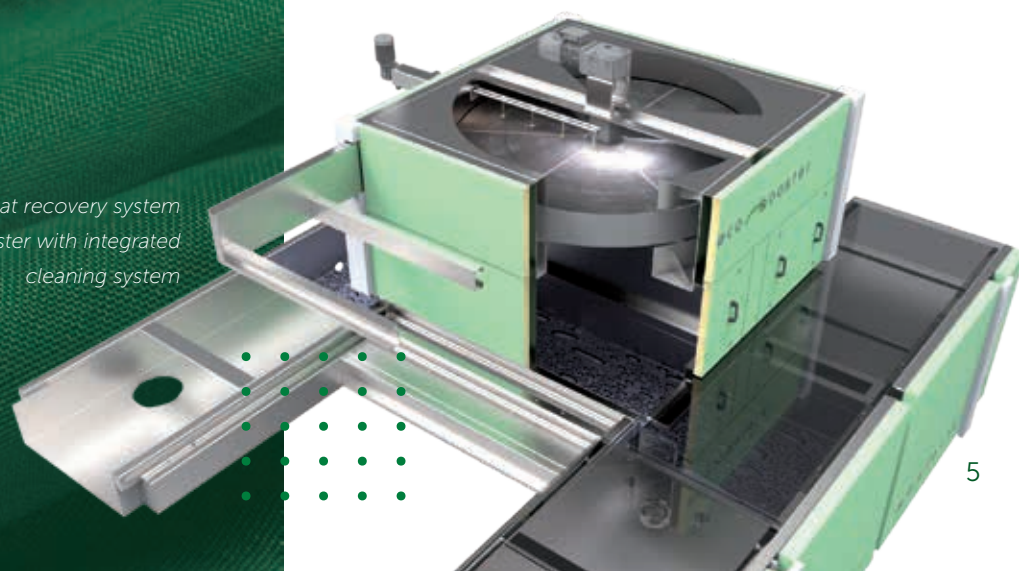
Reduction in the use of chemicals

The experts at Monforts have not only worked successfully on energy consumption, but also on the use of environmentally harmful chemicals. The Econrol® (Econrol® is a registered trademark of DyStar Colours Distribution GmbH, Germany) and Econrol® T-CA processes, already established worldwide, achieve excellent results in the continuous dyeing of cellulose fibres and cellulose-polyester blends. Significantly reduced process times are achieved here. Chemical use in particular is also reduced by up to 86 per cent, energy inputs by up to 49 per cent and water consumption by up to 63 per cent, compared to the pad-dry-thermosol-pad-steam process.

Into the future with hydrogen

"Even though we have already achieved a great deal, we are not resting on our laurels," says Gunnar Meyer. Instead, Monforts is always looking to the future in order to retain its innovation leadership. For example, the company is currently lead-managing a research project together with well-known research and industrial partners on the use of hydrogen in the textile industry. For this purpose, the partners are working together on a stenter dryer that reliably processes up to 100 per cent pure hydrogen. The heating capacity of an average stenter, which operates at 2 to 3 megawatts and requires an average heat quantity of 2,500 kilojoules per kilogramme of fabric, is therefore set to convert to a sustainable, green energy source soon. ■

Heat recovery system
ECO Booster with integrated
cleaning system



MORE EFFICIENT, MORE SUSTAINABLE, SIMPLER

Monforts showcases its latest product innovations
at ITMA 2023.



Sustainability is an important topic at ITMA 2023. On the one hand, it is about reducing CO₂ emissions to counteract climate change. On the other hand, the efficient use of raw materials and energy also has a financial impact. As an innovation leader, Monforts is continuously working on enhancing finishing processes, reducing resource consumption and making production even simpler, safer and more reliable. At this year's ITMA, the company will be showcasing multiple technical innovations that will make an important contribution to these endeavours – and save users a lot of money in the long term.

BionicFin slot cover

The stenter's inlet and outlet slots pose a dilemma. On the one hand, they must be as small as possible, so that only a small quantity of ambient air, which is cooler than process air, is drawn into the stenter. On the other hand, they must be sufficiently open to allow some variability, to ensure the fabric does not come into contact with them, even if it sags or is blown upwards, for example. BionicFin eliminates this dilemma, because it features an adjustable and variable slot cover that can be specifically adapted to relevant material behaviour and width requirements. Monforts' engineers have copied the solution to this dilemma from the animal kingdom. "For the BionicFin, we made use of the fish fin effect, in which the tail fin bends against the direction of pressure when lateral pressure is applied. This makes it easy to adapt the aperture slots to the respective material parameters and therefore achieve the smallest possible size," is how Frank Breuer, Technical Project Manager at Monforts, explains the principle behind how it works. "The background is that this allows heat recovery to be used more efficiently, as more recovered warm air can be fed in." BionicFin can be individually adjusted at the top and bottom, enabling a parallel, concave or convex slot setting, depending on the material to be processed. The innovative slot cover is suitable for temperatures up to 250 degrees and can also be retrofitted to existing ranges.



The adjustable and variable slot cover BionicFin

VarioMatex flexible padder

Another contribution to energy saving is the latest Monforts innovation, the VarioMatex padder – it ensures optimum treatment of different types of material. This is because the mechanical process of removing water from the fabric within the padder by squeezing is significantly more energy-efficient, cost-effective and faster than thermal drying by evaporation. It is therefore important to leave only the minimum amount of moisture required in the fabric before the drying process. However, natural and synthetic fabrics require different shore hardnesses for optimum dehydration. Users that frequently produce different textiles and switch between different materials will benefit from the innovative VarioMatex padder. Instead of one, it offers two differently adjustable squeeze joints and operators can switch quickly and easily from one to the other – depending on the material to be processed.

The principle is ingenious yet simple: the VarioMatex consists of three rollers. In the middle there is a uniform pressure roller. Rollers with different Shore hardnesses, the nip of which to the middle roller can be flexibly adjusted, feature at the top and bottom. The fabric spreaders are pneumatically/force-adjustable, meaning either woven or knitted fabric can be processed on both roller nips. »



VarioMatex allows an easy switch between different materials.



This means that even when switching between natural and synthetic fabric, optimum dehydration can always be achieved by simply diverting the fabric to the other roller nip. And this is achieved without time-consuming manual roller and pressure changes. "The VarioMatex pays for itself very quickly in times of high energy prices, especially for users who frequently process different materials. They also benefit from additional flexibility and time savings," explains Monforts Textile Technologist Jonas Beisel.

T-max grease-free stenter chain

The new T-max grease-free product solves another frequently occurring problem in the finishing process. Previously, stenter chains have had to be regularly lubricated with greases. But the greases "melt", especially at high temperatures, and there is a risk of contamination of the fabric webs on the one hand and of the machine itself on the other. The engineers at Monforts have therefore developed a grease-free, horizontally guided stenter chain that is also suitable for high-temperature applications up to 320 °C. The T-max grease-free is designed for machine speeds of up to 100 m/min and transverse stresses of up to 2500 N/m and does not require any additional lubrication. This



*Protects textiles against
grease contamination:
T-max grease-free*

guarantees the user protection against grease contamination and offers them other advantages.

They not only save money on expensive greases, but also time, as regular lubrication intervals are no longer necessary. The T-max grease-free has been proven in numerous tests and will be showcased to the general public for the first time at ITMA 2023.

Continuous dyeing of yarns: Thermex CYD

Monforts has transferred its substantial expertise in resource-conserving textile dyeing using Thermex Hotflue to a new application: continuous yarn dyeing (CYD). Here, the established Econtrol® process (Econtrol® is a registered trademark of DyStar Colours Distribution GmbH, Germany) can be used for yarn dyeing and offers the user a wide range of benefits compared to conventional production processes. Resource usage is significantly reduced, as are process times. Therefore, the user saves chemicals, water and energy. This makes production not only much more sustainable, but also noticeably more cost-effective. "Compared to conventional dyeing ranges, which are often over 100 metres long, the Thermex CYD is also significantly shorter. This not only means a smaller machine footprint, but also significantly more flexibility in the production of shorter yardages," says Hans Wroblowski, who oversaw CYD development. This is a key benefit, especially for users in the denim-producing industry.

Removable manual control for the Montex®Coat coating unit

Another innovation focuses on user-friendliness and ease of operation. It is very important to be able to see immediately what impact changes to setting parameters have, especially when configuring or adjusting a coating machine like the Montex®Coat. Until now, the operator always had to switch back and forth between the main control panel and the machine to check changes to settings. This is remedied by the cable-connected hand control unit, which can be detached from the main control. "The electronic jogwheel enables all important functions to be configured and adjusted on the satellite control unit, while the machine operator stands right next to the coating machine and can immediately assess the

“In times of high energy prices, the VarioMatex will be especially beneficial to users who frequently process different materials.”

Jonas Beisel,
Textile Technologist at Monforts

changes and their effects. This not only makes their work easier, but also saves time during set-up and therefore speeds up production processes,” is how Frank Breuer explains this product innovation.

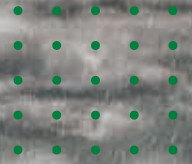
Automatic side limiters on the Montex®Coat

The next innovation from Monforts also helps make the machinery operator's work easier: automatic, power-operated control of the side limiters on the coating machine. Sensors continuously detect where the selvages of the fabrics to be coated are.

If the position of these fabric selvages changes, the side limiters are automatically adjusted and repositioned using a power-operated drive, meaning that the paste or foam coating always remains perfectly in place on the fabric. Compared to conventional manual adjustment of side limiters, which requires constant control of the process by the operator, sensor-controlled adjustment makes production a great deal easier. Both the side limiters and the removable manual control unit are available for the Montex®Coat coating unit. ■

The new Thermex CYD for continuous yarn dyeing





STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY FOR A TRADITIONAL CRAFT

Halley Stevensons, the Scottish company specialising in weatherproof textiles made from wax-coated cotton, has commissioned a new Montex® Coat coating line at its plant and benefits now include even higher quality, accelerated production and lower energy consumption.

Halley Stevensons, founded in 1864, has special expertise and many years of experience in the production of waxed cotton for weatherproof fabrics. The company produces textiles in custom colours and finishes and even supplies in very small quantities. Its global customers include premium brands such as Belstaff, Barbour, Filson and J. Crew.

A fabric with a history

As early as the 15th century, Scottish seafarers used treated cotton to make their sails waterproof. Various methods of treating cotton fabrics were developed over time to improve weatherproofing, with the combination of densely woven cotton and a paraffin-waxed coating being the most successful. Halley Stevensons has created and continually enhanced numerous versions of this waxed cotton over the last 150 years. The company consistently focuses on sustainability and using natural materials. While conventional waxes are petroleum- or paraffin-based, Halley Stevensons has switched to using an industrial waste product to create fabrics that will last a lifetime. The company is also increasingly developing purely plant-based materials.

New coating line

The new two-metre-wide line comes from Monforts' Montex manufacturing facility in Austria and consists of a Montex®Coat coating system with doctor blade for paste and foam coating and a Montex 8500 six-chamber stenter. "We are always looking to enhance existing products in terms of colour, feel and performance, as well as inventing new solutions," says Managing Director James Campbell. "Our substantial product understanding, coupled with Monforts' vast technical expertise, enables us to take research and development to a whole new level. This includes pigment dyeing, direct coating as well as surface applications."

Innovations pay dividends

Alexander Fitz, Monforts Textile Technology Engineer, who planned and installed the line together with Campbell, explains. "In recent years, numerous improvements have been incorporated into Montex®Coat, resulting in higher coating accuracy and therefore better quality. In addition, Monforts is the only manufacturer to offer fully integrated coating equipment that is perfectly tailored to stenter drying technology." Further benefits are provided by the fully integrated PLC control system featuring precise process control functions, which gives engineers peace of mind. The touchscreen interface is easy to use and the dashboard and slider function allows the user to switch from one screen view to another at any time to check different processing parameters. Energy consumption of each batch can also be recorded and analysed to generate continuous improvements.

Major efficiency increase

Compared to the last stenter purchased, the performance improvements delivered by the new Montex system have had a significant impact at Halley Stevensons. "In

particular, the technology has improved noticeably in terms of burners and air extraction, resulting in significant energy savings during production. The machine also achieves around two to three times higher operating speeds, which increases potential production volumes." Campbell is delighted: "We were really pleasantly surprised at how quickly we can switch from a 100 gsm to a 600 gsm fabric, without having to make complex tension adjustments."

Consistent enhancement and innovation

"Research and development are in our DNA," the Managing Director of Halley Stevensons explains. For one thing, the finishing experts are always developing new techniques and materials, such as Hybrid/Aero. This is an emulsified blend of waxes that makes the fabric water-repellent, but feels much drier to the touch than conventional wet waxes. Another field of research is "natural materials". For example, the company recently brought a purely plant-based wax to market. Ever Wax Olive consists of a mixture of olive, rapeseed and castor oil. It has an appealing water-repellent effect – comparable to petroleum – but performs much better in ecological terms than other familiar natural waxes. "Progress and innovations are always based on good old honest craftsmanship," is how Campbell sums up this successful combination of tradition and modernity. ■



Managing Director James Campbell with the Qualitex 800 PLC at the coating stenter.

SPECIALIST IN SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

No two machines that Monforts delivers are alike. Each one is custom-planned and manufactured in accordance with the customer's requirements and specifications – so they are always special-purpose machines, sometimes even highly complex special orders. Frank Breuer is technical project manager at Monforts and explains what is important when providing custom solutions.

The project department acts as an interface between the customer with their specific requirements and the individual specialist departments and experts in the company. This is because the process of selling machines has changed fundamentally. Coating machines for technical textiles, in particular, are subject to very specific requirements.

Integrated view of the range

"It is important to take an integrated view of the range," Breuer explains. "The periphery must also be factored in to enable the new range to dovetail with the existing setting." Among other things, this means integration into the existing energy concept, consideration of various emissions and, of course, compliance with the relevant legal requirements.

There are no standard solutions; instead, the customer has a product idea and presents it to Monforts. The necessary process steps or mechanical engineering actions are then developed jointly to make the idea a reality. If individual steps cannot be tackled internally, Monforts can fall back on a proven network of external specialists. And given that new textiles are becoming increasingly high-quality and specialised, demands on production facilities are also increasing. New, proprietary technologies often have to

be developed or individual work steps tested and verified in the laboratory. "It is very helpful that we have the ATC (Advanced Technology Center), a very well-equipped in-house technical centre, where we can also conduct feasibility studies and trials together with the customer," Breuer adds. "This way, the project can mature step by step from idea to finished plant."

Well-thought-out solutions

Specifically, the expert reports on a project for a French customer. Here, the specifications were particularly demanding, because the customer wanted to process a very sensitive material; the fabric flow therefore had to be extremely precise prior to heat setting.

The team of experts at Monforts developed a special technology for this, in order to minimise distortion of the highly sensitive material during conveyance as much as possible. The fabric web compensator was adapted to the special requirements of the material and is very gentle on the fabric. Another challenge with this order was integration into the existing production environment. However, the effort was worth it, the equipment has been in operation since 2022 and the customer is very satisfied.



Montex stenter with MonforClean heat recovery and exhaust air cleaning module – space saving one above the other.

Example for
ex-proof execution



Tailor-made integration

Monforts is not only distinguished by the particular applications of its equipment, but also by customised machine layouts that fit perfectly into existing production facilities. "We call this the shoehorn method, when the equipment has to be integrated in a very confined space – it's almost like playing Tetris," says Frank Breuer, describing the conceptual design of a plant in eastern Germany, where various elements such as the exhaust air purification system were adapted to fit the production facility hall inch-perfectly with the aid of high scaffolding and multiple levels.

The energy concept on site must also be taken into account in its entirety, in order to integrate the plant perfectly. For example, energy is fed back into the process through heat recovery on the one hand, but can also be used to heat the air in the building. In the current project, the customer needs a lot of hot water for other processes, which can now be preheated in a tank with the waste heat from the Monforts system.



"Decades of competence in the areas of process comprehension, product knowledge and mechanical engineering enable us to realise even the most complex customer requirements."

Frank Breuer,
Technical project manager at Monforts

Customer satisfaction as the primary objective

Other special customer requirements, such as explosion prevention, are taken into account during the plant planning process. For example, if chemicals containing solvents are used, the entire plant can be designed and built in accordance with ATEX guidelines. "This expertise is not very common in the textile industry, but we have the relevant experience," says Frank Breuer.

"Only this expertise in understanding processes, product knowledge and mechanical engineering that has been acquired over the course of decades, as well as taking an integrated view of a plant in its periphery enable us to meet even the most complex customer requirements," says the Project Manager. After all, the ultimate objective is gaining the customer's trust and satisfaction. Therefore, he also assures that secrecy and project protection are of course top priority for all innovations undertaken on behalf of the customer. ■

EXTENSIVE TESTS IN REALISTIC CONDITIONS

Featuring an extensive range of machines, a fully equipped laboratory and staffed by skilled experts, the Monforts Advanced Technology Center (ATC) in Moenchengladbach offers its existing and potential customers the opportunity to test and find out more about textile finishing and textile mechanical engineering innovations in realistic conditions.



ATC – two Monforts stenters in different executions



Our technologists



Hotflue Thermex for continuous dyeing

The textile industry is constantly on the move. New materials and finishing processes are being developed and enabling previously undreamed-of applications. This also opens the doors to new markets. The ATC, with its extensive equipment pool in a space of 1200 square metres, offers a wide range of opportunities to test and enhance new procedures and production processes.

Major benefit for customers

On the one hand, Monforts' own engineers take the opportunity to try out their new products in the ATC and

to continuously improve existing technologies. However, existing and potential customers in particular benefit from the wide range of options offered by the ATC for obtaining comprehensive information on whether desired results can be achieved before making a purchase decision. "We offer the entire spectrum from presentation of our machines and ranges to training courses for operators and service personnel to extensive series of tests together with or on behalf of customers," says Jonas Beisel, Textile Technology Engineer at Monforts. "This allows us to demonstrate vividly what our machines or even individual units can do."

Equipment to meet any requirement

The ATC is technically well equipped for this task. In addition to a laboratory and a Thermex hotflue for continuous dyeing using the Econtrol® process, it also has two stenters. "These fully equipped machines enable almost all finishing processes to be carried out in realistic production conditions," Beisel explains. One is a Montex stenter with state-of-the-art features. It is suitable for technical textiles, special applications and high-temperature applications up to 320 °C. Equipped with the TwinAir system, upper and lower air at different temperatures and with different nozzle pressures, this Montex offers everything that can be expected from a state-of-the-art stenter. Given that it is fully explosion-protected, tests involving chemicals containing solvents can also be carried out safely here. The second Montex stenter meets all the requirements for the traditional finishing of knitted fabrics and conventional textiles, and features an entire range of the latest components and assemblies.

Machinery and materials expertise

However, existing and potential customers benefit not only from the technical equipment, but above all from the sound specialist knowledge of the Monforts experts on site. Given their many years of experience, they can often tell when they receive an enquiry at the ATC, if a series of tests are likely to be successful – a great advantage that prevents time-consuming failures. The test day procedure at the ATC is very convenient for the potential customer. Once they have defined their requirements, all technical parameters and possibly the chemicals to be used are discussed. They then send the material in advance to the ATC in Moenchengladbach, together with the chemicals' safety data sheets. Even before the test date, the Monforts technologists are in close contact with the client to prepare both the machines and the chemicals. This way,

they ensure that the requested tests can be carried out and that there are no delays on the agreed date. Careful pre-planning is helpful to enable multiple test runs, especially in the case of test series in which several parameters for an enhanced process are to be tested. The technologists' high level of expertise is also a valuable aid in the event of ad hoc adjustments to the conduct of tests.

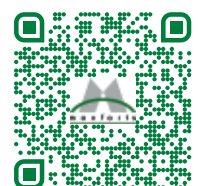
Optimum preparation in the laboratory

The laboratory is fully equipped with a dye kitchen and laboratory equipment such as an Eco Applicator, padder, coating machine and dryer. The formulations are prepared and mixed here. If required, the formulations or special properties can be tested in advance for various characteristics. "For example, if a continuous film on a roller is needed for a kiss-roll test. Coatings can also be tested in the laboratory dryer before going onto the big machine," says Jonas Beisel. This way, the actual production trial can be prepared to the optimum and the time used as effectively as possible. ■

AT A GLANCE

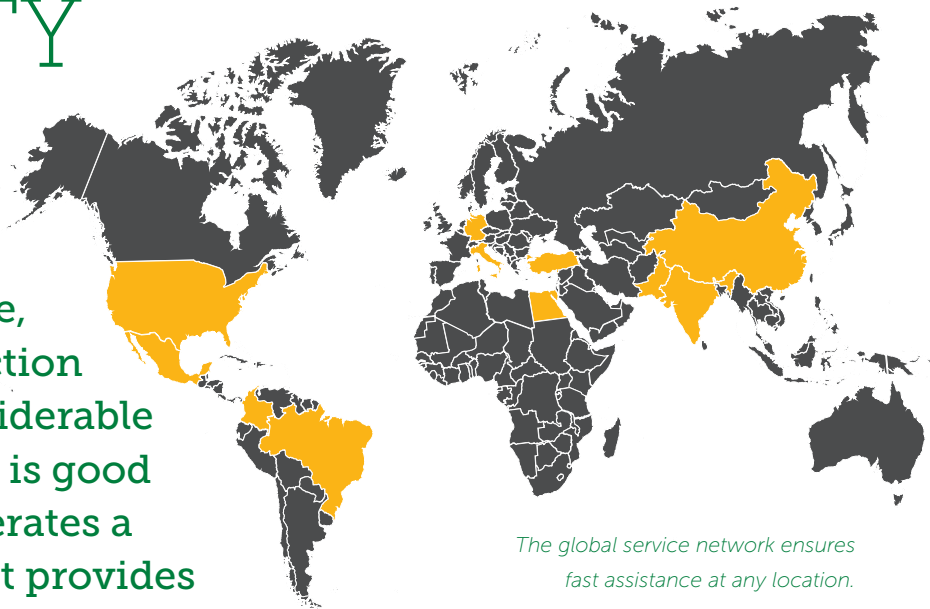
Covering 1200 sqm, the ATC offers:

- » Montex stenter for technical textiles incl. full explosion protection
- » Montex stenter for finishing knitwear
- » Thermex Hotflue for continuous dyeing
- » Extensive laboratory for preparation and smaller experiments
- » Training and meeting areas
- » QR code to access the ATC's detailed brochure:



GLOBAL SERVICE NETWORK FOR PRODUCTION RELIABILITY

Final finishing of textiles is often the bottleneck in the production process. If there is a malfunction here, it affects the entire production facility and can have considerable financial consequences. It is good to know that Monforts operates a global service network that provides rapid assistance.



The global service network ensures fast assistance at any location.

The failure of a stenter, for example, can quickly result in a six-figure loss, especially where premium-quality textiles are involved. Fast reaction times are required here. Monforts has continued to expand its global service network over the past few decades to offer its customers maximum possible production reliability. In addition to multiple agencies in Asia or even in Turkey and Mexico, further locations have been added in recent years – including ones operated by former Monforts technicians from Germany or Austria, who are now putting their know-how to use as experienced service providers abroad.

Comprehensive support

However, the service offering is not only about trouble-shooting. Monforts opts instead to provide a proactive after-sales service and its customers with permanent customer support and care. Service technicians assist machine operators by providing valuable advice, for example, when wear parts need to be replaced or recommending upgrade packages to keep the machines in optimum condition and prevent future malfunctions. "Our technicians, who are represented worldwide, not only ensure quick solutions, but also cost effective ones, as there is usually no need for a specialist to travel from

Germany or Austria," Volker Gingter, Head of the Monforts Service Team, explains.

Virtual on-site service

Monforts has also been a pioneer in the remote-service sector for more than 20 years. Its hotline can be reached 12 hours a day on weekdays. Service experts can access machines at any location online from Moenchengladbach, view all programmes and screens, as well as diagnose and analyse errors. Almost all causes and suitable solutions can usually be found together with the local machine supervisor. Remote service is included in the warranty period, following which, time allocations can be booked and billed by the minute. Maintenance contracts can also be arranged to ensure continuous production.

Volker Gingter particularly emphasises what was achieved with the help of the global team during the Corona crisis. "Our skilled technicians, extensive photo documentation and detailed instructions, as well as our remote service enabled us to install and commission all machines at customers' premises within contractually agreed time-frames, despite the travel restrictions." ■

UNITY IS STRENGTH

Gunnar Meyer has been the new Managing Director of A. Monforts Textilmaschinen GmbH & Co. KG since 1 January 2023. In this interview with monforized, he introduces himself and explains where he sees the challenges and opportunities for the industry and his company in the future.



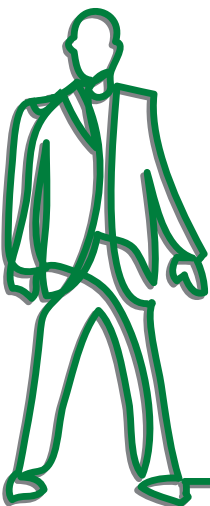
*Gunnar Meyer, Managing Director of
A. Monforts Textilmaschinen GmbH & Co. KG*

monforized: Mr. Meyer, you have been the new Managing Director at Monforts since the start of the year, but you have known the company for much longer. How has your career progressed to date?

Gunnar Meyer: I started working for the company in 1985. First, I worked in internal sales for two years, then I spent 22 years in external sales as a regional sales manager for almost all Asian countries. From 2009 onwards, I was global sales manager for 2 years. After that, I moved to two other mechanical engineering companies specialising in nonwoven products and textiles for a total of 8 years. In autumn 2019, I returned to Monforts and managed the internal sales department and liaised with our sister company Monforts Fong's in China, until I took over as Managing Director at the beginning of this year.

monforized: Where do you see the current challenges and opportunities in the industry?

Gunnar Meyer: First and foremost, there are exploding energy costs, not least due to the Ukraine conflict. However, I assume that prices will return to somewhere near normal after the conflict ends, which will lead to an investment surge. High inflation is also burdening the entire industry. Some of the countries where a lot of textiles are produced, such as Pakistan and Bangladesh, also have financing problems. Here, we are unable to get the payments that our customers want to make backed up via letters of credit. This puts an additional pressure on the whole industry. But I also see the energy price crisis as an opportunity, because it is leading to an energy consumption rethink in the textile industry. For our customers, energy costs can account for up to 70 per cent of production costs, so there is great demand for ways of saving money. This also helps us in terms of global warming and reducing the carbon footprint. »



monforized: What does that actually mean for your business?

Gunnar Meyer: We are constantly enhancing our machinery portfolio anyway and our many years of experience give us an edge. We will continue to work hard on the energy efficiency of our heating systems and develop new processes. Among other things, we are currently investigating the possibility of heating stenters partially or completely with hydrogen, in order to move away from traditional energy sources. But there is also savings potential in range electronics, such as motors. Added to that, there are new technologies that reduce production steps and therefore energy consumption. For example, we are currently developing new systems for applying chemicals, which significantly reduce subsequent drying requirements, and therefore energy inputs. These combined measures make our ranges very attractive for the customer, who has to bear not only acquisition costs but also long-term production costs in mind.

monforized: In which segments do you see opportunities for growth?

Gunnar Meyer: Technical textiles have been a growth market for years. But the denim and outerwear segments, which require special coatings, are also currently expanding. The nonwoven segment is also of major interest to us and there are good opportunities to gain a foothold here. One topic of the future will certainly be the recycling of fibres. There are many ways of becoming proactive in this field, and it is very important in terms of sustainability.

monforized: How important do you regard diversification as being?

Gunnar Meyer: Diversification is very important for us, as specific industry segments evolve very differently. We must remain innovative in order to be able to expand our portfolio continuously. Our involvement in the nonwovens segment is a good example of this, to enable us to broaden our positioning and hedge against crises.

monforized: What are your objectives? What would you like to achieve in and for the company in the next few years?

Gunnar Meyer: In addition to further diversification, one focus is on the development of new, innovative technologies for textile finishing, in order to consolidate our unique selling proposition here. Furthermore, my greatest wish is to incorporate our employees' innovation and

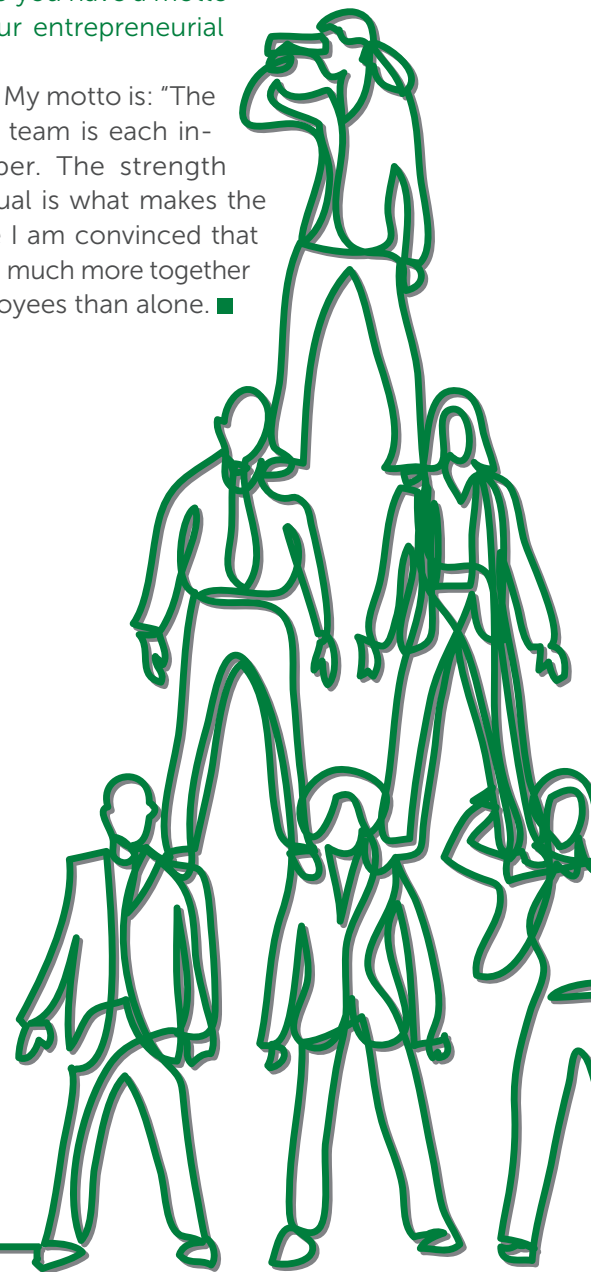
optimisation ideas to an even greater extent. The substantial expertise that our team offers is our greatest asset.

monforized: What are you expecting or hoping for from ITMA 2023?

Gunnar Meyer: In addition to showcasing our innovations and concluding new contracts, communicating with our customers is very important to us. We get vital inspiration from them about where they are headed and which requirements and technologies will be important in the future. This way, we learn very quickly where we need to become active. Maintaining contacts and net-working are also very important, but unfortunately often get far too little attention.

monforized: Do you have a motto that guides your entrepreneurial actions?

Gunnar Meyer: My motto is: "The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each individual is what makes the team." Because I am convinced that you can achieve much more together with your employees than alone. ■





ANNIVERSARY

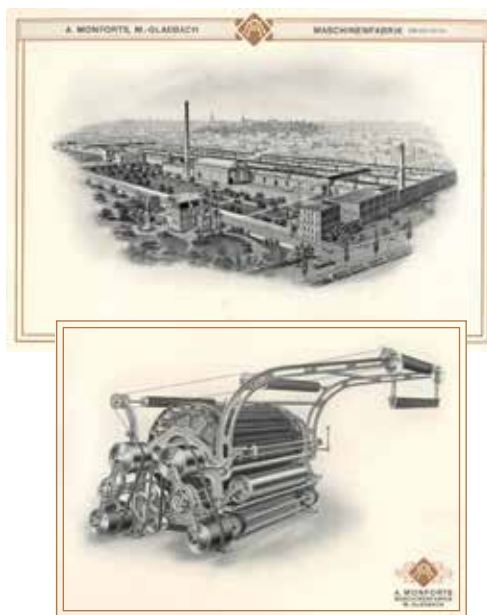
Montex reaches 40

The Montex machine plant in Austria recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. At the Monforts finishing equipment production site, they work closely with the Monforts research and development team in Moenchengladbach to prime and test the latest ideas for future innovations. In St. Stefan, in the heart of the Lavant Valley in Carinthia, they have specialised in all aspects of machine production from the very beginning, including high-precision sheet metal working, laser cutting and welding, as well as quality management and spare parts service. The entire core portfolio, including the latest-generation Montex stenters, relaxation dryers, Thermex dyeing systems, Montex®Coat coating systems as well as special-purpose machines, are manufactured to customer specifications.

PREVIEW

140th anniversary of the company's foundation

In 1884, August Monforts founded the company in Moenchengladbach's Kronprinzenstrasse with 52 employees. Today, the company is regarded as a leading manufacturer of textile finishing machinery. "140 years are a good reason to celebrate this success story next year. Customers, partners and employees have something to look forward to," says Nicole Croonenbroek, Marketing Manager at Monforts.



Historic pictures from company site and machine

YOUNG TALENT

Theory meets practice

The dual training system, which combines theoretical instruction with practical experience in the company, is a great asset for Germany as a business location. Monforts goes one step further with its dual study programme in cooperation with Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences, the Cooperative Engineering Education Programme (KIA), where students combine an apprenticeship as a technical product designer with a mechanical engineering degree course to obtain a "Bachelor of Engineering" qualification.

At the same time, Monforts has been supporting the university's Deutschlandstipendium (Germany Scholarship) programme since 2010 and is currently funding scholarships for three students. Our commitment to talented young people is of great importance to Monforts. "One of our top priorities is to find well-trained and committed employees. That is why we have supported the university's scholarship programme from the very beginning," explains Wilm Scharlemann, Human Resources Manager at Monforts. This way, the company offers young students, who are studying for a Bachelor's or Master's degree, a great opportunity to become part of the Monforts team in the future.



Recent students supported with the scholarship at HS Niederrhein



FOR A SAFE FUTURE!

A. Monforts Textilmaschinen GmbH & Co. KG
Blumenberger Str. 143–145
41061 Mönchengladbach

www.monforts.de
+49 (0) 2161 401-0
marketing@monforts.de

