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Dear reader,

Today you receive the first issue of the new FLOCK-News. This newsletter has been especially conceived for the flock industry and shall supply the trade with actual news, information and reports. The executive council of the Association of the Flock Industry Europe (reg.) has decided to offer parts of the internal association's news to all interested parties world wide, in order to supply a new information platform for this industry. The FLOCK News will be published at the end of each month in the German and English language. You can help to prepare an informative newsletter by

adding the association of the flock industry Europe (reg.) to the distribution list of your press releases (info@flock.de) or by sending information from your company in German and in English directly to the association's office.

You may also use this medium for your promotional activities and therewith reach an attractive target group within the flock industry. For this, we offer max. two advertisement spaces with ¼ page each. Please contact the association's offices if you are interested.

And now we hope you enjoy reading the first issue of FLOCK News. (Edit.)

Members' Assembly 2006

The Association of the Flock Industry Europe (reg.) invites its members to this year's members' assembly **on the 11th of May, 2006**, held at the Mercure Hotel Frankfurt Airport at Kelsterbach, Germany. *Please reserve the day for this important date already today!*

Members' assembly starts at 11,30h a.m. with a lunch togeth-

er. More information will be sent to the members well in time by separate mail. For participants arriving at the hotel already on the 10th of May, 2006, the association has reserved a number of rooms (deadline for reservations: 25th of April, 2006).

Please make your reservation with **Mrs. Judith Schutzbach, Phone: +49 (0) 6107 768 160,**

email: H0719-SB@accor.com. When making your reservation please refer to the Association of the flock Industry Europe (reg.).

The hotel is in immediate vicinity of the Frankfurt airport, and a shuttle service will be running, free-of-charge. Members travelling by plane are requested to give the hotel their arriving time in advance. (Edit.)

The successful story of flocking continues

The members of the Association of the Flock Industry Europe (reg.), already in the last FLOCK-News, have been informed about the increasing interest on flocked surfaces, especially throughout the European area. Starting from an initiative of the association which was directed at designers, many a success could be achieved. Thus, the team of speziell produktgestaltung already received several internationally acknowledged awards for these flocked sketches.

And now another one has been added: At this year's International Furniture Exhibition at Cologne, Germany, the furniture system TEO with flocked functional elements won the interior innovation award in the category "Best Detail". This furniture system is produced by Messrs. Schmalenbach design GmbH, and can be traced back to a prototype created within the framework of a project initiated by the association. The flocking of profiles was carried out by our member company FLOCK-TEC Technische Beflockung GmbH, Gomaringen, Germany.

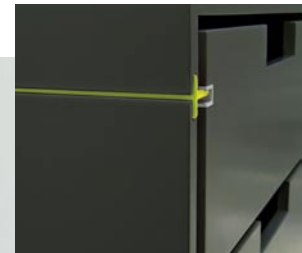
The innovative speciality are soft flocked T-profiles, which in one way serve as sturdy connection elements for the furniture and on the other hand make the

drawers glide softly on these guiding rails (see illustrations). The modular building construction allows for different configurations (side boards and shelves) in future also horizontally enlargeable.



With this furniture system after the table ware "touch!" designed for Messrs. Kahla/Thüringen, Germany, speziell produktgestaltung presents the second design with flocking which comes in connection with the successful project (published among others in the magazine FORM 203, July / August 2005, the presentation of the prototypes with Stylepark in Residence 2005 and at the Interior Lifestyle Tokyo, Japan, 2005). Especially enjoyable is the fact that apart from the known haptic, the technical functions of a flocked surface as well were made known to the public at large.

To this also adds a report in the newest issue of the International Living Magazines DECO Home to which one of our member companies drew our attention.



The magazine runs a whole page under the heading "Doing it the soft way" on flock technology. This report describes not only the characteristics of flocking but also presents those product designs create in co-operation with the association.

With so much publicity one doesn't wonder that already since the beginning of this year, again about 50 inquiries from parties interested in the flock technology reached the office. And a lot of them informed themselves priority about the technology at our home page (www.flock.de) (CL)

The first ESCH Flocking machine has been delivered and installed

Zimmer Machinery Corporation, USA, a leading manufacturer of printing, dyeing and finishing machines, announces that it has delivered and installed the first ESCH Flocking machine build in the Spartanburg facility after acquiring the ESCH company of Stolberg, Germany earlier this year. Zimmer has bought the complete Know-How and all technical assets to build the superior line of DC Electrostatic Flocking Machines for roll-to-roll textile and other substrates. The ESCH Company had about 30 years of experience in the engineering of DC Flocking machines and has machines installed all over the world, many

of them in USA. Europe, Asia, Australia and South America.

Zimmer will continue to offer the complete line worldwide and will support all existing installations with spare parts and technical service as ESCH Textile Flocking Systems, a wholly owned subsidiary of Zimmer Machinery Corporation, USA. With the favourable US\$ exchange rate and a an efficient manufacturing site in Spartanburg USA, the ESCH Flocking machine program should continue to be the world leader for DC and AC Flocking technology.

The System is one of two systems ordered after the acquisition of the ESCH company, and was installed at the Mount Hope plant of Hanes Finishing Company of North Carolina The total system comprises of a pre-dos-

ing system and double dosing head with 2 brushes and a complete A/C room for the HF (high frequency) flocking of Rayon fibres. The A/C room is build on a mezzanine and around the flocking system to keep a perfect climate for perfect flocking conditions The machine was delivered on October 1st and installed in one week to run production. With the acquisition of ESCH Flocking Technology Zimmer America is broadening it manufacturing program towards higher value added surface treatments and finishing of textile and other roll-to-roll substrates. Other products offered are jigger and continuous dyeing systems, coating and Hot-Melt coating and laminating systems.

Source: Zimmer Machinery Corporation (edit.)

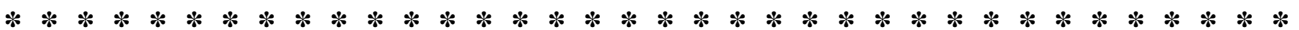


Photo: Bergers Maschinenbau GmbH

Mr. Helmut Bergers (right) with his successor, Mr. Michael Böhlefeld (left.)

BERGERS Maschinenbau GmbH, announces successors' agreement

As Messrs. Bergers Maschinenbau GmbH – a leading manufacturer of flock cutting equipment – told the Association of the Flock Industry Europe (reg.), Mr. Helmut Bergers handed over the company to his chosen suc-

cessor, Mr. Michael Böhlefeld, on the 1st of January, 2006.

Mr. Bergers will remain with the company as a member of the management board and will actively support his successor with managing the company.

Source: Bergers Maschinenbau GmbH (edit.)

INNOtex – Platform for Innovative Process and Finishing Technologies for Technical Textiles

The international trade fair for innovative textile process technologies will be held in Stuttgart in 2008 under the name of INNOtex together with an accompanying technical congress. Messe Stuttgart (www.messe-stuttgart.de) and its partners – the Institute for Textile Technology and Process Engineering (ITV) and the Institute for Textile Chemistry and Chemical Fibres (ITCF) in Denkendorf – are aiming to establish a joint forward-looking platform for the mechanical engineering, chemical and textile processing industries. The goal is to create a first-class international event

where the latest innovative process and finishing technologies for technical textiles are presented every two years.

INNOtex will already kick off this year, on **18 and 19 October 2006**, with the 3rd Colloquium on Coating and Surface Functionalisation of Technical Textiles and an accompanying foyer exhibition. The main focus of the trade exhibition is on pre-treatment, finishing, coating and laminating of technical textiles. Further highlights are textile auxiliaries and dyestuff as well as quality assurance. The visitor target group for INNOtex includes textile finishing companies, textile producers and the textile processing industry. In addition, the “customers’ customers” from the automobile, packaging and construction industries as well as medical tech-

nology and environmental engineering are expected to attend the event.

During the Denkendorf Colloquium experts will report about new processes and products, facilities for textile coating and surface functionalisation of technical textiles. According to the Colloquium concept, papers presented by experts will be mixed with papers by speakers from industry so that every participant gets their money’s worth.

The organisers are announcing a call for papers for the Colloquium.

Members of the Association of the Flock Industry Europe who wish to take part in this event should contact the association directly (info@flock.de). (OT)

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