European Technology Platform for the Future of Textiles and Clothing in the spotlight at ITMA 2015 Research and Education Pavilion

27 November 2014 – The European Technology Platform for the Future of Textiles and Clothing (Textile ETP) will be in the spotlight at ITMA 2015, the world’s most established textile and garment technology exhibition. Its key projects will be showcased at the exhibition’s Research and Education Pavilion (R&E Pavilion).

The Textile ETP, initially launched in 2004, was established as an international non-profit organisation last year by three founding members: EURATEX, the European Apparel and Textile Confederation; TEXTRANET, the European Network of Textile Research and Technology Organisations; and AUTEX, the Association of Universities for Textiles.

Said Mr Lutz Walter, Secretary General of the Textile ETP, “The Textile ETP is the largest European expert’s network for professionals involved in textile and clothing research and innovation. Our objectives include encouraging European-wide networking and collaboration, and facilitating access to EU research funding opportunities and a textile technology marketplace. Hence, we are pleased to support ITMA and to profile our projects at the R&E Pavilion.”

Among the actions which will be highlighted in the Textile ETP are Energy Made-to-Measure campaign and 2BFUNTEX project.

- 2BFUNTEX - Spearheaded by AUTEX, 2BFUNTEX aims to boost collaboration between research centres and the industry, and to facilitate rapid adoption of innovative functional textile structures and textile-related materials. Within the project, eight multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) have also been set up: antimicrobial textiles, biotechnologies, electrospinning, flame retardancy, nanotechnologies, plasma, smart textiles and sustainable textiles.

- Energy Made-to-Measure is the campaign coordinated by EURATEX and supported by the European Union to pursue greater energy efficiency in the textile and clothing industry. Several organisations from, currently, 11 countries are involved in the campaign which brings resources and information to companies, supporting them to take action.

Response to the R&E Pavilion has been encouraging, according to CEMATEX, owner of the exhibition. Charles Beauduin, President of CEMATEX, explained, “The R&E Pavilion will continue to provide excellent opportunities to educational and research organisations to share their R&D achievements and projects with the industry. Hence, we are happy to support exhibitors in the pavilion with the CEMATEX grant. To-date, we have over 30 exhibitors from 13 countries which will be using the ITMA platform to showcase their projects and capabilities, and to explore collaborations with exhibitors and visitors from all over the world.”

Among the institutions which will be participating in ITMA 2015 is the NC State University College of Textiles, USA. Melissa Sharp, Business Development Coordinator of Zeis Textiles Extension at the college, said, “Besides showcasing our research capabilities as the leading US textile college, we will gain quality contacts at ITMA 2015 as it attracts the global textile and garment industry leaders. The exhibition is the international platform for research and educational institutes to get in front of potential partners looking to invest in latest state-of-the-art innovations from around the world.”
The R&E Pavilion will feature a Speakers Platform for participating institutes to present their latest projects. A technical committee has been formed to select presentations.

The committee consists of
- Dr. Jeroen Vits, Secretary General, Belgian Textile Machinery Association (SYMATEX), Belgium (Chairman)
- Prof. Vladan Koncar, Director of Research, GEMTEX, Head of Research, ENSAIT, France
- Prof. Thomas Gries, Director, Institut für Textiltechnik, RWTH Aachen University, Germany
- Prof. Takeshi Kikutani, Professor, Department of Organic and Polymeric Materials, Graduate School of Science and Engineering, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan
- Dr. Behnam Pourdeyhimi, Director, The Nonwovens Institute, North Carolina State University, USA

At the same time, to recognise outstanding achievements in textile and garment related post-graduate research, CEMATEX has launched the Research & Education Excellence Award. Participating institutions in the R&E Pavilion may nominate their post-graduate students for the Masters and Doctorate categories of the Award. Entries can be submitted online at www.itma.com.

ITMA 2015 will be held from 12 to 19 November 2015 at Fiera Milano Rho in Milan, Italy. It is organised by MP Expositions Pte Ltd.

Photo Captions:
- Chemical protective suit (Photo courtesy of Sächsisches Textilforschungsinstitut e.V. [STFI]):
- Electrotextile (Photo courtesy of Ghent University):

About CEMATEX & ITMA
The European Committee of Textile Machinery Manufacturers (CEMATEX) comprises national textile machinery associations from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. It is the owner of ITMA and ITMA ASIA. Considered the ‘Olympics’ of textile machinery exhibitions, ITMA has a 64-year history of displaying the latest in machinery and software for every single work process of textile making. It is held every four years in Europe.

About MP Expositions
MP Expositions is a subsidiary of MP International Pte Ltd, a professional exhibition and conference organiser established in Singapore in 1987. To date, MP has organised and managed over 300 major national, regional and international events, including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2009 Leaders’ Week. It is the organiser of ITMA 2011 and 2015, and ITMA ASIA 2001 and 2005. It is also co-organiser of the ITMA ASIA+CITME shows 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014. A member of the Pico group, MP International is headquartered in Singapore with a global footprint across Asia and Europe. MP’s success with various partners is a testimony of its ability to identify opportunities and maximise the rewards for win-win partnerships.

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