

# Press

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Techtextil  
 Leading International Trade Fair for Technical Textiles and Nonwovens  
 Frankfurt am Main, 9 to 12 May 2017

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## Whether by air, land or sea: Techtextil presents fibres for mobile applications

### Techtextil is increasingly popular in the automobile sector

According to the German Association of the Yarns, Woven Fabrics and Technical Textiles Industry (*Industrieverband Garne - Gewebe - Technische Textilien e.V. – IVGT*), more than 40 fibre-based applications with a total surface area of 35 square metres go into the production of the average car today. In view of this, it is hardly surprising that designers and engineers from the automobile industry rank among the most important groups of visitors at Techtextil (in Frankfurt am Main from 9 to 12 May).

“The pursuit of targets such as weight reduction, increased comfort and sustainability is a driving force behind the use of textiles in cars”, says Philipp Porst, Deputy CEO of C. H. Müller. Among the products made by the Techtextil exhibitor are laminated and coated composites made of synthetic leather, textiles, leather and natural materials for system suppliers, such as Yanfeng (formerly Johnson Controls), Grupo Antolin and Faurecia; from there, the composites go to OEMs, such as Audi, BMW, Mercedes and VW, in the form of seats, trim panels and parcel shelves.



Messe Frankfurt Exhibition GmbH  
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The focus of the Mobiltech area of application at Techtextil is on materials that can also be used for automobile interiors / Source: Messe Frankfurt Exhibition GmbH

At the fair, the company from Heinsdorfergrund in Northeast Germany will present 'Velamina', a new trim material made of polyester microfibre for automobile interiors. "We wanted to combine the high-grade appearance and touch of modern micro-fibre surface finishes with ecologically sustainable polyester", says Porst, who is using the fair specifically to present newly developed mobile textiles. According to Porst, the company's development department is working not only on fibre materials and surface finishes but also on textile switches, electrodes and sensors. "It won't be long before it will be possible to charge mobile telephones on inductive areas of car seats", says Porst.

### **Première with panorama**

In a report for the Supply Industry Working Group, the IVGT association, which represents 9,000 automotive suppliers with an annual turnover of €218 billion, forecasts that the world market for automobile textiles will be worth around US \$ 32 billion by 2024. By way of comparison: annual revenues of the German textile industry amounted to € 10.8 billion in 2016 (excluding apparel). "For the coming fair, we expect to welcome over 650 exhibitors with products and materials for use in cars and trucks, including emergency and safety vehicles", says Tectextil Director Michael Jänecke.

One of these exhibitors is Rökona, a textile supplier based in the Southwest German town of Tübingen. A specialist for knitted fabrics, dyeing and finishing on a large scale for OEMs and automotive suppliers, Rökona will be showing a new, patented shade solution for panorama roofs in Frankfurt. "With this new product, we can achieve a high degree of shade with a great increase in roof thickness", says Rökona CEO Arved Westerkamp. Thus, the cassette, into which the panorama roof rolls when open, should be significantly smaller in future. Another new, completely different four-wheel development will be making its world debut at Tectextil 2017: Rökona's engineers have placed their knowledge of children's seats at the disposal of the Erdenkind start-up for a three-in-one pram using Oekotex-certified fibre material. "This is the first time that automotive knitting technology has been used for a pram", says Westerkamp. Thanks to a special mechanism, the pram seat can 'grow' with the child.



Headliner as yard goods: the raw-materials warehouse of Rökona provides an unusual view of tomorrow's car headliners / Source: Rökona

### **To Mars with mobile textiles**

The aerospace sector is a traditional part of the Mobiltech area of application. Hence, mobile textiles will play a significant role at the 'Living in Space' special area organised in cooperation with the European Space Agency (ESA) and the German Aerospace Centre (*Deutsches Zentrum für*

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*Luft- und Raumfahrt – DLR*). There, the wide spectrum of uses for technical textiles will be vividly illustrated by a future mission to Mars.

For example, Zimmermann from the Allgäu region of South Germany, a company that makes yarns for safety belts and plied yarn for airbags, will show a carbon yarn that Augsburg-based MT Aerospace used to make a housing for the solid-fuel booster rocket of the Ariane 6. According to ESA, this satellite-launching rocket, which is still in the development phase, will make its first flight in 2020. DLR says that components made of carbon-fibre reinforced plastic are used, inter alia, to make mountings for solar panels, e.g., on the ISS, as well as heat-protection tiles on space vehicles or, in combination with aluminium honeycomb structures – for rocket fairings.



Lift off: Visitors to the 'Living in Space' special area will be able to see mobile textiles such as those used in satellite launching rockets such as this Ariane 5 / Source: ESA/Stephane Corvaja, 2016

### **Mobiltech – the second-biggest area of application at Techtexsil**

Seat covers, headliners, safety belts, filters, hoses, airbags, instrument panels and, increasingly, automotive parts made of fibre-reinforced plastic – designers and engineers from the automobile sector and other industries will find the latest trends and research and development results from the mobile-textile field at Techtexsil. Almost half of the approx. 1,470 exhibitors present materials, products and innovations for the Mobiltech area of application.

#### **Note for the editor:**

Pictures are available for download here: <http://m-es.se/Pp7j>

#### **Background information on Messe Frankfurt**

Messe Frankfurt is the world's largest trade fair, congress and event organiser with its own exhibition grounds. With some 2,400 employees at 30 locations, the company generates annual sales of over €640 million. Thanks to its far-reaching ties with the relevant sectors and to its international sales network, the Group looks after the business interests of its customers effectively. A comprehensive range of services – both onsite and online – ensures that customers worldwide enjoy consistently high quality and flexibility when planning, organising and running their events. The wide range of services includes renting exhibition grounds, trade fair construction and marketing, personnel and food services.

With its headquarters in Frankfurt am Main, the company is owned by the City of Frankfurt (60 percent) and the State of Hesse (40 percent).

For more information, please visit our website at: [www.messefrankfurt.com](http://www.messefrankfurt.com)

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