A PUBLICATION FOR SYNTHETIC FIBERS, NONWOVENS AND TEXTILE PRODUCERS

IN-LINE WITH fi-tech inc

FALL 2026

Fi-Tech Team
Milestone service anniversaries & team addition

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RF Spinning-to-Production Assistant

VoluMAX³ 3D Embossing
A breakthrough collaboration between SAUERESSIG and A.Celli

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Supporting high-quality fiber production

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Disposable safety cutter

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Jeffrey G. Bassett

Welcome to our fall 2026 issue of *In-Line with Fi-Tech*. I want to start off this issue by thanking all our customers for making us your first choice and putting your trust and confidence in Fi-Tech and our Team. We are grateful and appreciate the opportunity to serve you. We strive every day to help you be successful and to be *Your Global Connection*.

In this issue, we are pleased to share product updates from Heberlein, Mozart Blades, Shelton Vision, Zimmer Austria and more. We also have several key industry conferences and fall meetings coming up in October and November where you can connect to our Fi-Tech Team. See our events calendar for more information.

We wish to recognize several members of our Fi-Tech Team with milestone service anniversaries this year. We are proud of our team and the years of service.

Vicky Gant Wilson – Sr Sales & Operations Assistant, 45 years
Brian Williamson – Manager Spare Parts & Distribution, 15 years
Mia Johnson – Spare Parts Sales Assistant, 10 years
Jessica Ethridge – Technical Sales Rep, 5 years
Joshua Sansbury – Technical Sales Engineer, 5 years
Lyndsey Wanders – Sales Assistant, 5 years

We especially want to recognize and thank Santiago Vivanco for his 31 years of service and his recent retirement.

All have exemplified and demonstrated a strong commitment to our mission and our mutual success with our customers. We greatly appreciate their loyalty and dedication to Fi-Tech.

In the fall of 2022, we installed a solar power system that generates our complete power need to heat, cool and power our 17,000 sq ft facility on an annual basis. We give power to the grid in the spring, summer and fall. We need more power in the winter but are neutral annually. To date, our system has generated over 595 megawatt-hours (MWh) offsetting over 358 tons of carbon. We also recently installed 2 EV charging stations for our employees and visitors.

We continue to look for ways to reduce our waste, reuse our resources and recycle through various programs.

We appreciate your business and thank you for giving Fi-Tech an opportunity to serve you.

Jeffrey G. Bassett
Managing Director



Brian, Mia, Vicky, Lyndsey, Joshua

FI-TECH WELCOMES ROY W. SMITH II TO OUR SALES TEAM

Fi-Tech is pleased to announce the addition of Roy W. Smith II to our external sales team as Sales and Market Development Manager. We appreciate the 25 years of experience and success Roy brings in business development and capital project execution with the North American nonwoven and textile industries.



Roy W. Smith II

Roy's track record of building strong and trusted customer relationships fits well with our Fi-Tech philosophy. Roy is a strong match to our business ethos, and we expect him to hit the ground running working with our extensive portfolio of suppliers. Roy can be contacted at rsmith@fi-tech.com.

SANTIAGO RETIREMENT

Santiago Vivanco retired from Fi-Tech on June 30 this year, after more than 31 years of service. Santiago was hired by Lee Bassett to open a Fi-Tech representative office for the Mexican market in February 1995. Around this time, the US, Canada and Mexico had just concluded the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Initially, Santiago worked from his home in San Luis Potosi, Mexico and his wife, Maru, provided support.



Santiago Vivanco

Fi-Tech de Mexico grew quickly and the company was eventually able to move into its own office and warehouse space.

Fi-Tech de Mexico now has 8 full-time employees and 10,000 square feet of office and warehouse space in San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

The Mexico Team and Todd Bassett from the US were able to gather for a retirement luncheon on September 1 to honor Santiago's retirement and 31 years of service to Fi-Tech.



RF S2P ASSISTANT SUPPORTS FASTER, MORE STABLE PRODUCTION RAMP-UP

Reifenhäuser's new automation solution helps operators move from start-up to full-speed production more efficiently and consistently.

The RF Spinning-to-Production Assistant, or S2P Assistant, is designed to automate the transition from stable spinning after start-up to full-speed production. By storing proven process sequences digitally, the system makes the "best run" available at the touch of a button.

Instead of relying solely on manual adjustments or individual operator experience, the S2P Assistant executes necessary settings automatically and in parallel. This supports a faster, more repeatable ramp-up process while helping maintain stable production from the beginning.

For production teams, the solution reduces routine workload, lowers the risk of variation, and makes expert knowledge easier to access across shifts. It also supports key operational goals such as reduced waste, improved quality consistency, and higher overall equipment effectiveness.

With the RF S2P Assistant, automation becomes a practical tool for strengthening day-to-day performance, supporting operators, and improving competitiveness in nonwoven production.

YOUR SOURCE FOR THE FIBER & POLYMER AND NONWOVEN INDUSTRIES

Ambersil
• Anti-Stick Spinneret Silicone Spray

AstenJohnson Advanced Fabrics
• Woven Plastic & Metal Wire Belts, Forming Fabrics, Dryer Fabrics, Transport Belts

Autefa Solutions GmbH
• Bale Presses, Bale Wrapping & Strapping Systems

Brückner Textile Technologies
• Thru Air Dryers & Heat Setters

Cason Textile Machinery
• Bobbin Strippers

filtertechnik.Europe GmbH & Co. Kg
• Filter Screens for Spin Packs & Screen Changers, Filter Belts

Futura S.P.A.
• Pin-To-Pin Embossing Calenders

Galan Textile Machinery
• Ring Twisters for Fiber, Rope & Twine, Winders, Kiss Roll Devices, Creels

HANSA MIXER
• In Line Mixers and Foamers

Hastem Transportbänder GmbH
• Slat & Spiked/Needle Aprons

Heberlein
• Air Interlacing Jets, Air Texturing Jets, Aspirators, Splicers, Suction Cut Units

Idrosistem Srl
• Water Filtration Systems for Spun Lace Production

MOVEngineering Srl
• Hypox® Spinneret & Pack Cleaning Units

INNOVATION YOU CAN FEEL: THE POWER OF VOLUMAX³ 3D EMBOSSING

A breakthrough collaboration between SAUERESSIG and A.Celli

In today's hygiene and nonwovens market, performance alone is no longer enough. Consumers expect products that not only perform exceptionally well; but also deliver superior comfort, softness, breathability, and a consistently dry feel. Meeting these expectations requires innovation at the material level, and that is exactly where VoluMAX³ is changing the game.

Developed through a strategic partnership between SAUERESSIG, a global leader in engraving and surface technology, and A.Celli, a recognized innovator in high-speed web handling solutions, VoluMAX³ represents a breakthrough in nonwoven processing technology. The system combines advanced 3D embossing and aperturing into a single production step, creating premium nonwoven materials with enhanced functionality and visual appeal.

Traditionally, manufacturers have relied on separate processes to create embossed textures and fluid-management apertures in nonwoven fabrics. VoluMAX³ streamlines these operations into one highly efficient process, producing materials that are softer, more absorbent, and more breathable while maintaining exceptional production efficiency.

The technology delivers significant advantages for hygiene applications, including baby diapers, feminine hygiene products, adult incontinence products, and premium wipes. Engineered 3D structures create increased bulk and softness without adding material weight, while precisely formed apertures improve fluid transport, helping keep surfaces drier and more comfortable for the end user.

One of VoluMAX³'s most impressive achievements is productivity. With operating speeds of up to 600 meters per minute, it is among the fastest systems in its category while maintaining exceptional pattern definition and consistent product quality. At the heart of the system are precision-engineered, heat-treated steel embossing rolls designed for long service life and superior wear resistance. Unlike traditional brass-based systems, these rolls minimize abrasion and reduce contamination risks, supporting the stringent cleanliness standards required in hygiene product manufacturing.

Beyond performance and productivity, VoluMAX³ also supports sustainability initiatives. The process allows manufacturers to reduce material consumption while maintaining perceived product thickness and softness. Because the technology achieves its benefits through advanced mechanical and thermal engineering rather than chemical additives, it can also contribute to reduced waste and lower chemical usage.

As consumer expectations continue to rise, manufacturers face increasing pressure to deliver products that feel better, perform better, and are produced more efficiently. VoluMAX³ answers that challenge by combining cutting-edge 3D embossing, aperturing, high-speed processing, and sustainable production practices into a single solution.

The best innovations are often the ones consumers never see, but immediately notice through a better experience. With VoluMAX³, the difference can be felt in every touch.



Embosser with Volumax

HEBERLEIN TECHNOLOGY AG

Heberlein Technology AG is a Swiss company with 180 years of experience and a global leadership position in air interlacing jets, texturing jets, aspirators, and splicing technology for the chemical fibers industry. Its air technology is used in POY and FDY spinning plants, carpet fiber production, staple fiber production, and the DTY industry. Through continuous innovation, Heberlein focuses on improving operating efficiency, reducing air consumption, and supporting high-quality fiber production.

Staple Fiber Production

Aspirator Guns – Lufan HS18-3: The Lufan HS18-3 is designed for threading fiber tows in staple fiber plants at speeds of up to 2,000 m/min.
Splice Cutting Unit - This unit simplifies the handling of individual ends during spin-in or string-up in synthetic staple fiber tow production. The new end is spliced to the main tow near the individual spinning position and then cut for efficient processing.

Air Textured Yarns

The TexJet ATY produces high-quality yarn at high processing speeds and can handle a wide range of yarn counts, from very fine to coarse yarns made of polyester, polyamide, and polypropylene. Different jet series support different yarn effects: the Dx0 series creates more voluminous yarns for technical and fashion applications, while the Dx3 series produces more compact yarns for automotive and household textiles.

Drawn Textured Yarn (DTY)

Heberlein is a leading supplier of interlacing jets for DTY production. The SlideJet FT15-2 and SwissJet are used to manufacture high-value filament yarns in the false-twist process. Their modular design includes universal quick-lock housing and a wide range of jet inserts for different yarn types.

BCF and FDY Interlacing Jets

Fully drawn yarns and bulked continuous filaments require interlaced nodes to improve speed and quality in downstream weaving and tufting processes. Heberlein offers a broad range of jets for textile yarns, technical yarns, and heavy-denier yarns, allowing customers to target node count, node strength, and node regularity according to their production requirements.

Aspirators and Splicers

Lufan-3 Aspirator: The Lufan-3 threads yarn on textile machines while they are running. Designed for a wide range of yarns and process parameters, it combines lightweight construction with high durability and exceptionally powerful suction.

AirSplicer-3 Flex: The AirSplicer-3 Flex covers an exceptionally broad count range for textile and technical multifilament yarns. Its adjustable width accommodates different blow chambers based on material type and required splice strength. The integrated automatic splicing system ensures highly reproducible splices, while wear parts such as blades and yarn clamps can be replaced quickly. An ergonomic handle makes operation easier.

Heberlein has much more in its product catalog. This is just a sampling of the broad catalog of air products for synthetic fiber production.



TexJet ATY



AirSplicer-3 Flex

Mozart AG
• Staple Cutting Blades, Film Slitting Blades

ProJet B.V.
• Power Cleaner Process Wire Belt Cleaning System

Reifenhäuser Enka Tecnica GmbH
• Spinnerets, Jet Strips, Die Tips, Repairs, Complete Meltdown Die Bodies

Reifenhäuser REICOFIL® GmbH & Co. KG
• Turnkey Plants for Spun Bond, Meltdown, Composite, Laminated Fabrics, Bicomponent

Rieter Components GmbH, TEMCO
• Texturing Units, PU Friction Discs, Air Entangling Jets, Industrial & Glass Fibers, Separator Rollers, Guide Rollers

Saueressig Surfaces
• Engraved & Smooth Rollers, Embossing Rollers, Ultrasonic Anvils, MPS Microporous Shells

Saurer Fibrevision
• On Line & Lab Fiber Monitoring/ Testing Systems

Schill+Seilacher GmbH
• Spin Finishes, Surfactants & Fiber Auxiliary Chemicals

Sikoplast Recycling Technology GmbH
• Recycling Plants for PET, PA, PP and PE Waste

Spoolex/Calemard
• PEGASE Traversing Winders & Spooling Equipment, Slitter/ Rewinders

T.EN Zimmer GmbH
• Spare Parts Service for Zimmer® Plants

Tokuden Co., Ltd.
• Induction Heated Rolls, Air Cooled Hybrid Rolls, UPSS Super Heated Steam Generator

Zentes Unitex GmbH
• Spinneret Inspection Devices, European Spare Parts

YOUR SOURCE FOR THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Baldwin Technology
• Precision Spray Application Systems

Benninger
• Jet & Beam Dyeing Machines, Continuous Scouring, Bleaching & Mercerizing Ranges, Cold Pad Batch

Brückner Textile Technologies
• Finishing and Coating Lines for Woven and Knitted Fabrics, Dryers, Tenter Frames & Coating Equipment

Corino S.p.A.
• Hydro Extraction, Openers, De-Twisters, Tubular Slitters, Padders

Guarneri Technology S.r.l.
• Textile Calenders

HANSA MIXER
• Foam Generators & Mixers

Idrosistem Srl
• Dyehouse Waste Water Recovery Plants

Mario Crosta S.r.l. - Italy
• Fabric Surface Finishing Equipment

Mayer & Cie. GmbH & Co.
• Circular Knitting Machines for Jersey, Interlock, Rib, Jacquard and Elastomeric Plaiting

Neunhauser-Ontec Automation GmbH
• Turbotex Scrim Fabric Machine

Shelton Vision Ltd.
• Vision Inspection & Defect Classification Systems

Spoolex SAS / Decoup+
• Fabric Slitting/Rewinding Systems, Ultrasonic Slitters

Tecnorama S.R.L.
• Automatic Dispensing Systems for Powder and Liquid Dyestuff & Auxiliaries

Testa S.r.l.
• Automated Inspection and Packaging Systems

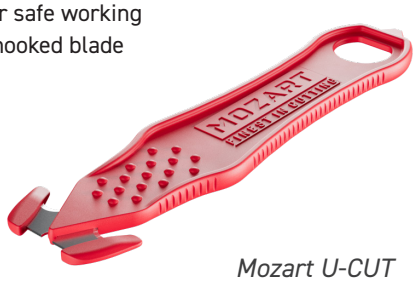
Zimmer Maschinenbau GmbH
• Textile Coating Ranges, Digital & Rotary Screen Printing Lines

CUT THE PACKAGING – NOT THE CONTENT!

Mozart Blades, based in Solingen, Germany, has introduced their U-CUT by Mozart disposable safety cutter for a variety of plantwide uses, including opening packaging. Millions in value are lost every year just to opening packaging incorrectly; including lost time from injury accidents due to accidental cuts. The two segmented blade is securely held in a glass fiber reinforced handle. By design, the blade edge is completely protected, preventing accidents as well as protecting content damage, **"cut the packaging not the content".** As a cost effective and safe disposable cutting/slitting device, you can eliminate exposed razor blades, use of snap off blades or other bladed tools which commonly cause injuries and lost time accidents.

Key Features:
- *Original top quality Mozart® hook blade* – encased for optimal protection
- *Special profile for secure grip* – non-slip handle for safe working
- *Integrated tape slitter* – creates tape opening for hooked blade
- *Glass fiber reinforced* – extra durable and robust

Reach out to Fi-Tech for free samples for trial.



Mozart U-CUT

ZIMMER AUSTRIA RE-ORGANIZATION

Zimmer Austria, Fi-Tech's partner in the manufacture of fabric coating, rotary screen, flatbed printing **(Klagenfurt location)** and digital printing (Kufstein location) systems have announced a corporate re-structuring.

As part of the **"Zimmer 2028" Program**, J. Zimmer **Klagenfurt** and J. Zimmer **Kufstein** will be brought together into one joint organization effective January 1, 2028.

Zimmer 2028 initiative lays the foundation for:

- Faster decision-making
- Even stronger service capabilities
- More efficient collaboration
- Greater innovative strength
- Additional resources for future developments

These changes will not affect existing machinery and service agreements, which will continue unchanged.

Thomas Mentler and Andreas Rass, Managing Directors of J. Zimmer Maschinenbau GmbH **Kufstein**, have been appointed to lead both the Kufstein and Klagenfurt companies in their respective roles.

Should you have any additional questions concerning this re-organization, please contact your Fi-Tech representative.

SHELTON DASHBOARD

Dashboards Transform Data into Decision

Custom dashboards deliver actionable insights across your enterprise. Shelton Dashboards empower organizations to track and optimize their key performance indicators (KPIs) through fully customizable, data-driven interfaces.

Designed as more than just a defect-identification tool, Shelton Dashboards is part of a comprehensive, connected ecosystem focused on driving measurable operational excellence and delivering maximum value to our customers.

This platform enables real-time monitoring of KPIs across critical functions such as Production Control and Quality Control; offering actionable insights for faster, smarter decision making.

With a wide range of pre-configured layouts and tile formats, Shelton Dashboards gives users the flexibility to select and configure the KPIs and visual layouts that best align with their operational priorities and performance goals.

Modern, Intuitive Interface

- Clean, user-friendly layouts designed for clear visualization and quick comprehension of KPIs.

Drill-Down Insights

- Access deeper details directly from dashboard tiles with just a few clicks for faster analysis and decision-making.

Network-Wide Accessibility

- Securely access dashboards from any authorized device within your network, ensuring visibility wherever it's needed.

Real-Time Data Updates

- Stay informed with live KPI updates, enabling immediate response to production and quality control changes.

ZIMMER DIGITAL SYSTEMS LAUNCHES COLARIS-TEX

A New Generation of Industrial Digital Textile Printing

COLARIS-TeX was developed with a strong focus on the needs of operators and production managers. Its completely redesigned architecture improves accessibility for service and maintenance, helping to reduce downtime and increase operational efficiency.

Equipped with up to 72 Fujifilm Dimatix Starfire™ printheads and supporting up to 12 color channels, COLARIS-TeX delivers industrial productivity combined with outstanding print quality. The innovative COLARIS-TuneUp Technology automates print calibration, banding compensation at nozzle level, and maintenance processes, ensuring consistent results while reducing dependence on operator experience.

Key benefits for manufacturers include:

- Increased machine uptime
- Reduced maintenance effort
- Consistent print quality
- Predictable production performance

COLARIS-TeX supports a wide range of ink technologies, including reactive, disperse, acid, pigment, and specialty inks.

For demanding military applications, such as infrared camouflage fabrics, the platform offers precise color management, excellent repeatability, and highly stable production processes, making it an ideal solution for advanced technical textiles.

Sustainability is integrated into the machine design through features such as:

- ECO belt-cleaning system
- Ink recirculation technology
- Optimizing energy consumption.

Combined with advanced process monitoring, remote diagnostics, and global service, the COLARIS-TeX is engineered for reliable 24/7 industrial production.



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EVENTS CALENDAR 2026 / 2027

STA – Northern Division
Fall Meeting
October 21, 2026
Manufacturing Solutions
Center – Conover, NC
www.southerntextile.org

STA – Southern Division
Fall Meeting
November 18, 2026
Hyatt Regency – Greenville, SC
www.southerntextile.org

IDEA 27 / RISE 2027
March 23-26, 2027
Kansas City, MO
www.ideashow.org

SYFA Fall Conference
October 29-30, 2026
Sheraton Charlotte Airport –
Charlotte, NC
www.thesyfa.org

Hygienix 2026
November 16-19, 2026
Houston, TX
www.hygienix.org

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In-Line with Fi-Tech , a Fi-Tech, Inc. publication, is designed to assist Engineering, Management, Purchasing and Plant Personnel by providing an avenue of communication between fiber producers and the best machinery manufacturers in the world. Fi-Tech, Inc. is the premiere representative for Nonwovens, Synthetic Fiber, and Textile machinery and components.

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