



Artificial intelligence is likely to disrupt textile production in the coming decades. In cooperation with the ITA Group of the University of Aachen, ITMF launched a webinar series titled "AI in the Textile Value Chain" earlier this month. The first webinar introduced artificial intelligence and its transformative potential in the textile sector (see the news items to make sure you don't miss the next webinar). Such topics are of ever greater importance in an industry increasingly under pressure (see Articles 1 and 2 on the latest GTIS results for July 2024).



Mr. Olivier Zieschank
director, ITMF

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

Business situation remains unsatisfactory



The GTIS for July indicates that the economic situation is stuck in negative territory. The primary cause of the prolonged market depression is weak demand. Every region except Africa reports a negative business climate. All segments report a negative business situation except for garment producers.

[> read more \(members only\)](#)

Business expectations remain positive



Business expectations have been stagnating in positive territory for more than a year. The indicator is positive in all regions except for East-Asia. It is positive in all segments. This cautious optimism is mostly due to weak demand, geopolitical tensions, and increasingly to logistical challenges.

[> read more \(members only\)](#)

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ITMF NEWS

ITMF's newest member

ITMF has welcome one new corporate member in the last few weeks. This illustrates how important our unique platform is for companies and organisations in different regions and segments of the global textile value chain.

S&P Global

S&P Global provides crucial intelligence and analytics across various markets, including the textile industry, enhancing their coverage of the upstream fiber and textile sector. Tatiana Bondar, Associate Director at S&P Global, remarked, "By having joined ITMF, the S&P Global will now have access to a lot of valuable reports, statistics, and surveys that help to further improve the understanding of the fibre and textile industry."

[> read more](#)

ITMF & IAF Conference 2024 in Samarkand - Only 4 weeks to go



The ITMF & IAF Conferences 2024 will be held from **September 8th to 10th** in the historic Silk-Road city of Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The conference theme will be "**Innovation, Cooperation & Regulation – Drivers of the Textile & Apparel Industry**". During the event, industry experts will share the developments impacting the textile-apparel industry. Cooperation and regulation will be important aspects that experts will discuss in various sessions.

Innovation is another important aspect shaping the industry of the future. In the session "**Digitalization**", Nate Herman of the AAFA (USA) will talk about "**Digital Labelling**", while Mr. Christian Lott of DMiX (Germany) will explain how technology can help to digitalize material to save time and resources. In the session "**Artificial Intelligence in the Textile Value Chain**" Mr. Povilas Sugintas (UK) will provide an overview of AI use in the textile value chain, and Prof. Thomas Gries of the ITA Group (Germany) will share his perspective on AI helping to address the labour shortage.

In the "**ITMF Start-up Award Session**" 4 start-ups will present their award-winning projects which cover areas from new sustainable fibres via new textile finishes to recycling. In the "**ITMF Awards Session**" the 3 winners of the "**ITMF Sustainability & Innovation Award 2024**" will present their projects and the 2 winners of the "**ITMF Intl. Collaboration Award 2024**" will share their winning projects.

Register for the [ITMF & IAF Conference 2024 in Samarkand](#)

Textile World's interview with Christian Schindler

Textile World

In this article, Dr Christian Schindler, Director General of ITMF, discussed the organization's role in connecting and informing the global textile industry. He highlighted ITMF's various publications and surveys that provide vital industry data. Dr Schindler noted the challenges faced by the textile industry, including high costs and geopolitical issues, but also expressed optimism for gradual business improvement. He emphasized the benefits of ITMF membership and previewed the upcoming annual conference in Uzbekistan, focusing on innovation, collaboration, and regulation.

[> read more](#)

WTIN's interview with ITMF director general



Christian Schindler, in his latest article with WTIN, emphasizes the current challenges facing the textile and apparel industry, such as weak demand and stringent regulations. He highlights the critical role of innovation and cooperation, particularly in recycling technologies and sustainable practices, to rejuvenate the sector. Dr Schindler also sheds light on the upcoming joint ITMF Annual Conference and IAF World Fashion Convention 2024 in Uzbekistan, which will address key issues like regulation, sustainability, and collaboration. Additionally, Uzbekistan's potential as a textile hub due to its cotton production, affordable energy, and skilled labour is explored.

[> read more](#)

ITMF & ITA webinar on AI's potential in textile production



On **July 29th**, 2024, ITMF launched its series on "AI in the Textile Value Chain" with an engaging and informative webinar titled "**Introduction to Artificial Intelligence**". The event featured two distinguished speakers who shared their expertise on the transformative potential of AI in the textile sector.

Prof. Thomas Gries from the Institut für Textiltechnik of RWTH Aachen University in Germany kicked off the session with a comprehensive presentation on "AI in the transformation of the textile industry", highlighting how AI technologies are revolutionizing various aspects of textile manufacturing. Prof. Simone Gramsch from the Fraunhofer-Institut für Techno- und Wirtschaftsmathematik ITWM in Kaiserslautern, Germany, then delivered an in-depth "Introduction to AI and its sub-topics." Her presentation provided a foundational understanding of AI, covering key areas such as machine learning, neural networks, and data analytics, and their applications.

ITMF will hold a second webinar in this series on **August 27th**, 2024, from 12:00 to 13:00 Zurich time. The webinar, titled "**Regulation of AI - New Framework**," will feature two prominent speakers. Dr. Dominik Rohrmus, CTO at Labs Network Industrie 4.0 e. V. and a key figure at Siemens AG, will discuss the latest developments in AI regulation and its implications for the industry. He might be joined by Mr. Kai Zenner, Head of Office and Digital Policy Adviser for MEP Axel Voss (EPP Group) in the European Parliament. Mr. Zenner will provide insights into the EU's regulatory landscape for AI, highlighting recent legislative efforts and future directions.

Find out more on the webinar series and watch past webinars on [ITMF's Virtual Forum](#)

Next webinar: **Regulation of AI - New Framework**

Save the date: **August 27th, 2024, from 12:00 to 13:00hrs. (Zurich-time)**

PARTNER NEWS

VDMA's position statement on EU regulations for the transformation of the textile industry



Frankfurt, 26 July 2024 – In a position paper, the companies organised in the VDMA Textile Machinery Association comment on the EU regulations for the sustainable and circular transformation of the textile and clothing industry. Given that textiles production requires significant resources, including water, energy, and chemicals, this statement emphasises the importance of efficient processes, circular economy and binding rules for all market participants. The Executive Board of VDMA Textile Machinery stresses that the new EU regulations for circular economy and their national implementation must be designed with realistic targets, measurable effects and as little bureaucracy as possible. Furthermore, market surveillance is needed to ensure a level playing field for all market participants

[> read more](#)

ABIT's 9th International Congress will take place in October in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil



ABIT's 9th International Congress is set to take place in Salvador, Bahia, on October 30th and 31st, 2024. Organized by the Brazilian Textile and Apparel Industry Association (ABIT), this event aims to foster discussions and collaborations to enhance the competitiveness of the textile and apparel industry. Themed "*Brazil – World Connections: Strategic Paths to Competitiveness*," this edition seeks to shed light on the challenges and opportunities that will define Brazil's role on the international stage.

[> read more](#) [> watch video](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Istanbul Fashion Connection 2024](#)

August 7-9, 2024
Istanbul, Türkiye

[ITMF Annual Conference & IAF Fashion Convention 2024](#)

September 8-10, 2024
Samarkand, Uzbekistan

[Texhibition Istanbul 2024](#)

September 11-13, 2024
Istanbul, Türkiye

[CAITME 2024](#)

September 11-14, 2024
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

[Dornbirn GFC 2024](#)

September 11-13, 2024
Dornbirn, Austria

[IGDS World Department Store Summit 2024](#)

September 12-13, 2024
Berlin, Germany

[Market Week](#)

September 16-19, 2024
New-York, USA

[Cinte Techtextil](#)

September 19-21, 2024
Shanghai, China

[ICAC's 82nd Plenary Meeting 2024](#)

Sept. 30 - Oct. 3, 2024
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

[Amsterdam Textile Show](#)

October 2-4, 2024
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

[ITMA Asia & CITME 2024](#)

October 14-18, 2024
Shanghai, China

[ICA-Trade Event 2024](#)

October 16-17, 2024
Liverpool, UK

[Uzbek Textile Expo](#)

November, 2024
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

[Moroccan International Textile and Apparel Exhibition \(MIM 2024\)](#)

November 7-9, 2024
Casablanca, Morocco

[APTEXPO 2024](#)

November 13-15, 2024
Singapore, Singapore

[Aachen-Dresden-Denkendorf International Textile Conference 2024](#)

November 21-22, 2024
Stuttgart, Germany

[Sustainability Talks Istanbul 2024](#)

December 3, 2024
Istanbul, Türkiye