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# TECHNICAL *Textiles* international

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2013



- *Industry plans to survive cuts in military spending*
- *Digital printing searching for new markets*
- *Think local to thrive in a global economy*
- *Diversity in coating and laminating*



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CONTENTS — OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2013

## COATING AND LAMINATING

- 3 Textile coating in Europe is preparing for a diverse future

## DIGITAL PRINTING

- 9 Digital media show their potential and now look for mass markets  
17 Innovations in digital printers and associated technologies

## MILITARY

- 25 Military cuts prompt urgent responses from US textile suppliers

## PERFORMANCE NONWOVENS

- 29 Local knowledge vital for those operating in a global economy

## News and regular features

- 2 **Editorial**  
Diverse and dynamic companies are always prepared for change
- 38 **Equipment news**
  - Groz-Beckert designs felting needle with a small cross-section
- 39 **Applications and products news**
  - Composites Evolution launches range of jute reinforcements
  - Flax fibre creates good quality of sound for high-fidelity speaker
  - Nonwoven offers comfort and protection to surgical staff
  - Carbon fibre nonwovens and stretch-broken yarns from SGL
- 42 **Business and industry news**
  - Toray Industries agrees to buy Zoltek for US\$584 million
- 44 **Diary of events**
- 46 **Index to advertisers**



Massif is a USA-based manufacturer specializing in flame-retardant apparel for the military (see also, page 27). The company's founders wanted to improve military and government uniforms that had not kept up with the pace of the textile innovations familiar to users of outdoor and climbing gear. On pages 25–28, John McCurry looks at how Massif and other companies supplying the US military are coping with ongoing cuts in military spending.

Groz-Beckert has introduced a felting needle called EcoStar that the company from Albstadt, Germany, has designed to have a long service life and consume a low amount of energy in use page 38.



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## Cover pictures:

As the US military significantly reduces the amount of fabric it is buying, mostly from domestic suppliers, John McCurry investigates how companies (such as Polartec) are responding to a loss of orders that have helped sustain their industry over many years pages 25–28.



One-off special installations can spectacularly reveal the potential of digital printed textiles, but the impact of these materials on mass markets has been limited to date, writes Adrian Wilson pages 9–15.

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