

ASIA PACIFIC *textile news*

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Your source for news and information about the Asia specialty fabrics industry

U.S. Commerce Secretary honors IFAI Expo Asia 2011



IFAI was honored for receiving the Market Development Cooperator Program grant for the work it's doing to promote U.S. exports through IFAI Expo Asia 2011. Pictured from left to right: U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke presenting the award to IFAI President Stephen Warner, with U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota looking on.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke presented IFAI President and CEO Stephen Warner with a recognition award 1 December for receiving the Market Development Cooperator Program (MDCP) Grant for its IFAI Expo Asia 2011 trade show development. The MDCP award is bestowed by the International Trade Administration (ITA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and includes a \$250,000 grant plus technical assistance from ITA.

“The MDCP is a good example of how public/private sector partnerships can leverage limited public resources to help small- and medium-sized businesses expand their exports to compete in the global marketplace,” Secretary Locke said.

IFAI Expo Asia 2011 has also received additional recognition through Trade Fair Certification from the U.S. Commercial Service of the Department of Commerce. This government certification is an elite status and is rarely given by the Department of Commerce to a first-time trade fair. The Trade Fair Certification program is a cooperative arrangement between private sector trade show organizers and the U.S. government to expand U.S. participation in overseas trade shows.

According to Warner, “The boom is on in the Asia Pacific region for specialty fabrics. In the last two years the region’s governments committed more than \$300 billion for green industrial projects, energy and water conservation, renewable energy, air and water quality and coastal regeneration. All these applications can involve products made from specialty fabrics.”

Since MDCP’s inception in 1993, the Department of Commerce has made 102 awards under the program. In an average year, MDCP is projected to generate \$219 million in U.S. exports. In this year’s State of the Union address, President Obama set a goal for America—to double U.S. exports of goods and services over the next five years.

IFAI Expo Asia 2011 Visitor Registration and Exhibit stand reservations information is available at www.ifaiexpoasia.com. For more information about the Industrial Fabrics Association International visit www.ifai.com

“IFAI Expo Asia is modeled after the highly successful IFAI Expo Americas show. We are targeting key influencing leaders in 18 countries in high-growth markets such as graphics, shade structures, geosynthetics, medical, automotive and military/protective product applications,” says IFAI President Steve Warner. “In addition to a comprehensive series of educational symposiums, there also will be an exhibition of key industry materials and equipment suppliers.”

2010 IFAI International Achievement Awards showcase industry excellence worldwide with dazzling array of innovation.

The specialty fabrics industry has a prominent role in the global marketplace and the International Achievement Award competition is recognition of the industry's accomplishments. During IFAI Expo Americas 2010, winning projects were showcased through "Award of Excellence" and "Outstanding Achievement Award" honors. Winning projects receive extensive media exposure through press releases, web and magazine coverage. View all of the 2010 IAA Awards projects and details at ifaipublications.com/iaa.

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE



Kiwifruit Bruise Control, W A Coppins Ltd.

An apparatus was needed that could be easily attached to and removed from an existing kiwifruit picking bucket to allow fruit to be harvested with minimal or no bruising. This New Zealand industry has an anecdotal loss of around \$30 to \$35 million in damaged fruit each year. Fruit picked using the new apparatus had significantly less damage and was harvested at an increased average picking rate of 40.8 percent.



Marassi Beach Resort, Fabritecture

The Marassi Beach Clubhouse, resort villas and spas in Egypt required a range of shading systems. One of the most unique factors with this project was the location and international collaboration. Designed and engineered in Australia, fabricated in New Zealand with steel supplied by a local Egyptian steel fabricator, the final design of the fabric sail system incorporated one central fabric structure, six fabric sails and six additional fabric structures.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



Jiangyin Sports Center, Beijing N&L Fabric Technology Co. Ltd.

This sports complex, including an outdoor stadium and an indoor arena, is located in Jiangyin, Jiangsu Province, China, a small city by the Yangtze River near Shanghai. Covering about 39 acres, it has a construction area of 41,200 square meters and 30,161 grandstand seats. The stadium is a large membrane structure full of personality. The complex includes an indoor arena with same shape. Total membrane is about 30,000 square meters.



Super GP Shade Structures, HTS Hocker

The Super GP event is held each year in Brisbane, Australia. This innovative set of demountable structures is located in the main pit lane area and provide team garages on the ground floors with shade cover for the corporate hospitality suites above. Requiring installation and removal in the shortest possible time frame to not impact the flow of local traffic during installation, these custom-designed buildings were configured so that they could be erected as one-, two-, three- and even four-story structures.



Shelter for the Second-Stage Renovation Project for East Gate Square of Fukui Station, Taiyo Kogyo Corp.

The traffic square at the East Gate of Fukui Station in Fukui City, Japan, needed roofs for the bus stop and the walkway. The planned site was located in an area famous for excavated dinosaur fossils. The shelter serves as a gateway and landmark and needed to resemble a dinosaur. To achieve this, beams with ribs were arranged continuously, along with a titanium dioxide photocatalytic tent material to retain pure whiteness, and help achieve a bonelike look.

California company finds new Asian market for truck products

By Wes Woods II,
Staff Writer, San Bernardino Sun

High-strength fabric repair tape has stretched family-owned manufacturing business A&R Tarpaulins Inc. from Fontana (California, USA) to Singapore with the product's recent foray into Southeast Asia.

"It's mainly for the trucking industry, for truck tarps, but also for any vinyl covering," said Lucy Rivera, A&R spokesperson, about the tape. "It can be used for tents, usually in the party rental industry. So we've been very successful selling white SKP (SuperKwikPatch repair tape) to that industry."

A&R Tarpaulins is the parent company of AR Industries and ARTech, which has services and products for flight hardware, ground support to aerospace companies that have satellite launches, architectural services and products for businesses and homes, and transportation industry products. A&R vice president Bud Weisbart said over the last two years, the company's exports have increased, with last year expanding dramatically.

Rivera, who also handles other duties within the 46-person company, said she saw the increase in October, with the export of 16

rolls of the tape to Singapore. The tape can be used to patch tarp tears for one year, she said. "We have the material with the glue in the back," Rivera said. "So all they have to do is remove the backing, stick it on there, and they're ready to go. There's no need to carry that can of glue, which is messy, and you can drop it."

Besides Singapore, the company also has connections in Indonesia and Malaysia, Bud Weisbart said. "We sent them a sample, they loved it and wanted to become a distributor... and we arranged to cover all three countries."

Rivera said she is looking forward to her company moving into other international markets, including Brazil, in part because of the upcoming Olympic games in Rio de Janeiro, and because of the increased sale of tents. "We know we will be successful because a lot of countries are looking for American-made products," Rivera said.

In addition to Singapore, there have been inquiries about the tape from Canada, Latin America and Australia. The company's total sales have grown from less than \$4 million in 2009 to \$5.1 or \$5.2 million in 2010. "So that's just about a 25 percent or a little more increase," Weisbart said.



"As far as exports, it's first developing a relationship with a potential customer," says Weisbart's wife, A&R President Carmen Weisbart. She added that their relationship with the 2,000 member not-for-profit trade association Industrial Fabrics Association International has helped their business.

"We are looking forward and happy to have a bright future," the president said of the company that started 34 years ago as a truck cover company.

"We think we have something pretty special here," Bud Weisbart said. "Particularly with the workers here. They've stuck with us, and we've stuck with them through thick and thin. It sounds idealistic, but it's an investment we make."

Excerpted with permission from sbsun.com.

Strata Geosystems India awarded ISO 9001 certification



Strata Geosystems India (a subsidiary of North Carolina-based Glen Raven Inc. and IFAI member), produces high-tenacity geogrids and has received the ISO 9001:2008. This certification is the internationally accredited standard which was developed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), a worldwide federation of national standards bodies representing some 130 countries.

"Strata Geosystems takes its quality performance commitment to customers very seriously," said Narendra Dalmia, CEO and director of Strata Geosystems: "We've made a strong commitment to the ISO standard at our plant. Rapid response, manufacturing flexibility and equipment process R & D are our core advantages in the Indian soil reinforcement market space. We have always strived for world-class quality processes and this certification validates our commitment." In order to receive the certification the Daman plant had to undergo rigorous inspections to demonstrate a comprehensive quality management system. This system includes processes for customer service, recordkeeping, adherence to customer requirements and continuous product improvement. The ISO certification assures Strata's ongoing compliance with globally recognized ISO standards for quality management systems to enhance customer satisfaction in supplier-customer relationships. Visit strataindia.com. Glen Raven, Inc. is an IFAI member and will exhibit at IFAI Expo Asia 2011.

Short takes from around the world

Push for sustainability drives innovation in advanced textiles



A recent article in Specialty Fabrics Review magazine on the “Future of Textiles” reported that the push for sustainability is driving innovations in technical textiles, and that growth is occurring both in developed and developing countries: “China is investing heavily in clean technology. In

fact, China has now overtaken the U.S. in investments in low-carbon energy among the G-20, according to a new report by the Pew Charitable Trusts published in early November 2010. The report found that despite a 6.6 percent overall global decline in clean energy investments last year, China invested almost twice as much as the U.S. in clean energy during 2009. U.S.-based companies such as GE and IBM are also driving this market growth. The challenge to implementation is the cost of both new infrastructure and of the renewable materials.” To read the entire article which talks about the newest, most exciting and intriguing developments in the industry in advanced textiles visit specialtyfabricsreview.com



Clariant moves textile chemical business to Asia

Specialty chemical company Clariant, an IFAI member, announced that its Textile Chemicals Business Unit (BU) will relocate its headquarters to Singapore. Clariant says that the move, which is due to be completed by mid 2011, places the Textile Chemicals BU management team at the heart of the world’s main textile markets and closer to its global customers. The new Singapore headquarters will accommodate the entire senior Textile Chemicals BU management team together with the global textile application technology team. Meanwhile, the application development laboratory for technical textiles and finishing will be relocated to Muttensz, near Basel, Switzerland together with the BU’s dedicated European sales and marketing operation, which comprises approximately 60 people.

“Singapore is the optimum location from which to serve the key global textile markets across India, China and South East Asia. Positioning our management team close at hand will further strengthen our customer relationships and enhance our ability to respond quickly to the trends of this dynamic sector,” comments Thomas Winkler, Head of

Clariant’s Textile Chemicals BU. “At the same time, Europe remains an important market for Clariant and our European textile customers will continue to be served by our dedicated, well-established infrastructure located in the region.” Clariant is one of the leading manufacturers of textile chemicals and textile dyes. It offers comprehensive integrated ranges throughout the whole textile value chain for all segments of the modern textile finishing industry, including dyeing and printing, fiber, finishing and pre-treatment.

Reprinted with permission from ATA: Journal for Asia on Textile and Apparel



Japanese nonwovens exporters pursue Chinese market

The average value of nonwoven products exported to China by Japanese manufacturers in 2009 was almost double the average value of materials exported to the U.S., according to a report by Textiles Intelligence. Exports to the U.S. had a total value of ¥8,282 million (US\$88.5 million), but those to China were more than double this amount, at ¥16,686 million, even though the volume of sales was lower.

Unit weights and types of materials vary from one export market to another, and some markets have a greater proportion of higher value nylon nonwovens while others are made up predominantly of lower-grade polyester and polypropylene products. But the overall message is clear—the Chinese market is now providing the added value for Japanese producers which was formerly provided by markets in the United States, and to a lesser extent by those in Europe.

Chinese customers are demanding increasing volumes of high-performance nylon-based spunmelt nonwoven materials—a speciality of Japan—for a wide range of industrial end use applications. By contrast, the U.S. imports mainly lower weight polypropylene-based and polyester based materials, primarily for the hygiene and healthcare sectors. The exporting of value-added products to China now forms a key component of the strategies of most of the leading Japanese nonwovens manufacturers.

Source: textilesintelligence.com



Building a better roof

An old Japanese essay says, "Buildings should be built for the summer."

Specialty Fabrics Review | October 2010
By Kikuko Tagawa

Both individuals and organizations are taking environmental issues into consideration, trying to lower energy costs and reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in everyday life. The Japanese government has amended its energy conservation laws to strengthen energy conservation measures in residential and industrial sectors and to promote company-wide energy management systems in commercial installations.

At the annual Product Showcase held by IFAI Japan in January 2010, two energy-saving thermal insulation products were introduced to visitors by representatives of the manufacturing/supplying companies. Made with net or woven screen fabric, both products are used on top of a folded metal plate-roofed building, and can significantly lower energy costs.

Material and mechanism

The Cool Roof Net was co-developed by the Itochu Corp., Toray Industries and Nakada Industrial Co. Ltd., a company specializing in net products. By installing flame-retardant polyester net horizontally on the plated roof and reducing heat conduction from sunlight, it prevents the inside temperature of the building from becoming too hot, saving cooling energy. The net has solved the challenge of combining high radiation shielding performance and high permeability/

breathability. Since it is 100 percent polyester, it can also be recycled.

By reducing CO₂c emissions, use of the Cool Roof Net helps prevent global warming and reduces the heat island phenomena in urban areas. The product won the Small Business Administration Secretary Award of Energy Conservation Grand Prize

in 2009, and has been introduced on television and many other media. Roof Shade was the second product introduced, this one co-developed by the Ishikawa Tent Co. Ltd. and Nihon Widecloth Co. Ltd. Ishikawa Tent, a tent and awning manufacturer, developed the method to insulate a metal roof utilizing a tent/awning system. Roof Shade is also installed on a plated roof to reduce heat conduction from sunlight, to keep inside temperatures cooler and offer energy savings. It's made of special metal evaporating treated (MASA treatment or sputtering treatment) woven high-strength polyethylene monofilament screen.

According to Hitoshi Yamamoto, Nihon Wide Cloth Co. Ltd., "This screen material is improved from the screen used in mariculture, nurturing seabream and flatfish in the sea. It has a naturally high tensile/tear strength compared to the material used in tents and awnings. By using this special MASA treatment, it enhances the heat insulation through the infrared-absorbing performance of the stainless film, as well as through its strength and durability."

Potential energy savings

Researchers at Hoshino Shoten Co. Ltd. took the data of a facility before and after the installation of Roof Shade and compared two days of similar weather and temperature conditions. It was found that by installing Roof Shade, the roof temperature was lowered by 20.9 degrees (C), and room temperature by 5.1 degrees (C), as shown in Figure 1.

They also did an experiment with a building of 200 square meters in Ehime

prefecture, and found electricity savings of approximately 23 percent.

A growing need

Toshihisa Kato, executive director of Hoshino Shoten Co. Ltd., commented: "There have been needs for shielding the heat of sunlight to the roof and saving energy costs in buildings, especially by owners of those folded metal plate-roofed buildings, including office buildings, convenience stores, drug stores, food plants, medical and/or livestock industries and cold storage facilities who want to save on air-conditioning costs, or to manage the inside temperature, or to help address complaints from workers in a hot working environment—as well as those who are keen on preserving the environment and reducing CO₂ emissions."

Sato commented, "I was invited to make a presentation about Cool Roof Net at a workshop held by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry near the end of last year. They said that in the U.S. there is a plan to conduct a large-scale study on the energy savings and heat insulation of building roofs. I was impressed, and was confident that our efforts and study and our product are working in the right direction, and will contribute to the sustainability of the earth."

It was interesting to have presented two products developed separately but intended to produce the same energy-saving effects for building roofs. Both products offer a cost-effective way to reduce air conditioning costs, and to help preserve the environment. Both have come onto the market recently and are attracting a lot of market attention .

IFAI Japan hosts product showcase

IFAI Japan will hold a product showcase in Osaka, Japan on 18 January 2011. IFAI members, including those outside Japan, are welcomed to attend and introduce products to the Japanese membership. Contact IFAI Japan executive director Kikuko Tagawa at kikuko_tagawa@nifty.com for details.





Anhui Plato Coated Fabrics Co., Ltd. – China

Anhui Plato Coated Fabrics Co., Ltd. specializes in manufacturing PVC knife-coated fabrics. Products features include light-weight, anti-corrosion, anti-abrasion, waterproof and flammability and are mainly used for truck tarpaulin, truck side curtains, inflatable promotions, membrane, oil booms, meshes, and so on. The company is ISO9001:2000 certified.



AR Industries – USA

AR Industries is an ISO-9001:2000 registered fabricator of crafted fabric products, collaboratively designed, engineered, and manufactured for commercial and residential applications. A&R Tarpaulins, Inc., a division of AT Industrial, is introducing Super Kwik Patch (“SKP”) vinyl repair tape, at IFAI Expo Asia 2011 (see article on Page 3). A&R Tarpaulins provides manufactured products and services for industrial, commercial, and trucking applications. Applications include, but are not limited to, truck covers and truck cover systems, side curtain systems for trucks, industrial curtains and enclosures, protective weather enclosures, and custom-made protective covers.



Covertex Membranes Shanghai Co. Ltd. – China

Seele Covertex (Covertex Membranes Shanghai Co., Ltd.) uses clarity, precision and lightness to offer a unique service and production range from comprehensive consulting, designing and manufacturing to project management and installation. Seele continuously sets standards in glass, steel, aluminium and membrane architecture – and has contributed to the design of modern architecture including the Cube in New York, the Strasbourg train station, the national stadium in Beijing and the newly finished Guangzhou south railway station.



Hiraoka & Co. Ltd. – Japan

Hiraoka & Co., Ltd of Tokyo, Japan produces coated, dipped and laminated fabrics for structures, tents and canopies as well as for awnings, banners, truck covers, geo-textiles and curing nets. Hiraoka's four classes of architectural structure fabrics offer dirt resistance, outstanding durability, flame retardancy and UV blocking properties. Their fabrics become award winning structures.



JEC Composites - France

JEC COMPOSITES promotes the use of composite materials worldwide and keeps more than 250,000 professionals informed and connected through a broad range of services. These include: publications for strategic studies, technical works and directories, a magazine and weekly e-letters; the JEC COMPOSITES Show; JEC COMPOSITES Asia; European and Asian Innovative International Composites Summits (I.I.C.S); innovative programs and awards, business meetings and jeccomposites.com offering daily news and information.



JX Nippon ANCI

JX Nippon Anci Corporation – Japan

JX Nippon Anci Corporation manufactures, sells and purchases synthetic resin processed products. They have sales offices in Tokyo, Japan, Atlanta, Georgia, United States and Provence, France and plants in Chiba, Japan, Alabama, Georgia, United States. As a specialist of Unique Non-woven Fabric, JX Nippon Anci has many types of products. Their products, CLAF / WARIFU, have many characteristics based on the mesh structure. Both Polyethylene and Polypropylene types are available.



Multimedia Engineering Pte. Ltd. – Singapore

Multimedia specializes in the design and construction of lightweight stressed membrane and space frame structures, serving international markets. With more than 23 years of design and build experience, the Multimedia team offers a full range of services from concept design, detail design, form finding, load analysis, contract document preparation to project management, contract supervision and control, thereby ensuring that our clients receive the best professional service.



Ocean Technology Int'l Ltd. – China

Ocean Technology Int'l Ltd. was established in Hong Kong in 2005 and is located in the Shanghai industrial area. Products include hot wedge welder, hot air welders, impulse sealing machine as well as the TOPLINK series and are used for welding Geo-membrane liners, covers, tents and PE pipes. Through the years, Ocean Technology has customers in more than 30 countries.



RightTech (S) Pte. Ltd. – Singapore

RightTech (S) Pte Ltd is a specialist in the design, construction and installation of lightweight tension membrane structures. Committed to delivering the most reliable and cost-effective structures through innovative design approaches and precision engineering, RightTech buildings range from large customized structures such as sports stadiums to building and connecting standard modular structures linking up common walkways.



Sefar AG – Switzerland

Sefar company has been dedicated to the production of industrial fabrics for nearly 200 years. Sefar has become a world-leading producer of precision technical fabrics and has partnered with experienced lighting technicians and polymer experts on a new generation of fabrics for architectural applications. This specially-finished and coated precision fabric provides novel alternatives for construction materials including high resistance to tearing, UV-resistance, high tensile strength and low weight density.



Shanghai Shenda Kobond New Materials Co. Ltd. – China

Shanghai Shenda Kobond New Materials Co.,Ltd is a large supplier for PVC coated fabrics, such as tarpaulin for truck cover, inflatable boat materials, party tent fabrics, tensile structure, and more. Their products have been widely sold to many different markets all over the world, making Kobond a well-known brand in many countries.



Stahl Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd. – Singapore

Stahl is a customer-focused company specializing in high-quality coatings for leather, flexible and non-flexible substrates, textiles and related products. Stahl also produces chemicals and dyes for the processing of leather. Stahl's objective is to achieve the highest customer service level through on-time delivery of innovative quality products and processes while operating safely and in harmony with the environment.



Ta Ya Canvas (Shanghai) Co. Ltd. - China

Ta Ya Canvas (Shanghai) Company Ltd., the extension of Ta Ya Canvas Corporation, manufactures and exports PVC coated tarpaulin and banner flex. Their products are mainly used in digital printing solvent materials and industrial tarpaulins, such as a variety of banners, truck covers, swimming pool covers and a wide range of general-use covers.



Yanji Chengmin Commercial & Trade – China

Specializing in custom and standard industrial tarps, "Greentarp" has rapidly become an industry leader in China. Greentarp is a specialist in transportation tarps as well as industrial tarps and tents. Greentarp takes pride in manufacturing the highest quality product at competitive prices, and providing superior service to customers.



Zhejiang Tianxing Technical Textiles Co., Ltd. – China

Zhejiang Tianxing Technical Textiles Co., Ltd. is one of the largest manufacturers of Geosynthetics, advertising and printing materials in China. The company produces more than 40 million square meters per year. ISO 9001 certified, this large-scale enterprise carries seven warp knitting lines as well as several advanced laminating, coating and calendaring lines from Taiwan. Their products are sold in more than 50 countries worldwide.



Zhejiang Dejia New Material Co.,Ltd. – China

Zhejiang Dejia New Material Co.,Ltd. specializes in the manufacture of PVC material including advertising material series, tarpaulin material series, inflatable material series and membrane structure series. The company has received ISO9001 standard certification and imports production lines from Germany, Italy and elsewhere, to form a multi-faceted industry chain. They welcome customers from home and abroad to visit and discuss cooperation for building a great future together.

Mark Philip commits to innovation and product diversification

Mark Philip taps into his passion for the specialty fabrics industry to update and diversify product lines.



Mark Philip, Director of John Herber LTD

By Sigrid Tornquist

“The world will always need tradesmen,” says Mark Philip, director of John Herber Ltd., dba The Canvas Technology Centre, Kaiapoi, New Zealand. Although Philip is now in charge of the company that manufactures a diverse and unusual collection of products—from theater drapes to awnings to polar shelter systems—he is, at his core, a tradesman. Philip draws from that core commitment to design and manufacture

innovative products and to foster professional growth in the tradespeople who work for him.

Philip entered the specialty fabrics industry in 1985 when he took a four-year apprenticeship at John Herber Ltd., the company his parents Graeme and Diane purchased in 1979. He began his apprenticeship sewing awnings, boat covers and trampolines, progressed to tradesman, and in 1995, he and his wife Tania bought into the business.

Niche markets

At the time Philip began with the company, its primary products were canvas backdrops and scenery for theaters throughout the country. He and his father expanded the product line to include other theater products, including stage drapes, acoustic reflector panels, and blue and green screens for movies. Philip believes that product diversity helps protect the company during fluctuations in customer needs and the economy. The company also benefits from its position as lead manufacturer in a niche market. “Because of our product diversity the economic downturn hasn’t hit us too hard,” he says. “The demand for theater drapes has remained steady and even grown in the past five years. Drapes don’t last forever, and we’re one of the only companies who provide them in New Zealand.”

The other niche product of the company—and the portion that Philip is most intimately involved with—is its polar shelter line. More than 40 years ago, long before Philip came to work at John Herber, the company began repairing polar pyramid tents, the dual-layer tents that explorers have used for centuries as shelter in Antarctica. “The original workshop was very close to the Christchurch International Airport, from which the Antarctica New Zealand scientists flew to Antarctica,” Philip says. “Because the company was so close, it started doing repairs and recovers for Antarctica New Zealand.” (Antarctica New Zealand is the Crown Entity responsible for developing, managing and executing New Zealand Government activities in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.)

“We started building the shelters from scratch about 30 years ago,” Philip says. “Eventually the United States Antarctic Program [USAP] saw our work and heard about our reputation for workmanship and quality, and about 15 years ago they came to us and asked us to build their [polar pyramid] tents as well.”

A couple of years later, Jim Davis of Rac-Tent Shelter Systems, Christchurch, New Zealand, commissioned Philip’s company to design insulated blankets for his web-beam framing system. The shelters were designed to be used for accommodation shelters, mess hall shelters, and scientific and workspace shelters. The blankets needed to be UV stable on the outside, flame retardant on the inside, fully insulated and lightweight. Philip worked closely with Davis to complete the design of the blankets, which originally were manufactured to fit two large shelter sizes.

In pursuit of quality

The design was effective, but after several years, Philip and Davis found a way to improve on it—instead of manufacturing the shelters in two large sizes, they adopted a modular approach. “Now we manufacture 1.5-meter-wide blankets so that they overlap the 8.5-by-1.2-meter-wide frame sections,” Philip says. “This way the shelters can be connected to create any size and length needed, and sealed from the harsh weather conditions.”

Sourcing the proper fabric and ensuring its quality for the shelters is an ongoing concern for Philip. A few years ago when the company ran short of flame-retardant fabric and his regular supplier couldn’t provide it in time, Philip found a local supplier that in turn contacted a fabric supplier that was prepared to dye and flame retard its own 8-ounce and 12-ounce fabric to John Herber Ltd.’s specifications so Philip and his crew could meet their deadline. “Quality control is especially important for these shelters, given the climate in Antarctica,” he says. “Thankfully, we have some very good suppliers—but I still check to make sure the fabric meets the specs.”

“I like to see quality come first and then speed,” he says. “Speed comes with experience.” Philip pays the employees well and makes an effort to accommodate their lives. The result is a staff that tends to stay with the company for a long time—the least amount of time an employee has remained with the company is eight years.

And when Philip is not meeting with clients, conducting quality control or improving product designs, he’s in the shop working alongside the rest of the staff. “When the large orders come in, I get on the sewing machines and help out so we can get the orders out on time,” he says. “Behind a sewing machine—that’s where I’m most at home.”



Texas Tech researcher to receive honorary fellowship



Seshadri Ramkumar, head of Nonwovens and Advanced Materials Laboratory at TIEHH

A Texas Tech University textiles researcher is to receive an honorary fellowship from the world's largest textile and fiber association. Seshadri Ramkumar, head of the Nonwovens and Advanced Materials Laboratory at The Institute of Environmental and Human Health (TIEHH—a member of the Industrial Fabrics Association International), will be given the honorary fellowship on 28 January 2011 by The Textile Association (India), with members topping 22,000.

"Fellowship recognition is of significant importance to academics and scientists," Ramkumar said. "The Textile Association's honorary fellowship is conferred only to very few with lifetime contributions. Only very senior distinguished scientists who are directors, senior professors and industry leaders have received this award, and I accept it with delight and humility." The award will be made in January 2011 during the 66th annual conference of the society in Bangalore, India, said P.R. Roy, director of Fibre2Fashion and president emeritus of The

Textile Association (India). Since 1946, 57 people have been honored with the fellowship. The association was founded in 1939.

"Our association is pleased to honor Dr. Ramkumar with the highest research award for his research accomplishments in nonwovens and technical textiles and also his collaborative efforts with India in the textiles field," Roy, an honorary fellow of the association, said. Ramkumar specializes in technical textiles, and is best known for creating Fibertect, a decontamination technology developed in 2005. With his team at TIEHH, Texas Tech, Ramkumar leveraged the absorbent capabilities of cotton to create the Fibertect wipe that can absorb and neutralize gases and liquids that might be used in chemical warfare.

The process has been awarded a patent and has been validated for use as a low-cost decontamination wipe for the U.S. military. The wipe's qualities were also re-engineered to create a better absorbent material to pick up the 'chocolate mousse' oil slicks on Gulf Coast beaches following the Deepwater Horizon disaster. "I offer hearty congratulations to Dr. Ramkumar for this accomplishment," said Provost Bob Smith. "This is outstanding news, and a very high-level honor and recognition for him, TIEHH and Texas Tech. It also serves as recognition of the high-caliber research we do at Texas Tech that will usher us to Tier One status."



TenCate strengthens position in Asian geosynthetics markets

TenCate has entered into an agreement to purchase the geosynthetics activities of Emas Kiara Industries Berhad, a publicly listed company based in Rawang, Malaysia. TenCate says the transaction will provide its TenCate Geosynthetics business with a significantly larger position in the supply of geosynthetics solutions to the Southeast Asian markets. The purchase is expected to be finalized in early 2011.

TenCate Geosynthetics develops and produces synthetics fabrics, nonwovens and grids, and designs solutions and systems for infrastructure and civil engineering. The company has plants in Europe, North America and Asia. Emas Kiara Industries is an important full-line producer and supplier of a wide range of geosynthetic products and solutions with primary focus on the Asian markets. "The addition of the Emas Kiara production capabilities, employees, and product brands will significantly strengthen the position of TenCate Geosynthetics activities in this rapidly growing region of the world. In combination with the existing production activities of TenCate Geosynthetics in Malaysia and China, and the existing pan-Asian market activities, TenCate will clearly have a leading market position in this region. As a result of this transaction, TenCate doubles the revenue of geosynthetics in this region," TenCate said in a statement today.

Wally Moore, Global Group Director at TenCate Geosynthetics said: "Emas Kiara Industries has done an excellent job of developing their geosynthetic activities in Asia, and we are pleased to combine our efforts to provide unmatched capabilities and solutions to this important market. This strengthening of our market position is integral part of the Asia strategy of TenCate." In addition to the continuation of other non-geosynthetic related business, Emas Kiara Industries will maintain their construction and installation activities with exclusive product supply support from TenCate Geosynthetics. TenCate is an IFAI member and will exhibit at IFAI Expo Asia 2011.





EXPO

Asia 2011

22 - 25 March 2011 | Marina Bay Sands, Singapore

Benefits of attending IFAI Expo Asia 2011

- » A world-class exhibition and matchmaking event for manufacturers of finished products and industry suppliers
- » Technical programs and insights will give delegates a competitive edge
- » Social events and other networking opportunities will create new relationships

Who will attend

- » Architects and product designers
- » Company executives
- » Construction managers
- » Consultants
- » End-product fabricators
- » Engineers
- » Government purchasing agents
- » Industry suppliers
- » Manufacturing executives
- » Material specifiers
- » Production managers

Markets of interest to exhibitors and visitors

- » Construction
- » E-textiles
- » Medical
- » Safety
- » Military
- » Graphics and signage
- » Shade systems
- » Fabric structures
- » Recreation
- » Automotive



IFAI EXPO ASIA DEBUTS

The highly anticipated IFAI Expo Asia will bring together manufacturers of finished products and industry suppliers in Singapore, March 22-25 for the trade exhibition, technical symposiums in textile end markets and networking opportunities.



While current trade shows in India and China focus primarily on the disposable nonwoven industry, IFAI Expo Asia is the first major event in the region that specifically targets the end-product fabricators who use all types of durable materials—woven, nonwoven, knit and composite textiles. This inaugural event has been two years in the planning, and is expected to draw over 100 international and regional exhibitors and about 2,000 trade visitors from Asia, the Pacific and the U.S. For details, visit www.ifaixpoasia.com.

SHOW SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, 22 MARCH 2011

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 0900 – 1630 | Medical and Healthcare Applications |
| 0900 – 1200 | Sustainability in the Textile Value Chain |
| 1300 – 1630 | Part 1: Geosynthetic Applications for Infrastructure |
| 1330 – 1700 | Tour of Advanced Canvas (limited availability) |

WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH 2011

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 0900 – 1130 | E-textiles and Smart Fabrics |
| 0900 – 1130 | Part 2: Geosynthetic Materials for Environmental Applications |
| 1130 – 1315 | Keynote Luncheon |
| 1330 – 1800 | Exhibition Open |
| 1430 – 1700 | Technical Nonwoven Applications |

THURSDAY, 24 MARCH 2011

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 0900 – 1200 | Protective Clothing |
| 0900 – 1200 | Architectural Shade and Structures |
| 1000 – 1700 | Exhibition Open |

FRIDAY, 25 MARCH 2011

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| 0900 – 1200 | Automotive Materials |
| 1000 – 1500 | Exhibition Open |

IFAI Expo Asia 2011 is for buyers and influencers

Start planning now to position your company with other leaders in the technical textiles industry. IFAI Expo Asia 2011 will be a prominent showcase for all companies conducting business in the Asia Pacific region.

If you are a supplier looking for new business, reserve an exhibit stand at the show that will draw buyers from all levels of the supply chain in a diverse range of markets.

Extend your product reach

Your company name and information will be highlighted via a highly-targeted selection of key industry media, including:

- » *Specialty Fabrics Review*, the leading industry trade magazine — in print and online
- » The official IFAI Expo Asia website, www.ifaixpoasia.com
- » IFAI Expo Asia Show Guide, distributed onsite to delegates
- » Listings in the full registration brochure and other promotions to prospective delegates
- » Promotion of your company in industry magazines, newsletters and brochures

Supporting Organizations

More than 60 industry suppliers have committed to exhibiting; and 27 organizations are partnering with IFAI to promote this event. Catering specifically to the Asia Pacific region, IFAI Expo Asia 2011 is designed to be a top-to-top, business-to-business platform developed specially to address the growth, concerns and challenges of the industry.

The Path Forward: Observations and Opportunities in the Specialty Fabrics Marketplace



Keynote:
Peter
McKernan,
IFM, IFAI
Chairman
of the Board

In the Asia Pacific region there are tremendous opportunities for specialty fabric applications. Many governments are providing stimulus funding to develop new infrastructure, water conservation projects and renewable energy applications. IFAI Chairman Peter McKernan will discuss recent observations on the U. S. specialty fabrics markets and new opportunities in Asia Pacific for industry products.

- » Australia Canvas and Synthetic Products Association (ACASPA)
- » Asia Nonwoven Fabrics Association (ANFA)
- » Association for Spatial Structures, China Steel Construction Society (CSCS)
- » Business Coordination House (BCH)
- » China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, the Sub-Council of Textile Industry (CCPIT TEX)
- » Chinese Technical Association on Geosynthetics (CTAG)
- » China Flame Retardant Society
- » China Knitting Industrial Association – Warp Knitting Branch (CKIA-WKA)
- » China Nonwovens and Industrial Textiles Association (CNITA)
- » EDANA - European Disposables and Nonwovens Association
- » Fibre2Fashion
- » IFAI/ Outdoor Fabric Products Association of New Zealand (OFPANZ)
- » International Trade Administration (ITA)
- » INDA – Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
- » Japan Awning Association (JAA)
- » Japan Chemical Fibers Association (JCFA)
- » Japan Tent Sheet Manufacturers Association (JTSMMA)
- » JEC Composites
- » Membrane Structures Association of Japan (MSAJ)
- » National Textile Association (NTA)
- » The Management Committee of Zhejiang Haining Warp Knitting Industrial Zone
- » The Nonwovens Institute (NCRC)
- » Shanghai Textile Association Technical Textile Sub-association
- » Singapore Convention & Exhibition Bureau
- » Taiwan Technical Textiles Association (TTTA)
- » Textile & Fashion Federation
- » U.S. Commercial Service

IFAI EXPO ASIA 2011 Exhibitors (as of December 2010)

Advance Canvas Industries Ptd. Ltd.

Al'Fresco Elite System Pte. Ltd.

Anhui Plato Coated Fabrics

AR Industries

Australian Canvas and Synthetic Products Association Inc.

Beijing Wuzhou Guardtex New Type Coat Material Co. Ltd.

Canobbio-Asiatex Construction Technology Co. Ltd.

(Guangzhou)

Cooley Group

Covortex Membranes Shanghai Co. Ltd.

CTAG - China Technical Association on Geosynthetics

Daiwabo Progress Co. Ltd.

Dasec

Dezhou Huayuan Eco-Technology Co. Ltd.

DJIC Limited

Fabric Solutions Australia P/L

Foshan S.L.P. Special Materials Co. Ltd.

Fujian Sijia Industrial Material Co. Ltd.

Gale Pacific Ltd

Glen Raven Custom Fabrics / Sunbrella

H. Nizam Din & Sons (Pvt.) Ltd.

Hangzhou Xiao Shan Shenlian Chemfibre Textile Co. Ltd.

Hangzhou Zhongling Advertising Materials Co. Ltd.

Herculite Products Inc.

Hiraoka & Co. Ltd.

INDA – Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry

JEC Composites

J-Trading

JX Nippon Anci Corporation

Kanbo Pras Corporation

Lamcotec

Light Weight Structures Advisory Board

Miller Weldmaster Corp.

Multimedia Engineering Pte. Ltd.

N.I. Teijin Shoji Co. Ltd.

Obeikan Technical Fabrics Co. Right Tech (S) Pte. Ltd.

OceanTechnology Int'l Ltd.

Qingdao G&E Bio-polytex Co. Ltd.

RightTech (S) Pte. Ltd

Safety Components

Sefar AG

Shanghai Shenda Kobond New Materials Co. Ltd.

Shanghai Taiyo Kogyo Co. Ltd.

Shanghai Wei & Kai Membrane Materials Co., Ltd.

Sinclair Equipment Company

SIOEN Coated Fabrics (Shanghai) Trading Co. Ltd.

Stahl Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd.

Structureflex Pacific

Taya Canvas (Shanghai) Co. Ltd.

TenCate Geosynthetics Asia Sdn. Bhd

Tensioned Fabric Structure Sdn. Bhd.

TUV SUD PSB Pte. Ltd.

Verseidag-Indutex GmbH

Warp Knitting Mall China

Wax Converters Textiles Pty. Ltd.

Yanji Chengmin Commercial & Trade Co

Zhejiang Dejjia New Material Co. Ltd.

Zhejiang MSD Warp Knitting & Coating Co. Ltd.

Zhejiang Tianxing Technical Textiles Co. Ltd.

Zhejiang Xingyida Reinforced Materials Co. Ltd.

Zhejiang Yuli Plastic Co. Ltd.

Singapore – where great things happen

Lying almost on the equator, Singapore is not just one island but a main island with 63 surrounding islets. The main island has a total land area of 682 square km. However, its compact size belies its economic growth. In just 150 years, Singapore has grown into a thriving center of commerce and industry. Singapore is rapidly taking its place among the world's premier global cities, where talented people from all around the world gather to share innovative ideas and start new businesses.

When you attend IFAI Expo Asia 2011 in Singapore, you'll definitely want to extend your stay. There's just so much to see and do. For art aficionados and history buffs, there are museums, galleries and heritage centers. Party animals can revel in a colorful nightlife scene. Nature lovers can immerse in the rainforests and gardens. Sports enthusiasts can look forward to sporting action. And the whole family can spend time together at theme parks.

The city's shopping centers carry the latest local and international products, from designer and high street fashion to arts and crafts. Singapore is also home to award-winning restaurants, trendy cafes and "street food" centers, making this a great place to enjoy cuisines from Asia and beyond. The nightlife won't disappoint either, with some of the world's favorite clubs and bars.



Book your reservations now at the new Marina Bay Sands:
www.marinabaysands.com/IFAI.aspx

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.visitsingapore.com

IFAI | INDUSTRIAL FABRICS Association International

ABOUT THE ORGANIZER

IFAI Expo Asia 2011 is organized by the Industrial Fabrics Association International (IFAI), the largest textile trade organization in the world. IFAI publishes seven market-specific magazines in print and online, organizes major industry events, and through hundreds of activities supports the success of nearly 2,000 member companies located in more than 54 countries including China, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Russia, New Zealand and Australia.

IFAI invests event revenue back into benefits for its worldwide membership. For information about membership, publication subscriptions, advertising and networking opportunities, visit www.ifai.com or call +1 651 222 2508.



ABOUT THE CO-MANAGER

Established in 1987, Singapore-based MP Asia Group is a world-class professional exhibition and conference organizer, and the co-manager of IFAI Expo Asia 2011. MP is also the organizer of ITMA Asia 2012 in Shanghai and ITMA 2011 in Barcelona, the world's largest textile machinery trade fairs.



Asia 2011

22-25 March • Singapore
Marina Bay Sands
ifaexpoasia.com

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IFAI has announced that Singapore Airlines is the official Expo Asia 2011 carrier. For more information on special airfare opportunities, visit the [expoasia](http://expoasia.com) website.

www.ifai.com

www.ifaexpoasia.com

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