

PRESS RELEASE
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Levi Strauss & Co. is first ITMA Sustainable Innovation Award winner

13 November 2015 – Levi Strauss & Co. of USA, known worldwide for its authentic vintage look jeans, is the winner of the first ITMA Sustainable Innovation Award. It clinched the ITMA Industry Excellence Award category from two other finalists: Berto Industria Tessile (Italy) and Gebrüder Otto (Germany).

Using the NoStone[®] garment washing technology from Tonello, an ITMA 2015 exhibitor, Levi Strauss & Co. has started preliminary development work in their Plock facility in Poland. Tonello's technology provides Levi Strauss an important first step to solving an industry challenge in denim finishing – the use of pumice stones which have environmental, economic and mechanical disadvantages.

Receiving the award last evening at the ITMA 2015 gala dinner was Levi Strauss & Co.'s R&D Product Researcher, Mr. Franky Vangaever. He enthused, "We are very excited to be the first winner of the ITMA award. The success is a testimony of the strong collaboration of two iconic brands – Tonello and ourselves – in pursuit of industry sustainability."

CEMATEX, the European Committee of Textile Machinery Manufacturers, launched the ITMA Sustainable Innovation Award as part of its ongoing efforts to encourage and recognise outstanding industry members and post-graduate students for their contributions to the sustainable development of the global textile and garment industry. The two award categories are ITMA Industry Excellence Award for ITMA 2015 exhibitors and their clients, and the R&I Excellence Award for post-graduate students of institutions participating in the Research & Innovation Pavilion.

Mr Charles Beauquin, President of CEMATEX, who also sits on the Industry Excellence Award judging panel, said: "The ITMA Sustainable Innovation Award celebrates the successful collaboration between technology providers and industry users. With both parties working closely together, innovative, yet practical solutions that positively impact the environment and business bottom line can be created. Hence, we hope to continue to encourage more of such industry collaborations. CEMATEX would like to congratulate the winners and finalists for their excellent efforts."

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The Industry Excellence Award recognises textile and garment manufacturers who have leveraged on technological innovations to advance business sustainability that benefit people, planet and profit. The finalists have worked closely with ITMA 2015 exhibitors to introduce innovative solutions to their production process or products.

Finalist Berto Industria Tessile is a leading vertically integrated manufacturer of denim products. It leverages on the Matex[®] Eco Applicator range by ITMA exhibitor Monforts to significantly reduce the amount of liquid needed in finishing denim fabrics, leading to energy savings and a huge reduction in waste water produced.

On the other hand, Gebrüder Otto is a leading yarn manufacturer which implemented Mayer & Cie's spinitystems[®] to produce single jersey fabric using up to 35 per cent less energy compared to the conventional process.

For the **R&I Excellence Award** – Masters category, Jan Vincent Jordan, Institut Für Textiltechnik of RWTH Aachen University is the winner. His Master's Thesis: 'Development & Assembly of a Test Bench for the Analysis of Magnetic Weft Insertion' clinched top marks with the judges.

The two other finalists were: Jenifer Schneidereit, Hochschule Niederrhein for her Master's Thesis: 'Sustainable Water Use in Textile Wet Processing: Development of a List of Improvement Measures for a Self-Assessment Tool for Factories', and Moniruddoza Ashir, Institute of Textile Machinery and High Performance Material Technology, TU Dresden, for his Master's Thesis: 'Development of Hybrid Woven Structures for Lightweight Applications'.

The ITMA Sustainable Innovation Award winners received their prizes from Mr Beauduin. The winner of the Industry Excellence Award received a cash prize of 10,000 euros and a trophy, among other rewards. The winner of the R&I Excellence Award received a cash prize of 4,000 euros.

ITMA 2015 is held at Fiera Milano Rho from 12 to 19 November 2015. It showcases end-to-end solutions for the entire textile and garment making chain. For more information on the exhibition, conferences and innovation award, please visit www.itma.com.

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About CEMATEX & ITMA

The European Committee of Textile Machinery Manufacturers (CEMATEX) comprises national textile machinery associations from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. It is the owner of ITMA and ITMA ASIA. Considered the 'Olympics' of textile machinery exhibitions, ITMA has a 64-year history of displaying the latest in machinery and software for every single work process of textile making. It is held every four years in Europe.

About MP Expositions

MP Expositions is a subsidiary of MP International Pte Ltd, a professional exhibition and conference organiser. Established in Singapore in 1987, MP has organised and managed over 2000 major national, regional and international events, including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2009 Leaders' Week. It is the organiser of ITMA 2011 and 2015, and ITMA ASIA 2001 and 2005. It is also co-organiser of the ITMA ASIA+CITME shows 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014. A member of the Pico group, MP International is headquartered in Singapore with a global footprint across Asia and Europe. MP's success with various partners is a testimony of its ability to identify opportunities and maximise the rewards for win-win partnerships.

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