

# Global technical textiles business update, March 2019

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## Abstracts

This report provides a round-up of recent corporate developments in the global technical textiles sector, including: acquisitions, divestments and mergers; business news; investments; and joint ventures. The report contains news relating to the following innovative companies, other organisations and research centres: Adient, Adient Aerospace, Airbus Helicopters, Andritz, Arville, Aurora Specialty Textiles Group, BGF Industries, Bio-on, Boeing, Bolger & O'Hearn (B&O), Coats, DSM Coating Resins, EDANA, ELG Carbon Fibre, Eloxel, Fibertex Nonwovens, Fiber-Line, Glatfelter, Grupo SARI (Rubi Industrial), Hof University of Applied Sciences, Kartell, Kelheim Fibres, Lenzing Group, Lenzing (Nanjing) Fibers (LNF), M&J Airlaid Products, Mitsubishi Corporation, Mogul, M?Inlycke Health Care (M?Inlycke), the National Composites Centre (NCC), the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), PolyOne, SGL Carbon, Silk Inc, Soteria Battery Innovation Group (BIG), Stora Enso, ThreadSol, TreeToTextile, the University of Sheffield Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) Composite Centre, and Volt Smart Yarns.

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### SUMMARY

#### ACQUISITIONS, DIVESTMENTS AND MERGERS

Coats has acquired ThreadSol in order to strengthen its position as a supplier of production software

Fibertex Nonwovens has acquired a facility for producing hydroentangled nonwovens in the USA

Lenzing Group has acquired the remaining 30% of its Chinese operation which it did not already own

Mitsubishi Corporation has agreed to acquire a strategic stake in ELG Carbon Fibre

M?Inlycke Health Care has acquired M&J Airlaid Products, a producer of air-laid nonwovens

PolyOne has acquired a US manufacturer of fibres and composites in order to target markets for fibre optic cables and fifth generation mobile networks

#### BUSINESS NEWS

Andritz will supply a complete needlepunching line to Grupo SARI (Rubi Industrial) and a complete hydroentanglement line to Sheng Hung Industrial

Production at Kelheim Fibres' viscose fibre production plant has been disrupted by a fire

Research by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) could lead to a process for making carbon fibres from biomass

Soteria Battery Innovation Group (BIG) has sold a licence for its nanofibre battery separator technology to Glatfelter

Speciality chemicals company Bolger & O'Hearn has entered into an exclusive agreement to represent DSM Coating Resins in the USA

The European nonwovens industry has pledged to increase its use of recycled polyester (R-PET)

Volt Smart Yarns has set up a division to produce smart fabrics

#### INVESTMENTS

Aurora Specialty Textiles Group has invested in sustainable manufacturing at its North American plant

BGF Industries plans to invest US\$7 mn in new US headquarters

Silk Inc has secured funding to scale up its silk protein based finishes business  
Technical textile producer Arville is investing ?1.2 mn in new technology to increase production  
The National Composites Centre (NCC) in the UK is to target the composites market with a multimillion pound investment  
The University of Sheffield Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) Composite Centre has invested in a permeability testing system

## **JOINT VENTURES**

Airbus Helicopters has signed an agreement with SGL Carbon relating to the supply of glass fibres and carbon fibres  
Bio-on and Kartell have established a new joint venture called Eloxel to exploit opportunities for developing bio-based smart fabrics  
Boeing and Adient have formed a joint venture to improve aircraft seating  
Boeing and ELG Carbon Fibre have established a partnership to recycle carbon fibre  
Carbon fibres and fabrics supplied by SGL carbon are to be used extensively in BMW's upcoming iNEXT electric vehicle  
Hof University of Applied Sciences and Lenzing have signed an agreement relating to the development of performance nonwovens  
Stora Enso has joined TreeToTextile, a joint venture established to industrialise a process for manufacturing cellulose fibre

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