

## Press Release

**Oerlikon Manmade Fibers at the ‘Dornbirn-GFC 2020 – Webinar Week’, September 16 through 18, 2020**

# **Exciting mix of current topics focusing on digitalization, the circular economy and personal protective equipment (PPE)**

**Remscheid, August 20, 2020 – due to the coronavirus pandemic, the 59<sup>th</sup> Global Fiber Congress, which this year was going to take place in Dornbirn, Austria, will now be presented online as a ‘Webinar Week’ between September 16 and 18, 2020. Also involved in the presentations and discussions are three technology experts from the Manmade Fibers segment of the Swiss Oerlikon Group.**

The focus of the ‘Dornbirn-GFC 2020 – Webinar Week’ will be on speeches and discussions on the following topics: ‘Smart, Integrated, Digital Textile Production Chain’, ‘Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – a Challenge for the Industry in Europe?’, ‘New Recycling Technologies – what are the Challenges?’, ‘Circular Economy in the European Industry Recovery’ and ‘Future Rules & Regulations for Textiles – what should be expected from the EU?’.

The opening speech comes in the form of a keynote on the topic of ‘The Green Deal and its Implications for the Textile Industry’ by Leonore Gewessler. She has been the Federal Minister for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology for the Republic of Austria since January 2020. Furthermore, she was the Managing Director of the Global 2020 environmental organization between 2014 and 2019.

### **Digitalization and sustainability**

Tracking and tracing products in complex production processes using state-of-the-art digitalization technologies is at the core of the speech to be given by Sylvain Huck, Technology Manager Digital at Oerlikon Manmade Fibers. He will be talking on the topic of ‘Yarn DNA supported by Digitalization’ (all speeches will be held in English) on September 16, 2020, between 1 and 1:20 p.m. The following day, Markus Reichwein, Head of Product Management at Oerlikon Manmade Fibers, will be addressing another important current topic: ‘On the Road to a Sustainable Manmade Fiber Industry’ is the title of his

presentation, which he will be giving on September 17, 2020 between 2 and 2:20 p.m. In his speech, he will be presenting the mechanical and chemical recycling solutions that the manmade fiber industry is currently pursuing.

## **Protective masks**

The hot topic of discussion currently is protective masks and apparel. As a result, the demand for filter media – and those made from meltblown nonwovens in particular – has been extremely high since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. The Oerlikon Nonwoven meltblown technology is recognized by the market as being the technically most efficient method for producing highly-separating filter media made from plastic fibers. The capacities for respiratory masks available in Europe to date are predominantly manufactured on Oerlikon Nonwoven systems. In his ‘Leading Meltblown Technology for the Production of Face Mask Filter Media’ presentation, Dr. Ingo Mählmann – Head of Sales & Marketing at Oerlikon Nonwoven – will take the participants on a journey between 9:40 and 10 a.m. on September 17, 2020, introducing them to the secrets of meltblown technology. Because manufacturing protective masks, which help us control the dangerous coronavirus, requires ramping up the filter performance considerably. For this, spunbond and meltblown materials have to be electrostatically-charged. Here, the Oerlikon Nonwoven ecuTEC+ electro-charging unit is the key to success.

## **Tradition maintained**

One tradition of the Global Fiber Congress has to be maintained even in the age of the coronavirus pandemic: to this end, the ‘Paul Schlack/Wilhelm Albrecht Prize’ awards ceremony will still take place within the context of the digital ‘Webinar Week’. You can find all further information and the options for registering on the following Website: [www.dornbirn-gfc.com](http://www.dornbirn-gfc.com)

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**Caption:** The technology experts of the Manmade Fibers segment of the Swiss Oerlikon Group are looking forward to their presentations within the context of this year's 'Dornbirn-GFC 2020 – Webinar Week', taking place between September 16 and 18, 2020.

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**About Oerlikon**

Oerlikon (SIX: OERL) develops modern materials, systems and surface technologies and provides specialized services aimed at securing high-performance products and systems with long lifespans for customers. Supported by its technological core competencies and its strong financial footing, the corporation continues its medium-term growth plan by implementing three strategic factors: focusing on attractive growth markets, ensuring structural growth and expanding through targeted M&A activities. Oerlikon is a globally-leading technology and engineering corporation, operating its business in two segments (Surface Solutions and Manmade Fibers) and employing around 11,100 members of staff at 182 sites in 37 countries worldwide. In 2019, Oerlikon generated sales of CHF 2.6 billion and invested more than CHF 120 million in research & development.

For further information: [www.oerlikon.com](http://www.oerlikon.com)

**About the Oerlikon Manmade Fibers segment**

With its Oerlikon Barmag, Oerlikon Neumag and Oerlikon Nonwoven brands, the Oerlikon Manmade Fibers segment is one of the leading providers of manmade fiber filament spinning systems, texturing machines, BCF systems, staple fiber systems and solutions for the production of nonwovens and – as a service provider – offers engineering solutions for the entire textile value added chain. As a future-oriented company, the research and development at this division of the Oerlikon Group is driven by energy-efficiency and sustainable technologies (e-save). With its range of polycondensation



and extrusion systems and their key components, the company caters to the entire manufacturing process – from the monomer all the way through to the textured yarn. The product portfolio is rounded off with automation and Industrie 4.0 solutions.

The primary markets for the product portfolio of Oerlikon Barmag are in Asia, especially in China, India and Turkey, and – for those of Oerlikon Neumag and Oerlikon Nonwoven – in the USA, Asia, Turkey and Europe. Worldwide, the segment – with just under 3,000 employees – has a presence in 120 countries with production, sales and distribution and service organizations. At the R&D centers in Remscheid, Neumünster (Germany) and Suzhou (China), highly-qualified engineers, technologists and technicians develop innovative and technologically-leading products for tomorrow's world.

For further information: [www.oerlikon.com/manmade-fiber](http://www.oerlikon.com/manmade-fiber)