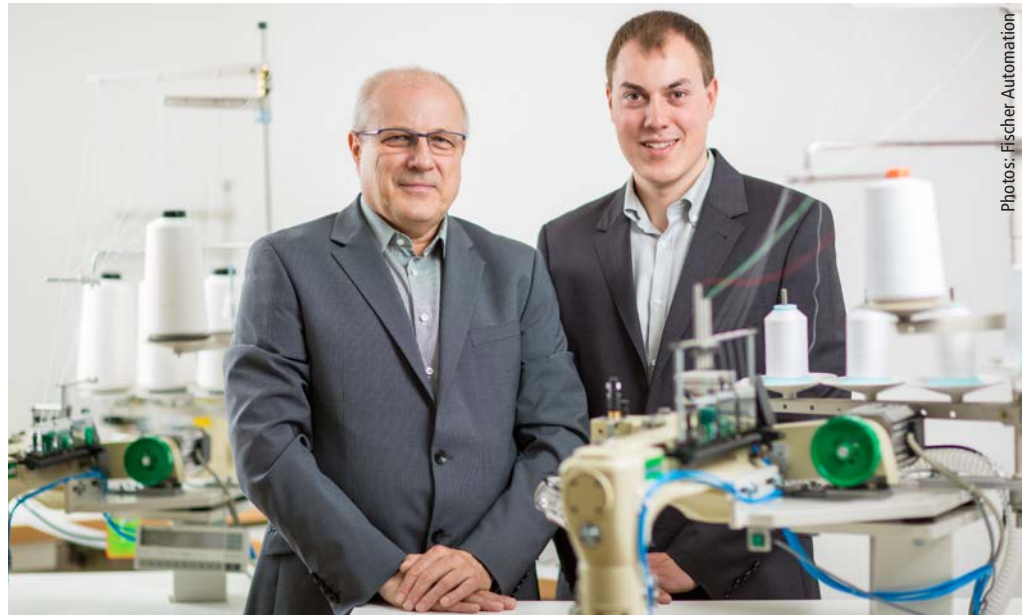


Fischer Automation

# It's all about seams and joins

With the departure of the clothing industry in Germany, business has changed for its sewing machine manufacturers. Workshops, studios and the repair and maintenance departments of hire service businesses, it is true, still need sewing machines. For the machine constructors, however, the future lies in the production of technical textiles, as the story of Fischer Automation shows.

The company, based in Köditz in Bavaria, was founded in 1952 in nearby Hof an der Saale as a specialist in high-quality sewing technology. The range of machines was determined by the textile and clothing manufacturers based close at hand in the surrounding area of Upper Franconia, in south-eastern Germany. With the increasing migration of clothing production to Eastern Europe and Asia, however, sales of industrial sewing machines fell into a steady decline. At the same time, the market for technical textiles in Germany began to grow and new processing machines were needed to produce these. In the



Photos: Fischer Automation

Work hand-in-hand together: Karlheinz Fischer (left) and his son Timo

mid-1990s, therefore, the second generation of the family switched to automation engineering. Since then, the company has been dedicated to the development, design and construction of innovative solutions for a wide range of sewing tasks, in which a needle does not always have to play the leading role: fabrics can also be joined together nowadays using

ultrasound, heat-welding and adhesive technologies.

## It's the task that determines the join

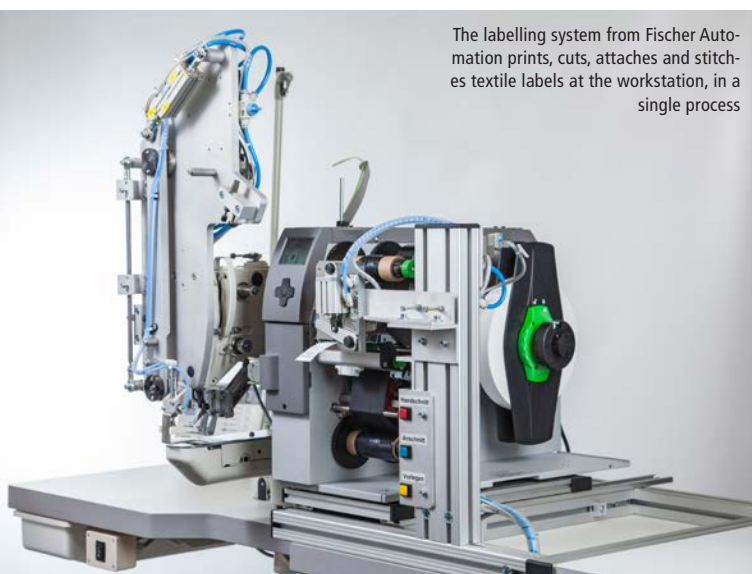
Geotextiles and industrial textiles are an important market for Fischer Automation. These are used for a range of different tasks and have to be produced to the customer's requirements. In repairing and renovating sewers, for example, resin-impregnated textile sleeves known as sewer liners are used. These are inserted into the shafts under air pressure and cured in place. The tailor-made sleeves are manufactured using equipment supplied by the Köditz-based company. They not only construct the heavy fabric sleeves with continuous stitching but also render the extremely flat seams air- and waterproof, through an additional process using a taping

You will find Fischer Automation at Texprocess in hall 5.0, booth A78

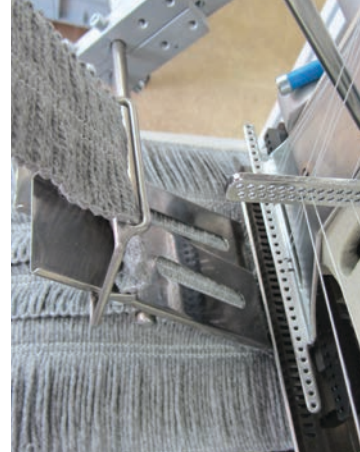
mechanism. This prevents the escape of air and resin through the perforations caused by the needles, and the sleeves then fit perfectly onto the sewer walls. If required, the sleeves can also have their length specifications printed on them so that the engineers can work as precisely as possible.

## Stitching? Just one solution among many!

Another of the Bavarian manufacturer's products is a machine for constructing technical filters. For the purpose of continuous cutting and matching of lightweight polypropylene, polyamide and polyester textiles, the company uses ▶



The labelling system from Fischer Automation prints, cuts, attaches and stitches textile labels at the workstation, in a single process



[1] A modular, continuously running production line turns out a constant stream of cleaning mops

[2] Fischer Automation builds machines that continuously encase textile sleeves in aluminium foil

[3] Additional machine modules lend a great deal of flexibility to a wide range of industrial sewing machines and applications – for attaching fringes to cleaning textiles, for example

► processes such as heat-welding and welding with ultrasound. Filtration materials for industry, by contrast, are traditionally stitched, since welding does not work on heat-resistant aramid or glass fibre textiles. The welding process is also limited by the thickness of the textiles to be joined: if the temperature cannot be evenly distributed across the entire material layer, the process no longer works properly. Another of the Company's solutions lies in continuously running production lines for the

manufacture of cleaning mops. The machinery can be equipped with a range of different stitching technologies, depending on what is required. Its modular construction means that it can be freely adapted to the product in question. According to the father-and-son team, who represent the company's third generation, the business produces equipment for almost any purpose. Ultrasound cutting systems for textile tapes and belts, semi-automated label application and stitching machines, repair workstations for workwear

and hotel textiles, specialised sewing machines for bandages and compression stockings, machinery for producing spacer fabrics – there is barely a machine that the Köditz factory does not build. As Timo Fischer, the son, puts it: "The customer comes here with his product and we find the best processing solution."

**Made in Köditz, from A to Z**  
The company carries out all stages of its entire machinery production in Germany. What is special about this is that the

business can create a whole range of different components for itself using a 3D printer – for since so many suppliers emigrated to Asia, many parts can no longer be obtained from within Germany. Do-it-yourself, therefore, was the only solution left to the Bavarian inventors. And it's worth it: demand for Fischer machinery, whether from the standard range or specially produced, has been growing for years from around the world.

[[www.fischer-automation.com](http://www.fischer-automation.com)]  
[Sabine Anton-Katzenbach]

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