

## **Vietnam to present roadmap for innovation and modernisation of textile technology**

The Vietnamese government's Institute for Industry Policy and Strategy (IPS) says it will present a "review and roadmap for innovation and modernisation of textile technology" before the end of the year to speed up innovation in the sectors.

The roadmap will contain a comprehensive system of solutions including human resource training, investment promotion, preferential loans and changes to regulations of Vietnam's National Technology Innovation Fund – a state financial institution that provides preferential loans, subsidised loan interest and loan guarantees as well as granting expenses to organisations, individuals and enterprises that carry out research, technology transfer and innovation.

The IPS says it wants the plan to ensure the Vietnam textile industry's technologies will become comparatively advanced compared to other countries in southeast Asia by 2025 and that outdated equipment will be eliminated completely by 2030.

"While the pace of innovation is quite fast within the garment sector, with many facilities using CAD/CAM [computer aided design and manufacturing] in technical design and diagram making, the rate of technological innovation of the textile industry is quite slow," IPS deputy director Vu Quang Hung in an interview with Vietnamese-language business daily Cong Thuong in September [2019] when the roadmap was first suggested.

"Many of the machines were imported over 15 years ago, are of degraded quality and low productivity and have high power consumption, with the state of play regarding weaving technology being even worse than regarding knitting technology," he adds.

An early adopter of innovative knitting technology in Vietnam has been Ho Chi Minh City-based Thanh Vinh which, in 2017, switched from conventional air-jet weaving technology to warp-knitting with Karl Mayer's machine model TM 4-TS EL to make terry fabrics.

"In comparison with weaving technology, warp-knitting with TM 4-TS EL raises productivity by 250 percent, consumes less energy than air-jet weaving and no sizing is needed at all – which saves chemicals, effluent and energy equal to around 30% of the production costs," says Christoph Peters, senior vice president and general manager of Illies Vietnam, which supplied the TM 4-TS EL to Thanh Vinh in 2017.

He says: "We have guided progressively-thinking producer Thanh Vinh towards such innovative technology as we recognise an increasing demand throughout the textile industry for greener production from recycled yarn up to finished fabrics produced with a reduced and traceable footprint of water, energy and chemicals."

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