FRANCE OFFERS A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTION EXPERTISE

- Spinning of specialty fibers, such as glass (Saint-Gobain Vetrotex), aramid (Kermel), carbon (Soficar), vinyl (Rhovyl), polyester (Setila, Tergal), metallic (Ugitech), multi-functional: antistatic & antibacterial (R-Stat), hybrid yarns (Schappe Techniques)

- Functional textiles following weaving, knitting, braiding or nonwovens and chemical, physical or mechanical treatments

IN A WIDE RANGE OF APPLICATIONS AREAS:

Geotextiles: Bidim Geosynthetics, subsidiary of Austria’s Polyfelt, strengthens, stabilizes and drains soil, in partnership with LIRIGM in Grenoble University and several civil engineering laboratories; also offers an instrumented material, Geodetect, with fiber optics, a concept of CEA Leti. MDB Textinov reinforces nonwovens with multiaxial fabrics that permit increased resistance of more than 750 kN/m.

Personal Protection: Companies such as Paul Boyé, VTN, Bacou, Comasec and Matisec develop clothing for both security and comfort, using, for example, high-performance fabrics of Noiret Bohain or Bugis TT, and yarns from Schappe Techniques or R-Stat.

Structural composite materials: Known for its reinforcement, roofing and molding applications, Chomerit strengthens skis and boats’ hulls. Mermet Industries reinforces building structures and is launching a new paintable fibre glass fabric. Leader in composite materials development, Hexcel contributes to the development of Airbus planes. Porcher Industries manufactures finished fabrics for the reinforcement of printed circuit boards. Among the innovations of Messier Bugatti, is the development of carbon/carbon brakes for airplanes, which were adopted by Airbus two decades ago and equip most airplanes today.

Medical: Major actors in the development of medical compression products include Innothera, Thuaune, Ganzoni and Gibaud. Cousin Biotech and Cardial create implants with integrated new molecules. Currently, Wealthy, a European project for instrumented clothes for medical use, is being developed with the support of top engineering university INSA.

Hygiene: Dounor specializes in the manufacturing of polypropylene nonwovens for the hygiene industry. Large international groups such as BBA and Georgia Pacific are also present in France.

Sports & Leisure: Sofileta has developed highly functional textiles, and Euracli is known for producing microcapsules containing perfumes, aroma, vitamins, essential oils for the textiles industry.

Architecture: Ferrari manufactures tensile membranes for the building sector, such as in stadium and train station coverings. Dickson is known for its production of fabrics for awnings and for exterior building structures.

PROVEN EXPERTISE & SUCCESS

Combining its proven expertise and know-how of the textile industry with that of other sectors such as chemistry, mechanical and civil engineering, medical and agriculture, France has positioned itself as a key player in the functional & technical textiles industry.
Industrial Applications:
Mortelecque and Sefar Fyltis play an important role in the design and manufacture of fabrics for wet and dry filtration. Sovoutri and Milliken produce adherized textiles for the manufacturing of rubber goods such as conveyors and synchronization belts.

Automotive: Michel Thierry is the European leader in car seat fabrics. Key players also include Samuel Roche (safety belts), NCV (airbag fabrics) and Ames Europe (knitted spacer fabrics for ventilation and filter systems).

DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENT FOR INNOVATION
Top Universities and Training
The country’s focus on quality education and producing top-calibre engineers and technicians has contributed to the evolution of the textile industry in France from clothing to the use of high-tech fabrics in the design of ultimate performance products. The multidisciplinarity of France’s engineers is a key factor in this transformation. Internationally-renowned engineering schools include ENSAIT and ESTIF in Northern France, ENSITM in Northeastern France and ITECH in Lyon.

R&D and Innovation
In addition to research at France’s top schools and IFTH, partnerships with other branches of activity have guaranteed continued development in functional & technical textiles: civil engineering (LIRIGM), agronomy (INRA), medical and nanoelectronics (CEA Minatec), medical modelling, standardization and sensor integration in medical textiles in Saint Etienne.

CE Marking guarantee for Personal Protective Equipment PPE, sports and medical devices and geotextiles can be provided by IFTH.

ATTRACTIVE DESTINATION FOR INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT
A significant international presence in France in the technical textiles industry
Major international companies have invested in France in order to take advantage of the country’s resources, savoir-faire and creativity: Hexcel (USA) has installed the largest carbon weaving factory in the world in les Avenières. Glen Raven (USA) acquired Dickson, a leader in awning and marine fabrics. Säntex (Germany) established a site in Isère for reinforcing materials. Switzerland’s Sefar, leader in providing screens and filter media for screen printing and filtration applications, established a subsidiary in France.

Examples of international partnerships include
• Epurae, in La Tour du Pin, is a joint creation of France’s Rovitex and Finland’s Ahlstrom. The company offers solutions to fight against olfactory problems emitted by waste waters in open fields and develops air purifying equipment.
• Fibroline in Lyon: created a process that allows for the continuous impregnation of fibrous assemblies (wovens, nonwovens, natural fibres, synthetics) with powders (thermosetting, thermo-plastic, mineral, cosmetic). The partnership combines the patents of the Belgian Fibroline with the R&D of IFTH and the machinary of Switzerland’s Strahm.