

## Knitting Industry

### Industry Talk

### Italian innovation at Techtextil

#### Italian machinery makers highlight advanced solutions for growing technical textiles markets.

The Italian textile machinery industry is preparing for a major international showcase at Techtextil 2026, scheduled to take place in Frankfurt from 21–24 April. A strong contingent of Italian manufacturers will exhibit at the event, widely recognised as a global benchmark for technical and innovative textiles, presenting advanced technologies designed to meet the demands of an expanding market.

Italy continues to reinforce its position as one of the world's leading producers of textile machinery, supported by a highly specialised and robust manufacturing base. The sector is strongly export-oriented, with 86% of production destined for international markets and a presence in more than 130 countries. This global reach underlines the reputation of Italian technology for quality, innovation and reliability.

Germany remains a key market for Italian manufacturers. In the first eleven months of 2025, sales reached €81 million. Accessories accounted for 36% of demand, while finishing machinery represented 33%, reflecting the importance of these technologies in advanced textile production processes.

A defining strength of the Italian sector lies in its structure, which is largely composed of small- and medium-sized enterprises with a strong focus on research and development. This enables close collaboration with customers and the creation of tailored, flexible solutions that respond directly to industry needs.

Marco Salvadè, President of ACIMIT, commented that increasing demand for innovative textiles across multiple industrial sectors is reinforcing the position of Italian manufacturers. He noted that the combination of advanced technology and customisation capabilities will be central to addressing the evolving challenges of the technical textiles market.

Italian expertise is rooted in established industrial districts including Bergamo, Biella, Brescia, Como, Milan, Prato and Vicenza. These regions continue to uphold high standards of quality and reliability, ensuring that Italian-made machinery remains a global point of reference.

A wide range of ACIMIT member companies will be present within the Italy Pavilion, alongside others exhibiting independently or through local representatives, further demonstrating the depth and diversity of Italian technological capability in the sector.

Founded in 1945, ACIMIT represents around 170 manufacturers covering spinning, weaving, knitting, finishing and related machinery sectors. The broader industry includes approximately 300 companies employing nearly 13,000 people, with total production valued at around €2.3 billion. Export activity remains a defining characteristic, supported by a focus on creativity, sustainable technologies and engineering excellence.

ACIMIT