

ITALIAN TEXTILE MACHINERY

Innovation, Sustainability & Automation: The Italian Textile Machinery Advantage



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President

A. Innovation & Technology Leadership

1. How do you assess the current position of Italian textile machinery in the global technology landscape?

Italy remains a world leader in the textile machinery industry. Our position is defined by an extraordinary international vocation, exporting to approximately 130 countries, and a relentless drive for innovation. In 2025, even amidst a complex global landscape, we maintained a production value of approximately €1.94 billion.

2. What are the most significant innovations emerging from Italian manufacturers in recent years?

The most significant advancements involve our ability to create dedicated machinery for high value-added market niches, such as technical textiles. Our innovations are not just about speed, but about flexibility and versatility, allowing manufacturers to respond quickly to specific customer needs.

3. How is digitalisation (AI, IoT, Industry 4.0) reshaping textile machinery development in Italy?

Digitalisation is vital for modern sustainable and digital processes. Our constant focus on R&D ensures a high technological level of supply, enabling the creation of machinery that adapts to new trends through enhanced automation and digital integration.

4. What role does R&D collaboration (academia-industry partnerships) play within ACIMIT?

R&D is the heartbeat of ACIMIT member companies. Most of our firms are small-to-medium sized, which allows for close cooperation with customers to develop "tailor-made" solutions. This commitment to research ensures our supply covers every single sector of the textile production process.

B. Sustainability & Circular Economy

5. How are Italian textile machinery manufacturers addressing sustainability challenges?

Sustainability is no longer an option but a necessity. Italian manufacturers support textile companies by providing high-quality standards and innovative solutions that reduce environmental impact while maintaining competitiveness.

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6. Can you highlight key advancements in energy efficiency, water reduction, and chemical management?

Our focus on innovation naturally leads to advancements in energy and resource efficiency. By developing specialized machinery, we help our clients optimize their production cycles.

7. What role does machinery innovation play in enabling circular textile production?

Machinery innovation is the primary enabler of circularity. Our ability to turn customer needs into dedicated devices allows for the processing of new fibers and the implementation of more sustainable production methods.

8. How is ACIMIT supporting ESG compliance among its member companies?

ACIMIT supports ESG compliance through its CLIMA Label (Committed to Low Impact Machinery), which certifies the energy and environmental efficiency of textile machinery. This label provides transparent, validated data on water and energy consumption, as well as CO₂ emissions. Consequently, clients purchasing these certified machines can use these official metrics to accurately calculate their emissions. This allows them to integrate the data directly into their own Sustainability Reports, facilitating ESG compliance across the entire supply chain.

C. Trade Dynamics & Geopolitical Impact

9. How are ongoing global trade tensions and geopolitical uncertainties impacting textile machinery exports?

While we faced a general decrease in production in 2025, our internationalization process remains strong. We mitigate global tensions by diversifying our reach across 130 destination countries.

10. What strategies are Italian manufacturers adopting to mitigate supply chain disruptions?

Italian manufacturers mitigate supply chain disruptions through diversification, nearshoring, and increased safety stocks. At a strategic level, ACIMIT leverages its membership in Confindustria and CEMATEX—bodies in close contact with political authorities—to actively participate in drafting position papers. This institutional lobbying allows the association to influence industrial policies and shape regulations to secure and streamline supply chains.

11. How do you see the evolution of trade partnerships with Asia, particularly India and China?

- India: This is now our top market destination. In 2025, sales to India reached €176 million, a remarkable +28% increase.
- China: China remains a main market, though it saw a 27% decrease in 2025, with a value of €153 million.
- Asia Overall: Asia is our leading geographical destination, accounting for 40% of our total exports.

12. Are there emerging markets that ACIMIT sees as high-growth opportunities?

Beyond India, we see growth in markets like Bangladesh (+17%) and continue to maintain a strong presence in the United States and Germany.

D. Exhibition Outlook & Strategic Expectations

1. ITM 2026—Istanbul, Turkey

13. What are ACIMIT's expectations from ITM 2026?

We expect ITM 2026 to be a platform for recovery and renewed cooperation.

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14. How important is Turkey as a market for Italian machinery?

Turkey is a crucial market for us. Although it experienced a significant 40% contraction in 2025, it remains a top-five destination for Italian technology (€87 million).

2. INDEX 2026 – Geneva, Switzerland

15. How do you view the growth of nonwovens and technical textiles in Europe?

Technical textiles and nonwovens represent the future of high value-added niches. Visitors can expect Italian participants to showcase highly specialized machinery designed for these specific technical requirements.

The development of nonwoven production is a continuous process, not just globally, but specifically within Europe. This steady growth has naturally driven the demand for specialized technologies required to produce these materials. Italy maintains a leading role in this international market, offering competitive solutions despite the broader challenges of the global trade environment.

We view INDEX 2026 as a vital impulse for the sector. We expect the fair to confirm a recovery in world demand for innovative machinery.

16. What innovations can visitors expect from Italian participants?

Visitors to INDEX 2026 can expect to see a strong Italian presence, including a 140-square-meter Italian Pavilion organized by ACIMIT and the Italian Trade Agency (ICE), featuring all innovative companies. Additionally, many other ACIMIT members will exhibit at their own individual booths.

Key innovations will focus on three primary pillars:

- **Sustainability:** Italian manufacturers are presenting the most updated technologies designed to combine cost savings with environmental respect, satisfying the demands of both major brands and final consumers.
- **Customization:** We offer highly customized solutions.
- **Efficiency:** The latest innovations to be unveiled in Geneva are designed to make our customers' production processes both more efficient and more competitive.

3. ITMA Asia + CITME – Shanghai, China

17. How strategic is the Asian market for Italian textile technology exports?

Asia is our primary export region. This platform is strategic for strengthening our leading position and understanding the evolving technological demands of Asian manufacturers.

18. What are your expectations from this platform in terms of partnerships and business growth?

As ACIMIT, our expectations for ITMA ASIA + CITME 2026 center on market consolidation and strategic expansion. We expect this premier platform to strengthen partnerships with Asian manufacturers and unlock new business growth through our advanced, automated solutions.

4. India ITME 2026 – India

19. How do you evaluate India's textile sector growth and investment potential?

India is currently our "first market". We see massive potential in the Indian government's focus on the textile sector. Our ability to provide

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customized production is perfect for India's vision.

20. What opportunities exist for Indo-Italian collaboration in textile machinery and technology?

At India ITME 2026, ACIMIT sees massive opportunities for Indo-Italian collaboration centered on modernization and sustainability. Italian manufacturers offer advanced automation to help India's industry scale efficiency and expand into the textile sector. Furthermore, as Indian exporters face stricter global ESG demands, our certified CLIMA Label machinery provides the validated data they need to satisfy international buyers and enhance their sustainability reporting.

E. Future Outlook

21. What is your long-term vision for Italian textile machinery on the global stage?

My vision is for Italy to remain the primary partner in technology for global textile

manufacturers. We will achieve this by leveraging our skilled workforce and the ancient textile traditions of our clusters in the Country.

22. How will innovation and sustainability redefine competitiveness over the next decade?

Over the next decade, competitiveness will be defined by flexibility and the ability to provide quick, customized responses to global demand. Innovation and sustainability will be the two pillars of this strategy.

23. What message would you like to share with global textile manufacturers and stakeholders?

Italy is committed to your growth. As we move into 2026 with cautious optimism, we invite you to collaborate with us. Together, we can turn market challenges into new, high-value opportunities.