Italian Textile Technology in China: Advancing Productivity, Sustainability and Innovation



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How do you assess the current and future opportunities for Italian textile machinery and technology in the Chinese market?

China remains a strategic market for the Italian textile machinery industry and one of the leading destinations for our technology worldwide. In the first half of 2026, China was the main destination for Italian textile machinery exports, with sales amounting to approximately €100 million, following €153 million in 2025.

While these figures reflect an adjustment in current investment levels, we should look beyond short-term fluctuations. China remains at the heart of the global textile manufacturing industry, and the ongoing technological evolution of its production system continues to create significant opportunities for Italian machinery manufacturers.

In particular, we see strong potential in those areas where Chinese textile companies are increasingly seeking to upgrade their production processes: automation, digitalisation, higher productivity, energy efficiency and more sustainable manufacturing.

Italian manufacturers are well positioned to support this transformation thanks to a highly specialised and diversified technological offering, combining innovation, flexibility, reliability and tailor-made solutions. I therefore believe that China will continue to be a key partner for our industry, especially for companies capable of providing advanced technologies with a clear impact on production efficiency, product quality and sustainability.

What are the key requirements of Chinese textile manufacturers today in areas such as automation, digitalisation, productivity, energy efficiency and sustainability?

The Chinese textile industry has reached a high level of technological maturity, and this is also reflected in the increasingly sophisticated requirements of local manufacturers. Today, investment decisions are not simply about increasing production capacity, but increasingly about improving the overall efficiency and competitiveness of the manufacturing process.

Automation and digitalisation are central to this transformation, together with technologies capable of increasing productivity and ensuring consistently high product quality. At the same time, energy efficiency and sustainability are becoming increasingly important, with manufacturers looking for solutions that can optimise the use of resources and make production processes more efficient.

This evolution is particularly relevant for Italian textile machinery manufacturers. Our industry has traditionally built its competitiveness on continuous R&D, technological innovation, flexibility and close cooperation with customers. This enables Italian companies to respond rapidly to specific production requirements and to develop customised, high value-added solutions.

For a sophisticated market such as China, I believe this ability to combine advanced technology with tailor-made solutions represents one of the main competitive strengths of Italian textile machinery.

Which technologies, machinery or innovations will your company highlight for the Chinese market at ITMA ASIA + CITME 2026?

As ACIMIT represents the Italian textile machinery industry as a whole, rather than a single manufacturer, at ITMA ASIA + CITME 2026 we will highlight the broad and diversified technological capabilities of our member companies across the entire textile production process.

The composition of our exports to China clearly reflects this technological breadth. In the first half of 2026, spinning machinery accounted for 38% of Italian textile machinery exports to the Chinese market, followed by accessories at 32% and finishing machinery at 25%, alongside technologies for weaving, knitting and other textile processes.

Beyond individual machinery categories, the common denominator of the Italian presence at ITMA ASIA + CITME will be innovation. Italian manufacturers will showcase advanced solutions aimed at increasing automation and productivity, supporting the digital transformation of production processes and improving energy efficiency and sustainability.

Our objective is to demonstrate that Italian manufacturers can offer textile companies not simply machinery, but advanced and highly specialised technological solutions capable of combining productivity, flexibility, quality and sustainability.