

# Beck gets technical

Beck GmbH is continuing to explore niche markets around the world, adding machines for technical textiles fabrics to its range of ultrafine options for the lingerie and sportswear markets.

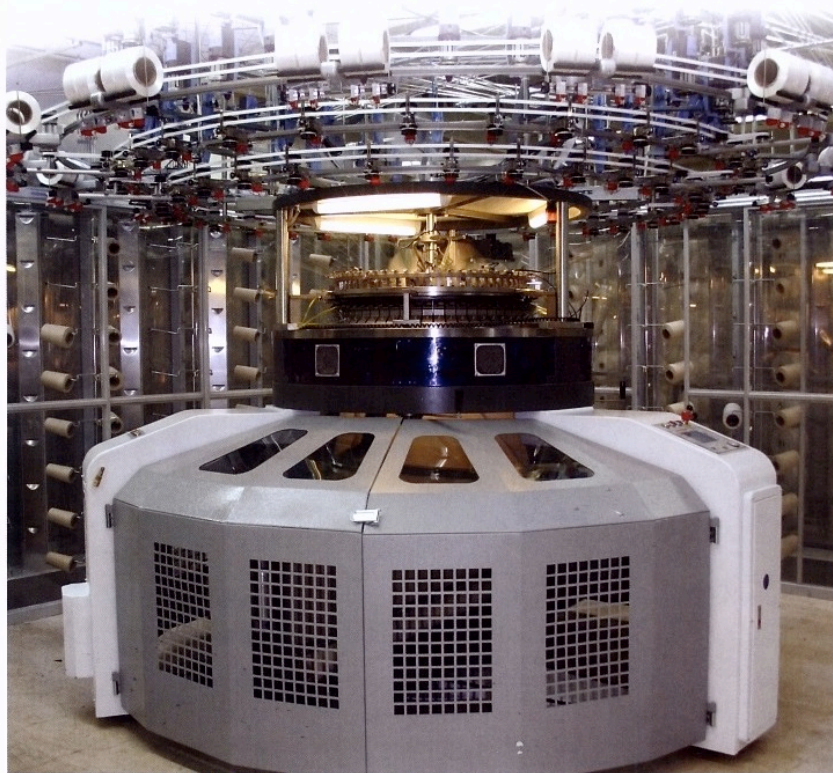
**C**ircular knitting machine builder Beck has completed production of a new ultrafine jacquard machine and hinted that it could expand the development of its single jersey technology up to a mega-fine 100G.

The jacquard system, which is available in 44G, has been built for German fabric manufacturer Händel + Diller and will be used for the production of superfine jacquard fabrics for the high-end lingerie market.

Beck has become renowned for its work on fine gauge knitting machines and after launching the finest ever single jersey machine, a 2-track system without holding down sinkers in 62G at ITMA Munich, the company is also developing a system in an even finer 70G. Remarkably, company managing director Oliver Beck also suggested that with the technical knowledge available at the company, he could also foresee the production of a mega-fine model in gauges up to and including 100G.

As it stands, many of Beck's existing customers are manufacturers of high quality fabrics in Italy, Germany and other parts of Western Europe and the company has a reputation for working closely with these customers on development projects. Beck technology also sells well in markets such as Taiwan and Hong Kong, particularly in niche markets where fabric manufacturers are keen to work with a machine builder that is able to respond quickly to specific requests.

The company has been working closely with its pilot customer Händel + Diller for the last couple of years and according to Mr. Beck, the major difficulty in building such a fine



Beck manufactures some of the finest gauge circular knitting machinery available

jacquard machine with full 3-way individual needle selection technology at each knitting feeder (knit, tuck and miss), was to find the right needle selection system and machine control system. "Another issue was to tailor the right knitting elements in order to guarantee perfect spandex plating," Mr. Beck explained, adding that the company had worked closely during the development phase with industry specialists Kern Liebers, Groz Beekert and Memminger.

Such is the high standard of these fabrics, Mr. Beck also noted that the machine could be used for the production of fabrics for the technical textile market. "The new and unprecedented properties of these ultrafine jacquard fabrics in gauge E44 and with 2.0 feeders per inch allow an almost equal horizontal and vertical elasticity (bi-elasticity) in conjunction with an extremely low fabric weight," he said. "Such so called 'second skin' fabrics up to now could only be produced on ultrafine gauge machines with mechanical needle guidance."

The machine is also equipped with a radio-frequency controlled, open-width take down system in order to guarantee a perfect and

crease free winding up of the fabric. As well as application fields in the technical textile market, Beck sees a bright future for this machine in the lingerie, sportswear and outerwear segments.

Of course, this jacquard machine from Beck can process a range of staple fibre and filament yarns with an option for the use of spandex at each feeder. An optional mesh kit for micro hole fabric structures (float stitch plating technology), even in combination with spandex plating, is also available.

As well as concentrating on its ultra-fine machines, Mr. Beck also confirmed that the company was strengthening the presence of its best-selling, high speed single jersey model, the BSM 3.0 Select.

Now equipped with a modified and improved cam and yarn guide design, this model can now reach speeds of up to 45rpm in a 30 ins diameter with a tubular frame, up to gauge E32 and, if required, with spandex plating. "Because of its high output, this model offers a very attractive price/performance ratio," Mr. Beck said, pointing out that the energy costs per kg of fabric could also be drastically reduced with this machine. **KTJ**