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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New President and Chairman

Manchester, UK – 17 May 2010 At The Textile Institute's 100th Birthday AGM (Annual General Meeting) on Monday the 10th May, Mr Andreas Weber CText FTI, senior vice president sales, marketing and parts, and a member of the Executive Board of SwissTex Winterthur AG, Switzerland was unanimously voted in by the membership of The Textile Institute as its new World President. Concurrently Mr John R Wilson OBE deputy chairman of UKFT was also unanimously voted in to the position of Chair of Council of The Textile Institute.

On becoming President Andreas stated 'I am extremely pleased to have received the trust of the Council and members of The Textile Institute on being elected the 54th World President and being the third Swiss coming in to this role.' He went on to say 'I was told that my role as a World President is rather an ambassadorial one which I will aim to fulfil alongside my duties at SwissTex. However, I also trust The Textile Institute has in Mr John Wilson the most capable and experienced person to lead the operative tasks and duties required within our organisation together with the experienced staff at the International Headquarters in Manchester. This year is a very special and important year for The Textile Institute, one in which we aim to portray the industry as youthful, sustainable and long lasting.'

Celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2010 The Textile Institute, its Sections and Special Interest Groups worldwide will be organising special events, culminating in the Institute's World Conference taking place in Manchester in November, immediately followed by the Parliamentary Lunch at the Houses of Parliament in London. Manchester is not only the historic birthplace of the Institute but also continues to be the home of its international headquarters. The Institute is also a registered charity and gained Royal Chartered status in 1925, allowing members to gain chartered qualifications (becoming an Associate, or a Fellow, as well as a non Chartered Qualification of Licentiate).

On the day before the Institute's Annual General Meeting (AGM) the Institute held a special Lord Mayor's Civic Reception and Dinner Dance at Manchester Town Hall. Organised by the Manchester and Cheshire Section the event was a great success drawing international attendance from Greece, New Zealand and the USA. The evening celebrated everything that the Institute has achieved in 100 years and is yet to achieve as it moves forward into a new period of growth and development of the services offered.

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On the evening the Lord Major, Councillor Alison Firth, welcomed everyone to Manchester and commented 'It is fitting that The Textile Institute is celebrating its 100th birthday in the city where the Institute was founded.' She talked about Manchester as a cosmopolitan city, where cotton had been the basis of growth and wealth, mentioning some of the historical connections 'Manchester is a city where Mr Rolls first met Mr Royce in the Midland Hotel, to form Rolls Royce, in the same hotel where your Institute was formed (and where the Centenary Conference will be held in November). From a city linked with the cotton trade Manchester has diversified into a city with an impressive commercial and financial base.'

The Institute may be celebrating one hundred years but is today a vital, enlivened and important organisation providing a truly global network for the fast moving, international textile industry.

Notes to editors:

With International Headquarters in Manchester, UK, **The Textile Institute** is a unique organisation in textiles, clothing and footwear. Founded in 1910 the Institute was incorporated in England by a Royal Charter granted in 1925 and is a registered charity. The Institute has individual and corporate members in over 80 countries; membership covers all sectors and all disciplines in textiles, clothing and footwear. Individual members can also gain internationally recognised qualifications including, LTI (Licentiate); CText ATI (Associates) and CText FTI (Fellows).

The Textile Institute has members in all sectors of fibre-based industries worldwide. Special Interest Groups provide a focus for members in different sectors, with many organising conferences, study tours and other events in their subject area.

World President Mr Andreas Weber CText FTI, director sales, marketing and parts, senior vice president, SwissTex Winterthur AG has been involved with The Textile Institute since the 1980's and has been a member of the Swiss Section Committee since 2000, becoming its Chair in 2004. Andreas was elected to the Council of The Textile Institute in 2008, serving during a period of change for the Institute. Andreas has also worked for many of the Institute's great supporters including Sulzer, Machine Works Reiter, and Oerlikon Heberlein Temco Wattwil. SwissTex Winterthur AG is a global manufacturer of textile machinery and systems provider with a profound knowledge and experience of BCF (carpet yarn) and T&I (technical and industrial yarn) extrusion processes for the continuous filament market. The company has 80 employees and belongs to Bavaria Industriekapital AG, located in Munich, Germany, which is an industrial holding with more than 3000 employees.

Chairman of Council Mr John Wilson OBE CompTI, deputy chairman of UKFT has been involved with trade associations for the clothing and textile industry since 1972 and was appointed director of the British Clothing Industry Association (BCIA) in 1985. With the formation of the British Apparel and Textile Confederation (BATC) in 1992, he became its director general. When UKFT superseded BCIA in May 2009 he became its first director general. He was awarded the OBE in 1999 for services to the clothing and textile industry. In April 2010 he was appointed chairman of the fashion and textile council of Skillset, the sector skills council for creative media. This year will see John retire from his full time position at UKFT in June, continuing on a part time basis as a second deputy chairman.

More information about The Textile Institute is available on the website:
www.textileinstitute.org

More information regarding the World Conference is available on the website:
www.tiworldconference.org

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