

56<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Textile Institute Swiss Section at Brennet/Germany on 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2005

The unique chance to visit a newly installed spinning mill was the reason to cross the border to Germany for the 56<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Textile Institute's Swiss Section. In the city of Bad Säckingen the company Brennet AG is running successfully a vertical integrated fabric production for shirting, job-dress and bed linen, mostly coloured weavings. Even the production is divided into 3 different locations (spinning, weaving, dyeing/finishing and administration) a common "entrepreneur-like" spirit is noticeable in the whole company.

Mr Rainer Asal, Head Technique, introduced the audience regarding history and key figures of the group before he explained in detail the reasons of the investment. Until today the company is close to 100 % owned by the Denk family, who is leading the company with initiative, passion and far-sightedness. Therefore it is not surprising that profit is being re-invested continuously. Four years ago the weaving mill was modernised strongly with new air jet looms. Two years ago the discussions regarding modernisation of spinning mill came to its end. External people brought in the idea of shifting the production to a low cost country. This idea was dismissed for two reasons: On one hand it was foreseeable that the period to get the right quality was too long, experiences in similar cases spoke of 3 to 4 years. On the other hand synergies would have gone due to the long distances.

After intensive trials Brennet as a vertical company found out that compact spinning would improve the benefit for the company to its best, even the yarn production itself would be more expensive. Out of this decision the second one was pre-programmed, it must be a plant supplied by a system supplier. Because of the high wages the complete spinning process technology must be guaranteed by one single supplier and the support must even extend into marketing etc.

Today the plant consists of the most modern machinery with innovations like extra-wide carding, automatic combing and 17'000 compact spinning positions known for quality and reliability. Space for extension is available. The total production is specified and optimised for the needs of the company's own weaving mill.

In the second part of the meeting the widely explained mill was visited. Under the competent guidance of the mill leader, Mr Christian Marx and Mr Asal, all machinery and all auxiliaries could be seen and touched. Many questions were asked and answered "just between us", also at the well-organised aperitif.

Therefore many people changed their mind: A spinning mill in central Europe can make profit, pre-assumptions are innovation, far-sightedness and entrepreneur's spirit. All the best and a lot of success to Brennet! Thanks for the hospitality.

On this occasion it can be announced that the 57<sup>th</sup> meeting including the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2006 at the company Eschler in Bühler/AR, Switzerland, the world exclusive supplier of alpine ski racing suit for the leading nations.

Andreas Weber  
Chairman Swiss Section  
Of the Textile Institute