



ALPACA MONTHLY NEWS

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EDITORIAL

TEXTILE PRODUCTION VIA 3-D PRINTING

Addressing a feminine-hygiene issue has inspired Tamar Giloh to develop a new technology that could revolutionise the textile industry.

Looking for a way to mitigate problems associated with heavy menstruation, she and a team that included her husband, started working on an automated system that can produce fabrics using three-dimensional printing. More than a decade later, the Israeli couple now has functional hardware that can spray polymers and fibres in a controlled manner to produce disposable panties, sportswear, bandages and other products. Their company, based in Manchester, England is named Tamicare.

Since its foundation in 2001, Tamicare has raised US\$10 million and is in talks with Israeli contract manufacturers to assemble its fabric printers. The company, which has a dozen employees, sells its machines to cosmetic and health-care companies for about US\$3 million each. One unit can produce 10 million biodegradable panties a year.

In a paper presented to the Huddersfield Textile Society, England on 17th February, Giloh indicated that Tamicare's 3-D printed feminine-hygiene product - absorbent padded underwear that can be thrown away after a single use - is expected to hit shelves later this year via a leading pharmaceutical chain in Israel. The company is also in talks with a large US company that may sell these undergarments in the States.

A supplier for the lingerie retail giant, Victoria's Secret, visited Tamicare's office in the UK to witness underwear being printed in three seconds.

The market for 3-D printing is expected to continue strong double-digit growth over the next several years, especially when new uses, such as Tamicare's products, emerge.

“Making products in this way is attractive because of the design freedom it provides, but for items such as clothing, the challenge is to ensure the results are truly functional, rather than just visually appealing,” said Stephen Russell, a professor at the University of Leeds in the UK who specialises in textile research.

Regulation for hygiene products and fluctuating demand in the cosmetic industry based on economic factors could pose challenges for Tamicare, Russell said. Still, the process used by Tamicare is “a radical departure from the traditional methods of manufacturing wearable-hygiene products,” he said. “It has exciting potential.”

At the end of January, it was reported that a fledgling company called Electroloom wants to enter the apparel market by 3-D printing basics such as Tee shirts and sweaters.

Electroloom, founded by Aaron Rowley, is also the name of the company's sole product - an in-development 3-D printer for creating customised, on-demand apparel.

Rowley says that, so far, 3-D printed clothing has yet to produce truly wearable products.

3-D printed alpaca products anyone ?

CAMELID CLIPS

In an effort to nullify the unemployment occurring in its cotton manufacturing industry, Peru has taken steps to stem the flow of cheap imports from China.

The country's consumer rights body, the Instituto Nacional de Defensa de la Competencia y de la Protección de la Propiedad Intelectual (Indecopi), through its Dumping and Subsidies Commission has initiated anti-dumping measures against 5 categories of cotton garments from China.

In line with norms laid down by the World Trade Or-

ganization (WTO), the categories: tee shirts, shirts, trousers, shorts and socks will not be allowed into the country if their prices are too low.

Peru's cotton garment manufacturing sector employs some 215,000 personnel and has seen steady job losses and workshop closures during the past three years.

Indecopi will now be monitoring the country's cotton manufacturers to see if its decision leads to an improvement in their output and employment statistics.

In 2008, Boris Johnson was running for the office of Mayor of London. On the other side of the Atlantic, retired university lecturer, Pat Morris visited an alpaca farm in Missouri and took a double take:

Boris has had the last laugh though, as he has been the Mayor of London ever since. As for his doppelganger, we have no news of any political ambitions !





Jessica Conzen (centre with flowers) is flanked by two models wearing creations from her collection that won first prize in Cantabria, Spain last October

Up-and-coming designer, Jessica Conzen, is studying the possibility of using coarser micron alpaca in her next collection.

Having just won first prize in the 5th Young Fashion Designers Competition in Cantabria, Spain in October 2013 with creations made from carpet micron wool in the main, she is now looking for inspiration from the country of her infancy, Peru.

Although born in Dusseldorf in 1986, she spent her childhood in Peru before moving to Spain - her current country of residence - in 1999.

In 2006, she began studying Fashion Design at the

Escuela Superior de Diseño de las Islas Baleares.

Prior to her success last October, she has won other prizes for design: Best Young Designer in the Balearic Islands in 2010 and, representing the islands in 2011, third place in the XXIII edition of ANDE's National Awards for Young Fashion Designers' Association.

At a wider European level she has participated in events such as, "El Armario del Puro", "Talentos Design" and "Textile Chopin Prelude" with exhibitions in Paris, Toulouse and Barcelona.





Clockwise from the top: Juan Pepper, Mariela Chavez, Ruben Rondinelli, Igor Rojas, Ricardo Limo, Alonso Burgos, Renzo Morante, Cesar Lutgens and Raul Rivera.

A visit to Arequipa by representatives of Promperu (the Peruvian government's commercial promotions body) to meet with members of the International Alpaca Association's (IAA) organizing committee for its upcoming 5th Alpaca Fiesta event took place on 28th January.

Igor Rojas, Ricardo Limo, Ruben Rondinelli (Promperu-Lima) and Mariela Chavez (Promperu-Arequipa) met with Renzo Morante, Cesar Lutgens, Mauricio Chirinos, Juan Pepper, Raul Rivera, Alonso Burgos and Francis Rainsford to discuss Promperu's involvement as partners in Alpaca Fiesta which will take place from 10th to 15th November in Arequipa.

Since 1997, Alpaca Fiesta has focused primarily on the fibre producers and their animals and secondly on the commercialization of alpaca products in something akin to a 60% to 40% breakdown.

These days, the commercialization of alpaca products is the main driving force in the production chain and, in order to reflect this, this year's event will in-

clude a programme of activities favouring 70% for fashion and garment manufacturers and 30% for fibre producers.

Promperu's flagship event, "Peru Moda" which will be held in Lima from 9th to 11th April, will have a spin-off event during Alpaca Fiesta, "Alpaca Moda".

"Alpaca Moda" will take place for 3 days during Alpaca Fiesta and will feature conference presentations, round table business meetings and 4 fashion displays on the catwalk in the event's showground, Cerro Juli, with the goal of promoting sellers and buyers of alpaca garments as well as promoting established and new designers using alpaca fibre. Its highlight will be a spectacular evening fashion show in an historic part of the city of Arequipa.

It is hoped that other government bodies will participate as partners in Alpaca Fiesta, namely the respective Ministries of Agriculture, Production and Foreign Affairs.



IAA ALPACA MONTHLY BULLETIN

The IAA Alpaca Monthly Bulletin is aimed at keeping members informed of news from the IAA. We encourage any member to supply articles of interest to update members about developments in the Camelid world. Articles with a human interest angle are particularly welcome.

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