

## 34<sup>th</sup> Hofer Vliesstofftage Innovation center for the nonwovens industry

On November 6-7, 2019 the Hofer Vliesstofftage (Hof Nonwovens Days) took place again in Hof/Germany and offered a lively exchange between science and industry. More than 430 participants from 12 countries took the opportunity to gather information on the latest developments in the nonwovens industry in the 22 lectures. The focus of the event was on linking science and research with business practice.

The lectures covered the entire spectrum, from fiber raw materials to machines, tools, components, quality control, software and applications. A special focus was also on the implementation of Industry 4.0.

smartMelamine, Rudolstadt/Germany, presented melamine as a new material for melt-blown nonwovens. Amorphous binder fibers for nonwovens applications were the topic of the lecture by DITF, Denkendorf/Germany. The STFI, Chemnitz/Germany, announced interim results of research on CNT functionalized meltblowns for filtration.

TECHnoplants Srl, Pistoia/Italy, presented its MULTiline fpc nonwovens line. Andritz Küsters GmbH, Krefeld/Germany, reported on wet laying techniques for glass fibers and gave an overview of glass fiber and wetlaid nonwovens (see p. 49). The contribution of ontex automation GmbH, Naila/Germany, dealt with the manufacture of fiber-reinforced nonwovens and, in particular, a new plant for the production of scrims for reinforcing nonwovens. A.Celli Nonwovens, Porcari/Italy, presented its portfolio of winders, unwinders, cutting and packaging systems. One focus was a self-developed networking software for this part of the nonwovens line.

Dispersion binders for chemical bonding were the focus of the lecture by Synthomer Deutschland GmbH, Marl/Germany.



From left to right: Xaver Aschenbrenner, Dr. Uwe Mazura, Dr. Christian Heinrich Sandler, Mechthild Maas (editorial department), Klaus Lindner

The quality control of nonwovens in the form of thickness measuring devices (Hammer-IMS NV, Hasselt/Belgium), moisture measurements (Work Microwave GmbH, Holzkirchen/Germany), basis weight determination (Mahlo GmbH & Co. KG, Saal/Germany), and

error detection (Dr. Schenk GmbH Industrie-messtechnik, Gräfelfing/Germany) was the focus of 4 lectures.

The TITV, Greiz/Germany, introduced its smart textiles test laboratories.

At the Fraunhofer ITWM, Kaiserslautern/Germany, the meltblown process, in particular the stretching process, was simulated with interesting results.

In the accompanying exhibition in the foyers, this year once again 76 companies and institutes presented their products.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> edition of nonwovensTRENDS was also presented for the first time at the Hof Nonwovens Days on November 6, 2019. The journal will be published 5 times per year in English/German and will appear together with our trade journal TECHNICAL TEXTILES/ TECHNISCHE TEXTILIEN.

The new online portal for the nonwovens industry [www.nonwovensTRENDS.com](http://www.nonwovensTRENDS.com) started up at the end of February 2020 along with the corresponding newsletter. ■