

For Immediate Release

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Breaking new ground in Turkey's textile industry

Korteks, one of the world's biggest yarn producers based in Bursa, Turkey, has started the production of recycled polyester filament yarn in its production facility using a Starlinger recycling line.

The Starlinger recoSTAR universal 165 H-VAC iV+, which is part of Korteks' 10 million dollars investment in a new polymer recycling facility, took up operation in May 2021. It has a production capacity of 7,200 tons per year and currently processes clean in-house polyester fibers from production scrap together with washed post-consumer PET flakes at a ratio of 50/50. Korteks uses the polyester regranulate at a share of 100 % for its new polyester filament yarn line it is going to market under the name "TAÇ Reborn". With this investment, the company has made an important step towards establishing a circular economy in the Turkish textile industry.

"We have been in extensive cooperation with Starlinger for a long time" said Barış Mert, General Manager of Korteks. "Thanks to their unique and innovative recycling technology we can offer new products in line with the circular economy model. That's why, as Europe's largest integrated and innovative polyester yarn producer, we are very pleased to work with Starlinger, the market leader in PET and polyester recycling and refining."

Rapid Sleeve Changer: Finest melt filtration for perfect yarn

The Starlinger recycling line is the first of its kind in Turkey and is equipped with special components for filament yarn recycling. A RSC (Rapid Sleeve Changer) candle filter developed by Starlinger ensures finest melt filtration down to 15 µm. It has been specially designed for polyester recycling and reaches an output of 1000 kg/h. For continuous operation the filter elements are changed "on the fly" without interrupting production, which significantly limits melt loss.

The viscoSTAR SSP unit at the end of the recycling process guarantees consistent IV increase according to the first-in-first-out principle. This makes sure that the produced regranulate has the ideal properties required for filament yarn production. The technical configuration of the line does not only allow the processing of a polyester fiber/PET flake mix as input materials, but also 100 % polyester filament scrap or 100 % PET bottle flakes.

With the new recycling facility, which comprises a total closed area of 17,000 m² and has a monthly production capacity of 600 tons, Korteks was able to reduce the production waste at its virgin PES yarn site to zero.

A paradigm shift in synthetic fiber production

"We are proud to be a partner in Korteks' quest for more sustainability in the textile business", said Paul Niedl, Commercial Head of Starlinger recycling technology. "Turkey is a significant global player in this industry. If more and more Turkish textile manufacturers start using recycled materials, this will be an important signal for the sector and a big step towards a circular economy. We support this development with our extensive know-how in synthetic fiber recycling and supply the fine-tuned and reliable recycling technology required in this field."



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Korteks expects the recycling market in general to grow as there is increased acceptance for recycled products in the society, and predicts the need for recycling solutions also for other synthetic and natural fibers.

"At Korteks, we always aim at sustainable growth that reduces environmental impact and creates value. For this reason, we are gradually expanding our product range in sustainable and smart textiles every day", said Barış Mert. "The period of the pandemic that the world has been going through has once again strikingly revealed the necessity of building a sustainable living together. The textile industry is also deeply affected by this big transformation on the globe. We believe that those who can manage this change well will also set the global textile agenda in the future. With this belief, we carried out the polyester recycling facility project with an investment of 10 million dollars. Thanks to this project, we broke new ground in Turkey and can produce polyester filament yarn from 100 % PET bottles. Having Starlinger at our side as a business partner gives us strength in our long-term journey towards sustainability."

About Korteks Mensucat San. Ve Tic. A. S.

A member of Turkish Zorlu Holding Group, Korteks started its operations in Bursa, Turkey, in 1989. Today the company is the largest integrated polyester yarn manufacturer and exporter in Europe and employs nearly 2.300 people. Operating on a total manufacturing area of 335,000 m², Korteks has an annual production capacity of 170,000 tons, meeting 17 % of Turkey's yarn demand and exporting to almost 60 countries on 5 continents. The yarns offered by Korteks are used in a wide range of areas, for example home textile products, apparel, automotive products, or garden furniture.

<http://www.korteks.com.tr>

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Image captions:

Image 1: Starlinger recoSTAR universal 165 H-VAC iV+. ©Starlinger

Image 2: Filter change on the fly: The RSC candle filter before the strand pelletizer operates continuously and has a throughput of 1000 kg/h. ©Starlinger

Image 3: Korteks recycles polyester filament yarn waste and PET bottle flakes. ©Korteks

Image 4: TAÇ polyester yarns are used in a wide variety of applications. ©Korteks



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About Starlinger recycling technology

Starlinger recycling technology is a division of Austrian-based Starlinger & Co GmbH, world market leader in the field of machinery and complete lines for woven plastic packaging production. For more than 30 years Starlinger recycling technology has been providing machinery solutions for the recycling and refining of a wide scope of plastics such as PE, PP, PA, PS, BOPP and PET. Starlinger PET recycling systems produce food-safe rPET and are approved for use in food applications by many brand owners as well as various national and international authorities. The worldwide sales and service support network and technical consulting service help customers to achieve optimum results in the manufacturing process.

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