

Press release

Quality partner for fabric producers

USTER® Fabric Inspection presents top technology and quality management with USTER® Q-BAR 2 and USTER® FABRIQ EXPERT

Uster, Switzerland, 14th August 2019: Since 2018, the world-renowned USTER quality systems include fabric inspection – and ITMA 2019 has seen the launch of the first major innovation to be developed since the acquisition of automatic vision inspection company Elbit Visions Systems (EVS).

Fabric makers will already be familiar with the successful, industry-proven solutions USTER® *EVS Q-BAR*, *FABRIQ VISION* and *FABRIQ SHADE*, which today are used worldwide to inspect upwards of 60 million meters of fabric per day. At ITMA in Barcelona, USTER® *Q-BAR 2* and USTER® *FABRIQ EXPERT* have been launched and explained to show visitors.

For fabric manufacturers, the competitive nature of the textile market means that reliable quality is a requirement, and defects are unacceptable to their customers. USTER® *FABRIQ EXPERT* and USTER® *Q-BAR 2* aim to support textile mills in guaranteeing the delivery of the desired roll quality, using the best technology available for monitoring and improving production at the earliest-possible stage.

That includes locating any defects quickly, supporting identification of the root causes and initiating corrective action. The expertise of EVS technology – with intelligent visual detection and fault-recognition algorithms – is now enhanced by USTER's overall experience in quality management systems for the wider textile industry.

Fault detection with direct impact on business success

USTER® *Q-BAR 2* represents the next generation of the original on-loom monitoring and inspection system, offering user-friendly design and operational improvements for weaving. An inspiring USTER design built on years of EVS experience brings many advantages, including indication of the defect location, and better access to make maintenance tasks easier.

The USTER® *Q-BAR 2* is positioned immediately behind the reed on each machine – the ideal location for earliest detection of fabric defects. This means the operator can respond quickly to alarms and stop signals, to correct problems immediately and prevent quality issues from continuing, thus minimizing material waste. A red LED guides the operator to the exact position of defects, and lights at the side of the unit show system status.

Fabric faults are categorized and saved, creating a 'defect map' for each roll which can be recalled and reviewed later via the intuitive touchscreen. The system reduces the need for post-weaving inspection for most applications.

USTER® *Q-BAR* is already making a significant impact on the business success of users. In one example, a US technical textiles producer reports that it has increased sales volumes through the ability to guarantee seamless fabrics to its customers. This firm produces base-layer material for coating, an application in which defects larger than 9 inches are unacceptable, as they would require cutting and seaming.

The advantage of USTER® *Q-BAR 2* here is the rapid stop of weaving when it identifies a defect – before it reaches the critical size for the subsequent processes.



The next generation of on-loom monitoring and inspection: USTER® Q-BAR 2

Full on-loom quality transparency

USTER® *FABRIQ EXPERT* is the key to early detection of quality issues, based on comprehensive quality data gathered during on-loom inspection of fabrics. It provides weavers with an overview of their entire installation, via USTER® Q-BAR 2 systems fitted over each machine.

The quality data can be used to compare the performance of the same styles on different machines, for example. Another benefit is an indication of when to replace spare parts, preventing faults which could occur with worn-out parts.

Importantly, this knowledge is a considerable scale-up on the 'normal' weaving operator's ability to feedback observations over several looms. The whole-mill picture from USTER® *FABRIQ EXPERT* makes the results more representative of the true picture in the mill.

It follows the USTER 'Think Quality' concept – supporting customers to make informed decisions for long-term business success through increased productive efficiency and effective quality management.

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Combining the industry-leading technology of automated vision-based inspection with USTER's unrivalled stature in quality management systems and services creates the perfect 'dream team' for fabric manufacturers. They can now have access to highly-effective automated fault detection, as well as total transparency of weaving quality performance, provided during on-loom inspection. USTER® Fabric Inspection offers real benefits for weavers in terms of both customer satisfaction and their own long-term business success.

Contact for journalists

Kathrin Niedurny
Marketing Content & Communication Manager

Uster Technologies AG
Sonnenbergstrasse 10
8610 Uster
Switzerland

Phone +41 43 366 3889
Mobile +41 79 895 9309
kathrin.niedurny@uster.com

For other media-related requests, please contact:
publicrelation@uster.com

About Uster Technologies

USTER is the world's leading provider of quality management solutions from fiber to fabric.

Uster Technologies provides high-technology instruments, systems and services for quality control, prediction, certification and optimization in the textile industry. This includes systems for quality management, laboratory testing and in-line process control for fibers, staple and filament yarns, fabric inspection as well as value-added services.

USTER provides the globally-acknowledged USTER® *STATISTICS* benchmarks for trading, textile know-how training, consulting and worldwide after-sales services – always aspiring to fulfill the textile market's needs, to drive innovation forward with 'quality in mind'.

Uster Technologies AG is headquartered in Uster, Switzerland and operates worldwide. It has sales and service subsidiaries in the major textile markets and Technology Centers in Uster (Switzerland), Knoxville (USA), Suzhou (China) and Caesarea (Israel).

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