



THE ASSOCIATION & VOICE OF THE US SEWN PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

By Will Duncan
Executive Director, SEAMS

SEAMS and many of our members look forward to seeing our industry colleagues at Techtextil North America right in our backyard in Raleigh, N.C. It's been a long time, huh?

After a year and a half of lockdowns and virtual gatherings, we are thrilled to get out and see people in person, to share some of the exciting news about how our members stepped up during the global pandemic and to extol the benefits of [SEAMS](#), the National Association and Voice for the U.S. Sewn Products Industry for over 50 years.

Techtextil North America (#TTNA21) – which I call this year's "Olympic Games of Textiles" in the U.S. – is set to reunite the industry for three days of networking, education and business development, so you don't want to miss this all-important event. We are encouraged that the health and safety of all in attendance is the No. 1 priority of the Techtextil North America team, so please take a look at organizer Messe Frankfurt North America's latest [COVID-19 protocols](#), updated regularly based on federal, local and venue recommendations.

If you are attending the show August 23-25 ([register here](#)), please stop by our booth (1017) to say hello and learn more about our vibrant, more-than-200-member-strong association. We would love to explain our mission of building a supply chain bridge in the USA, which has become particularly important as global trade issues were illuminated and exacerbated during the COVID-19 crisis.

We will also have information about our upcoming events, and how to apply for the second Reshoring Awards that we will be presenting through our partnership with the Reshoring Institute.

Plus, several members will be exhibiting at Techtextil North America, so please be sure to visit them and learn more about these companies that are focused on Made in America and how they came together to collaborate, many via SEAMS, to address the nation's shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the pandemic. These members include Apex Mills (Booth 1707), Contempora Fabrics (1911), Datatex (1124), Eastex Products (1224), Gehring Tricot Corp (1717), Henderson Machinery (1024), Henderson Sewing Machine Co. (1121), Jason Mills LLC (1815), Kuraray America (1433), MMI Textiles (1824), PA Group USA Inc. (1809) and Zund America (1201), as well as affiliate members the N.C. State Wilson College of Textiles (1601) and AATCC (1028).

And before the show opens ([see floor plan here](#)) on Monday, August 23 from 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m., I am participating in a session during the highly acclaimed **Symposium**, which gives attendees the opportunity to learn about some of the most pivotal advancements in research and technology and shed light on the current global economic state and its effects across industries. The session, "[Sustainability, Traceability and Supply Chain Disruptions](#)," will also include moderator Frank Henderson, president & CEO of Henderson Sewing Machine Co., a SEAMS' member; Robert Hanfield, Bank of America Professor of Supply Chain Management, Supply Chain Resource Cooperative, Poole College of Management, N.C. State University; Suzanne Kopcha, vice president, Consumer Products & Retail, Siemens Digital Industries Software; and Arnie Kravitz, chief technology officer, Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing (ARM).

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We will discuss what a post-pandemic world will look like for the sewn products/textile industry and how the development of stable domestic textile machinery and a manufacturing base is critical to support various needs of the U.S. economy.

The theme of the Symposium is “Accelerating Technology” and aims to highlight the textile industry’s high level of innovation and contribution to the global supply chain through advanced technology. Symposium seats are limited and likely to sell out, so interested attendees are encouraged to [register in advance here](#).

Techtextil North America will bring together many of the important players under one roof to explore innovation, new business opportunities, diverse product groups and education. So please be sure to make your plans to be at the Raleigh Convention Center August 23-25.

We can’t wait to see you – “SEAMS” like forever.

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