

Rheine, 24th of May 2018

## Press release

Last Thursday the company F.A. Kümpers GmbH & Co. welcomed a well-respected delegation of the Japan Fibres Association (JCFA) in the main office/ headquarters in Rheine.

For many years, the paths of the Japanese manufacturers of chemical fibres and the European fibre industry have kept crossing. The production of synthetic standard fibres loses ground to the production of innovative special fibres because of the immense pressure on prices from China.

Many specialists for chemical fibres from Japan started, more than 100 years ago, as classical cotton spinning companies. Today, those companies have risen to global players in the chemicals industry.

After a short presentation from F.A. Kümpers, the companies introduced their innovations in a kind of Speed-Dating process. Divided into two topics (yarn & fabrics and composites) the outcomes were seen as very interesting and promising points of contact.

F.A. Kümpers is one of the few companies in the industry which enables the whole textile chain for technical applications. This is the reason why F.A. Kümpers was the only spinning and weaving company visited by the JCFA. From fibres over fabrics up to special finish and technical manufacture, the company has built a reputation as an innovative partner for development and for being an authentic and reliable supplier. This also benefits a potential market entry of Japanese manufacturers of chemical fibres into Europe.

Next to topics like reinforcing material for the automotive and aerospace industry other topics including functional fibres and filaments for protective clothing, dry and wet filtration and geotextiles were discussed during the visit.

The discussions were recognised as very open and informative by all of the parties.

Selected innovations will now be further discussed and evaluated in single projects via internet and telephone. However, the first face-to-face contact was very important not only for kicking of the projects but also to build trust.

European companies are not anymore the only producers of innovative fibres because the Japanese chemicals industry has recognised and adapted to the trend.

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