

Company profile of Rohner Textil AG

Brief description

Based in Heerbrugg, Switzerland, Rohner Textil AG specializes in the manufacture of high quality upholstery fabric with its own yarn dyeing facility and jacquard weaving mill. Its team of 30 employees ensures the quality and creativity that the international textile contract sector and worldwide-leading manufacturers and brands of office furniture have come to rely on. Skillfully combining fashionable design, functionality, technology and ecology, Rohner Textil holds a leading position in this demanding market segment.

Innovations

Over the years, Rohner Textil has produced numerous innovations that have made it a pioneer in the field. For instance: in **1986** the development of flame-retardant upholstery fabrics, in **1987** the first worldwide use of weaving looms capable of processing 16 weft colors for upholstery fabrics or its **1988** patenting of the Climatex® fabrics with climate control seating capability. In **1992**, the entire product line received the "low-pollution" rating in fulfillment of the Oeko-Tex Standard. In **1994**, Rohner Textil obtained ISO 9001 certification. In **1995**, the company joined with its American customer DesignTex to launch the compostable, environmentally friendly upholstery fabrics Climatex® Lifecycle™, which have since been recognized with numerous international awards. Developed in collaboration with the Greenpeace-founded environmental institute EPEA, the fabrics set new international standards for environmental performance. In **1996**, Rohner Textil was one of the first European companies to be awarded the ISO 14001 and EMAS 1836/93 environmental management system certifications. The same year, the company published its first environmental statement. Various universities and researchers studied the development of the fabric Climatex® Lifecycle™ and Rohner's ecological orientation as a model and case study. Since **1997**, Rohner Textil has cooperated with Deutsche Umwelthilfe (German Environmental Aid) to

promote sustainable products and environmentally sound management practices. The environmental statement published in **1998** lays out the long-term strategy and concepts through the year 2008. Since **1999**, in-depth information on the company has been available on the Internet: www.climatex.com. In December **1999**, Lantal Textiles, the Swiss world market leader (65% market share) in the aviation upholstery fabric sector, became the new owner of Rohner Textil AG. In **2000**, just in time for the new millennium, Rohner Textil succeeded in developing a new generation of Climatex® Lifecycle™ fabrics. Marketed under the name Climatex® LifeguardFR™, the product now features flame-retardant capability along with the proven environmental and aesthetic advantages. Safe for biological cycles, the enhanced fabric is designed for applications in public buildings as well as worldwide air, train and water transport. By **2001**, three licensees had already been selected to produce Climatex® LifeguardFR: Lantal Textiles obtained a license for the production of upholstery fabrics in the aviation and transport sector, while two licenses were granted in the USA and Brazil for office furniture upholstery fabrics. In **2001** and **2002**, Rohner published its environmental statement on the Internet. In **2002**, the company continued to receive recognition for its achievements. Auditors certified that Rohner Textil operates in fulfillment of ISO 9001/2000 and ISO 14001 as well as EMAS standards. The same year, the Guggenheim Museum in New York premiered the film "The Next Industrial Revolution" in which the concept and application of the upholstery fabric Climatex® Lifecycle™ play a central role.

Awards

- 1993 Swiss Design Prize in Textiles with the designer Andrea Burkhard (CH)
- 1995 Best of Neocon for Climatex® Lifecycle™ (USA)
- 1996 ARGE ALP (Working Community of Alpine Countries) Environmental Prize for Climatex® Lifecycle™ (Int.)
- 1998 1st prize in Austria's EcoDesign contest for Climatex® Lifecycle™ (A)
- 1999 iF Ecology Design Award Best of Category for Climatex® Lifecycle™ (D)
- 1999 Prize for the best environmental report from the Swiss Association of Environmentally Conscious Companies (ÖBU) – Bronze in the SMB category (CH)
- 1999 Gold Award Best of Neocon for Climatex® Lifecycle™ (USA)
- 1999 Featured in the «Projects around the world» at EXPO 2000 Hannover for the Climatex® Lifecycle™ product redesign (D)
- 2000 Rhine Valley Innovation Award – Silver
- 2000 Millennium Award for Environmental Achievement from ICC/UNEP, International Chamber of Commerce and United Nations Environmental Program
- 2000 1st prize Design Sense Award, Design Museum London (GB)
- 2001 Nomination Swiss Marketing Trophy (CH)
- 2001 Nomination iF Ecology Design Award (D)
- 2001 1st prize Design Resources Award (USA)
- 2001 Recognized by the Stiftung für besondere Leistungen im Umweltschutz (Foundation for Exceptional Achievements in Environmental Protection)
- 2001 Sustainability Prize of the International Lake Constance Conference
- 2001 UBS Key Trophy «Rhine Valley Entrepreneur of the Year» for Albin Kälin
- 2002 Quality label «Nature Park» for the Rohner Textil AG property

Museums and exhibitions

- 1995 Solomon Guggenheim Museum, New York, launch of "The William McDonough Collection" Climatex® Lifecycle™ by Designtex, USA
- 1999 iF Forum Design Hannover
- 2000 World exposition EXPO 2000 Hannover, "Living Lakes" concept and iF Forum Design
- 2000–2001 Design Museum London, winner of the Design Sense Award 2000
- 2001–2005 Re(f)use exhibition traveling around the globe
- 2001 iF Forum Design
- 2001 «Swiss Made» in the Museum of Applied Art, Cologne, Germany
- 2001–2002 Design Resources Award, Seattle – Japan – Australia
- 2001 «Gut in Form 1950 + 2000» in the Museum of Design Zurich
- 2001 «5.5» Visual Arts, Real Art Ways, A Center for Contemporary Culture, Hartford/USA
- 2002 The Design Center at Philadelphia University, Hope Ginsburg, Waste=Food Climatex® Lifecycle™
- 2002 P.S.1 MOMA, Museum of Modern Art, Queens, New York «Heart of Gold»
- 2002 Solomon Guggenheim Museum, New York
January 31, 2002, movie premiere of «The Next Industrial Revolution», presenting artwork by Hope Ginsburg; Waste=Food Designtex Climatex® Lifecycle™

Outlook

Rohner Textil AG will continue on its path toward being a sustainable company. To guide its efforts, the company produced the document **Concept 1998–2008** in which the balance of economics, ecology and social aspects is defined as the overarching goal. Internally created development programs have been established to foster and better utilize employee potential, for motivated and committed employees are the key to future innovations.

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