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FDDI officials visit Minerva Boskovice, a.s., Czech Republic

On 17th January 2019, Mr. Arun Kumar Sinha, IAS, Managing Director (MD), Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI) and Mr. Vikas Singh, IRS, Executive Director (ED), FDDI visited Minerva Boskovice, a.s.(MB,a.s.), located at Sokolska 1318/60, 680 01 Boskovice, Czech Republic.

The company - Minerva Boskovice, a.s., is a top producer of industrial sewing machines that manufactures Post bed machines, Flat bed machines, Zig-zag machines, Arm machines and Special machines. Development remains one of Minerva's key competencies, increasing the company's significance and prosperity.

Since its establishment in 1881, Minerva has experienced many changes, the latest of which was the transformation into a joint stock company in 1991. In 1997, the German company Dürkopp Adler AG Bielefeld became the majority shareholder. And since 2005, when the majority of Dürkopp Adler AG was taken over by the Chinese company SGSB Group Co., Ltd.,

also a producer of industrial sewing machines, Minerva Boskovice, a.s. has become a part of this international group of companies.



From Left: Mrs. Romana Spackova, MD, MB,a.s., Mr. Vikas Singh, IRS, ED, FDDI, Mr. Arun Kumar Sinha, IAS, MD, FDDI & Mr. Jan Borek, EM at MB,a.s.

Durkopp Adler has been the constant majority shareholder of Minerva, which has paved the way for many, numerous new prospects in the production of industrial sewing machines. It is not only a production plant, but also a company with a sufficiently experienced development base.

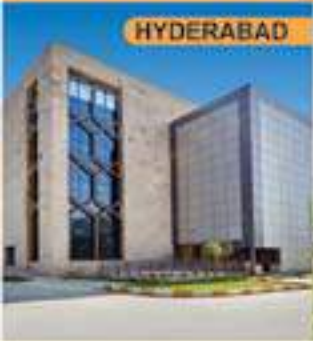
The officials of FDDI were welcomed by Mrs. Romana Spackova, MD and Mr. Jan Borek, Export Manager

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(EM) of the company who explained them about quality standards and production techniques of the industrial sewing machines.

They were also guided by the experts who highlighted the relevance and overall functionality of industrial sewing machines, certain technical processes besides showing them the functioning of systematic plant & compliances followed in the manufacturing of these machines.



From Left: Mrs. Romana Spackova, MD, MB,a.s., Mr. Vikas Singh, IRS, ED, FDDI, Mr. Arun Kumar Sinha, IAS, MD, FDDI inside the manufacturing plant of MB,a.s.

FDDI is trying its level best to streamline the academic structure and methodologies so as to stand proud to the responsibilities that has been cast upon the Institute by the nation through granting the status of 'Institution of National Importance' (INI) under FDDI Act 2017.

Post-INI, in line with Institute's mandate of holistic development, FDDI officials visited MB,a.s., to strategize technology transfer to FDDI so that the various curriculums of footwear & leather goods departments are in sync with the industry requirements and are of International Standards.

Govt. developing National Rubber Policy, says Mr. Prabhu

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Mr. Suresh Prabhu on 17th January 2019 said the government is developing a National Rubber Policy to address various issues concerning the sector.

The policy by the Commerce and Industry Ministry will address issues that will boost productivity, the Minister said at the inaugural function of the 10th edition of India Rubber Expo 2019, at Mumbai, according to a statement.

He said the rubber industry will continue to grow faster, create more employment opportunities, increase exports and add to the economic output of India.

Stating that India will become a 5 trillion Dollar economy in the next few years, Mr. Prabhu said the share of manufacturing sector is expected add 20 per cent to this and the rubber industry can make a significant contribution to this.

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A multi-pronged strategy is being formulated to boost India's exports, he said adding that during the last 13-14 months, India's exports have grown at 10 per cent, despite the slowdown in the global economy.

The government is working towards entering into free trade agreements with Africa and Latin America, where the first priority is the benefit of Indian industry, he added.

(Source: Financial Express)

Leather exports expected to clock 5-6% growth this fiscal

Leather exports are likely to clock 5-6 per cent growth (in Rupee terms) in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019, over the Rs. 37,000 Crore that the industry reported the previous year.

hope that the trend will continue till March," said Mr. PR Aqeel Ahmed, Chairman, Council for Leather Exports (CLE).

European Market

Mr. Ahmed said the industry is heavily dependent on the European Union, which accounts for 55 per cent of the total leather exports while sales to the US are less than 1 per cent. "We are increasing our marketing efforts in the US," he said.

"With the US' sanctions on China, there are lots of opportunities for India to fill the vacuum created by China," he added.

While the industry that employs around three million people imports raw materials worth \$500 million, products worth nearly \$6 billion



are manufactured. The government is committed to the growth of the industry, he said.

India's Advantages

At around 500 million, India has the highest cattle population in the world creating sufficient raw

"Till November, the industry's performance has been good, and we

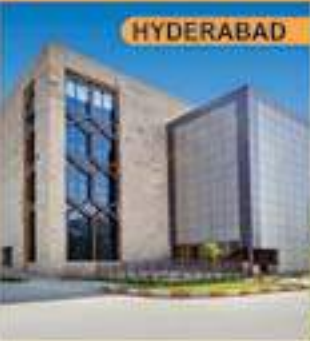
material for the industry. Labour cost is cheap at \$150 per month per

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person compared with \$450 in China and \$350 in Vietnam. With reforms, ease of doing business has also improved significantly and there is a positive perception among customers abroad, he said.

Mr. R Selvam, Executive Director, CLE, said that while the industry has good growth potential, there are concerns on labour and financing that need to be sorted out, and need to be on a par with countries such as China and Bangladesh.

“We are trying to take advantage of the US sanctions by inviting firms from China, Taiwan and Vietnam to invest in India under the Make in India programme,” he added.

(Source: Business Line)

**Compiled by: Resource Centre (RCIP),
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Development Institute (FDDI)
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Physical Laboratory Testing Services Provided by FDDI, NOIDA

S.No.	Test Description	Charges in Rs.
9.5	Colour fastness	200
9.6	Composition	600
9.7	Balance of twist	150
9.8	Thread abrasion	600
10. TAPES & BINDINGS		
10.1	Bondability (self adhesive tapes)	600
10.2	Elasticity (Elastic tapes)	600
10.3	Colour migration	200
10.4	Breaking strength	600
10.5	Endurance test on elastic tapes	800
11. FASTENERS		
11.1	Resistance to repeated opening & closing	600
11.2	Lateral strength of slide fasteners	600
11.3	Strength of slide fastener pullers	600
11.4	Attachment of slide fastener Top stops	600
11.5	Attachment of slide fastener Bottom stops	600
11.6	Slider locking strength of slide fasteners	600
11.7	Security of attachment of retainer to lateral load	600
11.8	Security of attachment of retainer to long load	600
11.9	Tensile/Breaking strength	600
11.10	Tear strength	600
11.11	Peel strength (Velcro)	600
11.12	Shear strength (Velcro)	600
11.13	Corrosion (Metal fasteners)	600
11.14	Eyelet attachment strength	600
11.15	Strength of fastened buckles	600
11.16	Strength of buckle and strap attachment	600
11.17	Corrosion resistance	
a.	For the first sample	1000
b.	For the subsequent three samples (per sample)	200
12. LACES		
12.1	Linear Density	100
12.2	Breaking strength & elongation at break	600
12.3	Strength of bodkin attachment	600

FDDI ITC (NOIDA & CHENNAI) IS OFFERING FLAT 20% DISCOUNT ON ALL TESTING TO ALL THE CUSTOMERS TILL THIS FINANCIAL YEAR 2018-19

* The said discount is not applicable on inter-lab testing & package fee

To be continued...