

Textiles in the spotlight at FESPA 2017

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By **Madelaine Cornforth** 26 May 2017

FESPA 2017, which ran on 8-12 May, was the first installment of the highly-regarded exhibition as an annual event, covering all technologies, processes and applications associated with printing across the globe.

The event brought together over 20,000 unique visitors from 139 countries, making it the most international FESPA ever, according to organisers. The largest visitor groups were from Germany, the UK, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Denmark and Poland. Following the success of FESPA Asia in Bangkok in February 2017, the Hamburg event also saw growth in number of visitors from Asia, representing 10% of total attendance.

The digital revolution has reshaped the print industry throughout the last decade, so much so that show organisers decided that FESPA Digital was significant enough to merge with the original FESPA exhibition and, considering the thousands of visitors who embarked on Hamburg Messe, the venue of this year's event, the decision seemingly paid off.

The textile industry is one area in which digital printing has had a significant impact and, as a result, textile manufacturers had a keen interest in FESPA 2017, where many were in attendance showcasing their latest digital printing software, machinery and solutions.

Small to medium sized digital textile print specialist Aleph was also at FESPA with the LaForte series, and new international sales manager Andrea Negretti, who has spent the previous 13-years of his career in the industry with Korean company d.gen. But rather than the products on show, the biggest news coming out of the Aleph stand was that Wise SGR has bought a majority stake in the Como-based business. Aleph founder and CEO Alessandro Manes, said: "Aleph has chosen Wise as a partner because it has a significant knowledge of our industry and a successful track record in supporting small and medium companies like us in growing business through operations improvement, internationalisation and M&A."