

Technical textiles with built-in air conditioning

Heinrich Essers GmbH & Co. KG is a successful sectional warping business with a tradition of almost a hundred years. Run by the Essers family's third generation, the textile specialist has always stressed its superior innovative powers. Five years ago, this philosophy resulted in Essedea GmbH & Co. KG, a highly innovative sister company. Essedea, an idea by Essers, focuses on high-tech textile solutions, particularly spacer fabrics with 'built-in air conditioning'. Regulating heat and humidity in a perfectly natural manner, the unique fabrics are used in a wide diversity of applications, including everything from car seats and decubitus mattresses to sports articles and medical devices.



Essedea is a Heinrich Essers company. Founded in 1912, Heinrich Essers GmbH & Co. KG specialises in sectional warping, direct beaming and technical TKBs. Using high-quality sectional and direct beaming machines, the company produces weaving, raschel and knitting beams. "We process high-tech materials for the production of technical textiles as well as yarns and filaments for the classical textile industry," explains Heinz-Willy Essers, managing director of both Heinrich Essers and Essedea and the grand-son of the company founder. Heinrich Essers employs 45 people and ships approximately 50% of its products abroad. The main international markets are the Benelux, France, the UK and Scandinavia.

Established in 2003, Essedea is a world leading producer of high-tech spacer fabrics which are marketed under the 3DEA® brand. "3DEA® spacer fabrics are a highly successful niche product and represent the latest in innovative climate comfort

technology," says Mr. Essers. Available in thicknesses from 20 to 55 mm, 3DEA® spacer fabrics regulate heat and humidity in a natural manner through allowing air permeability on the surface to be adjusted from open to closed. "The fabrics offer optimum pressure distribution and excellent resilience, can be manufactured as soft or hard and are easy to wash or disinfect," Mr. Essers continues to describe the manifold benefits. Essedea's 3DEA® spacer fabrics are outstanding and used in a broad variety of applications, ranging from mattresses and bedroom accessories, automobile construction, and sports and leisure products to medical technology and hygiene, textile construction and filtration. The 3DEA® mattresses are also ideal for decubitus prophylaxis in hospitals. "We spend a third of our lives in bed," states Mr. Essers. "A mattress, therefore, should be designed to offer maximum comfort and protection." Despite the wide range of applications of its high-tech spacer fabrics,



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Essedea is continuing to develop new markets and uses through nursing promising contacts as well as visiting and organising technical congresses and exhibitions. "Mass products are not the way to go," concludes Mr. Essers. "Our success rather depends on ongoing innovation and specialisation." ■

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