

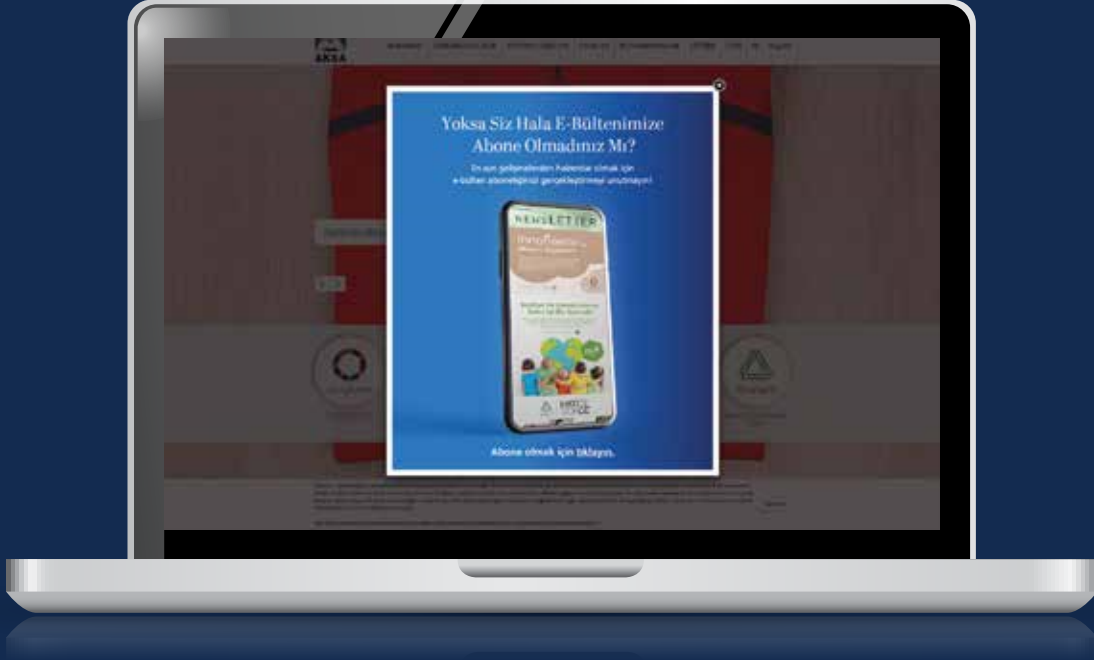
Acrvlife

04

*"Not only a clothing collection but
also a chic manifesto..."*



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Dear business partners,

We are about to complete 2021 with the 50th anniversary of the start of production of Aksa Acrylic which is the world's leader and Turkey's only acrylic fiber producer. This year, which is our 50th anniversary, has been a very fast paced, productive and successful period for us. With our half century of experience, rich corporate culture and valuable collaborations of our business partners, we have achieved our goals in 2021 as well.

On the occasion of our 50th anniversary, I would like to thank once again my colleagues and valuable business partners who have carried Aksa Acrylic to the world leadership with their valuable efforts.

We are crowning Aksa Acrylic's 50th year via full of success and pride, with an investment that brings a brand new excitement and breath to our industry. We are pleased to present Aksafil, which is described as the "project of firsts" as a result of our joint work carried out by Turkish and Japanese engineers meticulously for 3 years to our esteemed business partners.

A new future is our target for our Aksafil brand, which will serve sectors such as knitwear, active use, hand knitting and technical textiles, with an investment budget of 27.5 million. The first step is for the production of the 10 thousand square meter phase, this facility will reach a total size of 20 thousand square meters by the end of 2022. In the first phase of our project, there will be 2,200 tons of production, and in the second phase, 6,600 tons of production. A new 200 person employment will be created.

Within the scope of the Aksafil project, we will produce 100% acrylic high bulk airjet and corespun yarn for the first time. With Vortex technology, we will bring a new business model and excitement to the flat knitting sector and bulk yarn that we are the leader of. Thanks to the Vortex technology, which provides less hairiness and a clearer appearance in the products, we will increase the efficiency while reducing the cost, as a yarn delivery speed of 550 metros per minute is achieved.

With other spinning systems Vortex, which is resistant to pilling, abrasion and washing, also has high moisture absorption. We will offer a brand new Aksa Acrylic experience with Aksafil, where we will enable the use of acrylic fiber in the new spinning technology Airjet technique. I invite all of our customers to get to know our new technology, which I believe will be a model in the sector, with efficiency and environment oriented production that respects nature.

Everfresh, which we developed in our R&D center, which continues to work intensively to find new usage areas of acrylic fiber, responds to the increasing health sensitivity due to the pandemic. Everfresh, which neutralizes the coronavirus in textile products by 99.9% in 15 minutes, has bacteria free properties thanks to its zinc compound. In addition, while preventing bad odor and reducing the need for washing, it also extends the life of the products; It meets all expectations with its features such as fast drying, air permeability, thermal insulation, soft, light and comfortable structure. We anticipate that the demand for our Everfresh product, which attracts a lot of attention in the market, will increase in the coming period.

Another first we signed in 2021, full of innovations, was our Integrated Report. As a member of the United Nations Global Compact, the world's largest sustainability initiative, we have become one of the few companies by sharing our work, which aims to add value to the future in social, environmental and economic fields, in our Integrated Report. You can access the entire report, prepared according to global standards, on the Aksa Acrylic website.

In 2021, we were excited about the new successes of the projects we supported as part of our "Value for Entrepreneurship" program. Porima, which has been producing three dimensional printer filament in Yalova since 2018 with the support of Aksa Acrylic and ITU Arı Teknokent, started exporting thermoplastic materials to the USA, the largest market in the industry. Congratulations once again to Porima for achieving intercontinental success. Iltema, a developer of smart textile products that dissipate heat and included in our program this year, is breaking new ground in our sector with its new generation patented technology. Thanks to the heated seat fabric and in car heater textiles produced by Iltema, the domestic material period will begin in this area, and imports will be prevented.

Our successful work throughout the year was also deemed worthy of awards. At the 11th Corporate Governance Awards organized by the Corporate Governance Association of Turkey, we were awarded the title of "The 2nd Company with the Highest Corporate Governance Rating" for the 6th time in a row. In the Capital 500 research, which includes the largest industrial establishments of our country, we moved up 6 places this year and ranked 108th, while we moved up to 87th place in the Fortune 500 list, moving up 8 places. In addition, we became the 50th company among the top 100 companies of our country in the traditional ISO 500 research of the Istanbul Chamber of Industry. In 2022, we will continue to walk confidently towards our goals with the cooperation and support of you, our esteemed business partners. I wish everyone a healthy and successful new year.

Love and respect,

Cengiz Taş

Aksa Acrylic Board Member and General Manager



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A top-down view of various knitting and crafting supplies arranged on a dark, textured surface. On the left is a blue knitted toy with a yellow face and closed eyes. Next to it is a large ball of light blue yarn. To the right are several spools of thread in shades of blue and grey, along with a pair of orange-handled scissors. In the bottom right corner, there is a book with a grid pattern and a circular design, and two light blue knitting needles.



“The power of Turkish Knitwear Industry comes from Aksa”

41 years of experience in the knitwear industry Founder of Uğur Balkuv Triko Uğur Balkuv, the power of the sector in Turkey The most important raw material of knitwear is acrylic fiber. He says it comes from Aksa Acrylic, which produces it. The relationship with Akkök Group dates back to the 1980s, and extends to yarn production with Aksa since 2013 when they started Balkuv stated that they have collaborations, “Without Aksa, the knitwear industry in Turkey. It cannot be because Aksa’s production is for the sector. It’s a huge power and advantage,” he says.

Uğur Balkuv, one of the first names that come to mind when it comes to knitwear in Turkey, continues his success story with his own company Uğur Balkuv Knitwear, which he founded in 1986 in his father’s profession, which he started at the age of 17. Balkuv, who defines knitwear as “The business that requires knowledge and technological infrastructure and therefore grows the hardest in ready-to-wear”, says that the secret of the success of Uğur Balkuv Triko, which exports to the world’s largest fashion retailers, is their investment in technology, quality and speed. Emphasizing that they carry out all processes from fantasy yarn production to knitwear product formation. Balkuv states that they have been supplying acrylic fiber from Aksa Acrylic since 2013 when they started yarn production. Balkuv says, “We have a very valuable and beautiful relationship with Aksa, based on mutual benefit by developing cooperation, friendship and business together, beyond just supplier-customer relations,” Balkuv states that Aksa is a great power and advantage for the industry.

INTERVIEW





We talked with Uğur Balkuv, the veteran name of the knitwear industry, at their facility in Dudullu, about the developments in the industry since the 1980s, about Uğur Balkuv Knitwear and its goals.

Who is Uğur Balkuv, one of the most important names in the knitwear industry? We would like to hear from you about your past in the sector and the establishment process of Uğur Balkuv Triko. How did this adventure begin?

My father was in the knitwear business, the center of the knitwear market in the 1980s was Yeşildirek and Mahmutpaşa. After graduating from high school in 1980, I started working with my father in Yeşildirek. As of September 1985, when my desire to establish my own business became stronger, I laid the foundations of Uğur Balkuv Knitwear, and in 1986 I founded my company. Thus, this adventure began, we are now a company with a history of approximately 37 years.

Can you talk a little bit about the 1980s when you stepped into the industry?

In my opinion, the best years of Turkey were the 80s Terrorist incidents, which forced the whole country in the 70s, were largely brought under control towards the 80s. In the years following this period, especially between 1980-1992 we experienced a positive momentum in the production sector. I started with sales in 1980 our workshop was in Bayrampaşa. I used to go to different shops, Jewish, Armenian, Greek, Turkish different cultures lived together. They all had different ways of greeting, but they were all neighbors, very good friends, friends. Afterwards, of course, the conditions changed, Turkey went through different processes in the 1990s and 2000s, and it still does.

What are the product groups you are currently producing? You have more than one production facility, where are these facilities located?

One of the two facilities where we carry out the main production is located in our center, Dudullu, and the other is in Geyve district of Sakarya province. There is full integration in these two facilities, we carry out all processes from fantasy yarn production to knitwear product formation.



The total closed area of the two factories is approximately 55 thousand square meters. Apart from this, we have a logistics center in Güngören where we carry out external production operations. Our factory, which is currently under construction in İkitelli, will be put into service by the end of the year, so we will be producing at four facilities by the end of the year. We will increase the number of our employees, which is currently 1,300 by employing 100-150 people in the İkitelli factory. Our main production is knitwear, but we also produce fancy yarn that supports it. In other words, we are both in the ready to wear and textile sectors, but knitwear is more dominant. Acrylic raw material has a very important place in fancy yarn, and we get the raw material from Aksa Acrylic. Since we produce both fast and competitive products, we use acrylic to a large extent, the acrylic ratio in yarn is not less than 50 percent.

We know that you are an export oriented company. Which countries do you export to the most?

Currently, our biggest market is Spain. In Spain, we have a significant amount of exports to the Zara, Massimo Dutti, Oysho and Uterqüe brands of the Inditex group, and also to Mango. We work with Bestseller's Only brand in Denmark, Next, Tesco, Asos and Top Shop brands in England, and C&A brands in Germany. We also have customers in Poland, France and Italy.



We would like to hear from you about your efforts and future plans to diversify export markets?

We aim to enter the US market, since 2014 we have tried to do strategic business related to the US market. In order to do business in this market, it is necessary to establish a completely different strategy, different operations, a different understanding and structuring is required. Turkey's biggest market is the European Union, firstly because we are close to Europe, and secondly, the European Union's 12 percent extra tax application to many countries in the Far East, including China. Therefore, we have such an advantage in the EU market against the Far East, and we also understand each other better culturally. In the US market, we are on a par with China and even at a disadvantage in some places because they are closer to the west coast of the USA than we are. We are in the equal tax bracket, they are relatively close to us and most importantly they have been working with the USA for a long time. Americans have very serious investments in China, big brands have big offices in China and Hong Kong, hundreds of people work there, so they have to give jobs to those offices. Struggling with China in the US market is not like Europe, so strategic studies must be done. If you ask what these are, first of all, it is necessary to invest in countries that have customs agreements with the USA. Three countries in our close region, such as Egypt, Morocco and Jordan,



have signed free trade agreements with the USA, and it is important to do business with them and use the advantage of the customs wall. Customs in the USA, for example, is 35-36% for acrylic and 17% for cotton. Therefore, if such strategies can be followed, then it may be possible to do business with the USA, but on equal terms, this is very difficult because the Far East countries are a serious competitor and the Far East is the world's factory in almost every respect. In Europe, on the other hand, there is no organized structure like China. As Turkey, we can organize the region, we can direct the production organizations in North Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe with our own infrastructure, know-how and strong working disciplines. We can invest or we can get it done. With the power of marketing and knowledge, we can do what China has done in this region.

Knitwear is one of the indispensable parts of wardrobes. Why do you think users can't give up on knitwear?

In the 1970s, when we started this business, people did not use knitwear much as a fashion product. You remember the knitwear sweaters and cardigans worn by Türkan Şoray and Filiz Akın in the films shot in the 70s... At that time, there were brands such as Mısırlı, Karaca and Neyir, which were veterans of the knitwear industry. These were firms of the 60s, they also gave a strong image to knitwear, then knitwear gradually became a fashion product. People used to wear knitwear more in winter for both elegance and warmth, and in recent years, they have started to wear it to look stylish in winter and summer. Knitwear trousers and shorts were produced, we even make swimsuits from knitwear for Oyşo from the Inditex group, and we produced bags from knitwear for Zara Home. Many shoes also have knitwear. Knitwear has become active in fashion, from home textiles to sports and casual wear. We produce sleeveless, short-sleeved t-shirts from knitwear, 70% of the work is done in the winter months, but the summer months are no longer empty as they used to be. Knitwear is not a cheap product, when you buy knitwear, you can't say you can wear it at home, you wear it outside to be stylish.

What is the importance of design for Uğur Balkuv Knitwear? What kind of a line do your products have in terms of color, pattern and model?

In the years we first started, we did not address the concept of fashion, in those years the aim was to dress. People were meeting their clothing needs and adding some visuality to the work with their colors and patterns, but there was no such thing as fashion. We were also producing mostly for Anatolia and we had good sales because it was difficult to produce. Those were the years when production was difficult and the producer was more valuable. Then fashion and fast fashion concepts were formed and we started to work on fast fashion. In the market, there are different segments, designer brands, under their umbrella, trendsetters that shape fashion and that are imitated. These brands give you a job and say "Do this", and you are your valuable producer for how well you can do what they want. They don't have a request like "give us colors, offer us creative models", they want it to be suitable for their own designs.

They determine everything, your strength is to be able to produce the product they want, suitable for their design, the touch they want, and for this, they look at your strong technical infrastructure. Fast fashion brands that bring fashion to the streets definitely follow fashion, partly they have a say now, especially Zara is very assertive in this regard. These brands are fed by the manufacturers, they either buy the products of our designers and sell them with their own labels or they use the patterns we send to them. They take exactly the same color or change their color, so they feed on us, "What will you offer, what are your innovations, what do you suggest?" They say, for this, we need to be very good at R&D and design. Because we need to make fast production, for example, we see the product in its store in Turkey 10 days after we send it to Zara in Spain. Turkey is advantageous in this regard due to its proximity to Europe. This year, distances gained more importance, freight and container prices increased a lot.

Therefore, at the moment, Turkey has a more strategic importance. The post pandemic pro-



cess made Turkey even more important to the Far East, beyond its proximity, due to the costs and durations of the additional distance, we gained a great advantage.

How is the trend formed in knitwear fashion, and what is it affected by? How do you, as a company, reflect fashion and trends in your production? Do you have a team for this?

We have a large design team, there are designers we get support from both in Turkey and abroad. We had showrooms in Barcelona and London before the pandemic, we closed these offices with the transition to the digital environment during the pandemic process,

but the designers continue and they support us. In addition to our foreign designers in England and Spain, we are currently working with five of our designers and their assistants in Turkey. We also have a serious technical team specialized in R&D. When you say design, we need technical infrastructures as important as design, maybe even more important, color, fabric, drawing and pattern are very important. Models, lines and colors released by trendsetters are followed and can become the fashion of the year. Sometimes there are contradictions, and because that company does it, it becomes fashionable. The designer of an important brand is making a completely different outfit.



"TURKEY HAS GREAT OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD"

"Turkey has greater opportunities than ever before in the history of the Republic. If Turkey can produce the right policies, the next 30-40 years will be incredibly different. The most basic basis for this is the nature of the Turkish people. We are a crazy, exciting, fast moving society that takes big risks and has a practical solution. We have shortcomings, areas that need improvement, but still, our valuable sides overcome them. We must aim to grow in production with the right policies, we must achieve a country model that grows with production. If we succeed in this, a new Turkey will be built."

The designer of an important brand makes a completely different outfit, but because he does it, it becomes a fashion, then the followers also make it and fashion is formed. In other words, fashion does not come about by talking about it. Fashion is first formed at the fairs of raw materials such as fabric and yarn, and they also mostly have natural or historical influences. The designers who visit the fairs take samples of the fabrics and the collections are started to be made from those fabrics. The essence of the matter actually goes back to the foundation; raw materials, fabrics, companies that the designer also works with, fabric manufacturers, yarn manufacturers also experience these processes with international designers. Fashion is a concept created by living and very different people with creativity.

You have been in the industry since the 1980s. How has the demand for knitwear and knitwear changed over the years since then?

The population has increased, the interest in knitwear has increased with the increase of cultured and conscious people, I think it will increase even more. Knitwear is actually a product of consciousness, it has different thicknesses and patterns, all kinds of accessories can be added. Knitwear is the hardest growing business in ready to wear. Weaving and knitting grow fast, but as knitwear we are in a smaller segment.



We are doing a difficult job, knowledge and technological infrastructure is required, patience is required because we produce one by one. For example, a circular knitting machine can knit one ton of fabric per day, and approximately 6-7 thousand T-shirts are produced from one ton. A machine produces a ton of fabric in a day, a sewing tape sews it in a day, a dyehouse dyes it in a day. We need about 200-250 machines to knit 6-7 thousand products in a day. We can do the production they do with one machine, with 200-250 machines, and the prices of the machines are almost the same.

How about the future plans for Uğur Balkuv Knitwear? What kind of process awaits the brand in the future?

In the 1990s, I opened stores with my own brand as Uğur Balkuv Triko. There was a period between 1991 and 1998 when we sold our products in our own stores, then we made wholesale sales until 2011. Then I realized that it is very difficult to produce together with the brand either you will be a manufacturer, or you will be a brand and a retailer. If you become a manufacturer, you act according to the requirements of production and industry disciplines, but the brand is a separate discipline. Being a brand is not necessarily having a label on the product, my name should not be on that product, but I should be indispensable for that product, let them not know me, let the markets that make that product know me. If we can make a foreign customer who wants to produce knitwear in Turkey say, "If you can find a capacity at Uğur Balkuv, let them make you feel comfortable, but I hope you will find it," it means that we have become a brand in production. Becoming a brand on the internet is among our goals. The fact that branding in the digital environment becomes much more accessible and easier will benefit us in this field, as well as all manufacturers. Of course, our main goal is to always aim for growth in manufacturing and to always provide the best service to our customers. However, we think that internet branding will also be an important trial platform for us. We are on the production side of the business, and our customers are on the delivery side of the products to the



users. In an environment where our customers sell retail and we always aim for the best in production, the relationship between us will support and expand each other, and create a development-based cooperation where everyone does the best in their field of expertise and does not aim to compete.

In the past, to become a brand, you had to find a good store in a good street. The digital environment is a more difficult time for companies that have become a brand in merchandising and continue to use that power, their competitors have increased a lot. However, in order to compete with manufacturers like us, it has to buy machinery and establish a factory, because it cannot produce the product on the internet. In the next 10 years, there will be a period in which the manufacturer will become more valuable because the sales conditions will gradually improve and it will be easier to buy.

How has the Covid 19 pandemic, which has afflicted us all in many different ways, affected the knitwear industry?

Extraordinary periods such as the pandemic, where transportation is largely disrupted, highlight Turkey's advantage of proximity. You can say that everyone got closer to each other in the digital environment, you are right, but the product is not loaded digitally. There are actual manufacturing and transportation processes, there are container problems, you can take the product from the land somehow, but you cannot bring it from China. In such extraordinary circumstances, proximity becomes a very important advantage. Turkey managed the pandemic period better with its unique structural features. We were able to produce, but production stopped in the Far East and Europe. Turkey has not been able to make the necessary investments in this sector since the



2000s. We, as Uğur Balkuv Knitwear, made it, our oldest machine is a 2010 model, our total technology average age is 3-4 years, but Turkey's average textile infrastructure is much older.

Because after the 2000s, Turkey could not maintain its investment momentum between 1980 and 1999. Especially in 2005 with China's membership of the World Trade Organization and the normalization of relations, China took a big attack. The capacity of the sector in Turkey is insufficient. For example, if the USA says to us, "I will shift 10 percent of my purchases from China to Turkey," we cannot do it. The infrastructure of the Turkish textile and ready-made clothing industry is not suitable for this. Currently the total exports of the textile and ready made clothing industry are approximately 25-26 billion dollars. We cannot do this.



"AKSA HAS A VERY VALUABLE HUMAN RESOURCES POLICY"

"I appreciate Aksa very much because it has a very valuable human resources policy. The older generation, who are experienced in Aksa, is never left behind, their knowledge and experience are used. In addition, there is a bright, very young and dynamic staff. That's why I see Aksa's future as guaranteed because people are very important. People do the work, you have as much technology as you want, make big investments, work goes with people, some things never become robots. If a person cannot reflect creativity, motivation and commitment to work, you cannot be successful just by making use of technology. The first element is people, technology comes next."

Can we get your evaluations on the importance and future of sustainable and environmentally friendly production for the sector?

The issue of sustainability will gain even more importance in the coming periods and will consolidate its place in our lives. Environmental productions and green factories called 'Green Factory' started to gain importance as of 2020 and will be among the most important issues that will also cover the 2030s. I foresee that production will become more difficult due to the constraints that stand out in line with environmental awareness. If necessary investments are made in the Turkish industry and measures are taken, this issue will put us in a very advantageous position compared to the Far East. However, there is the issue of sustainable production and products, which already shows its importance and will become

even more important in the future. Especially the recycled or recyclable products, which we define as recycle, and the production of these products are of critical importance.

Your products go to many big brands, all of them are known and loved brands. How are your relations with brands abroad progressing? What do you think big brands look for in a collaboration?

First of all, they want quality products and the ability to produce products in their own quality standards. Second, they want the ability to make products at any time they want, price levels at which they can buy, pay, and sell. The customer demands from the opposite manufacturer the elements that will make it competitive.

One of the main materials of knitwear yarn is acrylic fiber. Aksa Acrylic comes to mind when acrylic fiber is mentioned. How did your relations with Aksa begin and how do they continue?

Our spinning adventure has a history of seven years, we started yarn production in 2013. Our work with Aksa also started in 2013, but our relations with Akkök Group, which includes Aksa, go back a long way. We have relationships with different companies such as Akal, Aksu and Dinarsu dating back to the 1980s. Especially since 1987, I have had very good relations with Akal, we have done very good works together, we have developed products, we have worked together in the development



of yarn and the production of new products. May God have mercy on him, we also worked together and were friends with the late Ali Dinçkök. We buy fiber from Aksa for our yarn factory and we work together on new fiber development projects, the resulting product is here. Aksa produces fiber, we see the transformation of that fiber into a product in our products. Therefore the fibers and yarns produced are evaluated and developed by us. As with Akal in the past, we have a beautiful and very valuable relationship based on cooperation, friendship and mutual benefit, beyond just supplier customer relations.

What is the place of acrylic fiber in fantasy yarn production?

Acrylic fiber has a very important place in fancy yarn. There is a fancy yarn process that can be made especially with bulky, swellable light acrylic fiber. Since it is a long fiber, you add wool into it, you add other raw materials. Acrylic is the essence and an important part of the business. Aksa is also a company that attaches great importance to development. It produces innovative products that are open to innovation and development, especially in the last 15-16 years.

How would you describe the importance of Aksa's production for the industry?

Aksa's production is very important, the power of the Turkish knitwear industry largely stems from Aksa. Here, I would like to commemorate Raif Dinçkök with mercy.

I think he has made a great contribution to the development of the textile and knitwear industry, and is one of the most important business people in the history of the Republic. Thanks to the paths opened by the late

Raif Dinçkök and a few business people like him, Turkey was able to reach the power it has today in textile, ready made clothing and knitwear. Without Aksa, who follows the path paved by Mr. Raif, there can be no knitwear in Turkey because imports force us, Aksa is a great power and a great advantage. I wish we had large facilities like Aksa in Turkey that can produce basic raw materials in many subjects, we are late in this regard, but where to start is profit. If we are going to make Turkey an industrial country, big companies like Aksa and big investments are needed.

What do you do outside of work? How would you tell us about Uğur Balkuv in social life?

In fact, textile ready made clothing manufacturers do not have a private life because we cannot institutionalize. I can't say "Let's go play golf", if I'm going to play golf it means things will go bad, I think it's good at the moment but it will get worse in a few years. If the ready to wear shop tries to deal with his private life, that job will be in trouble. You will make a choice, you will definitely have a private life, but at a reasonable level, work will always come first. First your job and then your family, maybe it's not a good thing to say, but business first because if the business goes bad, the family goes bad too. Therefore, you will keep the job strong first, then family, then hobbies. Our busiest months are June and the end of November, so some weekends in winter I can go skiing for two days in the nearby areas. Skiing is a sport that I enjoy very much. During the summer, my wife and I go to our summer house in Bodrum whenever possible. Whenever I have time, I take a walk and try to get together with friends and colleagues.

everfresh



FEEL AT EASE WITH EVERFRESH!

Aksa Acrylic product Everfresh technology, developed after intensive R&D efforts, counteracts the coronavirus on surfaces with Everfresh by **99.9% in 15 minutes!**

Therefore, everybody's need of hygiene and freshness are met with Everfresh as it can be used in a wide product range including denim, activewear, home textile, socks and undergarments.



acryluna

DAGI

everfresh

Sustainability added comfort to life with cooperation...

The long term cooperation of Everfresh, Aksa Acrylic's revolutionary product with bacteria free properties, and DAGI, one of the world's most popular clothing brands, continues to increase by adding brand new products to its sustainable fashion collection. DAGI's comfortable clothing collection, produced with Everfresh, has become one of the most popular products with its comfort and gains for a sustainable world.



Denim



Active wear

Underwear,
socksHand
knittingHome
textiles

Mask



Everfresh, which prevents bad odor in fabrics and offers users a world where they can always feel fresh and good, has also become a favorite product of Aksa Acrylic-DAGI cooperation. DAGI's comfortable clothing collection was prepared with the Everfresh.

NO BAD ODOUR OCCURRENCE!

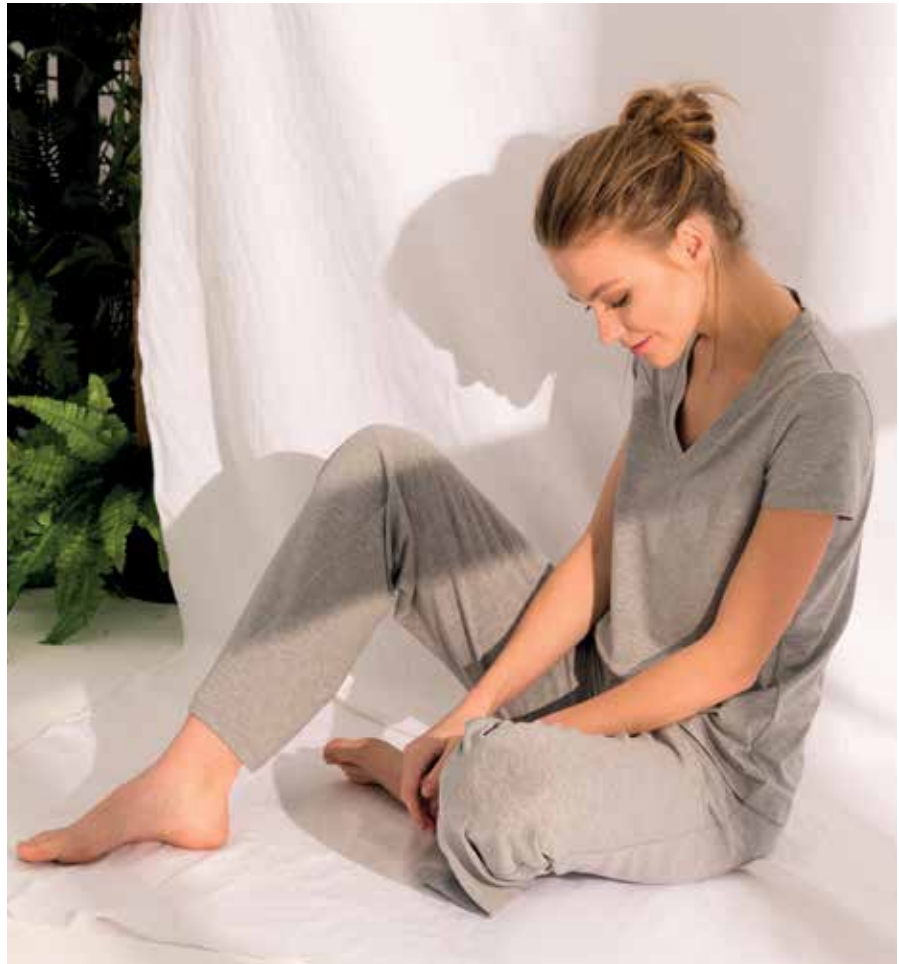
Thanks to the zinc pyrithione (Inventory No. BEN.0308) in its content, Everfresh offers a fresh world to the users by preventing the environments suitable for the formation of bacteria that cause bad odor including preventing the formation of bad odor, thanks to its thermal comfort features that provide fast drying and breathing, it also removes the uncomfortable feeling of wetness in the body without the user noticing it, and provides the freedom to move as he wishes.

Everfresh products require much less washing, thanks to its structure that prevents the formation of bad odor. Reducing the number of washes not only extends the life of the product, ensuring that your favorite clothes stay with you for many years, but also leaves the time and energy spent for processes such as washing and drying to the users.

The zinc compound that gives Everfresh its bacteria free properties is found in the fiber. It is important for the user that the active substance is not a finishing process that is gained by subsequent addition, and that it is present in the fiber. Products that have such properties after a finishing process release heavy metals and pose a threat to the skin. Thanks to the fact that the active ingredient of Everfresh the zinc compound, is contained in the fiber, it has been proven by tests that it does not release any harmful substances during and after use, and that it is a skin-friendly product.

DURABLE CLOTHES WITH LESS WASH

According to studies, only one third of the negative environmental impact of a garment occurs during production. Most of



MINIMUM RESOURCE USE

Preventing bad odors and thus less washing is in your hands to help reduce resource usage with products produced with Everfresh, which reveals the need! The need for new products decreases with products that do not deform with the need for less washing and have a longer service life. In this way, Everfresh makes it possible to leave a better tomorrow for future generations by minimizing resource usage.

this effect occurs during the preparation stages of the purchased products such as washing, drying and ironing. Everfresh prevents the formation of bacteria that cause bad odors, resulting in less need for washing. This means less resource usage as a result of less frequent washing. This feature of Everfresh is the biggest supporter for a sustainable life and livable future. In addition, the longevity feature that Everfresh already possesses increases as a result of the need for less washing and allows the clothes to be used for many years. No need for a new product means that there is no need for new product production. This is the right choice to reduce the use of natural resources.

The unique features of Everfresh preserves its existence until the end of the product's

lifespan, in other words, it has an infinite washing resistance feature. The product does not compromise on the comfort and hygiene features it offers during its use.

COMFORTABLE CLOTHING COLLECTION IDEAL FOR HOME AND OUTDOOR USE

The comfortable clothing collection, which is the latest and newest project of the DAGi-Everfresh cooperation, has become one of the most popular products with its comfort and gains for a sustainable world. Designed for men's and women's wear and appealing to many uses, the products are ideal for use at home and outdoors. While the thermal comfort features of the product such as fast drying and breathing allow the users to move as they wish, the bacteria free structure of Everfresh also prevents the formation of bad odors. The comfort of moving freely without fear of sweating is experienced at the highest level thanks to Everfresh, which quickly removes the feeling of wetness in the body.

With the sustainable choices it offers, the products offer peace of mind as well as comfort of use. Thanks to Everfresh's structure that prevents the formation of bad odor, less washing is required. Less washing means less resource usage. In this way, the rate of resources used in the process of drying the products after washing and making them ready for use also decreases. Another supporting feature for a livable future is the long service life of the product. The fact that the product is not deformed as a result of the need for less washing and the increase in its useful life reduces the need for new products. This brings with it a positive contribution to the reduction of the resources required for production.

The products and ongoing projects produced in cooperation with DAGi-Everfresh meet the hygiene and comfort needs of the users at the highest level, while bringing the peace of mind to take the right step for the livable future that we owe to future generations.



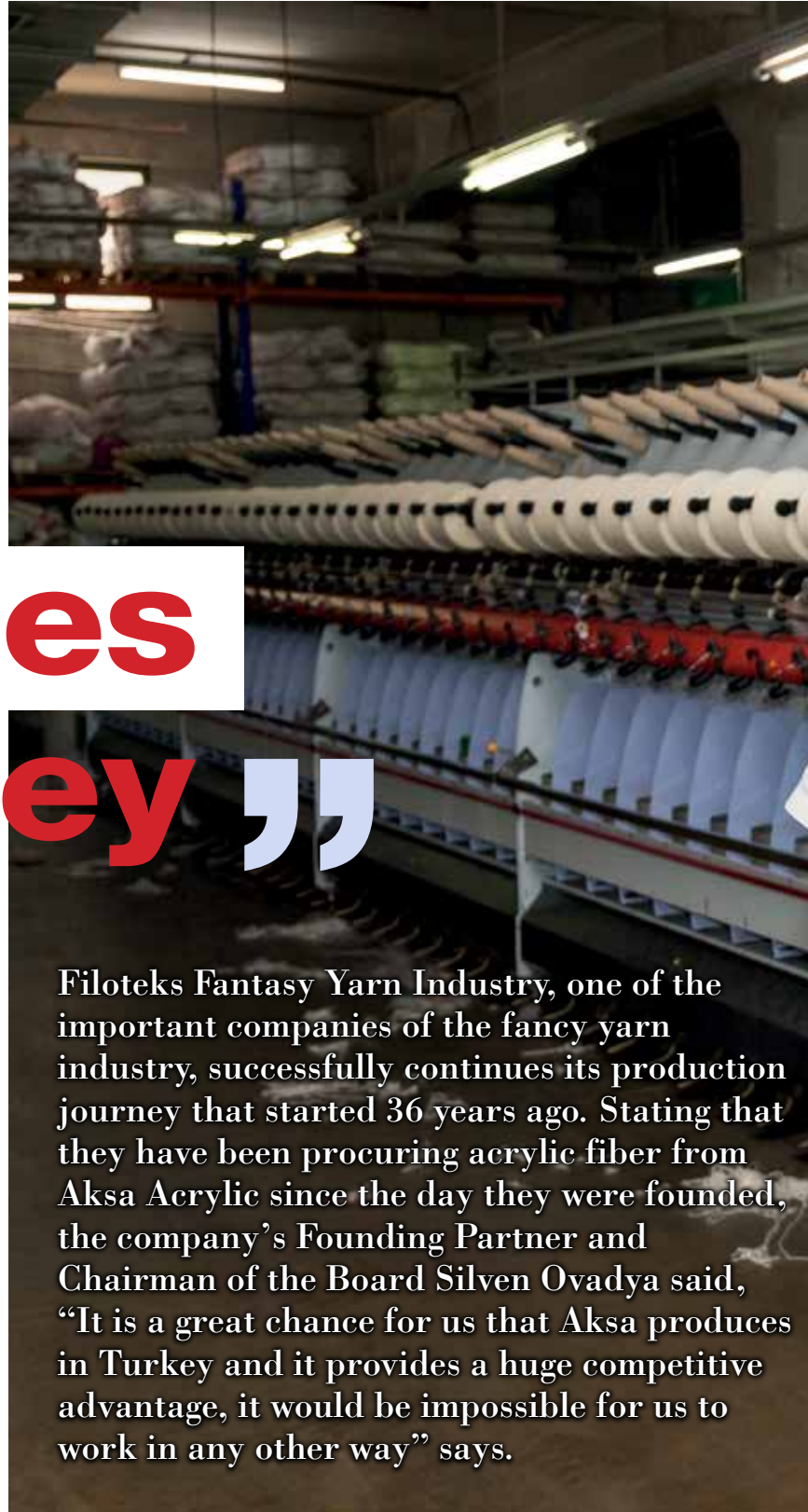
DAGi

everfresh



“It is a great chance for us
that
Aksa
produces
in Turkey”

Silven Ovadya, one of the leading names in the fancy yarn industry in Turkey, carries Filoteks Fantasy Yarn Industry, of which she is the Founding Partner and Chairman of the Board, to the future with her experience in the industry. Stating that they mainly produce for the weaving, knitwear and knitting sectors, Ovadya said, “Especially the weaving sector is working very hard right now, we have never seen such a demand in weaving. There are great demands from one color to 40 tones,” he says. Emphasizing that they purchase acrylic fiber, the most important product for their production, from Aksa Acrylic, Ovadya says that it would not be possible for them to do this job without Aksa. Silven Ovadya, one of the important representatives of the Jewish community in Turkey, is the Chairman of the Board of the 500th Year Foundation. In addition, we talked with Silven Ovadya, who, in addition to her duties in various associations and foundations, is the Chairman of the Yarn Professional Committee at the Istanbul Chamber of Industry (ISO) about the 36-year journey of Filoteks at its facilities in Esenyurt Kiraç, the fancy yarn industry and its social activities outside of business life.



Filoteks Fantasy Yarn Industry, one of the important companies of the fancy yarn industry, successfully continues its production journey that started 36 years ago. Stating that they have been procuring acrylic fiber from Aksa Acrylic since the day they were founded, the company’s Founding Partner and Chairman of the Board Silven Ovadya said, “It is a great chance for us that Aksa produces in Turkey and it provides a huge competitive advantage, it would be impossible for us to work in any other way” says.

INTERVIEW



INTERVIEW

First of all, we would like to get to know you and listen to the establishment process of Filoteks. What is the story behind this success?

My background in the industry goes back many years. I was a partner of a yarn trading company in the 1980s, and after seeing the fancy yarn machines, I thought, "We must do this business." At that time, these machines were available in Akal and Emboy in our country, and there was only one machine in a knitting company. In 1985, so to speak, we were able to buy half a machine by running after the representative for months, six months later, we completed the machine and went from 12 eyes to 24 and started working. In the second year, we bought the machine of the company that had the machine before us.

At that time, Emboy and Akal were producing high volumes for knitwear. After we started production, we became the only company that produced the product for weaving and circular knitting in the market, there was no second company because no one had such a demand. Later on, today Turkey's important hand knitting companies were established, but they only hand knitted and did not engage in any other production. Seeing that the hand knitting industry is a market that needs to be fought more, we did not choose to enter that market, even if it was more profitable, and remained in circular knitting. In 1989 thick numbered bouclés were produced under the name of 'black and white astrachan', which were exported to Russia and demanded a lot, and overcoat fabric was made from this product. Every morning, customers were almost in a queue at the door and they were racing to buy products. It was guaranteed that the producer of each product would sell it, there was such a great demand. We sold this product a lot for a while, of course, no one had very high capacities, then gradually other companies started to enter this business.



How did you supply the raw materials required for your production?

When we started work, we did not have a machine to make roving, one day we would ask Emboy to buy roving from another company, it was not possible to work if there was no roving. Then we saw that this will not be the case, we bought an old preparation at the end of the third year. We started to buy raw materials from Aksa Acrylic, otherwise there was no way we could produce it. So we grew the business. In those years, I went to Germany many times, companies in Germany were trying to get rid of old machines, we bought used

machines and brought them to Turkey.

Not just us, many other companies have done the same. Some of the rival companies got angry because they could not buy enough products from us and bought machinery. We used to send 1.5 tons of products to the knitters every day, they finished 1.5 tons of products until 11:00, then their machines were waiting empty. It was a period when yarn production was insufficient and some of the companies in the knitting sector started to produce yarn by purchasing machines. There are still some who continue to produce. I can say that we have brought many companies to the market.

INTERVIEW



"MY LIFE AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WORKS"

What do you do outside of work? Do you have interests or hobbies that relax you? How would you describe Silven Ovadya in your social life?

My life is spent with work and social responsibility studies, I did not have time to take up a hobby. The book "Turkey Synagogues", which we have prepared as the 500th Year Foundation, will soon be on the market. There is the Jewish language spoken by the Jews in Turkey, a language that was formed 500 years ago by mixing Spanish with Turkish in Spain. I speak this language well, and I write at least one or two articles every week for the Sephardic Culture Research Association, which uses this language.

Everyone had machinery, no raw materials, but we worked because we had raw materials. We also established our factory building in Esenyurt Kırac in 1995. When we started the construction, we were worried that we would not be able to afford it, but there was such an intense demand that we built the factory with an area of 6-7 thousand square meters in six months, and then we installed the machines, we had such a chance. Profits were slightly higher then, there is demand now, but not the same rate of profitability. While we did not calculate sacks in the past, today we have to calculate sacks, bobbins, etc., because their cost has increased a lot. After a while, when we saw that there was more demand for fancy yarn in the knitwear sector, we turned to knitwear, knitwear was much more profitable. But at the moment, knitwear has become the most troublesome and least profitable industry. We still believe that this industry must survive. I think that fancy yarn has become more important in Aksa's production. At the moment, with the industrialists from Gaziantep entering this business, prices have come down a lot and fancy yarn has taken

the place of many classical yarns. In other words, it has become more interesting to use fancy yarn instead of the yarn that comes out in the rings.

Today the prices of the product made for knitwear are much cheaper than the equivalent companies in Europe. When we add the quality and diversity factor, even China cannot compete with the prices in Turkey, we sell it at such cheap prices. Yarn and knitwear manufacturers in Turkey are making a great effort. In my opinion, big brands, especially Zara, have moved away from China, anyway, China cannot keep up with Turkey's pace. When we say 15-day deadline, the customer is not satisfied. We say, "Well, let's give some of it in 8-9 days" and we have to do it without knowing how to give it, because the customer wants the product very quickly. No other country can keep up with this speed in exports to abroad.

From which sector does the demand for fantasy yarn come the most?

The weaving industry is currently working very hard, we have never seen such a demand in weaving. There are requests from one color to 40 shades. The sales system has changed in big companies, in other words, there used to be a series of 10 colors at the beginning of the season. For example, in green fashion this year, the customer says "I want 21 shades of this green". 10 years ago, such a request could not even be in question, at that time a series of products were purchased. Now they are producing 100 thousand products for two models, after 15 days there is no product, there is a very rapid demand change.

In which product groups do you manufacture as Filoteks? Could you give information about production facilities and capabilities?

We carry out production both in our facility in Esenyurt and in one or two facilities that we work in connection with. I can say that we are in the top three in fantasy yarn

What developments occurred in the 1990s and beyond?

Cotton pasta was in fashion, which started in 1991-1992 and then continued for a few years, which was a product exported to Russia and the important thing was to find the raw material. Although some of the knitters maliciously gave the product raw without finishing it and threw it away after wearing it once, the problem was raw material, it was necessary to make 2 nd number cotton roving. At that time, we constantly had six trucks of products in three Sümerbank factories, and when they were empty, they would make them and send them to us.



production. As a company, we produce more than 100 kinds of products, we do not produce stock.

Because there are so many similar yarns and differences that the number 6.8 and 7.1 are different for the customer. If you stock up on that product, when it wants another, that product is useless. We do not need to stock up at the moment. Knitwear companies that produce fancy yarns also spend the periods when their knitwear production is less by giving products to these companies at affordable prices.

How do you evaluate your customer profile? How are your collaborations? Is exporting abroad an important item for you?

We export 10-15 percent, but we realize 85-90 percent of our production for companies that export in the domestic market. We know that not even a kilo of the product we give to the weaving industry is sold in Turkey. Even if it is sold in a store in Turkey, the product first goes to England or Spain, then comes to Turkey to be sold as a finished product. The sectors we mostly address are weavers, knitters and knitters. We also sell products to those who have a raschel machine. Although it is rare, we also provide products to the hand knitted sector, but we do not have a brand that we produce for hand knitted products, we manufacture contract products.

As an experienced name in the sector, what kind of development and change do you think has occurred in the fancy yarn market over the years? We'd love to hear your reviews.

The industry has developed tremendously over the years. While small quantities were produced, production has now increased a lot. Mispa company, which produces fancy yarn machines in Turkey, has a great contribution in this, they produce machines of higher quality than many foreign companies. They are really successful and far superior to their competitors, they have a certain standard.





How is the situation in the hand knitting market?

I think the competition is intense in hand knitting. We have large companies producing in this field, some of them have production in the USA. The countries with the highest sales in hand knitting are the USA and Canada. Hand knitting is also sold in Turkey, but demand is high in Europe and the USA as a hobby.

How are the color, variety and touch determined in fancy yarn? Can we say that fancy yarn also has a fashion and is influenced by trends?

Definitely fancy yarn also has its fashion, most of the time, we determine the colors, not the customers, and we produce according to their wishes. When the big company wants a product, it sends a color number or yarn sample from the pantone catalog and we produce what they want. We do not have a paint shop, we work with dyed tops thanks to Aksa and we always have a minimum of 150 color stocks. Currently a new profession called colorist has emerged, they get the desired color by mixing the colors of the tops. For example, they make maybe 500 colors out of 150, they combine three colors to get the desired color, and we use these colors.

You supply the raw material for your production from Aksa Acrylic. How did your relations with Aksa begin and how do they continue?

We buy acrylic fiber from Aksa, sometimes we import a small amount of wool. In some periods, we mainly use yarns produced from other fibers in mohair and connection yarns. Aksa is our most important business partner. In the 1980s, when we started our business, there were other companies producing acrylic fiber in Spain, Portugal and Italy, they are currently producing very little. But we have never bought products from any company other than Aksa. Having Aksa in Turkey provides us with great luck and a huge competitive advantage, it would have been impossible for us to operate in any other way.





How do you find Aksa's production quality and product diversity? What is the importance of supplying raw materials from Aksa for your company?

Aksa is an innovative company that constantly conducts research. It is the world's largest acrylic fiber producer and produces with the latest technology.

Therefore we never even thought of taking a tov and turning it into a ball. Because we do not think that we can achieve Aksa quality. We believe and trust the quality of Aksa. We cannot continue our production without Aksa. We can also buy tov from abroad, but then converting it from tov to ball would be a very long and costly process. In any case, Aksa's paint and tov tops prices are competitive, so when you get it done outside, your cost will increase.

The Covid 19 pandemic has affected all industries. How did the pandemic reflect on the fantasy yarn industry?

The pandemic did not negatively affect our industry. We tried to take precautions as much as possible and applied strict rules for the he-

alth of our employees. Moreover, we made investments during this period, renewed our preparation line, and increased our capacity.

What are your goals to carry Filoteks' 36 year successful journey into the future? What plans do you have in the near and long term?

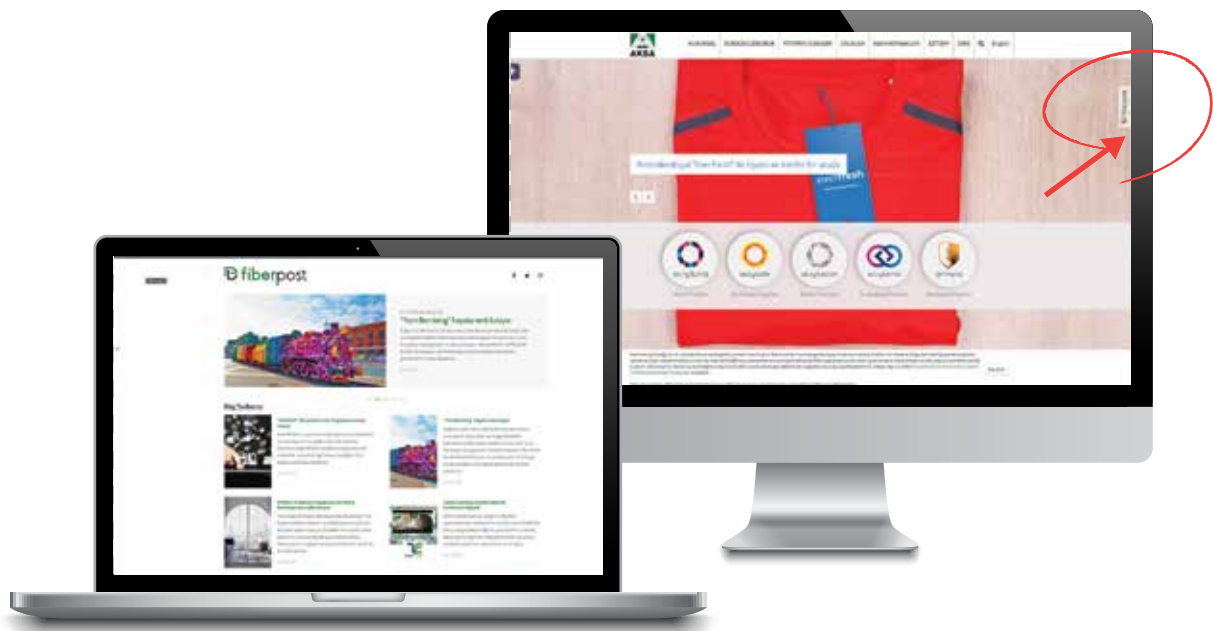
Apart from fancy yarn, we also produce flat yarn in the ring. There, we are making contract productions for fancy hand knitted fabrics at the moment. Some time ago new twisting machines, folding machines etc. We are working to produce better quality products.

As one of the important representatives of the Jewish community in Turkey, you are also the President of the 500th Year Foundation. How does it feel to undertake such an important mission along with business life?

In addition to being the Chairman of the Board of the 500th Year Foundation, I am also the Chairman of the Sephardic Culture Research Association, a Member of the Board of the Turkish History Foundation, and a Member of the Board of the Islands Foundation. I also work as the Chairman of the Yarn Professional Committee at the Istanbul Chamber of Industry. Working in these fields as well as business life makes me happy and increases my energy. It is not easy to spend time in a busy schedule, but for me, being involved in social affairs has a special importance. I also carry out cultural activities related to the synagogue in Edirne, which was renovated by foundations. For a while, I also served as the Deputy Chairman of the Cultural Heritage Preservation Association, which identifies the existence of old and unclaimed buildings in Anatolia and reports them to the High Council for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage.



Follow Us On fiberpost!



 fiberpost, the place to find answers to product questions, Aksa news, and the sector's latest developments, is live.

Go to Aksa's corporate website and you'll find the  fiberpost tab on the right of the screen. Click here for a world of information regarding our brands, the sector and current developments!





HATICE
GOKCE



SUSTAINABLE FASHION

Hatice Gökçe, the leading name of men's clothing fashion in Turkey, has signed another striking work with the Newborn Collection produced by Akxa Acrylic with Acrycycle, the fiber of the future.

Underlining the concept of sustainability in fashion by using the recycled acrylic fiber Acrycycle in his designs, Gökçe said, "Knowing that the textile industry is the second largest polluting industry in the world has always led me to make more environmentally friendly designs and production. Akxa's contribution to sustainable fashion with Acrycycle is very valuable, and meeting with an environmentally sensitive company like Akxa in this project is also very meaningful for me."

“Akxa's contribution to
**sustainable
fashion** with
Acrycycle is invaluable”

SUSTAINABLE FASHION



Hatice Gökçe, who made a difference with her environmentalist projects that embraced the cultural heritage in the fashion world, crowned the awareness of respect for nature with the “Newborn Collection” produced from Eshram fabric unique to Erzurum and Aksa Acrylic’s recycled acrylic fiber Acrycycle. Launching the Newborn Collection at Fashion Week Istanbul, Gökçe’s collection, one of the most special examples of sustainable fashion, received great acclaim. “As long as I can remember myself, I have always been very sensitive to my environment, to nature, to our world. Knowing that the textile industry is the second largest polluting industry in the world has always led me to make more environmentally friendly designs and production. We talked about sustainable fashion studies and the adventure of bringing these works together with Acrycycle with Gökçe, who said, “I am making my dream come true with this collection.”

As we begin our conversation, we would like you to introduce yourself first for those who do not know you. Who is Hatice Gökçe?

I graduated from Mimar Sinan University Fine Arts Faculty Textile and Fashion Design Department in 1998. In 2000, I set up my own workshop. I have been in the industry for 21 years, and I have been preparing men’s clothing collections since the day I started this business.

Was it your childhood dream to be a fashion designer? If so, can you go back to your childhood and youth and talk about your dreams?

Yes, I always had dreams about being a designer... My tendency to design clothes was evident in the drawings I made when I was a child. When I chose my department at the university, I had decided in which field of my profession I wanted to work. I had a busy student life. I was lucky, thanks to the competitions, I had the opportunity to meet and work with the professionals of my profession while I was still a student.

Fashion is a very colorful and polyphonic concept. What are the themes that guide your designs? What do you see as your inspiration?

Usually nature, sometimes history, sometimes technology are my main sources. Young Turks, Gilman or Other collections can be examples, valuable textiles are my field of interest. For example, the Eshram I used in the Newborn Collection is a hand woven fabric that should be geographically marked. Eshram is actually a cultural heritage... I have used this fabric, which has been used for women until today, for men as well with this collection. Thus, I believe that I have expanded the usage area.

You are a pioneer in men’s fashion in Turkey. You are the fashion consultant of celebrities such as Tarkan, Hayko Cepkin, Yalın and Can Bonomo. Is there a special reason why you turned to men’s collections when women’s fashion was more popular?

The playground of men’s clothing is very wide. If we take a closer look at the changes in men’s clothing in the last 15 years, we can see



SUSTAINABLE FASHION



MORE LIVEABLE FUTURE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS WITH ACRYCYCLE...

Hatice Gökçe makes it possible to leave more livable tomorrows to future generations with the important touches she makes with the recycled acrylic fiber Acrycycle for the pieces produced with Efram fabric. When you buy a product produced with the technology of the fiber of the future, which bases its respect for the environment with a disciplined work, it offers the most comfortable and long-lasting way to show your respect for nature with 30% less carbon emission and 86% less water consumption.

how quickly it has changed. The predisposition of my line to men's clothing caused me to choose this field.

What do you think should be the most important elements in men's fashion?

Our priority is to have an emancipated men's clothing.

We know that you are one of the representatives of the concept of 'sustainability' in the fashion world. How would you define sustainability in fashion?

While fashion design is a profession that includes sustainability, everything changed when the fashion industry created the fast fashion trend. Naturally, it moved away from the principles of sustainability and used the world's resources very quickly, even in a damaging way. In these times when everything started to transform, sustainable fashion came into play.

SUSTAINABLE FASHION

This movement was started by sensitive people who draw attention to the use of earth's resources and it seems that it will be an established movement, it will change many things by questioning. In essence, a real design is sustainable, durable, wearable for many years, timeless, environmentally friendly.

Can we learn about your work in the field of sustainable fashion?

The "Innovations in Women's Empowerment in Southeast Anatolia" project, which started as a social responsibility project in 2008, turned into a sustainable fashion brand as the "Argande" brand. About 40 designers in Turkey provided design support in different seasons to Argande, which prioritizes employment of nearly a thousand women living in 9 provinces in the region and supported by the United Nations Development Programme, GAP Administration,

Swedish International Development Agency and Mudo.

The designs produced were sewn by the women of the region, and all proceeds from the sale were paid to the women as a salary. The aim was to provide employment to women in the region and to create a permanent work environment for them. At the same time, it was a project that contributed to the region.

What kind of project was this?

Clothing for women was designed by Turkish designers, first in Batman and then in Kilis Batman was the pilot zone. We also worked in Multi-Purpose Community Centers (ÇATOM) covering 9 provinces under the GAP Administration. There are two special fabrics belonging to the region, such as Kutnu and Şeşapik, one from Gaziantep and the other from Siirt. We wanted to ensu-

re that these special fabrics woven on hand looms can survive.

Thanks to the orders we gave, the looms in the region continued to produce and the use of these fabrics became widespread, we can say that we have expanded the usage area of Kutnu and actually contributed to the cultural heritage. Because Kutnu was not used in clothing, it was mostly used in decorative areas, mostly in home decoration. We carried Kutnu to clothing as well, and many Kutnu fabric brands emerged after us. We have identified 4,000 women available for employment in the region.

We would like to hear from you how this cooperation with Aksa Acrylic, a company that attaches great importance to sustainability, was born.

Ms. Bahar from Aksa reached out to me and conveyed that they want to cooperate with





the fashion world. After a few discussions, we decided on the project.

The recycled acrylic fiber Acrycycle suited the collection concept I wanted to prepare very well. It was a perfect partnership. When I met the features and texture of Acrycycle, I realized that it was a product that would greatly appreciate and crown the collection. Thus, our cooperation with Aksa began in February 2021.

The Newborn Collection, which you prepared with the recycled acrylic fiber Acrycycle, received great acclaim at Fashion Week Istanbul. Can you tell us about the content and features of this collection?

In fact, I can describe this collection as the 'Respect for the Past' collection. A new generation is coming and the Newborn Collection is a collection that tries to explain that

40 PERCENT OF THE NEWBORN COLLECTION IS MADE WITH ACRYCYCLE

Hatice Gökçe, paying homage to nature with her 'Newborn Collection', used materials that protect the environment with a high ratio of 95 percent. The collection, which consists of knits made of 40 percent barcode and traceable recycled acrylic fiber Acrycycle, and consists of 24 looks, is entirely produced from environmentally friendly fabrics. Hatice Gökçe, who expressed that it is insufficient to describe Eham as a regional fabric, which represents respect for the past of wool, and that she is excited to present this precious weaving to the world, has also designed a capsule collection consisting of 30 different models for the Eham and Baksı Museum, which she uses for her own collection. Internal Ehrams included in this collection of practical and stylish designs that offer double sided use with two different fabrics on the outside and on the inside were produced on old looms collected from the region and the models were designed to transform the fabric into clothing with the least waste.

this generation needs to act with this knowledge so that it can take steps towards the future by knowing its cultural heritage.

The story of wool includes the past, present and future of wool. The fiber of the future, Acrycycle, has a very important place here, it represents the future. The Eham fabric I used in the collection, on the other hand, represents the past. Eham, which is hand woven, is the most primitive form of weaving and has survived until today without any changes. In other words, it has not undergone any intervention since the first day it was touched. In this sense, it is a very valuable fabric. The texture of the eham fabric is the most natural and hard form of wool, so it is not suitable for skin contact. Therefore, it is used as outer clothing. But in Acrycycle, these features are completely gone. It is not possible for a difficult material such as wool

to hit the skin, but with Acrycycle, this is possible. This was the aspect of Acrycycle that was impressive to me.

Respect for nature, being recycled fiber and traceable also have a different meaning. On this occasion, I prepared an identity card for each design of the collection. With this card, you can see who weaves the fabric, who produces the yarn, and who carries out the sewing.

In which products did you use Acrycycle the most in your collection?

We produced it both as outerwear and also used in clothes that come into direct contact with the skin.

How do you evaluate Aksa's contribution to sustainability in the textile industry with the recycled acrylic fiber Acrycycle, the world's giant in acrylic fiber?

First of all, I would like to say that I am very happy to have met Aksa through this collection. Because for us designers, material is very important and valuable. In the collection, besides the subject, the material also excites me, we start either from the material or from a subject. It was a very meaningful collection as the two of them were together in this collection. We have to fulfill our responsibilities in order to leave a more livable world to future generations. We are responsible for what happens because we don't use our resources properly. For this reason, meeting with Aksa, which feels responsible for this issue, was very meaningful for me as a designer brand. Aksa's contribution to sustainable fashion with Acrycycle is invaluable. I think that it will be very difficult, almost impossible, for the textile industry to survive, whether it is a manufacturer brand or a ready-made clothing brand that does not serve sustainable fashion from now on. Because the new generation, a generation that tries to learn, knows and questions how to live in life without harming it, naturally they will question us. For this reason, brands that make this type of production have to clearly present the production process from the yarn to the final product.



The new generation is now asking, "Who makes our clothes, who produces this fabric, where does the fabric come from?

Who works there while the fabric is being produced? Are there any child workers, are the working conditions suitable?" It is already seriously pressing the industry with questions like these. There is a conscious consumer, and since brands are aware of this, they will inevitably have to act in accordance with the wishes of their future customers. Therefore, it will be impossible for a brand to survive without a sustainable fashion title and without these principles.

How do you position yourself in the fashion world? What is your biggest dream, the point you want to reach?

Since the day I started my job, I have been aware that in some countries you are lucky because there is a sector, history and story of this business. You add a story on top of

that story and you move forward, your job is relatively easy.

I did not have such a chance in Turkey, so there was no menswear designer that I could take as an example. And naturally this made my job more difficult, on the one hand, being alone for a long time allowed me to evaluate the time correctly within myself. I proceed with this responsibility in my own work. I am one of the pioneers of contemporary men's fashion, and I have created a story in 21 years. To enrich this story even more, I want to do this job as much as I can because it's such a fun job. There is tremendous value in dressing a mass of men who are creative and pioneering. If you have a small intervention in the clothing habits in your country and you influence this, if you can exist with your style in men's clothing design, I think this is very valuable.



acrycycle

Eco-friendly comfort

Acrycycle, the world's first recycled acrylic fiber, minimizes the impact on the environment thanks to low CO2 emissions and sustainable water management. Acrycycle retains its original features for a long time without getting deformed, and thanks to its durable and eco-friendly structure, it minimizes natural resource consumption by eliminating the need for new products.





acryluna

For a better future: **Acryluna...**

Acryluna, our Aksa textile fibers brand,
is the ideal choice for the environment and
the future when compared with other fibers.
Using conventional methods, one t-shirt requires
2700 liters of water during production.

Only 15 liters of water is needed
for a t-shirt produced with Acryluna.*

We are aware of the importance of using
water resources sustainably.

**Acryluna for
eco-sensitive and
sustainable choices...**





"We make a difference in the flame retardant products market with Armora"

Aksa Acrylic, which started the production of modacrylic fiber in flame retardant textiles with 'Armora', increased its target. Aksa Acrylic Performance Fibers Product Manager Aras Mutlu, who stated that Armora made a difference in the market with innovative products and received very positive feedback, said, "We are planning to increase the current capacity of 1,000 tons/year with two additional investments of 5 thousand + 5 thousand tons."

Aksa Acrylic makes an impact with its 'Armora' brand in flame retardant textiles, which have many uses from the defense industry to transportation, from protective clothing to industrial applications.

Aras Mutlu, Aksa Acrylic Performance Fibers Product Manager, listed the areas of use of Armora as protective clothing,

upholstery and bedding fabrics, and awnings, and stated that clothing prepared with Armora is also used in the Fire Brigade established within the YALKIM OSB. We talked to Aras Mutlu, who emphasized that they aim to expand the usage areas of Armora, about the features and targets of the product.

Can you tell us about the features of Armora, one of the most important products in Aksa's product category?

Flame retardancy has become a feature that has gained importance in many fields in recent years and is increasingly demanded.

Due to the increasing awareness around the world, regulations that make the use of flame-retardant textile materials mandatory in many countries have come into effect. Modacrylic fiber also has an important place in flame retardant textiles, which find use in many fields from the defense industry to transportation, from protective clothing to industrial applications. Modacrylic fiber has permanent flame retardancy thanks to its chemical structure, so fabrics produced with modacrylic fiber maintain these properties during use. In addition to synthetic flame retardant fibers, cotton, viscose, etc. It can be easily mixed with cellulosic fibers and wool. One of the important features of modacrylic fiber is that it renders the entire mixture non flammable, even if the other fibers used in the mixture are not flame retardant.

On the other hand, easy paintability, high chemical resistance, better UV resistance compared to other flame retardant materials and providing comfort for daily use are among its other outstanding features. Aksa started the production of modacrylic fiber in 2018 with the Armora brand. After the start of production, certification and customer trials were carried out. Currently, production continues with a thousand tons/year capacity.

What should we understand when we say flame retardant product?

Products that we call flame retardant are sometimes called fireproof in the market, but we stay away from using this expression. Because the material initially burns but then extinguishes itself and other materials around it. That's why we specifically use the word flammable. For example, when a user is exposed to flame, even if the clothing catches fire, it goes out quickly, allowing the user to get away from the fire environment. In this way, the user is prevented from being harmed. Armora, which is similarly used in upholstery and bedding fabrics, allows fabrics exposed to flame for any reason to extinguish themselves.

In which field is Armora mostly used?

We can list the usage areas of Armora, which stands out with its innovative products in the flameproof products market, as protective clothing, upholstery and bedding fabrics, and awnings. With Armora, new usage areas can be created in addition to the existing usage areas of modacrylic fiber. For example, the dope dyed Armora stands out as a product that will provide longevity and high performance for sunlight resistant, flame retardant awnings and outdoor furniture. Outdoor applications are an area where acrylic fiber is widely used, but flame retardant outdoor applications are still new. For example, there is usually a heater outdoors during the winter months. A possible spark from the heater poses a risk for materials such as awnings and umbrellas around it. Therefore, it is critical that these materials are flame retardant. With the pigment dyed Armora, both flame retardancy and long-term color permanence are provided. This was a feature we developed with our own technology. For this reason, its prevalence is emerging as a segment that we value highly in terms of our product. Our high visibility (HiVis) yellow product is also appreciated by our customers. Research work continues intensively for the HiVis orange Armora, which is the expectation of the market. Many projects carried out in the R&D Center for the development of modacrylic fiber can be seen as the harbinger of an increase in the number of innovative products.

Can this product also be used as a firefighter suit?

This product was prepared as a stationery outfit for firefighters in YALKİM OSB Fire Department. The clothes worn by firefighters fighting open fires are different, but modacrylic fiber is widely used in the station wear segment.



Aras Mutlu
Aksa Acrylic Performance
Fibers Product Manager

STERLING QUALITIES OF ARMORA

- With the dope dyeing technology, permanent colors are provided for a lifetime.
- It offers flexibility to its customers with a wide range of color supply.
- With high visibility colors, the needs of the protective clothing industry are met.
- Thanks to its environmentally friendly production, it has the "Oeko Tex Class I" certificate.
- Flammability standards applicable in the USA and Europe are met.

What would you like to say about Armora's position in the market?

Our biggest competitor is a 50 year old Japanese company. It has an important market in the world. "How did we enter this market, what did we promise?" If you say, we have introduced innovative products such as the special dyeing technology I mentioned above to the market, there are other products as well. We have positioned ourselves as the company that brings innovative products to this market. No innovation has been made in the sector, so our product receives a very positive reaction. Because we reveal the products that people dream of or want to meet a need. The growth trend in the flame retardant market, the potential to increase the use of modacrylic fiber and the positive reaction from our customers motivate us to increase our production capacity. Therefore, at the end of 2019, it was decided to increase our modacrylic fiber capacity. We currently have a capacity of approximately one thousand tons per year. We are aware that this is a low capacity for the market, but we are planning to increase our capacity for the targets we have set. With two additional investments of 5 thousand + 5 thousand tons, we aim to increase the capacity by 5 thousand tons at different periods, and 5 thousand tons after a few years.

Is there a designated date for these investments?

The first 5,000 tons of capacity increase will probably be at the beginning of 2023, and the second 5,000 tons will be two to three years later.

How is the domestic and international demand for Armora?

Due to the limited capacity, we operate mostly in the nearby geography. Europe and Russia are our main markets. At the same time, we have two important ongoing projects in the USA. Although domestic usage is limited, our customers in Turkey are suppliers of European fabric and



clothing manufacturers. We believe that as our production capacity increases, we can reach a much wider customer network both in Europe and in different parts of the world.

The clothes of the Aksa relay team were also produced with Armora. We would like to hear from you details of this production process. How did these outfits benefit your colleagues?

Countries that are fiber producers in the world have been pioneers in the use of power resistant products. Japan, for example, is a huge market for these products. There was not widespread awareness on this issue in Turkey, but the release of a product with these features by a Turkish manufacturer ensures that the number of users increases day by day. After we started working with modacrylic fiber, we realized that we could use this fiber in many clothes used in Aksa with our Armora brand, and we made a project accordingly. We mixed it with different fibers suitable for providing both comfort and protection. After our preliminary studies, we had the tests and analyzes done, and then we pre-

sented the product to our HSE team. They, too, approved, and the relay team's outfits were made with this product.

On the other hand, we wanted to use this product in the Fire Brigade, which was established within the YALKİM OSB, and we prepared special clothes for firefighters. We aim to offer solutions for work uniform first to companies in the Akkök Group, and then to other companies.

What kind of reactions did these outfits get from your co workers? How did it benefit?

Our modacrylic fiber, which is under our Armora brand, is known as the fiber that brings comfort to this market. It provides the comfort of the wearer, this was our most important feedback. It stands out with its user friendliness and comfort. Thankfully, there has been no event to test its protection against fire so far, but we believe that our colleagues will have sufficient protection in such a situation. Thanks to the dyeing technology we have developed, the clothes will almost preserve their first day colors.



armora

Armoring you for safety and comfort





YALKİM OSB Fire Department employees are safe and comfortable wearing Armora clothes



Armora, Akso's flame retardant product, has also started to be used in the clothing of YALKİM OSB Fire Brigade. Stating that the clothes produced with Armora provide ease of use and comfort as daily work uniform , YALKİM OSB Fire Chief Şenol Özler said, "We are very pleased to use Armora products with flame retardant feature in work clothes that will both protect us and allow us to move comfortably."



Şenol Özler
YALKİM OSB
Fire Chief

The Fire Brigade, which started operations in YALKİM OSB in February 2021 preferred the clothes produced with Armora, Akso's flame retardant product. Emphasizing that Armora clothing is a comfortable and highly protective work uniform YALKİM OSB Fire Brigade Chief Şenol Özler said, "We are confident to have these clothes on when we go to field tours, observations and controls in our normal working order, in factories and businesses or to participating companies." Şenol Özler answered our questions about the activities of the Fire Brigade and the use of clothes produced with Armora.

We know that the fire department within the body of YALKİM OSB has just been established. How exactly did the process take place. When was such a need realized and the organization established?

Our Organized Industrial Zone was established in 2015 but the businesses in our region have been operating for more than 50 years. Since we are a region where production is made in the chemical sector, the need for the fire department was always on the agenda.

With the transformation of the region into an OIZ, the possible

risks and the need for vehicles, equipment and personnel to eliminate these risks were determined as a result of the studies carried out by our Regional Directorate with our participating companies. As of the end of 2019 the purchasing process started and vehicle purchase contracts were signed in March 2020. As the deadline for the vehicles is about one year, this process was spent on the one hand with the construction of the fire station and on the other hand with personnel interviews. With the completion of our building and the delivery of the vehicles, we have started our organization with a team of 25 people as of February 2021 by employing our personnel. Our organization, which is in service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, is constantly checking the fire safety of our factory sites.

Could you give information about the activities of the Fire Brigade?

All kinds of equipment and equipment of emergency response vehicles within the body of YALKİM OSB Fire Brigade; we provide maintenance, repair, control and testing. By controlling and reporting the mobile and fixed systems that will be used in case of emergency in normal times in the participating companies in the

OSB, we inform the authorities of the participating companies so that the repairs of those who are unable to work or work. Again, we support the relay teams in possible emergencies at participating companies within the OSB.

We are working on providing and certifying 'Basic Fire Safety and Fire Extinguisher Training' to participating company employees. We carry out 'Fire Report' in case of need of participating companies within the body of YALKİM OSB , and 'Adequacy against Fire and Explosions (Fire Brigade Report)' activities within the scope of construction and occupancy permits.

The clothes of the Fire Brigade were produced with Aksa's Armora brand which stands out with its flame retardant feature. How do you evaluate the production of clothes with Armora, as the life safety of firefighters is at stake?

Our biggest rule is to ensure our own safety by saying "Health comes first" in all our activities. In accordance with this rule, it is very important that the work uniforms we wear are suitable for the work we do and have the feature of protecting us from dangers. It is not very difficult and comfortable to carry out all of our activities,

except for emergency response, with a fire approaching suit. Because firefighter suits consist of four layers. Clothes that are heavy, difficult to dry when wet, and limit their mobility, but have high protection. However we preferred the clothes produced with Armora, as it is an outfit that can protect us in case of sudden flashes when we go out on the field in our daily work. In our normal working order, when we go to field tours, observations and controls in factories and businesses or to participating companies, having these clothes on gives us confidence. We are very pleased to use Armora products with flame retardant feature in work clothes that will both protect us and allow us to move comfortably.

What comments did you get from the employees in your team about the clothes?

Armora clothing is a work uniform with a high level of user comfort and protection. Flexibility during dressing and mobility in activities are at a high level. We believe that the implementation of foot, hand and underwear work within the scope of full protection will also be very beneficial.



Aksa will focus on different sectors with **its first product UHMWPE** except acrylic

For the first time, Aksa Acrylic, who turned to a different product other than acrylic fiber, started the Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene (UHMWPE) project, which it developed entirely with its own technology. Stating that UHMWPE makes a difference with its very light weight and high strength feature, Aksa Acrylic Business Development and Outdoor Solutions Product Manager Ayşe Nur Kaymak said, “With this product, we mainly aim to serve the defense industry, ballistics and maritime sectors. Currently, our pilot facility is operational, and we are planning to start industrial production in the middle of 2023.”



Aksa, the world giant in acrylic fiber, will start to produce a different fiber for the first time, apart from acrylic fiber, in line with its new business development strategy. Emphasizing that the Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene (UHMWPE) project, realized entirely by Aksa with its own technology, started in 2018, Aksa Acrylic Business Development and Outdoor Solutions Product Manager Ayşe Nur Kaymak said, "UHMWPE, one of the strongest synthetic fibers, It provides high performance in all areas in the lightest way. The most common areas of use are the defense industry, ballistics and maritime sectors." We talked to Ayşe Nur Kaymak about the UHMWPE project and its goals.

"WE WILL MAKE LOCAL PRODUCTION FOR THE DEFENSE INDUSTRY"

"Local production is very important, especially in defense industry products. This product, which is used in steel vests and tanks in the defense industry, is currently supplied entirely from abroad. With Aksa's production, it will be fully nationalized for the first time. In this process, we contacted the Defense Industry Presidency and the companies in the defense industry, and tried to understand their wishes. The defense industry was a sector that we did not serve until today, we stepped into the defense industry from the textile sector. They have supported us a lot since the first day, and we are doing our best to nationalize the product."

It is the first time that Aksa has turned to a different product except acrylic. How did you decide to make such an investments?

Aksa's new business development strategy is based on heading towards new areas where we can create competitive advantage together with our existing infrastructure, resources and employees. In line with this strategy, we have studies not only focused on the acrylic fiber market, but also covering alternative fibers and chemicals, and one of these studies was Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene (UHMWPE). Customers who supplied this product in Turkey in 2018 came to Aksa and mentioned that they had difficulties in supply, and they asked Aksa for support in this regard.

by saying, "If they make this product for us, Aksa will do it".

Thus, the UHMWPE project became one of our new business development projects, after which we conducted feasibility and R&D studies. During the R&D studies, we saw that we could produce this product, and when the feasibility was positive, we decided to manufacture the product.

How was the development process of the project?

There is also the defense industry among the usage areas of the product. In this process, we established close relations with the Presidency of Defense Industries and tried to understand their requests and the demands of the companies that need this product. We examined both whether we could produce this product as R&D and whether Aksa's production of this product would create a competitive advantage in terms of feasibility. It was decided to start the project at the end of 2018, and at the beginning of 2020, steps were taken to establish a pilot plant for the product. UHMWPE is a different product from the

alternative products on the market, developed entirely by Aksa with its own technology. Since we will produce for the first time, it was decided to establish a pilot plant. Our pilot facility is now operational, and we are slowly getting its first fruits.

By the end of the year, we expect to try the products from the pilot facility with our customers and get their feedback. If the feedback is positive at the end of the year and the feasibility for industrial scale investment is positive, we plan to start production in 2022.

What are the features of this product how does UHMWPE contribute to lives?

Hard and soft ballistic materials are among the areas where the product is used the most, thanks to its high impact resistance and lightness. UHMWPE can be used in bulletproof vests, helmets, tanks and all areas requiring ballistic protection.

Its high chemical and UV resistance, light weight and low water absorption make it a unique material for maritime ropes and fishing nets. For example, ships tied with steel chains can now be tied with much lighter,

UHMWPE-based synthetic ropes that sailors can carry in their hands.

Similarly it becomes an indispensable product for comfortable and useful non-cut gloves with its lightness, high cut resistance and cool structure.

In addition to these, light but durable ropes, bags, clothes, shoes and camping equipment can be counted among the usage areas of the product in mountaineering, motor sports, camping products.

Have you done any research on the market on this subject , how is the market now?

Since 2018, we have been in constant communication with manufacturers and customers in the market, non governmental organizations and public institutions. We are investigating where we can use the product, what we can do, and the state of the market. It is very important that the product can be nationalized in products for the defense industry. We set out to produce this product entirely locally within Aksa. The work we have done in our pilot facility is going very well and we think we will get good results.





When will the production start Is there a designated date?

Our pilot facility is now operational. We plan to start investing in 2022 and start industrial scale production in the middle of 2023.

As a costantly developing and innovative company what kind of place does Aksa aim to take in th market with this product?

There are not many manufacturers of this product in the world, Aksa will be the only manufacturer in Turkey with 100% domestic production. We have been serving the textile industry for more than 50 years, but together with UHMWPE, we will be entering the defense industry and rope industries. As always, our biggest goal is to be with our customers as a reliable and innovative supplier in

"SUSTAINABLE AND AN ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT"
 "Sustainability is a very important issue for the entire industry and especially for the textile sector. In areas where UHMWPE is used, it can provide more environmentally friendly solutions to end customers, thanks to its long service life and because it provides the performance of equivalent products with lighter products. Lighter ballistic, air and marine equipment; while reducing fuel consumption, performance products such as shoes and bags reinforced with UHMWPE can be used for a much longer time."

these newly entered markets, and to be able to move forward with them.

What is the importance of turning to such a product except acrylic for Aksa?

These and all new business development projects add different perspectives to Aksa. While increasing the areas we specialize in, on the one hand, we are trying to produce more value added products by evaluating how we can use the experiences gained from new products in the production of acrylic fiber, our main business. Technology is developing very fast, and Aksa is a company that is very open to innovation and development. By adapting to what the day brings, we both improve our product range and strengthen our position as a leading acrylic fiber producer.



"We offer innocent choices with the animal friendly Innofleece collection"

The animal friendly Innofleece collection, prepared by Aksa Acrylic based on the idea that every living thing has the right to life and that no creature should be subjected to ill-treatment because of its feathers, offers users innocent choices. Aksa Acrylic Marketing Manager Atakan Koru says, "When users buy a product made with Innofleece, they both feel warm and comfortable and feel the comfort of not harming any living thing."

While environmentally friendly and animal friendly movements are increasing all over the world, Aksa Acrylic has crowned the importance it attaches to animal rights with its animal friendly

collection Innofleece. Aksa Acrylic Marketing Manager Atakan Koru stated that the warm, light and soft touch structure of Innofleece, a sustainable and sensitive collection, combined with an elegant de-

sign, offers the users exactly the products they dream of.

"Moreover, it is comforting that it is produced without harming any living thing and that it is a vegan fiber," he says. We talked

to Atakan Koru about the Innofleece collection and its features.

How was the idea to develop Innofleece born and how did the product come to life?

As Aksa Acrylic, we aim to make production sensitive to the environment and animal rights. Feathers and skins taken from animals are used in the fashion industry for various reasons. These products are included in the collections because some users prefer it for its warm keeping feature and some users because of its soft touch feeling. However, many animals are exposed to bad conditions for these fibers, which are obtained by unnatural and often painful ways. Emphasizing the importance it attaches to animal rights with the products it offers, we, as Aksa Akriklik wanted to put an end to these bad practices by preparing an animal friendly collection, and Innofleece came to life with this thought.

'Animals Are Not Clothes!' You talk about 'Innofleece' as an animal friendly collection that complements the movement. Can you give detailed information about the product? How does the product support this concern?

Innofleece is an animal friendly collection and it provides this with the benefits it offers. As you know, the hairs and fibers of animals such as moh air wool angora, alpaca are used in the textile industry. These products are preferred because of their warmth and softness. However, behind this preference, there are actually unpleasant practices and decisions. It is known that males are not allowed to live in Angora rabbits because their hair is of poor quality. Many major fashion brands have tended to remove these fibers from their product lines in recent years. With many new brands declaring that they will never include products such as Angora and alpaca in their collections, this movement is growing successfully. We created the Innofleece collection based on the idea that every living thing has the right to

life and that no living thing should be subjected to ill-treatment because of its feathers. The products in this collection perfectly meet the warmth, softness and lightness properties provided by fibers such as angora, alpaca and mohair. When users buy a product produced with Innofleece, they both feel warm and comfortable and experience the comfort of not harming any living thing.

What are the highlights of Innofleece? What does it promise to users?

Innofleece is a sustainable and sensitive collection. It takes inspiration from nature and combines this inspiration with its innovative technology to offer innocent choices. As I mentioned above, the products that keep you warm and offer a light, soft touch are combined with an elegant design, and users are offered products just like their dreams. Moreover, the fact that it is produced without harming any living thing and that it is a vegan fiber makes us feel comfortable.

INNOFLEECE AS INNOVATIVE AS AND CREATIVE AS NATURE...

"The name Innofleece actually describes the innocent and innovative choices our product offers to the users. 'Fleece' is known as down fabric, feather, post. The use of 'inno' at the beginning of this word is used together with the concepts of 'innovative' and 'innocent'. These two concepts are of great importance for our product, which aims to end the use of feathers of animals such as Angora and alpaca in the textile industry. Innovative, because it is the product of an innovative technology. Innocent, because it makes it possible to wear products of the same quality without harming any animals, that is, to remain innocent in our choices. We chose 'Innofleece', a name that makes it possible to stay innocent in our choices with the help of innovative technology, for our product, which stands out with the slogan 'Innovative and innocent as nature'.



Atakan Koru
Aksa Acrylic
Marketing Manager

How did this product of Aksa Acrylic which demonstrates the importance it attaches to animal rights with the products it offers in the market? What kind of reactions do you get from your customers who see these products?

Since we introduced Innofleece to our customers, we have received very positive feedback about the product. There is great interest in the product. Our customers like the touch of the product very much, and the softness of the thinner products, which we call baby angora and alpaga, is especially appreciated. The brightness of alpaga is another reason for demand and stands out as another attractive and appreciated feature of the product in the market.

How will the changing consumer preferences towards protecting the environment and nature position Innofleece in the market in the coming period?

As a rising trend, environmentally friendly animal-friendly movements show their pre-



sence in all personal and corporate areas. While people are experiencing a continuous increase in awareness individually and working for this, global companies also give this issue a much more intense place in their company policies. The fact that the global brands I mentioned earlier ban the use of fibers such as mohair and alpaca in their product collections is a good example of this. These decisions and campaigns cause both producers and consumers to review their decisions, and affect decision

making processes, trends and habits. In this case, we believe that our product will continue to increase the positive impact it has had from the very beginning.

So, will we see Innofleece products with a brand collaboration in the near future? What is the process before us for those want to buy the product and experience its use?

We will soon be able to see the products produced with Innofleece in the showca-

ses of our favorite big brands. One of our ongoing projects is with Koton. In Koton's winter collection, sweaters and cardigans produced with Innofleece will add color to the collection. I can say that a winter season is waiting for us where we will see Innofleece products on the shelves of Mango and Marks&Spencer.



innofleece

As innocent and creative as nature

Thanks to Acryluna's brand new, sustainable and sensitive Innofleece collection, which aims to prevent animal abuse, no living creature will be maltreated for their fiber and feathers while you enjoy the comfort of Innofleece.

{ PETA - APPROVED
VEGAN }



Animal friendly



Warm



Soft and light



acryluna

Minimizing water consumption in Akxa

Environmentally sustainable production

While the climate crisis and the rapid decrease in fresh water resources encourage companies to take action to reduce their water consumption, Akxa Acrylic sets an example with its works that minimize water consumption. Akxa, which prepares ISO 14046 Water Footprint report every year, has been audited by an independent audit firm. It gets approval for the values in the report and shares these values with all its stakeholders on its website.

While global warming brings along the climate crisis, the gradual decrease of fresh water resources is also a concern. 97.5 percent of the water on earth is made up of salt water in the oceans. Most of the remaining 2.5 percent of fresh water is found as glaciers at the poles and as groundwater in very deep geological layers. The amount of fresh water we can access for drinking, agricultural and industrial purposes is less than 1% of the world's total water supply.

Although fresh water resources are limited, they are consumed at an alarming rate, about 19 percent of the world's water resources are used for industrial purposes. According to the 2017 Pulse of the Fashion Industry report published by the Global Fashion Agenda, the fashion industry consumes approximately 79 billion cubic meters of water, which means the amount to fill 32 million Olympic-sized pools.

2,700 liters of water is used to produce a traditional cotton

t-shirt, which is equal to the amount of water a person would drink for 2.5 years. The rapid increase in the world population, the climate crisis, the decrease in fresh water resources, the awareness created by NGOs and climate activists in social media; encourages manufacturers to take action to reduce their water consumption.

Commonly used methods for companies to measure their impact on consuming fresh water resources are listed as ISO 14046 Water Footprint Reporting, LCA (Life cycle assessment) and HIGG MSI (Material Sustainability Index).

ISO 14046 Water Footprint Standard performs the measurement and reporting of the company's corporate water footprint, namely the amount of clean water resources used during all production activities, including evaporation.

Akxa Acrylic prepares an ISO 14046 Water Footprint report every year, gets approval for the values in the report after being audited by an inde-



SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT



pendent audit firm, and shares these values with all its stakeholders on its website.

LCA (Life cycle assessment-Life cycle analysis) and HIGG MSI (Material Sustainability Index-Material Sustainability Index) values, on the other hand, numerically reveal the environmental effects of each product that companies produce.

Aksa Acrylic completed the LCA works of Acryluna, Acrysole Acrycycle and Acrylusion brands, which accounted for 96 percent of its total sales in 2020, as cradle to gate.

According to the HIGG MSI material comparison, the effect of acrylic fiber on water scarcity is 1.36, while cotton is 57.1 and viscose is 5.01. In the light of all these measurements and reports, companies are making smart technology investments that will protect fresh water resources and R&D studies that will provide the product with features that will reduce water consumption. Thanks to the investments that ensure the recycling of water in production, approximately 1 million cubic meters of water is recovered every year.

Environmental impact of TEXTILE PRODUCTS

79 billion m3 of water was used by the textile and ready-made clothing industry.



It takes **2,700 liters** of water to produce a t-shirt.



It is equal to **2.5 years** of drinking water of a person.



APPLICATIONS THAT SAVING WATER UP TO 93 PERCENT AT AKSA

Aksa Acrylic produces water with less conductivity by passing sea water through a semi permeable membrane under high pressure at its Reverse Osmosis facility, which it commissioned in 2016 with an investment of 13 million dollars, and uses it as an input in the production process. Thanks to the innovative dyeing technology used in the product offered under the Ecodye brand, Aksa managed to save 93 percent water compared to the conventional dyeing method.

Ecodye not only saves water, but also preserves the dazzling vibrant colors achieved after dyeing throughout its lifetime, that is, for many years. I Recyclable acrylic, which Aksa introduced to the market under the Acrycycle brand, consumes 86% less water than conventional acrylic. The product offered by Aksa under the Everfresh brand provides protection against bacteria. It eliminates the mechanism that will cause odor in the product, thus reducing the number

of washings in the final consumer use of the product. Everfresh, which prevents bad odors and thus requires less washing, helps to reduce resource usage. The need for new products decreases with products that do not deform with the need for less washing and have a longer service life. In this way, Everfresh also makes it possible to leave a better tomorrow for future generations by minimizing resource usage.



A better **future** for our children **with EcoDye !**

With its environmentally friendly EcoDye dyeing technology, Aksa Acrylic offers more vivid and permanent colors in products, less natural resource use in production, and a more livable future for our children.

Attaching great importance to sustainable production with its environmentalist approach, Aksa Acrylic broke new ground in dyeing technology with EcoDye. The comfort of obtaining the colors of nature without harming nature is possible with EcoDye. Products produced with EcoDye fibers, which minimize the consumption of natural resources by using 93 percent less water, help to minimize the negative environmental impact. With fibers that enable maximum savings in the water source used throughout the production process, 93 percent less water is consumed compared to products dyed with the traditional method. In addition, the environmental impact is minimized with up to 69 percent lower CO₂

emissions during the production process. The dazzling vibrant colors achieved after dyeing with EcoDye preserve their properties throughout their lifetime, that is, for many years. Aksa Acrylic, EcoDye dyeing method, four season fiber Acryluna, Acrycycle, the world's first recycled acrylic fiber, bacteria free Everfresh, which prevents the formation of bad odor, Pillout, which always remains as it was on the first day with its structure that prevents clumping, and Innofleece, its animal friendly collection, with the brands of knitwear, active offers products suitable for use in clothing, carpets, denim, thermal clothing, socks, home textiles and many other sectors.



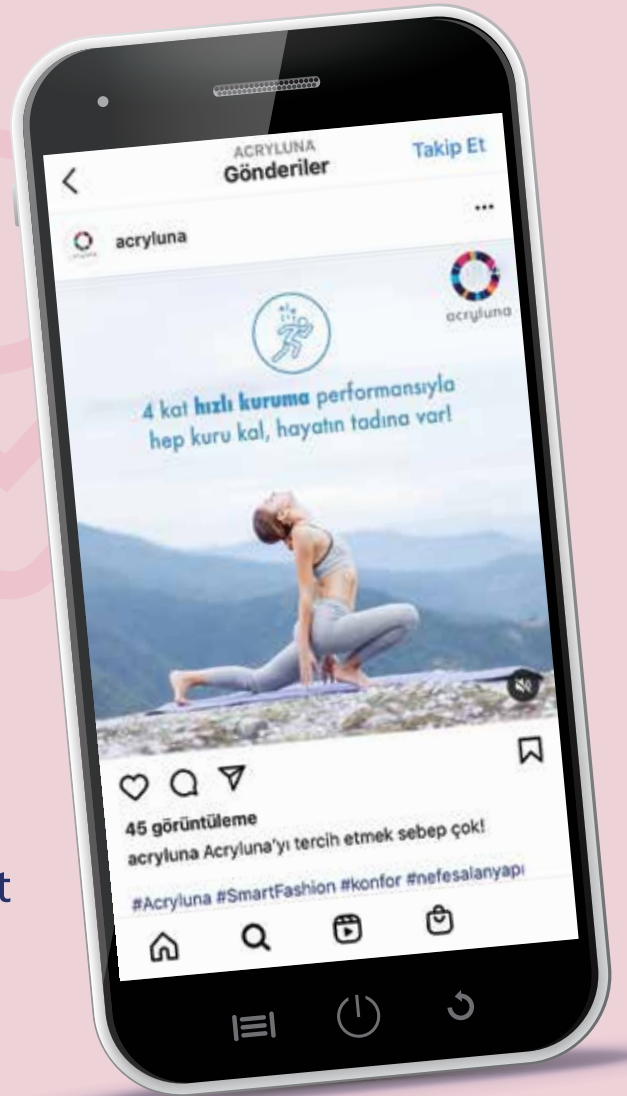
DID YOU KNOW?

With **4 times faster**
drying performance,
always stay dry and
savor your life!
There are countless
reasons to prefer
Acryluna!

Anything you want to know about
our products can be found here.



@ACRYLUNA



**With Camping
and Caravan**

FREE HOLIDAY IN NATURE

While the pandemic has changed our holiday habits, the desire to be alone with nature has increased more than ever before for many of us. Camping offers free experiences to explore the unique beauties of our country, breathe in nature, and caravans to take a vacation on different routes.

TRIP





While the Covid-19 pandemic, which has shaken our lives for nearly two years, continues, we all need to breathe. Discovering the natural beauties of our country during this period can be considered as a unique experience. While different climates and geographies offer the opportunity to see natural beauties, it is possible to encounter unique and unique cultural treasures at each stop. It is ideal for camping and caravanning, making new discoveries and seeing the treasures of Turkey as it offers freer experiences.

ENJOY STARRY NIGHTS

Camping gives you the opportunity to live in a natural area and wake up to a beautiful view every morning, coming out of the four walls. You can spare the whole day for activities that interest you, or you have the chance to gather around the campfire in the evening to have pleasant conversations and to enjoy the sky on starry nights. By having the opportunity to be together as a family, you can also teach your children new skills and teach them new things.

MORE FLEXIBLE TRAVEL WITH CARAVAN

Caravanning has also recently attracted the attention of those who want to spend a pleasant time away from large masses. Although it is a bit costly to own a caravan in our country, there are alternative solutions. There is a caravan rental option for the

duration of your holiday. In addition, the advantage of not having to stay in one place, giving the chance to stop at another stop every day and being able to take your house with you still makes the caravans attractive. Camping and caravans offer an opportunity to respond to the call of nature, to stay away from the crowds and have a pleasant time in places where there is no need to wear masks. Let's take a look at Turkey's favorite camping and caravanning routes.

MADEN BAY CAMPING AREA – ANTALYA

Located 70 km from Antalya city center, Maden Bay Campground is among the most popular camping areas where green and blue come together. You can reach the area, which offers all the beauties of nature in a single region, together with the lush forest and the sea, with your private vehicles and set up camp. There are no facilities at the campground, so you should provide all your essentials before coming to the site. Facilities such as fountains, walking areas and bicycle paths are available.

YEDİĞÖLLER NATIONAL PARK – BOLU

Yedigöller National Park, located 42 km north of Bolu in the Western Black Sea Region, is one of the most preferred camping spots. You can do activities like while the months of April and November are specified as the most suitable period for visiting, you can camp and stay with a caravan.



YEDİGÖLLER NATIONAL PARK – BOLU

CAPPADOCIA – NEVŞEHİR

Known for its fairy chimneys, underground cities and balloon tours, Cappadocia is also an important center for campers and caravan enthusiasts. Cappadocia is also ideal for camping in this winter. There are many campgrounds in the area. Camping sites close to Göreme and Uçhisar Castle stand out with their location overlooking the Ihlara Valley. You can also spend pleasant hours watching the rising hot air balloons.

ILGAZ MOUNTAIN – KASTAMONU

Ilgaz Mountain is one of the most preferred ski resorts in winter. It is very pleasant to wake up while watching the stars on the highest mountain of the Western Black Sea region. As in the ski resorts, you can camp freely in Ilgaz, which is one of the most visited spots in Turkey, or you can settle in the camping area right next to the Ilgaz Mountain Highways Facilities.



MADEN BAY - ANTALYA



CAPPADOCIA – NEVŞEHİR

ARTVİN – BORÇKA

Borçka with its magnificent nature arouses curiosity. Borçka Karagöl Nature Park in Artvin is a center of attraction for nature lovers. The area, where walks can be made along the lakeside, offers accommodation for campers and caravans. Although it can be reached by a rough road, those who go are happy to prefer this place. In the Black Sea region, where every shade of green can be seen, Borçka promises to offer you this opportunity.

AKYAKA – MUĞLA

Akyaka, at the eastern end of the Gulf of Gökova, attracts visitors from Turkey and abroad with its nature, unique architecture and location. It is an ideal area to set up camp away from the crowds or to stay with your caravan. You can stay in Akyaka Forest Camp in the area where you can see Azmak River and Akyaka Beach. Those who cannot set up a tent or do not have a caravan can stay in stone houses or masonry houses in this establishment.



ILGAZ MOUNTAIN / KASTAMONU



ARTVİN – BORÇKA



KÖMÜR HARBOUR, SAROS BAY – ÇANAKKALE

ALADAĞLAR NATIONAL PARK – NİĞDE

Camping is also very enjoyable in winter. One of the ideal places for winter camping is Aladağlar National Park in Niğde. This place is covered with a white blanket for almost 10 months of the year. You can do winter camping around Demirkazık Village and take small nature walks.

KÖMÜR HARBOUR, SAROS BAY – ÇANAKKALE

Although Saros Bay is a region preferred by diving enthusiasts, it is also preferred by experienced campers and caravans. Perhaps the biggest reason for this is that the region has not yet been so caught up in the tourism boom. However, this advantage can be challenging for those new to camping and caravanning. There is no specific camping area in and around the coal harbor. That's why most services stay away.



AKYAKA – MUĞLA



ALADAĞLAR NATIONAL PARK - NİĞDE



Amigurumi

with handicraft toys

dolls

Along with the pandemic, the number of people who take up hobbies is increasing with the prolongation of the time spent at home. One of the fun and enjoyable hobbies is the toy art amigurumi, which is made using knitting crochet and the frequent needle technique. Dolls made with this technique became one of the favorite toys of children.



MATERIALS NEEDED TO MAKE AMIGURUMI

- Thin tipped crochet needle
- Wool suitable for amigurumi
- Loop marker
- Additional materials (buttons, fabric pieces, etc.) to be used for decoration according to the shape of the toy.
- Fiber for stuffing

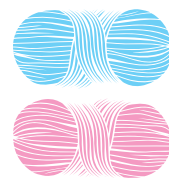


Amigurumi, which means the art of making toys in Japanese, has become very popular recently, spreading from Japan to the whole world. Amigurumi toys, which consist of the combination of the words ami (knitted) and nuigurimi (stuffed toy), are embroidered loop by loop as purely handcrafted. Although it may seem like a difficult hobby that requires a lot of effort, amigurumi toys can be easily made by anyone with a little skill in handicrafts, unlike ordinary toy making, they can be easily made by keeping some materials at home. By learning how to make amigurumi toys, it is possible to acquire a pleasant hobby, and individuals with children can experience the happiness of giving their own handcrafted toy to their children.

What are the basic needs for knitting, almost all of them are the same for amigurumi. As a basic need, the most important is rope. If threads that are not very thin but do not feather easily are preferred, the life of the toy will be longer. In order to make amigurumi, it is usually necessary to use crochet, which is not very fine. Fiber and thin colored threads are used to fill the inside of the created toy and add detail. If a rope that does not break easily is preferred, the life of the toy is longer. Amigurumi is usually made with the frequent needle technique. It is not difficult to learn this technique for those who know how to crochet, but it is not difficult for those who do not know.



What else **can be done** with **Amigurumi**?



With Amigurumi, not only dolls but also different objects can be designed. Here are some of the creative ideas that can be made with amigurami...



Door Stopper

Since we open the windows more frequently in the summer months, the doors slammed by the wind bother us all. The doors that suddenly close both damage the wall and make noise spoil our enjoyment. It is possible to find a solution to this problem with various door stoppers that can be made with Amigurumi. Door stoppers, which can be made in the desired color and shape and filled with a heavy material such as sand, also change the atmosphere of the house.

Bookmarks

Amigurumi can also make a difference in bookmarks used in order not to lose the page while reading a book. Instead of classic pieces of paper and cardboard, dividers that can be made with amigurumi can make reading a book more enjoyable. In addition, handmade amigurumi bookmarks are a nice gift to give to friends. It can also be a gift.



Keyrings

Losing the key or not being able to find where it is is quite annoying. To avoid this problem, using a keychain makes the job easier, while colorful and cute keychains can be made with amigurumi. Small and naive models that do not take up much space can be preferred.

Door Decorations

Door decorations, which have many types, are now more cute with amigurumi. It is quite easy to design these ornaments, which can be renewed or changed when bored, with the amigurumi technique. By choosing the desired themes and colors, cute door decorations can be made with different motifs.



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