

China expands HMLS capacities

Demand for high-performance yarns on the rise

Remscheid, November 20, 2025 – Barmag, a subsidiary of the Swiss Oerlikon Group, will commission three HMLS yarn systems with a total of 30 stations at renowned technical yarn manufacturers in China over the next three months.

Particularly noteworthy: among them are two HMLS producers who had previously purchased from competitors. "They were convinced by our process technology, which guarantees the economic production of HMLS yarns of the very best quality," says Sales Director Oliver Lemke, who, together with his colleagues on site, provides support to customers in the field of technical yarns. The sophisticated material obtains its special properties during the spinning process. High speeds in the production process guarantee a stable arrangement of the molecules within the polymer that forms the actual thread. The internal structure of the molecular chain, in turn, is decisive for the dimensional stability of the final yarn.

Growing demand for HMLS yarns

The industry expects demand for HMLS yarns to increase in the coming years. This is mainly due to the trend toward lighter tires. Whereas high-modulus polyester yarn (HMLS) was previously used mainly in high-speed tires, its properties now also allow the tire carcass of small vans to be converted from steel cord to polyester. HMLS yarn is extremely tear-resistant, yet highly elastic and temperature- and dimensionally stable.

Another factor is the steadily increasing number of vehicle registrations worldwide. In China in particular, the production of local car brands has increased rapidly in recent years, which explains the expansion of capacity in the country.

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Caption:

Reinforced with dimensionally stable HMLS yarn, tires remain dimensionally stable even under load and temperature.

About Barmag

Under the traditional name Barmag, the Swiss Oerlikon Group has been continuing its chemical fiber business as a subsidiary since 2025. This includes the established product brands Oerlikon Barmag, Oerlikon Neumag and Oerlikon Nonwoven. As a future-oriented company, research and development are focused on energy efficiency and sustainable technologies (e-save).

Barmag is one of the leading suppliers of filament spinning plants for chemical fibers, texturing machines, BCF plants, staple fiber plants and solutions for the production of nonwoven fabrics. Together with its range of polycondensation and extrusion systems and their key components, Barmag thus covers the entire manufacturing process – from monomer to textured yarn – and supports it with customer-oriented engineering services. The product portfolio is rounded off by automation and digitalisation solutions. In addition, Barmag offers high-precision gear metering pumps for the textile industry and other sectors, including the automotive, chemical and paint industries.

The main markets for the Barmag product portfolio are in Asia, particularly China, India, Turkey and the USA. Barmag employs around 2,500 people worldwide and is represented in 120 countries with production, sales and service organisations. In the research and development centres in Remscheid, Neumünster (Germany) and Suzhou (China), highly qualified engineers, technologists and technicians develop innovative and technologically leading products for tomorrow's world.

Oerlikon (SIX: OERL) is a global leader in surface technologies. Headquartered in Pfäffikon, Switzerland, the Group has over 12,000 employees at 199 locations in 38 countries and generated sales of CHF 2.4 billion in 2024.

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