

INLEGMASH BRINGS TOGETHER THE TECHNOLOGICAL FUTURE OF THE TEXTILE AND GARMENT INDUSTRY

IT IS TIME FOR SPECIALIZED TRADE SHOWS



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Just a few years ago, it seemed that the era of large trade shows in Russia was gradually becoming a thing of the past. At first, the pandemic, digitalization, online negotiations, online trade shows, and video reviews, on the one hand, made the market more virtual, while border closures, the withdrawal of Western partners, and sanctions pressure, on the other, seemingly isolated the Russian market from technology. However, INLEGMASH refutes this statement.

The more difficult the conditions become, the more pressure is exerted on the industry, the more active the response and the need to consolidate efforts in order to preserve not only the industry itself, but also technological sovereignty, and the higher the value of the professional environment that INLEGMASH has developed over the years, overcoming economic, political and technological crises, always remaining a mirror of the market and industries.

Partly due to the prevailing conditions, specialized trade shows are in such demand among market participants as never before.

INLEGMASH is backed by decades of the history of Russian textile and garment engineering, periods of industrial boom, crisis and large-scale transformation of the market. Today, it is becoming a kind of reference point for understanding what is happening with the industry now.

Since 1970, INLEGMASH has occupied one of the key positions in the exhibition market, and its permanent organiser remains the Russian exhibition company EXPOCENTRE.

Back in 1970, the show was a demonstration platform for the industry, which at that time had huge technological potential. It welcomed about 700 participants from 20 countries, including 177 from Russia. By 1975, there were more than 90 factories in the industrial engineering industry. Textile engineering centres were established in Penza, Tashkent, Orel, Ivanovo, Kostroma, Klimovsk, Shuya, Orshansk, Podolsk, Cheboksary, and Chernigov. More than 1,700 types of machinery were mastered by textile and garment engineering plants. The technological equipment was continuously improved. Many industry associations were started covering the sectors of dyeing and finishing, cotton ginning, spinning, twisting and roving machines. They included the Leningrad Machine-Building Association for the Production of Equipment for the Production of Chemical Fibers and Knitwear. In 1970-1975, the share of new products was 49% in terms of nomenclature6 and 65% in terms of production volume.

Today, these figures are important not as a historical reference, but as a demonstration of the technological potential of the industry in the Soviet Union. They allow us to see the scale of the domestic textile industry and machine tool industry. At the same time, they help us to understand what path the industry has gone through, what crises, ups and downs market participants have managed to go through side by side over all these years. It was INLEGMASH where they built a professional dialogue, looked for solutions, and overcame crises together.

On 24 July 1980, the Central Committee of the CPSU issued Resolution No. 633 on the accelerated development of mechanical engineering for the textile, garment and food industries and a significant increase in the technical level of technological equipment manufactured by enterprises in this industry. The government has set a large-scale task to develop and master new types of equipment, move from creating individual machines to complex systems, increase productivity and ensure complete supplies of equipment throughout the technological process. In fact, it was about creating a full-fledged technological ecosystem from the development of equipment to its implementation in production. By 1986-1987, the industry had reached a technological peak. The production of automatic lines and equipment for the textile industry has reached a historical maximum. This undoubtedly had an impact on the number of exhibitors. By 1988, INGLEGMASH had accommodated 805 participants from 22 countries. This was a record figure and at the same time a testimony and proof of the show's place in the professional dialogue of the industry and as well as at the international level.



Until 1996, the industry maintained relative stability, but by 1997 there was a sharp drop to 196 participants, and only 22 were from Russia.

There was a more serious process behind the dry figures. It was a change in the very model of development of the domestic textile industry.

In the 1980s, a turn began towards the upgrade of industrial enterprises at the expense of imported equipment. The task was set to reach a higher level, corresponding to the international level, including in the field of manufacturing, textile, sewing, knitting, and finishing industries.

In this regard, an important event took place on 24 February 1988, which turned out to be not very positive in the long run. The Ministry of Mechanical Engineering, Light Industry, Food Industry and Household Appliances of the USSR (Minlegpishmash) was disbanded, and the enterprises were transferred under the wing of the Ministry of Defense. Surprisingly, according to rocket manufacturers, the production of looms turned out to be more difficult.

The situation in the industry was aggravated by a deep systemic crisis, a multiple drop in production volumes, and a loss of competitiveness of domestic machine tools in the face of cheap imports. After the collapse of the USSR, the industry found itself without well-established suppliers of raw





materials, components, and sales markets in the former Soviet republics. The opening of borders has led to an uncontrolled influx of cheap imports as Western clothing brands, suppliers of raw materials, fabrics, and equipment have flooded into Russia. Against this background, the Russian textile industry and machine tool industry turned out to be abandoned. The textile and garment industries have reduced production by 4-5 times, and the demand for new machines has dropped to almost zero.

Another important factor that influenced the status of INLEGMASH as a working platform for industry representatives was the launch of the Textillegmash equipment and technology salon within the Textillegprom federal wholesale fair. At that time, Tekstillegprom managed to attract a sufficient number of participants. However, the further development of the market has shown that technological equipment requires its own professional platform.

Today, INLEGMASH has regained its status as a project focusing on technologies and equipment for the textile and garment industry. The community that has formed over the years attracts industry professionals, weeding out casual visitors, which allows us to formulate a more targeted request, increase the number of relevant applications and, as a result, sell equipment directly at the stands on the first days of the show. It is here, at INLEGMASH, that you can see the state of the industry, market trends, hear opinion leaders, and discuss prospects for further development taking into account current realities.

INLEGMASH is the only trade show in Russia that has been a leading textile and garment show for many years, where the full range of the latest equipment for this industry is demonstrated. At the same time, its structure ensures an optimal combination of the interests of Russian production and the consumer market with the interests of foreign partners from friendly countries. It can be said that INLEGMASH supports common state objectives, namely the formation of technological and industrial sovereignty of the Russian Federation.

Today, more than 95% of advanced high-tech equipment, including spinning machines, weaving machines, finishing and dyeing equipment, printers for printing on fabric, sewing equipment, automated spreading and cutting complexes, are imported to Russia. Our former European partners from Germany and Italy have been replaced by suppliers from friendly countries such as India, China, and Turkiye.

It is thanks to the synergy of the professional community, equipment suppliers and foreign partners that visitors can see the entire industry at the show.

However, Russian manufacturers are also represented, although they make up no more than 5% of the fleet of machines.

Among the regular Russian exhibitors are both enterprises with more than half a century of history and very young, relatively to the age of the industry, players. They include:

Tekstilmash is a factory founded more than 50 years ago in Cheboksary. Since the days of the Soviet Union, the company has established itself as a reliable supplier and partner, and is currently Russia's leading and unique manufacturer of shuttleless looms.

Rolltex is a machine-building enterprise founded in 1999 in Kaliningrad. Today, it holds a leading position in the development and production of equipment for the textile and garment industries, designs and manufactures equipment for textile, clothing, and furniture factories.

Tex Inter from Kovrov (Vladimir region) is the only company in Russia that manufactures weaving equipment. It offers over 400 different models of weaving machines for making all known types of weaving.

Despite the difficult situation in the industry, Russian enterprises continue to manufacture equipment and machinery.

Since 2016, the machine tool manufacturing company **TM Sirenko** has been producing advanced high-performance production machines for cord-knitting, braiding, rewinding, rope and ring-twisting.

Svetoch is a company with production facility in Yaroslavl, founded in 2019, engaged in the production of CO2 laser machines for cutting non-metallic materials.

Mozes Inc has been operating in the Russian and CIS markets for over 15 years. Mozes Inc has developed and implemented innovative designs for cutting, billet, sewing and sewing areas that combine mechanical precision, advanced electronic production systems and software.

HARDWICK-TEX is a young company from Chelyabinsk. It is a Russian manufacturer of high-quality equipment for the manufacture of cords, ropes, ropes, threads, as well as related winding equipment.

As for the textile digital printing sector, it is almost entirely represented by imported equipment and is the only one where there is an active technological update and steady growth.







Due to changing market demands and requirements for the speed of collection production, brands are increasingly resorting to fabric printing. Well-known players such as **Smart-T, Textile and Technology, Technoprint, Velles, LRT, Nissa Distribution, Prismix, Printex, and others participated in this section**, and these are only a small part of the participants of the show.

Over the decades since its launch, INLEGMASH has gone through several completely different eras together with the industry. It has remained a kind of chronicle of the industry's history, while repeatedly confirming its status not only as a driver of trade shows, but also as a guarantee of reliability for exhibitors. Companies, equipment, supplier countries, and economic conditions were changing. Demands of manufacturer were changing. However, the very principle remained unchanged: the professional market needs a platform where technology, businesses, and people meet. This was once again confirmed by this year's edition of the show.

This year, INLEGMASH changed its location and moved to Timiryazev Centre, which caused concern among both the organisers of the show and many of our participants. Moving always involves logistical risks, especially when it comes to industrial textile equipment. But despite the tight timings of the new venue, we managed to deliver, assemble and put into operation a huge amount of equipment. 123 companies from 8 countries– Russia, China, Denmark, Germany, India, the Republic of Korea, Spain, and Turkiye–presented advanced equipment in almost all segments, from machines for primary processing of fibers, spinning, weaving equipment to finished products, including automated cutting complexes, printing on fabrics, production of technical textiles, non-woven fabrics, spare parts and accessories, and more.

We would especially like to note that INLEGMASH 2026 featured a record number of cutting complexes in the entire history of the show. There has never been such a scale of equipment presented here. Everything was delivered, set up on time, and demonstrated at the show in real time. Here is just a small part of the equipment in this segment. Zipkit Technology presented smart cutting from GBOS, one of the most productive and high-precision cutting systems in the world. The Russian manufacturer Mozes Inc showed the Tsiolkovsky modular cutting complex. Smart-T demonstrated the iECHO GLSA-2516 spreading cutting complex. LRT presented the OKOL automated textile spreading and cutting complexes. Matek showed the latest development of German engineers such as the ultra-high-precision Bullmer S90 PRO cutting machine.

Komtens Trading showed a UNIC cutting machine with a conveyor device designed for cutting textiles in one-three layers according to a given program. The company also supplies turnkey systems, which guarantees the smooth operation of COMTENSE CAD and peripheral equipment for the best results.

Today, INLEGMASH can rightfully be considered a place where you can see what technological level the Russian textile and garment industry is at, and what solutions will determine its next stage of development. The main thing is that you can understand where the industry is heading to.

In 2027, INLEGMASH will become the main platform that will focus even more innovations, ready-made technological solutions, and real-time demonstrations of equipment, as well as a place where it will be possible to discuss problems and the future of the industry with recognized experts.

The 26th edition of the International Exhibition for Equipment for the Textile and Garment Industry–INLEGMASH 2027–will take place from 24 to 26 February 2027 at Timiryazev Centre, Moscow, Russia. In 2027, the event will be co-located with RosBuild and World of Glass, which make up Russian Construction Week, which will entail more business activity than in 2026.

As experience and time show, trade shows have always been and still remain an effective business development tool. Digital reality has long transferred communications to the Internet, but this cannot replace human communication, live dialogue and visual demonstration of equipment. Within a show, you can solve the entire range of tasks at once and do it in a short time. Of course, a show is also an audience that has been developed over the years and is already clearly segmented to meet the demands of the participants. ◆

WE WILL BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU AMONG THE EXHIBITORS AND VISITORS OF THE MAIN EVENT OF THE YEAR FOR THE TEXTILE AND GARMENT INDUSTRY!

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