



Press Release  
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## PICANOL AT TECHTEXTIL 2009

**Picanol will present its latest weaving solutions for technical fabrics at Techtextil in Frankfurt, from 16 to 18 June 2009, at the Elmatex booth, Hall 3.0, booth D05. Certainly for weavers who want to get the most out of technical fabrics, Picanol weaving machines provide the platform for staying ahead. Techtextil is a good opportunity to discover what Picanol has on offer specifically for this niche market.**

In 1995 Picanol re-entered the specialty markets with a tire cord airjet weaving machine built at Günne, Germany. This development came after a 10-year period of redefining Picanol's strategy based on two new technologies: airjet and fast rapiers. Between 1975 and 1985, Picanol slowly abandoned the highly successful flying shuttle technology.

In an established market dominated by few players, a new entrant has to formulate its own strategy. Picanol decided to use its proven strengths to be successful in the demanding field of technical textiles.

Technologically, the OMNI*plus* 800 airjet and the OptiMax rapier platforms are both state-of-the-art and very recent in comparison with competitors' machines. Producing about five times more units per year than its closest competitor and having been in business for over 70 years, Picanol has a much more extensive customer base. Weavers venturing into new markets particularly appreciate the excellent price/performance ratio for their upcoming investments when choosing Picanol.

As for services, our local staff too are accustomed to new developments, so that consulting and installation of machines for more demanding fabrics does not pose any difficulties.

As a frontrunner in innovation when it comes to textile machinery, Picanol dedicates 30% of its product management capacity to technical textiles. An equal part of the R&D effort is devoted to novelty applications. New developments that serve real customer requirements can be brought to market very rapidly.

In the last couple of years, Picanol has developed technically advanced solutions in fields such as tire cord, conveyor belts, canvas, industrial glass, monofilaments,

decatizing cloth, one-piece-woven airbags, awnings, spinnaker, medical textiles, coating fabrics, high-speed leno weaving, car seats etc.

Picanol always pays attention to user-friendliness and modularity, and indeed it pioneered the Quick-Style-Change system.

With the present OMNI*plus* 800 and OptiMax platforms, customers are not left floundering when market requirements change. These platforms are highly modular, so that when e.g. jacquards are needed instead of dobbies, this and similar retrofits can be made without much effort. In the latest development, a rapier machine weaving leno can be converted to standard harness movements in a matter of hours.

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#### **About the Picanol Group**

*In recent decades, the Picanol Group has evolved from a traditional weaving machine builder to a worldwide supplier of total solutions for the textile industry and other sectors.*

*- **Weaving Solutions** (Picanol) develops, manufactures and sells high-tech weaving machines based on air (airjet) or rapier technology (rapier). It supplies weaving machines to weaving mills worldwide, and also offers its customers such products and services as training, upgrade kits, spare parts and service contracts. Picanol also markets accessories via GTP Global Textile Partner, Steel Heddle, Burcklé and Te Strake Textile. For more than seventy years, Picanol has played a pioneering role in the industry worldwide, and is one of the current world leaders in weaving machine production.*

*- **Manufacturing** comprises all foundry activities (Proferro) and the group's machining activities. The Manufacturing ambition is to offer the customer engineered casting solutions for medium-sized series in a value-driven long-term partnership.*

*- **Mechatronics** specializes in the design, development, manufacturing and support of technological components, services and mechatronical system solutions for original equipment manufacturers in various industries through the PsiControl Mechatronics and Melotte companies. The Mechatronics business pillar will be further expanded in order to develop new activities, as well as to offer integrated technological solutions to customers in various industries.*

*In addition to the head office in Leper (Belgium), the Picanol Group has production facilities in Asia, Europe and the United States, linked to its own worldwide sales and service network. The Picanol Group employs 2,170 employees worldwide and has been listed on Euronext Brussels (PIC).*

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