

CarTexSax → Shaping the Future of Saxony's Textile Industry in Mobility

The **CarTexSax initiative** was launched to address one of the most pressing challenges of our time: the transformation of Europe's automotive industry and its ripple effects on the textile supply chain in Southwest Saxony. With its rich industrial heritage and proven expertise in high-performance textiles, the region stands at a crossroads between decline and reinvention.

The Challenge

For decades, Saxony's textile companies were trusted partners of Europe's carmakers. But global competition, shifting supply chains, electrification, and sustainability demands have disrupted this stability. The once-reliable automotive market has become volatile, exposing suppliers to cost pressure, certification hurdles, and shrinking volumes. Some long-standing companies have already disappeared; others are fighting for survival.

The Findings

The CarTexSax study, led by **Gherzi Germany**, conducted in-depth analyses, company workshops, and transfer dialogues with industry leaders. The results are sobering but also full of opportunity:

- **Automotive is no longer enough:** relying solely on car interiors and components is too risky.
- **The "Tier Gap" must be closed:** Saxon firms are strong at Tier 3–4 but lack access to Tier 1 and OEM contracts.
- **Diversification is essential:** growth potential lies in aerospace, rail, construction, medical textiles, filtration, and energy.
- **Sustainability is a differentiator:** recyclable, circular, and CO₂-reduced textiles are not just trends – they are becoming entry tickets to global markets.
- **Networks matter:** companies that join alliances, invest in automation, and cooperate across industries will survive and thrive.

The Vision 2030

CarTexSax does not paint a picture of decline. Instead, it proposes three realistic and motivating future models for companies in the region:

1. **Specialized Niche Providers** – excelling in high-value, small-batch, or luxury applications.
2. **Regionally Anchored System Suppliers** – leveraging Saxony's know-how in production, certification, and R&D.
3. **Members of Global Alliances** – integrating into international value chains with strong partners.

These models are not theoretical. They emerged from direct dialogues with company leaders – voices from Mattes & Ammann, ZwissTEX, Tenowo, Norafin, and many others. Their message is clear: the future belongs to those who act decisively, invest strategically, and break free from outdated dependencies.

The Call to Action

CarTexSax has delivered more than a report – it has provided a wake-up call and a roadmap. The project shows that **Southwest Saxony can remain a hub of textile innovation**, but only if companies embrace transformation with courage and speed. This is not the end of the journey. CarTexSax is the **starting point for new European projects, strategic partnerships, and industrial renewal**. The conversation has only just begun – and the region is ready to lead it.

👉 **Are you curious to learn more? Do you want to explore the strategic options for your company, industry, or institution?**

Get in touch with Gherzi Germany – **Anton Schumann** (schumann@gherzi.de) and be part of shaping the future of Europe's textile mobility industry.