

ukft®

What we've been doing on behalf of our members:

Q1: 2022

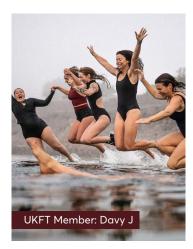






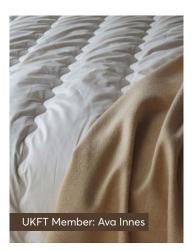












As we emerge from a pandemic and navigate a post-Brexit trading environment, we at UKFT believe it is also a time of great opportunity. We see unprecedented interest and intent from companies, small and large, to bring manufacturing back to the UK. The industry is recognising and responding to recent challenges and moving to a more sustainable business model - a model that is good for people, good for the planet and good for business.

One of the most valued elements of UKFT is the breadth and depth of our membership. From large established brands to the smallest start-ups, spinners, knitters and weavers, through to retailers, manufacturers and designers - all these businesses are unique but the challenges they face are often felt across the whole industry. I believe that by coming together and leveraging the knowledge of our members we are and will be better placed to succeed.

Assuring the next generation of talent and necessary skills, developing the networks to exploit innovative cutting-edge research, growing access to international markets and importantly working together on a pathway to a more sustainable industry. These are all areas where UKFT is working for you, representing the industry to educational leaders and government so they understand what can unlock your business's full potential.

UKFT exists for our members so if you have a question, want to share some news or get some advice, do get in touch. Just drop us a line at info@ukft.org – we always love to hear from you.

Read on for an update on what we've been doing on your behalf during the first quarter of 2022.

Stay in touch, UKFT CEO

Adam Mangell

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Voice of the industry

As the collective voice of UK fashion and textiles, UKFT is committed to creating the best environment for our industry.

INDUSTRY GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

UKFT represents the industry to the UK Government, campaigning on a wide range of issues to ensure that the needs of the industry are considered at the highest level. This quarter, one of the major highlights was gaining government recognition of the breadth and depth of the UK fashion and textile industry. The recent Brexit report said a competitive advantage in UK-made, niche and heritage products will enable the UK to establish a profitable and resilient retail and consumer goods sector that is socially and environmentally responsible.

We also worked with the Intellectual Property Office to publicise its consultation on the future of the UK designs system, offering designers, design-led businesses, and manufacturers the chance to give their views on new opportunities, future frameworks and better regulation. We publicised the new early stage consultation exploring the arguments for and against an Online Sales Tax (OST), which will be significant for our sector to address the potential tax imbalance between in-store retailers and online.

We also highlighted the work from the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), which has started a review of environmental claims in the UK fashion retail sector, investigating how products and services claiming to be 'ecofriendly' are being marketed, and whether consumers could be being misled.

STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS WITH POLICYMAKERS

UKFT is proactively broadening engagement with government both across the range of topics and with a wider range of departments and agencies. Key highlights as follows:

No 10 Downing Street – provided detailed review of manufacturing workforce and skills landscape and actions for change.

BEIS (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) – consulted very regularly and recently UKFT has provided intelligence on Indian FTA, US FTA, development of Single Trade Window and skills needs. BEIS have also championed key policy areas including PEM (Pan-Euro-Mediterranean convention) and with DWP (below).

DIT (Department for International Trade) – meetings on almost a daily basis to discuss the future of the trade support scheme and other export promotional activity.

DEFRA (Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs) – regular meeting to discuss the development of the EPR scheme for the sector and secured Minister to close Sustainability in Textiles Conference.

DCMS (Department for Culture, Media and Sport) – regular meetings to engage on Creative Industries Council, new Creative Industries Sector Vision and updates on expected review of Shortage Occupation List by the Migration Advisory Committee.

DWP (Department for Work and Pensions) – a new engagement, brokered by BEIS, working collaboratively on coordinating industries' skills and careers development needs and matching to local job centres etc.

Intellectual Property Office - good working relationship

across team including on trade implications of Exhaustion of IP Rights and current consultation on the UK system for design rights. UKFT recently co-hosted a fashion and textiles roundtable with IPO Deputy CEO.

Scotland – regular engagement with a range of government agencies particularly on innovation, exports and skills plus a meeting with Kate Forbes, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy.

Northern Ireland – engagement with Department for Economy.

Wales – new engagement with Welsh government on skills.

Opposition – maintain a dialogue with members of the opposition.

Greater London Authority/Mayor of London – Gave overview of industry to a cross-section of representatives with interest in a number of areas including regeneration and skills.

CBI (Confederation of British Industry) – as well as normal interaction, UKFT is taking part in the CBI skills campaign.

Low Pay Commission - in regular dialogue.

CITIB – Creative Industries Trade & Investment Board – UKFT sits on the Board and helps shape the messaging about how government should engage with the creative sector.

BRITISH TEXTILE WEEK 2022

Future Fabric Focus was the theme for the 2022 edition of British Textile Week, our campaign to showcase the unique strengths of the UK textile industry, which ran in February. In the third instalment of British Textile Week, UKFT brought together some of the latest updates in textile innovation from the UK, alongside new developments in apparel fabrics and textile design that will be exported all around the world.



We interviewed Professor Stephen Russell at the University of Leeds to find out how UK researchers are exploring the shift from linear to circular economies, data-driven design, late stage customisation and aesthetic communication to shape the future textile industry.

We also caught up with Keric Morris from IBM to find out how a new UK-led project is underway to improve transparency of fashion supply chains, which could create a new benchmark for the UK industry.

We spoke to Jimmy Campbell, MD at Halley Stevensons, a Scotland-based waxed cotton specialist established in 1864, to discover how the firm is underlining its commitment to sustainability and implementing a 3-year capital spend plan to update machinery to lower its carbon footprint.

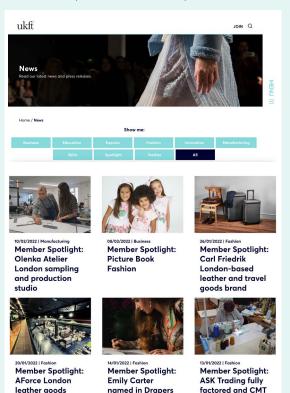
Finally, we profiled some of the dynamic companies on show at leading textile event Premiere Vision in Paris during the week, showcasing lighter weights in wool, cashmere, silk, linen and blends, a new range of luxury cashmere shirting and innovative fabrications with exquisite handle and drape, as well as original prints and eyecatching embroidery.

www.ukft.org/britishtextileweek22

SHOWCASING THE UNIQUE STRENGTHS OF OUR INDUSTRY

We continued to share the stories of new and interesting businesses with our broad network, highlighting member successes to raise the profile of our sector and signposting sustainable and innovative developments. In particular, this quarter, the focus was on UK manufacturing capability and new sportswear and loungewear brands.

- Kalopsia Collective moves to Fife to expand
- AForce London leather goods manufacturer
- Olenka Atelier London sampling and production studio
- StoneWolf, British fitness apparel brand
- HEXED UK-made minimalist loungewear brand
- Picture Book Fashion, Scottish childrenswear brand house
- Carl Friedrik London-based leather and travel goods brand
- Emily Carter named in Drapers 30 under 30



30 under 30

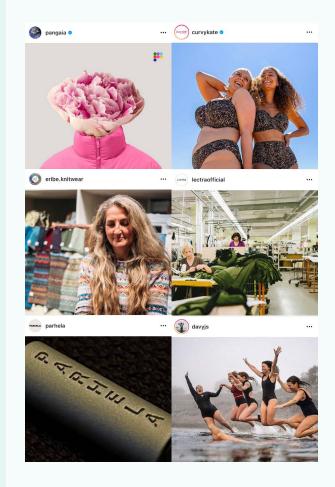
production

manufacturer

GROWING THE NETWORK

We are delighted that more and more fashion and textile businesses and organisations are joining the network, expanding the reach and power of our community.

This quarter we have been pleased to welcome fashion brands including Pangaia, Curvy Kate and Haar and textile manufacturers including Abraham Moon, Mitchell Interflex and Wisla Narrow Fabrics. Nottingham Trent University has joined as a new Higher Education partner and private training provider KTL – Key Training and Learning Ltd – has joined as an Education partner.



Business support

Practical advice and technical support to help companies grow.

ONE-TO-ONE MEMBER SUPPORT

UKFT provides a wide range of business support to members, working with individual requirements and member needs. This can be anything from the labelling requirements in Canada, to how to set up your first store or how to take advantage of the new trade deal with Japan.

What the members say:

"Great chat with Elliot this morning. So helpful! Thank you. What a great organisation this is. How I wish I'd explored sooner!" Suzie Carley, Suzie Sews

"We very much value being part of UKFT and believe it adds a lot to what we do. It's also a great resource for us, and we hope to be able to access the benefits much more this year" Janine Birkin-Hewitt, Luella

"Although we have only been members for a short period of time with UKFT, we are finding real value and are pleased to have come on-board. I just thought it should be mentioned that the experience as a whole, has been excellent and really helpful." Darren Seymour, Haar



SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES: WEBINARS AND SURGERIES

The latest webinars attracted a wide range of members from across the supply chain, covering large high street retailers, leading ecommerce players, iconic brands, manufacturers and suppliers. These included:

- UKFT member update
- How to successfully launch your first physical store
- Social Media Management and Content Creation
- The Huddersfield Solution: How UK textile companies can access new EU shipping solutions
- Grow your following and make sales using TikTok Shop

For the latest events, visit www.ukft.org/events

NEW RESOURCES FOR UKFT MEMBERS

We are continuing to build our library of resources available to UKFT members, which covers everything from HR and Employment, Terms & Conditions, Brexit, Guides to the latest Free Trade Agreements and Sales Support. The latest updates include:

- UKFT Briefing Note on the Changes to French VAT
- UKFT Guide to Making Modern Slavery Statements
- UKFT Guide to China's Anti-Foreign Sanctions Law
- UKFT Report from Pitti Uomo and Pitti Bimbo: January 2022
- The UKFT Guide to the new Plastic Packaging Tax (PPT)
- The UKFT Guide to opening a store and getting the best deal

To access copies of any of the UKFT Resources, contact info@ukft.org

SHARING OPPORTUNITIES

We continue to share a wide range of opportunities for members to gain recognition, funding or explore new markets. This included the following:

- Apply for the Help to Grow: Management and Digital schemes
- Textile manufacturers urged to adopt digital tools to drive sustainability and growth
- FTCT: Grants available for the families of UK fashion and textile workers
- UK SMEs: Apply to attend the Sustainable Fashion mission in India
- Apply for QEST funding for craft training
- Future Fashion Factory six-month sustainability challenge
- Climate Change Levy rebate scheme opens to new entrants

We also highlighted new funding opportunities including: British Design Fund; WORTH Partnership Project II; The Alpha Accelerator; Invest4 Business Growth Grants: Brighton; Unloc Young Entrepreneurs Challenge. Plus a range of innovation funding opportunities for UK fashion and textiles

We were delighted that our recommendation resulted in member Emily Carter being named as part of the Drapers 30 under 30 list of rising stars in fashion retail.

She said: "I just wanted to say a huge thank you for sending me the Drapers awards application and for providing a statement in order for me to apply – I never win anything so it was such a delight to have actually been chosen! Thank you again - really grateful for the support of UKFT."

UKFT EMPLOYMENT AND HR SERVICE

With years of employment relations experience in the fashion and textile industry at local and national level, UKFT can provide guidance to members on a range of issues. Full details on the service and guidance documents available can be found here.

The major concern at the moment is around vaccinations and the changes in the rules to self isolate.

Some examples of recent queries raised also include:

- What are "reasonable adjustments" for an employee suffering from mental health problems.
- What to do if a mentally ill person refuses permission to contact doctor or therapist.
- Is night shift work "suitable" after a heart attack?
- New contractual terms re vaccination.
- Unintentional extension of probationary period.
- Amount of evidence needed in a "wrongful", i.e. contractual, dismissal where gross misconduct is claimed by the employer. Insufficient, service for an unfair dismissal claim.
- · Discrimination.



WORKING WITH ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

Logistics: As members continue to grapple with logistics post-Brexit, UKFT's agreement on supply chain development and logistics with <u>Greenway Logistics</u>, based in the Netherlands, continues to be of interest to the sector. UKFT has referred a number of businesses into talks with Greenway and identified such as what is now known as 'The Huddersfield Process' – a break bulk solution tailored to support textile companies and cloth merchants with EU B2B deliveries.

Energy: With so many of our members facing pressure to reduce energy, cost and carbon emissions and meet compliance, this quarter UKFT partnered with energy and low carbon consultancy Envantage to provide specialist knowledge and best practice specifically for the UK fashion and textile industry. This would be of particular interest to our manufacturing members but all members can enquire to see how Envantage may be able to support their energy requirements. Envantage will support UKFT members to find out more about everything from buying effectively to optimising energy usage, reducing carbon and meeting regulatory obligations. The team can also answer questions about compliance, access to energy discount schemes, or if you simply want to check if you could pay less for your energy.

Colour trend information: UKFT's members now have access to textile trend information including colour trend analysis and forecasting, inspirational mood boards for all categories and innovative tools via Peclers Paris, as a new membership benefit. The latest trend information is for the AW 23/24 season and is available for download via Peclers Plus online platform and as a physical trend book for viewing. Timed access and allocation will apply. Priority will be given to UKFT's textile members first, followed by fashion members in the appropriate season. UKFT's education partners can access the online platform and a significantly reduced rate for bespoke Trend and Colour presentations for staff and students.

For a member introduction to any of these partners, please contact info@ukft.org



SUPPORTING FASHION AND TEXTILE START-UPS THROUGH UKFT RISE

In the UKFT Rise community there are currently 300+ start-up businesses, ranging from womenswear and menswear, baby and kids clothing, to bags and jewellery, and textile/interior designers and print studios.

In our weekly newsletters, we share short Q&As where the entrepreneurs talk about their business journey so far, any hurdles they've overcome, their inspiration and top tips for other start-ups in the fashion and textile industry. This is a fantastic way to get to know our community, so click on the brands below to read their features and start growing your network.

Some of the latest include: Scottish textile design studio <u>Jonny MacKinnon Designs</u>, 3D woven fashion brand <u>Weffan</u>, natural fibre woven textiles from <u>HEM: Handwoven</u>, ethical fashion and accessories brand <u>Good House London</u>, luxury bamboo lingerie label <u>ELAN Lingerie</u> and slow fashion swimwear brand <u>Revivre</u>.

www.ukft.org/rise/meet-the-subscribers

Get To Know...



Multilocal
The ethically made home textile
and apparel brand that honours



The children's bedding brand that creates immersive story starters, designed to transport children into imagined worlds



ELAN Lingerie
The luxury bamboo lingerie brand
with a design ethos of empowering
women after breast cancer



Rock + Ruby

The stylish, made-to-last sock brand, crafted in Great Britain



Revival LDN
The fashion reconstruction brand centred on sustainability and specialising in the repurposing of textile waste



London
The ethical fashion and accessories brand that practices slow fashion



Satatland
The brand with a utopian vision of a sustainable world and products that are available to rent, lease or



Revivre
The slow-fashion swimwear brand made from recycled ocean plastics, allowing them to 'live again' (as the name translates)



HEM: Handwoven
The collection of woven textiles
using natural fibres



UK manufacturing

Supporting the growth of 'made in the UK'.

SUPPORTING AND CHAMPIONING UK MANUFACTURING

We have worked on various profile articles for the UKFT website, social media channels and newsletter highlighting the skills and expertise of various members, including Scottish small-batch fashion manufacturer Kalopsia Collective, leather goods manufacturer AForce London, and London sampling and production studio Olenka Atelier.



UKFT RECRUITMENT SITE FOR UK FASHION AND TEXTILE JOBS

UKFT has launched the new UKFT Production Jobs Talent Pool, a 'match making' recruitment site specifically for production roles in the UK fashion and textile industry. The site will allow companies to advertise their vacancies and review/access the talent pool via a filtering system on which candidates can promote themselves.

www.ukft.org/production-jobs

MADE IT

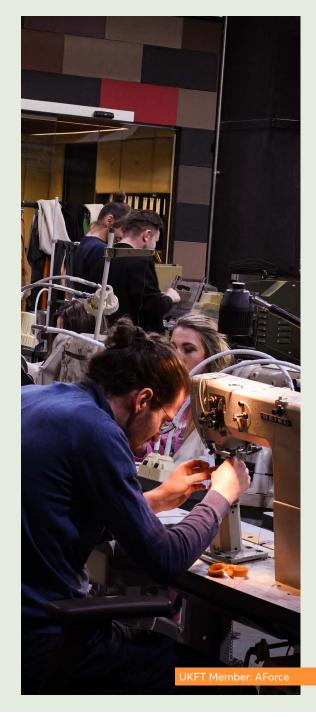
UKFT's MADE IT scheme aims to improve the production and sourcing knowledge of fashion and textile design students, and provide the opportunity to learn more about real-life manufacturing and sourcing experience in the UK fashion and textile industry.

For the 2021/2022 MADE IT scheme, UKFT will work with:

- The University of Huddersfield
- Istituto Marangoni
- University of the Arts London
- Nottingham Trent
- Heriot Watt University

Students will receive a masterclass to promoting the importance of production and sourcing within a rounded fashion education and to highlight the breadth of job opportunities across the supply chain. Selected students will also receive the opportunity of a two-month paid internship in UK production environments to provide real-life manufacturing and sourcing experience in the UK fashion and textile industry.

www.ukft.org/manufacturing/made-it/



Skills & training

Addressing critical skills gaps and developing industry-led solutions.

DRAPERS X UKFT INTERNSHIP BURSARY PROGRAMME

UKFT and The Drapers' Company are working together to support fashion and textile students across the UK to achieve good quality internships through the Drapers' x UKFT Bursary Programme.

Financial support from the Drapers' Company will enable ten students annually to take up internship opportunities they may otherwise struggle to afford.

UKFT will be offering mentoring, guidance, and networking opportunities to each student to ensure their internships are safe, enjoyable and valuable.

For the 2021/2022 academic year, 10 placements will be available for individuals to experience 12-week internships across a range of UK fashion and textile businesses from students at the following universities:

- The University of Huddersfield
- Nottingham Trent University
- Heriot Watt University

www.ukft.org/skills-and-training/working-with-universities/drapers-x-ukft-bursary-programme

GREATER MANCHESTER & LANCASHIRE EMPLOYERS: OCCUPATIONAL TRAINEESHIP

UKFT is piloting an occupational traineeship in Greater Manchester and Lancashire for job roles in manufacturing sewn products and manufacturing textiles (fabric). The model aims to make candidates 'job ready' and reflects our industry's skill gaps and shortages. The qualification and training are fully funded by The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). Salford College has agreed to deliver the programme in Greater Manchester while Blackburn College will deliver the same in Lancashire.

The trainees will complete a 70-hour placement with an employer (which must result in a job or apprenticeship interview) and the Fashion and Textiles Level 1 qualification. There are likely to be approximately 10-12 trainees participating in each pilot. The Department for Work and Pensions and the local authorities will assist the colleges with candidate recruitment.

 $\underline{www.ukft.org/skills-and-training/occupational-traineeship-pilot\\}$

WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND APPRENTICESHIP REVIEWS

Working with the Welsh Government, UKFT has been leading on the review and development of the Welsh Apprenticeship pathway, focused on the L2 and L3 Apparel and Textiles pathways. Two steering groups have been formed in Wales (North and South) as the industry is very different in both regions. The title of the apparel pathway has been renamed to Sewn Products.

UKFT has been completing a similar review of the L2 and L3 Apprenticeship frameworks (Apparel and Textiles pathways only) in Northern Ireland, working on behalf of the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland. UKFT has established a steering group in N. Ireland with feedback

gathered as well as online consultation recommendations which has resulted in the development of two new fashion and textiles apprenticeship frameworks. Again as in Wales, one of the main barriers of employers using the framework to train sewing machinists at present was the title of the pathway at Level 2. There, to run in line with both England and Scotland the title of the pathway has been renamed to Sewn Products.

UKFT YOUNG TEXTILE TECHNICIAN FUND

UK-based textile companies can apply for funding to train young technicians via the UKFT Young Textile Technician Fund. The fund will cover 50% of the costs of in-depth training for textile technicians under the age of 30, thanks to the generous support of The Worshipful Company of Weavers, The Worshipful Company of Clothworkers and The Worshipful Company of Drapers.

The fund has been established to support the type of training which is typically carried out at overseas training schools held by machinery builders such as Picanol or Dornier, helping UK firms to extend their capabilities, increase flexibility and develop new skills.

The latest recipients of the scheme were Mark Soutar, a trainee dyer at Halley Stevensons, and Jason, Jonathan and Mitchell at John Spencer.

www.ukft.org/skills-and-training/funding-for-training/textile-technician-fund/

International business

Helping UK companies reach new markets overseas.

UKFT INTERNATIONAL TRADESHOW UPDATE

2022 has got off to an "interesting" start on all fronts. More than 20 UK companies successfully made it to Pitti Uomo and Bimbo in January with results which most companies decided were satisfactory, at least at a show where most non-European buyers were not able to travel.

This was not a normal Pitti by any stretch of the imagination but UK companies wanted to get back to actively supporting the show. 26 UK companies (and others) were forced to cancel their participation between Christmas and the New Year due to Omicron.

Our work to support UK companies at Pitti Uomo and Pitti Bimbo clearly demonstrates the importance of having someone to fight UK exporters' battles at national level. The group would not have taken place without our coordination and more companies would have cancelled had we not been there on the ground to enable them to surmount the multiple challenges of Covid, Brexit, travel limitations through France etc. Throughout the process we have used these examples to underline to the UK Government the shortcomings of its new UK Tradeshow Programme and we shall continue to make the case for a joined-up approach to Tradeshow Support.

Statistically so far this year, UK companies are more likely to have cancelled key international tradeshows (or not applied in the first place) than other European companies. The underlying reasons for this are a combination of Brexit, changes of strategy from B2B to B2C and Covid. The UK is the only European country not to be proactively supporting its companies with grants to show at key tradeshows as part of its Covid recovery plan, which could be very damaging.

UKFT's next international fashion event was Paris Fashion Week 4-8 March. UKFT secured a "wrap-around" budget to promote and support on the ground over 20 companies at the same time as supporting another 30+ exhibitors which showed digitally. UKFT managed to enable 1 company to apply for an Internationalisation Fund grant at Première

Classe. UKFT worked with the British Embassy and the British Fashion Council to support a co-hosted dinner for buyers and press on 7th March.







TRADE AGREEMENTS UPDATE

The UK continues to secure new trade agreements although there are no signs of any progress on ameliorating the UK-EU agreement.

A number of new agreements are being worked up and UKFT is in close communication with the UK Government on their relevance for the industry and how best to support UK businesses, especially where the Rules of Origin (RoO) are concerned. These include:

- Australia agreement in principle (potentially RoOs sound flexible).
- CPTPP appears to be getting closer though the UK has bi-laterals with most of the key players.
- Gulf Cooperation Council.
- India agreement in principle but there are a number of very large hurdles. UKFT is working on a Member's Export Report supported by Innovate UK. This agreement could impact the UK's existing GSP preference schemes for Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- Israel in the early consulting stage.
- New Zealand agreement in principle.
- Singapore agreement in principle.

As always, the Rules of Origin will be set in the final stage but UKFT hopes that these will be workable for UK businesses whether they manufacture in the UK or elsewhere.

There are still a considerable number of barriers to trading with the EU. As well as helping members discover new ways of trading with the EU, UKFT continues to raise the challenges with every level of government.

CHAMPIONING THE PRESENCE OF UK EXPORTERS AT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS: UKFT GLOBAL BRANDS

We relaunched and rebranded our exports and tradeshow promotion campaign to UKFT Global Brands in 2022, to showcase and promote UK fashion and textile brands exhibiting at events across the world. On the UKFT Global Brands page, you can find more details on UK designers at international fashion weeks or major buying events in New York, Paris, Tokyo, Berlin and Florence; leading UK textiles at key apparel, interiors and technical textile events in Shanghai, Frankfurt, Milan and Paris; and much more.

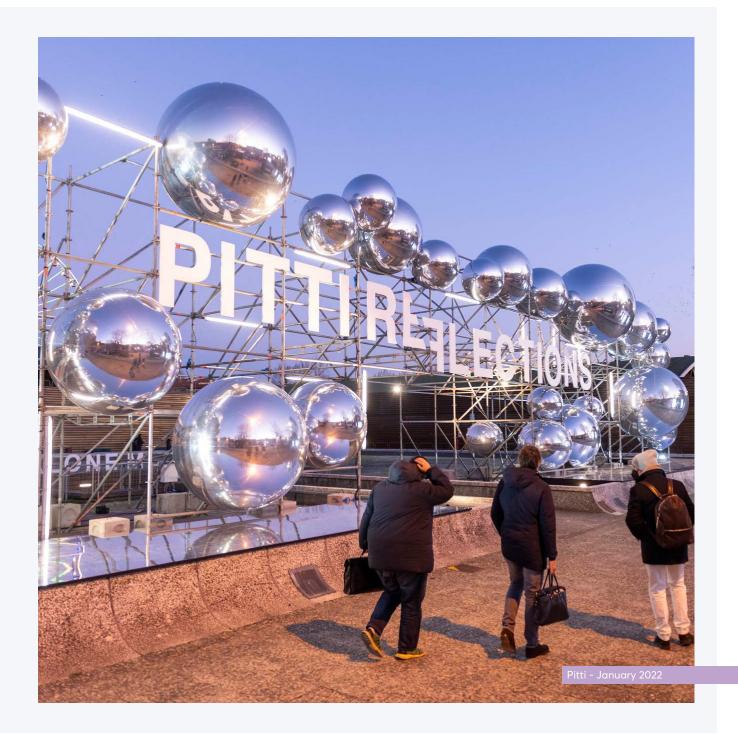
The first events to be featured are:

- Pitti Uomo: January 2022
- Pitti Bimbo: January 2022
- Premiere Vision Paris: February 2022
- The Chicago Collective: February 2022
- Paris Fashion Week: March 2022
- British Embassy Stockholm event: March 2022

www.ukft.org/ukftglobalbrands

ukft global BRANDS





Innovation, R&D and Sustainability

Shaping the future of the UK fashion and textile industry.

SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAIN OPTIMISATION

We started to tell the story of the Sustainable Supply Chain Optimisation project as it came to a close in December 2021. This saw us work with IBM, Tech Data, and the Future Fashion Factory to design, prototype and pilot a new technology platform to help the UK fashion and textile industry to drive sustainability and profitability through increased transparency within the supply chain. Retailers Next, H&M (COS brand), N Brown, New Look and yarn manufacturer Laxtons were part of the initial pilot.

This included:

- Tech innovations for sustainability and fairness in the fashion industry
- Sustainable Supply Chain Optimisation: Proof of Concept
- A transparent UK-led supply chain: British Textile Week 2022

www.ukft.org/innovation/ssco/

SUSTAINABILITY IN UK TEXTILES CONFERENCE

UKFT's Sustainability in UK Textiles conference will be held on 12 May 2022 at the Drapers Hall in London. We have lined up a full programme of speakers including:

- Anthony Burns, Chief Operating Officer at ACS
- Dax Lovegrove, Steering Committee member of the Institute for Positive Fashion, and Sustainability Director at Jimmy Choo and Versace
- Ian Laird, Managing Director of Alex Begg and Begg x Co
- Dr John G Parkinson, Founder of iinouiio
- Natalie Jones, Sales & Marketing Manager at Humprhies Weaving
- Paraskevi Fotoglou, Sustainability Engineer at Camira Fabrics
- Tim Clark, Technical Director of John Smedley

www.ukft.org/sustainableuktextiles







Get in touch

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