


ukft[®]

What we've been doing on your behalf

Q3 2023

www.ukft.org



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A Letter from UKFT CEO, Adam Mansell

I'm delighted to share with you some of the exciting updates and achievements from Q3 2023 that highlight the continued growth and progress of UKFT.

First and foremost, our membership continues to expand, which is a real testament to the strength and vitality of our industry. We offer a warm welcome all our new members and extend our thanks to our longstanding members for their support.

We have recently introduced new resources offering advice and guidance on everything from IP support in China to regulations such as the EU deforestation and forest degradation, as well as trade agreements with Australia, New Zealand and the CPTPP. We are committed to promoting the strengths of our industry, and through various channels, we will continue to share the latest updates, trends and insights relevant to the UK fashion and textile sector.

One of our primary goals is to bring members together and foster connections within our community. This quarter, we've worked hard to establish closer working relationships between our education partners and the wider industry. In July, we hosted two UKFT Education Partner Network meetings, catering to both higher education and further education institutions, as well as private training providers. We've also been continuing to underscore the importance of vocational qualifications as we navigate a changing skills landscape.

We're actively promoting opportunities in our sector at nationwide career events and supporting a bursary scheme for the new Textile Innovation and Sustainability BSc at the University of Leeds. We are committed to nurturing the next generation of talent and ensuring they have the resources they need to thrive.

Our MADE IT 22/23 project is in its final phase, offering design students valuable insights into the UK manufacturing industry through paid production internships with UK manufacturers. Through generous support MADE IT will now run for a further three years. Additionally, we manage the Drapers x UKFT Bursary scheme to financially support students undertaking internships as they embark on careers to open access to these opportunities to a wider pool of talent. In a bid to make more impact on training skilled textile leaders of the future, we have extended the age limit of the Young Textile Technician Fund.

We also take pride in celebrating the UK textile industry and showcasing its excellence, which often gets overlooked. In partnership with the V&A, we organised an event alongside the Chanel exhibition, providing a platform to highlight our industry's craftsmanship and creativity.

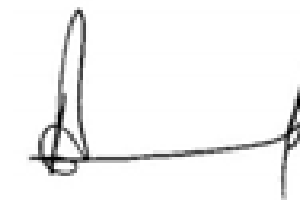
Internationally, we are dedicated to supporting UK brands at overseas tradeshows and events, including key gatherings such as Pitti Uomo, Paris Men's Fashion Week, Première Vision, Milano Unica, Chicago Men's Collective and Paris Fashion Week. These events help us shine a light on the UK fashion and textile industry on a global stage.

Finally, sustainability and innovation are now on the forefront of our agenda and we're actively involved in a number of large-scale innovation projects aimed at addressing some of the industry's most significant challenges.

We recently held a successful second Sustainability in UK Textiles conference, offering practical guidance and advice on how to improve performance, measure and monitor progress and communicate environmental credentials. We are excited to launch the first of our UKFT Sustainability 101 series for UK textile manufacturers which covers standards and certification.

Read on to find out more about some of these initiatives that we believe will shape our industry's future and let us know how we can help you.

Thank you for your continued support



Adam Mansell
CEO, UKFT



Membership



Membership



UKFT Member: EdNerat

New members

UKFT's membership continues to grow, welcoming notable new fashion and textile members including British Wool, Scamp & Dude, Alder & Green, Cashmere Circle, Circular D-S, Fermoie, KBN Knitwear and LaundRE, to name a few.

We're also pleased to announce UKFT's partnership with CrisisUK. They have a long-term goal to source responsibly, be part of the stock cycle for retailers and work with social enterprises or small businesses. This opens up opportunities for members and RISE subscribers alike to:

- Collaborate on co-branded limited one-off pieces/capsule collections, from clothing to homeware
- Re-work faulty donations: keeping well-crafted pieces in circulation
- Events: Take part in CrisisUK's Savile Row pop up in December 2023
- Source deadstock from CrisisUK



UKFT Member: Crisis UK

Membership

New resources for UKFT members

We continued to add to our growing library of resources for members, with new documents offering advice and guidance on everything from threats to IP support in China to regulations such as the EU deforestation and forest degradation (EU), as well as trade agreements with Australia, New Zealand and CPTPP.

Promoting the strengths of our industry

UKFT has continued to champion the unique strengths of the UK fashion and textile industry via member spotlights and regular updates promoted on our website, newsletters and social channels. This quarter, they included highlights from Araminta Campbell, Intimate Apparel Samples, EdNerat, Heriot-Watt University, Self Made Studios, Kalopsia Collective and Locharron of Scotland.

Sharing updates for the UK fashion and textile industry

UKFT keeps members abreast on important developments in the sector including upcoming consultations, new investment in research, funding opportunities, training developments and changes to regulation. This quarter they included the launch of a report examining the Impact of Brexit and COVID-19 on the UK Fashion and Textiles Technology Ecosystem and a new toolkit for communicating sustainability from the UN, plus consultations on trademark and design services, domestic upholstered furniture and UK product safety regulations.



UKFT Member: Araminta Campbell



Membership

Summer Reception

Bringing Members Together and Creating Connections

UKFT held a Summer Reception for members at the October Gallery in Bloomsbury, London, on 19th July 2023 to bring together a broad range of UK fashion brands as well as textile, garment and accessory manufacturers, retailers, associates and government representatives. The evening gave our members the opportunity to catch up with old friends and to make new connections.



UKFT Summer Reception, July 2023



UKFT Summer Reception, July 2023



UKFT Summer Reception, July 2023

Membership

Trend Support in partnership with Peclers Paris

UKFT's members have access to textile trend information including colour trend analysis and forecasting, inspirational mood boards for all categories and innovative tools via Peclers Paris. The SS25 Colour book is currently available.

We held a member-only webinar in July to present SS25 Colour and Trend Inspiration, which was a great success.



The Peclers AW23/4 trend book at UKFT member Joshua Ellis



The Peclers trend book at UKFT member Halley Stevensons



The Peclers trend book at UKFT member Locharron

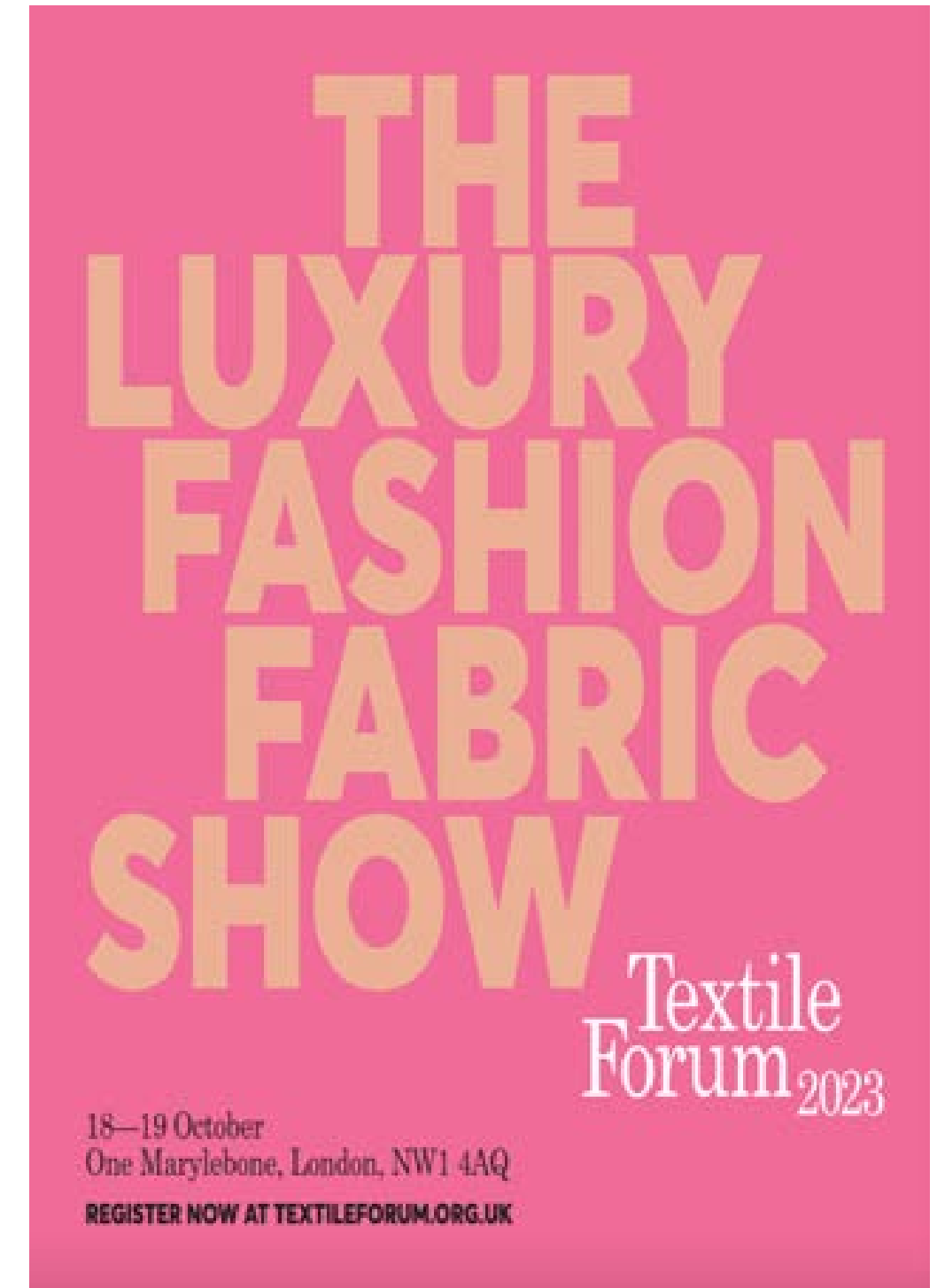
Textile Forum

**Luxury fashion fabrics. Low minimums.
Inspiring selection of stock and forward order
collections.**

Textile Forum is the UK's leading sourcing exhibition for low minimum luxury textiles. We have rebranded and relaunched the show for October 2023, strengthening the links between fashion designers and textile mills and merchants, alongside garment manufacturers.



UKFT Textile Forum



UKFT Textile Forum flyer, 2023

UKFT Rise

The UKFT Rise community is growing, with an active WhatsApp group to support both digital and physical events.

We held our Summer networking event on 4 September, with support from our partner Hyatt Place London City East. Diana Kakkar from MAES London delivered a presentation on manufacturing for start-ups, which gained great audience engagement.



UKFT Rise Networking Event, September 2023

Membership



UKFT Member: Johnstons of Elgin

Education Partners' Membership

We have been establishing closer working relationships with our Education Partner members through UK wide site visits, tailored communications through a new Education Partner focused e-shots, partnering on research and investment opportunities and ongoing delivery of bursary support programmes.

We also hosted two UKFT Education Partner Network Meetings in July. The meetings brought together partners from industry and education for a series of industry briefings, panel sessions, workshops and sandbox discussions.

The Higher Education Partners met at De Montfort University, Leicester with an industry panel including Tim Clark (John Smedley), Samantha Hardy (Colorfix), Daliah Hearn (Poster Girl) and Simon Platts (Simon Platts Consulting) to discuss 'The Future Graduate: What industry needs'.

The Education Partners from Further Education and Private Provision were joined by a panel including Brita Hirsch (The Tailoring Academy Ltd.), Julia McGlashan, (Johnstons of Elgin) and Mark Compton (Salford City College Group). The agenda explored successful training and employment initiatives in the sector and how we can unlock the potential of our education system to deliver skilled people into fashion and textile employment.

Both events were well-attended and well-received by our Education Partners. Insights and findings from the meetings are being used to re-prioritise UKFT engagement activity and project work.

The Winter Education Partner meeting will focus on recruitment pipelines into education and progression routes into industry, clear themes that emerged throughout both meetings.



Skills and Training

Skills and Training

Vocational Qualifications

UKFT is in close contact with the Department for Education and regional skills development and funding agencies. During recent discussions with government colleagues, it has become apparent that a new challenge to the skills landscape is beginning to emerge.

There has been a very recent change to the government's approach to vocational qualifications and apprenticeships. A series of new administrative changes are coming which will undermine the provision of much of the vocational qualification landscape, particularly at levels 1, 2 and 3 - the very levels of qualifications that provide the fundamental training needed for manufacturing roles in the fashion and textile industry. The government is moving support for training to only those courses where there are significant numbers of students e.g. hairdressing and construction. In the fashion and textile sector where over 80% of businesses are SMEs and where a full cohort of students on an apprenticeship would be 8-10 learners, this change in funding priority could in effect see the complete shutdown of any level 1 and 2 training including several industry approved apprenticeships.

An example of that is Ofqual moving to cull qualifications with low take up. In England, six qualifications will be withdrawn although after our intervention two qualifications were saved. In Northern Ireland qualifications were withdrawn for Footwear, Leather Production and Leather Manufacture. In Wales after considerable effort by UKFT lobbying all pathways remain unaltered until 2025. At one point the entire Framework covering Levels 2,3 and 4 were being withdrawn by the end of August 2023. This would have been catastrophic for our Welsh training providers and employers.

With such uncertainty with many other stakeholders setting the boundaries for enrolment figures and funding the move away to UKFT industry led provision is the only way to secure long term industry training.

Apprenticeship Reviews

Level 2 Textile Manufacturing Operative

Final approval received with a funding band increased from £5,000 to £7,000.

Level 5 Bespoke Cutting & Tailoring

Final approval received with a funding band increased from £15,000 to £17,000.

Level 2 Sewing Machinist Operative

Minor amendments to the standard have been agreed and finalised. The assessment methods within the EPA have been completely overhauled, eliminating the practical skills test, and replacing it with an observation and multiple-choice test. The revised standard and EPA were submitted for approval on September 1st, 2023.

Level 3 Fashion Studio Assistant

Now in the *decommission process* but will stay on the books until end 2023.

Level 4 Technical Dyer & Colourist

Now in the *decommission process* but will stay on the books until end 2023.

Skills and Training

Devolved Nations

Scotland

Modern Apprenticeship in fashion and textiles 'heritage' framework at SCQF Level 7

Following the successful approval of the recently developed SVQ in Leather and Textile Technology at SCQF Level 7 UKFT had to update the Modern Apprenticeship framework with the new qualification as the existing version was due to lapse end August 2023.

The whole framework and core skills mapping was reviewed and submitted to the Scottish Apprenticeship Approvals Group (AAG). The framework was approved on the 5th of August and is now live in Scotland.

SEG Awards - Award in Fashion and Textiles (Sewing and Textiles) at SCQF Level 4

Qualification development is complete but is delayed due to SEG Awards still awaiting SQA Awarding Organisation approval to operate in Scotland.

SDS Procurement – Review of all fashion and textiles Modern Apprenticeship Frameworks for 2025

We have just been awarded the contract to review the Fashion and Textile Heritage Apprenticeship Frameworks. This 15-month project will start in September 2023.

Consultations

- Welsh Language for National Occupational Standards – 14th August.

Stakeholder Meetings Q3

- Euratex Skills Committee Meeting
- Saddlery Charities Committee Meeting
- UKFT Education HE Partner Meeting (Leicester)
- UKFT Education FE Partner Meeting (London)
- SDS/UKFT/Scottish Prison Service
- Princes Trust Meeting
- Creative Industries Council Technical Education Pathway Meeting
- SDS/UKFT/ Veterans Scotland Employability Group Meeting

UKFT Skills Scotland



Skills and Training

Career Events

As part of our commitment to promote the wealth of careers, employers and training opportunities available in the UK fashion and textile industry, UKFT works with local industry, training providers, schools and recruitment organisations to deliver an annual series of career events across the UK.

With a careers stand at each event (2023 event schedule below), our team of industry experts offer advice, guidance and, in some cases, hands-on industry tasters to career advisors and new entrants. Our team is joined by employers and Education Partners who deliver demonstrations, highlight in-demand jobs, offer career guidance and suggest resources and opportunities. The information and activities provided on stand are tailored to each region ensuring guidance is specific to the local employment landscape.

UKFT's 2023 schedule includes:

- The Glasgow Careers Fair on 8 September
- The Leeds Careers Fair on 13 September
- The Cardiff Careers Fair on 15 September
- The Leicester Careers Fair on 20 September
- The Preston Careers Fair on 6 October
- The Belfast Careers Fair on 11 October
- The Manchester Careers Fair on 27 October
- The London Careers Fair on 3 November
- Skills London on 24-25 November



UKFT Futures, Careers Fair Stands, 2022



UKFT Futures, Careers Fair informative booklet cover

Skills and Training

UKFT to manage £670,000 Textile Technology bursary scheme

UKFT is delighted to announce it will manage a £670,000 bursary scheme to support 15 students per year over the next three years studying the new [Textile Innovation and Sustainability BSc course](#) at the University of Leeds.

Generously funded by the [Textile Livery Group](#) and other textile-related charities, this initiative aims to support the education of students with a keen interest in textiles to meet the environmental and social challenges of tomorrow. The bursary will cover 50% of student fees and provide a contribution towards living expenses. It is open to UK students enrolled in the [Textile Innovation and Sustainability BSc course](#) at the University of Leeds starting in September 2024.

The Textile Innovation and Sustainability BSc course will give students a deep understanding of sustainable textile materials, processes and products. The curriculum has been developed to address real industry needs, with businesses providing valuable placement and employment opportunities. Compulsory modules will provide a broad understanding of textiles, while optional modules will allow students to specialise depending on their career ambitions.

The course content will bring together responsible fashion, sustainable textile manufacturing, knitted textiles and processes, nonwoven products and processes, textile colouration and finishing, and technical textiles. Students will undertake a major research project in their final year, utilising the high-quality research facilities at the University of Leeds.

MADE-IT

The final phase of Made It 22/23 is being delivered with students from the participating universities taking up internships at [Toogood](#), [Community Clothing](#) / [Cookson and Clegg](#), [Nosakhari](#), [London Contour Experts](#) and [Luxury Lockstitch UK](#).

Outreach has begun to establish the five university partners for Made It 23/24, who will be the first to benefit from the increased offer of funded manufacturing-based internships for two students from each annually, rather than just one.

Drapers x UKFT internship Bursary Programme

UKFT are delivering bursary support to students from the 22/23 cohort from University of Huddersfield, Winchester School of Art and Heriot Watt University.

Students have secured placements at:

- [Leicester Theatre Group](#)
- [Skopos Fabrics](#)
- [Opera North](#)
- [Samson Saboye](#)
- [Emilia Wickstead](#)
- [Birkill House](#) + [Redress Scotland](#)
- [Vear Scotland](#) + [Coorie Creative](#)
- [Johnstons of Elgin](#) + [Woven in the Bone](#)
- [Wallace Sewell](#)
- [Lyle & Scott](#)

We will be communicating with the students to explore their experiences and feedback when their placements are completed.

Skills and Training

Age limit extended for UKFT's Young Textile Technician Fund

UKFT is pleased to announce that the Young Textile Technician Fund is now available to businesses applying to train textile technicians under the age of 35.

The fund supports businesses across the UK to train their young textile technicians, covering 50% of the costs of in-depth training. It allows businesses to extend their capabilities, increase flexibility and develop new skills at textile companies within the UK.

Training is typically carried out by machinery builders, often at overseas training schools, and is extremely specialised. As companies invest in new textile technology, the requirement for highly-skilled textile technicians has never been more important but this type of in-depth training can be prohibitively expensive.

Most recently, the fund has supported young textile technicians at UK textile manufacturers including C&J Antich & Son, The Natural Fibre Company, Milliken, Johnstons of Elgin, KnitRegen, Bowmer Bond, Halley Stevensons, John Spencer Textiles, Arville Textiles, Bute Fabrics, Pennine Weavers and Bill Babes Knitwear.

The fund has been made possible thanks to the generous support of The Worshipful Company of Weavers, The Worshipful Company of Clothworkers and The Worshipful Company of Drapers.

Alice Newton, Young Textile Technician Fund, UKFT



Government Relations



Government Relations



IP Design Rights Roundtable- UKFT's Director of International Business Paul Alger chaired a roundtable in July on the future Intellectual Property Design Rights. In attendance were Viscount Camrose, Minister for Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property, and members of the Intellectual Property Office.

Policy

A snapshot of areas that UKFT has been responding to and developing over the last quarter:

Trade

We are working on responses to two important HMRC consultations: The Future of Customs Declarations and Bringing Goods into the UK temporarily.

Whilst we continue to press the current government for a substantially better deal for exporters, increasingly we are also looking to sensitise the next government of the challenges facing our companies in our sector and many others.

Sustainability

We are working on our response to the DEFRA EPR for Packaging and Packaging Waste

Together with the BFC and the Textile Recycling Association we are taking the Sustainability Minister – Minister Pow to a London textile recycler, a London manufacturer and a London designer.

Skills

We have been asked to chair a new strategic skills group to be established by DBT.



International business

International business

UKFT's work to support UK companies at key international trade fairs has been very successful. So far this year we have supported and promoted strong groups of companies at:

- Pitti Uomo June (Menswear)
- Paris Men's Fashion Week and Pre-collections including Tranoi, Welcome Edition and Splash Swimwear
- Premiere Vision Paris (Textiles)
- Milano Unica (new) (Textiles)
- Chicago Men's Collection (Menswear and suiting Textiles)

Overall, the shows have gone well but the Paris shows, including Premiere Vision, were heavily affected by the Paris Riots which led to a number of Asian buyers switching their travel plans to Milan. Milano Unica was hugely successful and we have started to see a number of companies switching from PV to Milan. We are currently assessing whether this is a long-term or short-term shift and what lessons we should be learning from this.

As the season has progressed, it has become clear that brands and manufacturers are increasingly being pushed to accept Consignment/SOR terms, especially from larger store groups, which is having a major impact on their cashflows. Whilst the US, Japan and Korea remain generally buoyant, China has not rebounded as hoped for most companies and the EU market remains challenging post-Brexit.



UKFT Stand at Premier Vision, 2023

International business

Creators of the Exceptional: Celebrating UK textiles and Chanel at the V&A

UK textiles and fashion SMEs were in the spotlight as part of the new Coco Chanel exhibition 'Gabrielle Chanel. Fashion Manifesto' at the V&A Museum in South Kensington, London on 25 September.

The event highlighted the designer's British inspirations, including her adoption of UK-made textiles into her creations. Creators of the Exceptional was organised by the Department for Business and Trade (DBT), the V&A and UKFT.

UKFT's Paul Alger MBE took part in a panel discussion alongside Greg Rorison from Johnstons of Elgin, Mark Hogarth from Harris Tweed Hebrides and Sarah Thornley from Stephen Walters and Sudbury Silk Mills, chaired by Kirsty McGregor from Vogue Business.

The event was opened by Rupert Daniels from DBT and V&A Director Dr Tristram Hunt, while novelist and fashion writer Justine Picardie gave a speech and Lord Johnson, Minister for Investment at DBT, closed the evening.

Creators of the Exceptional featured a showcase of fabrics and finished garments from a wide range of UK textile mills and manufacturers including Moon, Harris Tweed, Johnstons of Elgin, Maison Henry Bertrand, Holland & Sherry, Araminta Campbell and Richard James.



Celebrating UK textiles and Chanel at the V&A, 2023



International Business

Royal Visits

Her Royal Highness has had successful visits to Huddersfield to the Textile Institute International Congress and to MAES London, where she visited one of UKFT's newer London-based manufacturers. HRH also attended the second Sustainability in Textiles event on 28th September.



King Charles and Queen Camilla also visited UKFT member Lochcarron of Scotland.



Sustainability & Innovation



Sustainability & Innovation

With a significant number of projects secured we have recruited two new team members Lizzy Dakin as Sustainability Manager and Lauren Junestrand as Innovation Network Manager. In addition Flor Canencia joined the team to run the ACT project and Sadikchya Singh has moved from an internship to a full time role as sustainability executive.

UKFT Member: Alex Begg X Co



Sustainability & Innovation


ACT Recycling Demonstrator

The £4m project to scope a technology driven solution to textile waste collection and sorting. After significant delays by the funder, the project finally received approval earlier in this month. A significant amount of preparation work has taken place and the actionable activity will start at the end of September.



SUSTAINABLE FASHION BRIEFING August 2023

COMMENT



Add a little bit of body text

M&S is a partner in the ACT UK project, which aims to automate textile waste sorting systems.


How the UK is paving the way for a more circular fashion industry

Adam Mansell of the UK Fashion & Textile Association looks at how a government-funded collaboration is aiming to dramatically increase textile recycling

REUTERS/DAVID J. PHILLIPS

SUSTAINABLE FASHION BRIEFING August 2023

COMMENT



REUTERS/DAVID J. PHILLIPS

'Comment: How the UK is paving the way for a more circular fashion industry' article on Reuters

Sustainability & Innovation

EPR Sandbox

A government funded, UKFT chaired project, supported by large retail, to model the use of eco modulation and large data sets to incentivise 'good' behaviour in a potential UK textile EPR.

Circular Fashion Innovation Network

A £1.8 million, government funded programme co-chaired by BFC and UKFT to develop an industrial change programme to shift the sector to a more circular business model. Launched in September. As well as co-chairing UKFT are leading the manufacturing and recycling pillars.

Network+

Three, £2 million university consortiums

Back to Baselines – led by the University of Leeds – will establish research-validated baselines to analyse the current status of sustainability practices in the industry

Future Fibres Network – led by the University of Exeter - will embed environmental sciences and establish systematic, circular and sustainable principles as the industry norm.

Impact+ Network – led by Northumbria University – will improve the collation, analysis and assessment of data to advance the reliability and authenticity of environmental impact measures.

UKFT are supporting the Leeds and Exeter led programmes and are helping co-ordinate the links to the CFIN programme and the ACT Recycling demonstrator.



CFIN Launch, September 2023

Sustainability & Innovation

Data Catapult

A UKFT supported programme looking at mapping data flows for textile waste. The project is progressing well.

Fashion Demonstrator

An AHRC funded programme run by Leeds University. UKFT have been commissioned to lead research in to how to bridge the gap between academia and industry and separately to map the teaching of sustainable activity across all vocational training and all undergraduate degree courses.

Huddersfield University

An EPSRC funded project on textile waste refinery for the production of recycled plastic, cellulose and dye with industry engagement being contracted to UKFT.



UKFT Member: English Fine Cotton



UKFT Futures: The Tailoring Academy



UKFT Member: Seahawk



UKFT Member: Nosakhari

Sustainability & Innovation

Sustainability Conference

The second UKFT Sustainability in UK manufacturing conference, supported by the textile livery group, took place on 28th September. The theme for the event was Sustainability in Action - solutions, lessons and definitions

Supported by HRH, the day offered guidance and advice on how to improve performance, measure and monitor progress, and communicate environmental credentials. The conference gave a clearer overview of the relevant environmental merits (or otherwise) of various fibres and certification schemes and an outline of the current landscape for sustainability legislation. The Conference featured a key note from Marks and Spencer.



UKFT Sustainability Conference, 2023

UKFT Sustainability 101 series launch

With learnings from the first Sustainability Conference and feedback from the Sustainability Survey, UKFT launched its Sustainability 101 publication series at this year's Sustainability Conference. The first edition is our Guide to Sustainability Standards and Certification and will be followed by further guides on effectively communicating your green claims; environmental audits; emissions reporting; and EU regulations and environmental labelling.

SUSTAINABILITY
101 

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