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ukft<sup>®</sup>

## **What we've been doing on your behalf**

UKFT Q3 2025

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[www.ukft.org](http://www.ukft.org)



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Cover image: Pattern Perception by Lily Dixon



# A letter from Adam Mansell, CEO

This quarter, UKFT has continued to deliver a wide programme of work across membership, policy, skills, sustainability, compliance and international trade, despite a highly challenging external environment. We have seen encouraging growth in new member recruitment, strong engagement across events and resources, and deepening collaboration with government and global partners.

## Voice and advocacy:

Our policy engagement remains active and influential. We have worked closely with ministers and officials on:

- Trade: Securing support for SMEs and inputting on the India FTA, US tariffs and EU trade issues.
- Skills: Warning of apprenticeship funding risks and proposing system reforms.
- Sustainability: Shaping DEFRA's decarbonisation strategy, advocating for a UK textiles EPR, and influencing Climate Change Levy targets.
- Procurement: Supporting members in defence and technical textiles through a new working group and participation in DSEI.
- Through Euratex and the American Apparel & Footwear Association, we continue to shape global regulatory and trade frameworks, ensuring the UK's voice is heard internationally.

## Membership and engagement:

We are delighted that our membership continues to grow, welcoming new members this quarter particularly in retail, innovation and recycling/reuse. Engagement levels remain high, with 36 member spotlights, more than 35 company visits, and 10 webinars covering topics from EPR and ESPR to brand development and market access. We published 11 new member resources, launched the Marketing Mornings series for small teams, and continued to provide trend insights through Peclers Paris.

## International business:

Our international focus has delivered strong results. With the Department for Business and Trade and support from the Clothworkers' Company, UKFT stands at Intertextile Shanghai generated significant interest, while our Discover British Brands in Paris initiative will showcase 120 UK labels at Paris Fashion Week. We are providing detailed guidance on US tariff and De Minimis changes and supporting members in navigating challenging market conditions.



UKFT team visit LaundRe



UKFT team visit Johnstons of Elgin





UKFT team at Milano Unica



Supporting UK brands at Paris Fashion Week

#### **Compliance:**

Compliance remains a growing priority. This quarter saw record attendance at Compliance 101 webinars, new resources on labelling and testing, and direct member support that has helped businesses avoid unnecessary costs. Looking ahead, we are preparing members for major regulatory changes including the Product Regulation and Metrology Act (PRAM), EU labelling reforms, and Digital Product Passports.

#### **Skills and training:**

We have secured key qualifications and launched new routes for progression. The Production Sewing Machinist programme continues to expand, with 139 enrolments and 72 certifications to date. Three new SVQs have been accredited in Scotland, and we are developing new CPD, degree and postgraduate opportunities, alongside live job initiatives to strengthen the talent pipeline.

#### **Sustainability and innovation:**

Sustainability remains at the core of our strategy. In Q3 we launched Innovation Membership, hosted Sustainability 101 sessions, supported due diligence initiatives and advanced research on textile flows and compliance systems. A biotech innovation workshop and active participation in global sustainability forums are helping position UKFT and its members at the forefront of responsible textile development.

This has been a productive quarter in difficult circumstances. Our advocacy is influencing policy on energy, trade and sustainability, while member engagement and international visibility continue to grow. As we move forward, UKFT will remain focused on delivering practical support, strategic influence and long-term resilience for our members and the wider UK fashion and textile industry.

Please keep sharing your successes and challenges with us. Your insight helps us champion members' interests, address shared issues and identify new opportunities. Together, we can achieve more.

Kind Regards

Adam Mansell, CEO of UKFT



UKFT member: SALTS Cashmere

# Membership



# Membership

We provide businesses from across the industry with knowledge and support that covers business essentials, sustainability, international business, skills, compliance, manufacturing and more.

As part of UKFT's broad and valuable network, members can make new connections, stay up-to-date with the latest industry insights, join exclusive events, and access benefits and services from our partners.

UKFT Membership offers opportunities to showcase your business, get involved in UKFT campaigns and activity, shape debates and influence key issues for the industry.

## IN Q3, NEW MEMBERS INCLUDE:

- Ann Summers
- De Mellier
- New Era
- Liberty London
- Wooltex UK
- Salvation Army Trading Company Limited
- CTR Asset Management
- Midland Wiper
- Beyond Retro
- Birl
- Tera Mira
- Big Creative Academy
- Royal College of Art

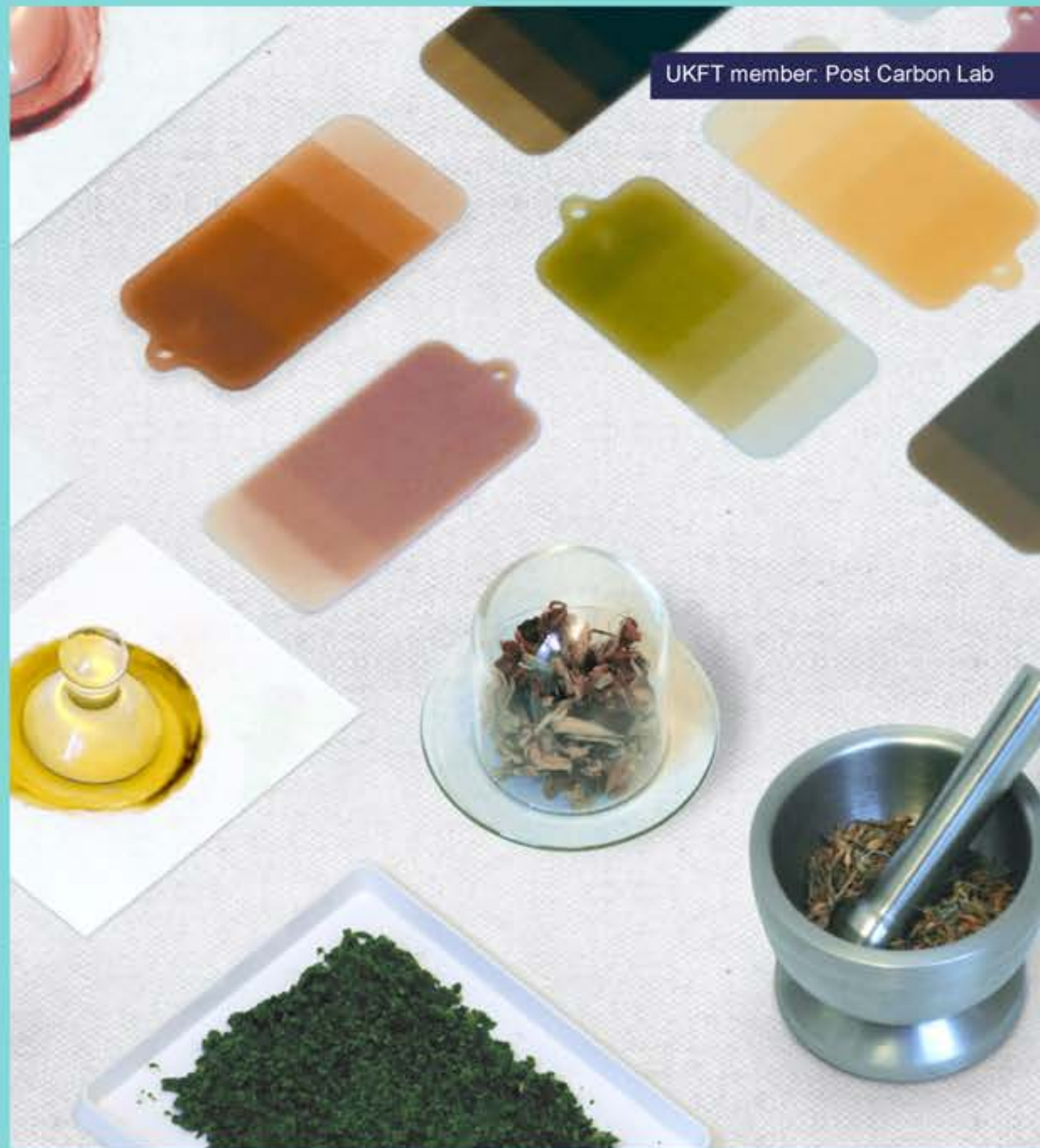
UKFT member: Tera Mira







UKFT member: Emiko Studios



UKFT member: Post Carbon Lab



# Membership

## MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

In Q3 2025, we...

- **Featured 36 member spotlights**, sharing their successes, stories and updates with our wide network
- **Visited more than 35 members** in their factories, studios, stores and offices.
- **Held 10 webinars** ranging from sustainability and compliance topics like Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) and the Digital Product Passports (DPP), Better Cotton in transition and GOTs demystified, through to creating memorable brand interactions and unlocking Vietnam.
- **Published 11 member resources** on topics ranging from grants and funding support, through to a code of conduct template guide to the UK-India Trade Agreement, flammability testing and a best practice guide to exporting used textiles.
- Offered members access to the latest colour and textile trend information from Peclers Paris
- **Launched Marketing Mornings with UKFT** as part of the Small Marketing Team Network - a 30-minute monthly online meet-up for members of small marketing teams (1–4 people). These relaxed sessions focus on collaboration and insight-sharing, including updates on marketing trends, market shifts, and new tools or tactics. The sessions in Q3 focused on how AI is transforming fashion and textile branding, workload and time management for small marketing teams, and writing a press release that will get noticed.
- **Shared a wide range of opportunities** for members, covering funding for craftspeople, EU support for fashion SMEs, an accelerator programme for biotech innovators and discounts/complimentary access to industry events.



UKFT member: Reskinned



UKFT member: au CONCOURS



# Voice of the Industry



Royal visit to Pincroft, September 2025



# Voice of the Industry

As the voice of UK fashion and textiles, UKFT is committed to creating the best environment for our industry. We represent the entire fashion and textile supply chain, promoting our industry in the UK and overseas.

We demonstrate the strategic and economic value of our vibrant industry to government and policymakers, ensuring the key issues are on the agenda. We champion our diverse and valuable industry through campaigns and key activities.

Engagement with the Government remains high and UKFT is frequently contacted by officials. However, it is a very challenging time. Despite publishing several strategies there is very little detail coming out of government and that combined with the state of the public finances means that currently there is virtually no meaningful government support for the sector.

Following the recent cabinet reshuffle we have written to the Peter Kyle, new Secretary of State for Business and Trade, highlighting the need for meaningful support for the UK fashion and textile sector including the need to help exporters both financially and with better support from UK embassies and consulate. We have written to the new DEFRA Secretary of State, Emma Reynolds, to reiterate the association's strong support for the implementation of a textiles EPR in this parliament.

UKFT welcomes the transfer of responsibility for work-based learning from DfE to DWP and we have written to Pat McFadden in his new role at the DWP raising our significant concerns with the current skills system together with detailed proposals for change.

The government released its Small Business Strategy in July which was very light on specifics, and it was extremely disappointing that the expected decision on the future of export support for SMEs had been delayed. The government has also released their Defence Industrial Strategy with the stated aim to use defence spending as an engine for economic growth. UKFT, together with DBT, has already convened a group of technical textiles companies that produce products for the military, and we are exploring ways in which we can push government to use MOD procurement to support UK textile manufacturing. We have visited the defence trade show DSEI, to support UK companies with potential defence procurement opportunities.





# Voice of the Industry

Over the past quarter, UKFT has responded to several government consultations including on changes to public procurement and on proposed changes to the assessments within the apprenticeship system. Previously, UKFT also fed into the Scottish Government's proposal for a new Tertiary Education and Training Bill, and our position was reported in the Scottish Parliament's recently published review of the draft Bill. UKFT will also be responding to the newly announced Intellectual Property Office consultation on modernising Britain's design protection system.

We have had held specific meetings with DBT on the problem of regulation 'overload' and the growing problem of 'double' regulation with companies having to meet both UK and EU requirements. We attended a Trade and Forced Labour Roundtable with the UK government in preparation for the development of new policy in this space.

We have had heavy and in-depth engagement with the UK government and Euratex on issues around US De Minimis and IEEPA regime. In July the government finally published full details of the India FTA including the chapters on Rules of Origin (RoO). UKFT worked hard to convince HMG of the need for RoO that benefitted UK manufacturing and while the RoO reflect what we pushed for, the broader context of the Indian FTA means that it will be of much greater advantage to Indian importers than it will to UK exporters. The government

also published its Trade Strategy in July, but the strategy was limited in detail with no coverage of export support for businesses or any concrete proposal for better trade with the EU. We have also now issued a formal warning to the government about the dangers of its continued practice of offering Digital Product Passport solution providers a platform to sell their platforms before the delegated regulation has been published and any requirements known.

UKFT has continued to push DEFRA to adopt a textile EPR and in August UKFT, BFC, BRC and WRAP agreed a joint position paper that was submitted to DEFRA. The first reports from DEFRA's Circular Economy Taskforce is expected in the Autumn. Separately, DEFRA is developing a decarbonisation strategy for all industry and UKFT is convening a round table between UK manufacturers and DEFRA officials to ensure the sector's view are heard at an early stage in the development of the strategy.

With the announcement that the budget will be held on 26 November, UKFT will be submitting its proposals to HMT. This will focus on the need for export support, capital support for manufactures, the need for a change in procurement rules, better industry focused R&D support and the establishment of a new VATRES scheme. However, with the current state of public finances we don't expect that there will be much in the way of business support.

UKFT is a very active member of Euratex, the European Apparel and Textile Federation and use this channel to help shape the development of legislation in the EU. This quarter has seen UKFT take a leading role in shaping the European industries response to a raft of environmental and regulatory challenges. UKFT also maintains a close connection with the America Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA), with both organisations sharing insights and foresights on legislative challenges.



# Voice of the Industry

## HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal has served as President of UKFT for 40 years and continues to be a passionate advocate for the UK's fashion and textile sector. Her longstanding commitment celebrates the innovation, creativity and craftsmanship that define British manufacturing. Each year, The Princess Royal visits UKFT member companies across the country, recognising the skill and dedication driving the industry forward. This quarter, she met teams at Fermoie in Marlborough, Pincroft in Lancashire, and Edge o' Beyond in South Wales. These three businesses represent the diversity and excellence of UK production.

At **Fermoie**, The Princess Royal observed the in-house design and printing process behind the company's fine fabrics, wallpapers, lampshades and accessories. Founded in 2010 by Farrow & Ball's Tom Helme and Martin Ephson, Fermoie is renowned for its hand-drawn designs, proprietary colour mixing and commitment to sustainability. The company's philosophy rejects "throwaway culture," focusing instead on timeless design and environmentally conscious materials, including linen woven from locally sourced flax and recycled indoor-outdoor fabrics made in Lancashire. Employing more than 50 people, Fermoie combines artistry with responsible manufacturing, an approach that recently earned it the King's Award for Enterprise (International Trade).



In **South Wales**, Her Royal Highness visited **Edge o' Beyond**, a luxury lingerie brand celebrated for its distinctive designs and dedication to British craftsmanship. Founded by Creative Director Naomi De Haan, the brand combines fine lingerie with delicate jewellery detailing, all produced in its Welsh atelier. The visit marked Edge o' Beyond's 11th anniversary and recognised its contribution to reviving garment manufacturing in the UK. The Princess Royal met the team behind the brand's cutting, sewing and product development, highlighting the exceptional skills of its makers and the growing importance of sustainable, local production.

She also visited Pincroft Dyeing and Printing in Adlington, Lancashire, a company with over 130 years of expertise in textile finishing. Pincroft is a global leader in camouflage printing, flame-retardant finishing and military fabrics, exporting to more than 80 countries. The Princess Royal toured its £1.5 million investment in new rotary printing and laser engraving technology, underscoring the company's role in advancing high-performance textile innovation.

Together, these visits reflect The Princess Royal's continued support for the UKFT's mission: to champion British manufacturing, celebrate skill and creativity, and drive sustainable growth across the UK fashion and textile industry.





# Voice of the Industry

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*It was an immense honour to welcome Her Royal Highness to our atelier. Her deep understanding of the fashion and textile industry and her genuine curiosity were inspiring for our whole team. This visit recognised the exceptional skills of our technicians and celebrated the importance of keeping British lingerie craftsmanship alive*

- Edge o' Beyond Founder and Creative Director Naomi De Haan said



“

*It was an honour to welcome Her Royal Highness to Fermoie and share with her the artistry, creativity and technical expertise behind every one of our designs. We are immensely proud of our team, whose skill and dedication bring our hand-drawn artwork, distinctive colours and beautiful fabrics – and now wallpapers – to life. Manufactured entirely in-house here in the UK, our collections have found an enthusiastic audience around the world. We are also grateful to UKFT for their invaluable support in making this memorable visit possible.*

- Martin Ephson, Co-Founder of Fermoie, said



“

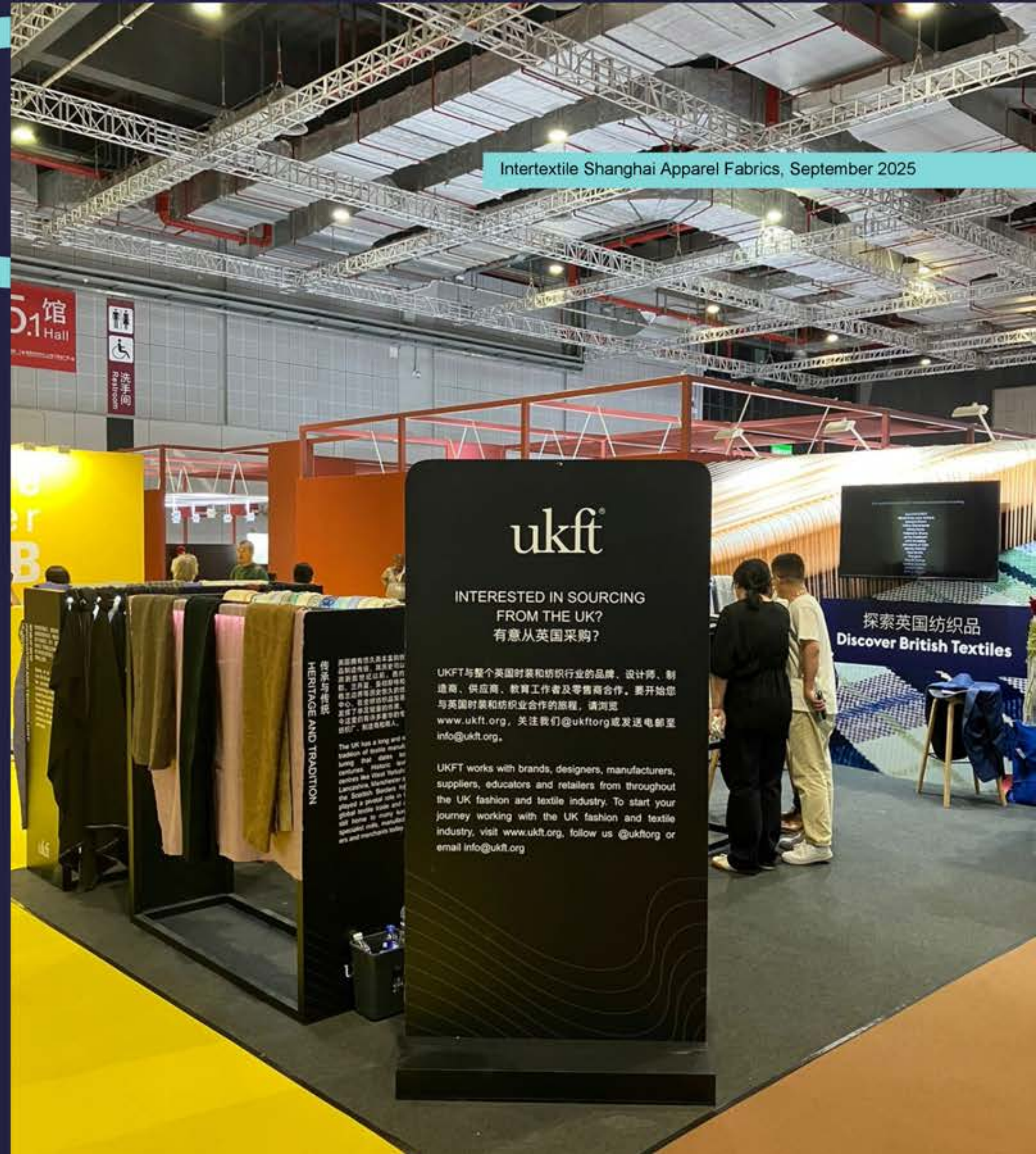
*We were privileged to host Her Royal Highness at our factory and to showcase our latest investment in advanced camouflage printing. This moment highlights the commitment of our people, whose expertise sustains more than 130 years of textile innovation and heritage*

- John Vareldzis, Group CEO of Pincroft, said



# International Business

Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics, September 2025



ukft®

INTERESTED IN SOURCING  
FROM THE UK?  
有意从英国采购?

UKFT与整个英国时装和纺织行业的品牌、设计师、制造商、供应商、教育工作者及零售商合作。要开始您与英国时装和纺织业合作的旅程，请浏览 [www.ukft.org](http://www.ukft.org)，关注我们@ukftorg或发送电邮至 [info@ukft.org](mailto:info@ukft.org)。

UKFT works with brands, designers, manufacturers, suppliers, educators and retailers from throughout the UK fashion and textile industry. To start your journey working with the UK fashion and textile industry, visit [www.ukft.org](http://www.ukft.org), follow us @ukftorg or email [info@ukft.org](mailto:info@ukft.org)

英国拥有悠久且丰富的纺织传统，从羊毛和棉到最新的科技纤维，我们拥有世界级的设计、生产和制造能力。作为全球领先的纺织创新中心，我们提供从原材料到成品服装的全方位服务。今天，我们正寻求更多的合作伙伴，共同推动行业发展。

HERITAGE AND TRADITION

The UK has a long and a tradition of textile manufacturing that dates back centuries. From wool and cotton to the latest in textile technology, we have world-class design, production and manufacturing capabilities. As a global leader in textile innovation, we provide a full range of services from raw materials to finished garments. Today, we are seeking more partners to help drive the industry forward.

探索英国纺织品  
Discover British Textiles



# International Business

UK fashion and textiles have a global reputation for quality, creativity and innovation. Through our international trade campaigns, we showcase and promote the UK fashion and textile industry at events around the world.

Our tailored international business support helps UK companies to navigate changing markets, understand complex global trading arrangements and comply with international regulations.

We have confirmed a supported programme with the Department for Business and Trade to cover a limited number of key events between September 2025 and March 2026. With the exception of Milano Unica in January 2026, these will all be fashion-based events as this is the area of key interest for government. For all other activity we have secured funding from the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers to take UK textiles to new markets.

Our activities for textiles in New York, Shanghai and Paris have all been very well received, with a very impressive stand in Shanghai generating increased interest from buyers.

Looking ahead to the rest of the year we are working with a number of governments around the world to broaden our sourcing activity looking potentially at countries like Ethiopia, Morocco and Egypt. Paris Fashion Week in October will feature 120 UK brands.

A number of UKFT members recently took part in a DBT mission to Japan and almost half of the fashion companies were UKFT members including Sabina Savage, Oubas Knitwear, Kate Sheridan and Harris Tweed Hebrides. UKFT assisted both the group and individual member companies.

## MEMBER SUPPORT

There have been key issues for members around the end of the US De Minimis Rules and the new US Additional Tariffs. We have been providing constant updates to members on these developments as well as informing government of their impact on UK business. Subsequently we have had requests to explain how these changes impact members on a one-to-one basis.

The De Minimis change has been expected for years and impacts businesses selling to the US on a B2B and B2C basis resulting in many members having to substantially reevaluate how they ship to the US. These conversations will be ongoing this year and well into next.

The impact of the United States's new IEEPA additional tariffs has caused confusion in the industry. We have now clarified what these arrangements mean for UK businesses depending on where they are manufacturing and are helping members understand how US customs apply these new rules for their products.

This quarter we have

- Updated the UKFT EU-US trade agreement guidance
- Published the US e-Filing Guide for members exporting to the US after July 2026
- Prepared a UKFT UK-India Trade Agreement Guide
- Published a UKFT Guide to the end of the US De Minimis Rule

UKFT has continued to develop and nurture relationships with in-post trade advisers at different UK Embassies and Consulates in key markets including Ho Chi Minh City, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tokyo, Paris, Milan, Madrid, Warsaw and Prague.



# International Business

## GENERAL EXPORT TRENDS

Business is exceptionally tough in most parts of the industry, made worse by the US's IEEPA tariffs and additional customs documentation required to export to the US. Companies are asking for help to re-access the EU market, but the pre-existing Brexit challenges remain. New markets are scarce, but we are seeing good business still in Korea and increased optimism in Japan although this is not across the board. Some of our members are looking at the Middle East and we have made some connections in this area. Exports to China remain very difficult.



## SUCCESSES THIS SEASON FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

One designer brand joined as a member earlier this year and had an incomplete collection and no wholesale sales. Following our advice the collection has become amplified with a strong Made in UK story. We made a personal introduction to a showroom in Paris which agreed to take the collection on as an agent. As a result, the company now has six new customers in Japan and the rest of the world.

We introduced another brand to the Spanish Embassy that resulted in the Queen of Spain wearing a dress from the collection to a high profile event, and also secured the introduction to a major Spanish retailer.

We provided a platform on our textile stand at different key events for members to use. As a result of this opportunity, one textile manufacturer has now contracted agents in Japan and China for the first time as they look to continue their international expansion.





# Compliance





# Compliance

We offer practical, business-focused support to help UK fashion and textile businesses navigate regulatory compliance across global markets. Our team works to ensure businesses are informed, prepared, and aligned with current and upcoming legislation affecting the UK and international fashion and textile industry. We engage with policymakers in the UK government and in the EU Commission through our active participation in Euratex, ensuring members are kept up to date with developments across Europe. The Compliance team provide support and advice across a large portfolio of compliance and regulatory issues. The team is extremely busy and receive multiple queries every day.

## Labelling compliance:

- We held a Compliance 101 GINETEX and Global Care Labelling webinar in August covering general and product specific labelling requirements accompanied by numerous new or updated resources. (More than 100 companies attended).
- Providing the Secretariat for BSI TCI/82 which is the committee that manages standardisation of textile care labelling, retail cleaning and domestic laundering.
- Developing closer links with UK Trading Standards regarding misleading/false fibre composition labelling.

## Regulatory compliance:

- We held a Compliance 101 Global Regulatory Overview webinar in July covering global regulatory updates.
- Spoke at the American Apparel & Footwear Association Traceability & Sustainability Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The talk generated multiple UKFT prospects and engagement with US-based UKFT members.
- Published the UKFT Guide to Certificates of Conformity for the US (to support with US e-Filing) and the Middle East countries that require CoCs.
- Published the UKFT Guide to Flammability testing and requirements.

## EPR obligations:

- C101 webinar in June on Global textiles and packaging EPR schemes accompanied by new guides and resources to support with in-house compliance.
- Issued new guide for Packaging and Labelling members who are subject to B2B obligations under the UK Packaging EPR scheme.

## MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

### In Q3, we:

- Provided support to a Retail Partner prior to entering a contract with a DPP solution provider helping prevent the business spending in excess of £80,000 in premature compliance.
- Provided detailed guidance on proposed EU legislation to a very large member to re-divert efforts on current regulatory obligations to reduce unnecessary compliance/workload.
- Provided support to a Very Large Member to re-divert compliance efforts to the EUDR based on scope of the regulation saving the business time and cost.
- Provided detailed labelling and regulatory guidance for B2B a Textiles Member reducing panic surrounding labelling obligations.
- Provided detailed policy insights to international Retail Partner on misinformation surrounding the postponement of the EU TLR.
- Provided guidance to Retail Partner on preferential tariffs within various trade agreements supporting the business in reducing duty payments.



# Skills & Training





# Skills & Training

As the Government appointed Sector Skills Body (SSB) for fashion and textiles, UKFT works to address critical skills gaps and develop industry-led solutions. We help to elevate the skills of the UK fashion and textile industry to maintain its competitive position globally.

We bring together education and industry to respond to current and future workforce requirements. We develop new vocational and academic routes that meet the needs of business and promote careers and opportunities to the next generation.

We help fashion and textile businesses to attract, train and retain the best.

## SECTOR SKILLS BODY OVERVIEW

### England, N. Ireland, and Wales:

Following significant lobbying UKFT secured the continued provision of the SEG Awards fashion and textiles vocational portfolio (14 qualifications). These qualifications are fundamental to training in England and without them the Apprenticeship Frameworks in N. Ireland and Wales would have collapsed.

### Scotland:

Development work with both Skills Development Scotland and Scottish Qualification Association completed. Leading to the accreditation of three new Scottish Vocational Qualifications.

### UKFT Approved - Our quality assurance mark for skills provision:

In response to sector demand, we have extended the **UKFT Approved scheme** to cover CPD courses. The extended scheme went live from 1 September.





# Skills & Training

## Education Partner Support:

- The report on the limitations of the current methodology for reporting Graduate Outcomes has been completed and the report will be submitted to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Office for National Statistics (ONS) with working group recommendations.
- Supported Glasgow Clyde, ACS Clothing and Johnstons of Elgin in preparation to deliver the new BIIAB Award in Fashion and Textiles (Sewing and Textiles) at SCQF Level 4 in Scotland.
- Presented on the Level 5 Bespoke Cutting & Tailoring Apprenticeship webinar supporting HTCoE and The Tailoring Academy.

## PROJECT UPDATES

### Production Sewing Machinist (PSM) Programme:

PSM is an online programme developed by UKFT, which covers everything from industrial sewing techniques and best- practices, essential knowledge on quality, costs, efficiency, materials and machines, health and safety, working relationships and employability skills. Designed to be flexible, the programme allows learners to fit the training around busy schedules as all courses are pre-recorded.

We have now had **139 enrolments**, **72 full programme certifications** and an additional **104 individual course certifications**, and **22 tutors** trained and received instructor certificates since the launch.

- The programme content has now been completed updated and consists of 8 courses, 57 lessons and over 400 knowledge/skills challenges. The new programme will be launched in Spring 2026.

Members are using the programme to train new starters, HM Prison Service have reported increased recruitment into their textile workshops and we have seen an increase in independent online learners, demonstrating the training of potential new recruits.

Each PSM course is evaluated by learners. Feedback is **95% positive**.

“

*Step by step instructions were detailed to an excellent level*

“

*Course structure is excellent, informative and easy to follow*



# Skills & Training

## UKFT FUTURES

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 and job fairs across the UK.



Edinburgh Careers Fair, September 2025

### Job Fairs:

During Q3, we attended job fairs in Leicester & Darlington engaging with 190 jobseekers and raising the profile of the sector in the Northeast with connections to potential members.

### Careers Events:

We attended the National Apprenticeship & Education event in Edinburgh with 3 Education Partners engaging with 150+ young people. We raised awareness of apprenticeships & Further Education routes and Glasgow Clyde College engaged with feeder schools they had not met before.

We will be attending further career and job fairs events throughout 2025 and 2026.

We have launched a live **jobs board** on the UKFT Futures website to support recruitment in the sector.



# Skills & Training

## MA FASHION MANUFACTURING COURSE

UKFT has completed the work to support the University of Westminster in the development of a MA Fashion Manufacturing course. The course starts in September 2025 with a cohort of 10 students.



## BURSARY SCHEMES

UKFT now has an annual £250,000 bursary programme to support new people into the industry or those taking their first steps in careers. The programme includes

### 1. Leeds University BSc in Textile Sustainability & Innovation

Through the generous support of several Livery companies we will be providing financial support for 14 students on the course.

### 2. Weavers X UKFT Bursary

We have provided 5 paid internships for students working at:

- Chinti & Parker.
- Dash & Miller.
- Barbour.
- Oxfam.
- Margo Selby.

## 3. MADE IT

This is the final year of the current scheme and we have provided paid placements for 10 students at -

- Barrie Knitwear.
- Suzie Turner Couture.
- KC Manufacturing.
- Barbour.
- Knitster London.
- E.L.V Denim.
- The London Embroidery studio.
- Standing Ground.
- Carl Stuart Tailors.



# Innovation & Sustainability



# Innovation & Sustainability

The sustainability and innovation team provide crucial support for members trying to navigate the ever-changing sustainability landscape. In a recent industry survey 76% of respondents said their number one source of information on sustainability was UKFT.

UKFT also continues to lead or participate in a wide range of research projects on sustainability.

## MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

In Q3, we...

- Launched Innovation Membership, engaging with a wide range of textile and fashion innovators.
- Delivered four Sustainability 101 webinars to support members with pressing issues including decarbonisation, GHG accounting, B Corp accreditation, and the transition to Better Cotton.
- Finalised and currently piloting a new CPD course with members, designed to upskill the industry on sustainability and innovation.
- Launched UKFT's second Sustainability Survey to gather insights that will inform advocacy, policy, and future support for the sector.
- Held sustainability clinics and strategy sessions, offering tailored 1:1 guidance for members. Members to get in touch if they want one.
- Published a UKFT Code of Conduct Template to support responsible supply chains.
- Collaborating with industry partners to deliver industry stakeholder asks around responsible supply chains, collaborating with British Standards Institute and Kings Business School on Learning Labs around modern slavery, supply chain due diligence and ethical practices for F&T businesses.

UKFT member: Gooddrop





# Innovation & Sustainability

## SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS AND RESEARCH

- **Non-clothing material flows (University of Leeds):** finalised Phase I of the project and published the report 'Mapping non-fashion textile flows: Advancing a Circular Textile Economy in the UK'.
- Published the **National Textile Recycling Infrastructure Plan for the UK**.
- **Navigating Environmental Impacts (RCA x Northumbria):** Exploring how fashion and textile businesses measure environmental impacts, with member workshops planned for November.
- **Legi-Standards I–III (Manchester Metropolitan University):** Finalised Phase 3, piloting the Compliance Navigator tool with 20 industry partners, designed to help SMEs meet compliance requirements efficiently. We will also be holding a webinar in October looking at progress of the projects and discussing the navigator tool.
- **Post-consumer textile mapping (ReLondon x University of Leeds):** finalised data collection and analysis, with a focus now on writing project results and dissemination with both academia and industry.
- Contributed to four Horizon project submissions with key UK and EU academic/industry stakeholders, strengthening innovation and funding opportunities for members in the areas of: product environmental footprint and local for local innovation.

## EVENTS AND KNOWLEDGE-SHARING

- Hosted a biotech innovation workshop with IBioIC at the University of Strathclyde, connecting manufacturers, brands, and designers with biotech solution providers.
- Participation in 'Moving the Needle: Sustainable Fashion and Textile Symposium' in Lahore, organised by the British Council. Delivered a Panel on UK Innovation Ecosystem, a workshop on textile waste and participated in a roundtable with Pakistan academic institutions on driving sustainability.
- Attendance of Ecosystex Conference for knowledge-exchange and networking with strategic EU research partners.



Non-clothing material flows report





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