

# THE TEXTILE MAGAZINE

ASIA'S LEADING TEXTILE INDUSTRY MAGAZINE

DAILY NEWS UPDATES FROM THE WORLD OF TEXTILES



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## Sorting for circularity: Fashion For Good launches new project to drive textile recycling

The amount of discarded textiles is increasing annually, with projections of further acceleration. Although some of this waste is reused, a significant proportion is diverted for recycling. To create the necessary infrastructure to effectively recycle these textiles, an understanding of their material composition is needed. The current textile sorting system, which relies heavily on manual input, cannot provide accurate insights given often unreliable and absent clothing labels.

Fashion for Good has launched the **Sorting for Circularity Project** to address this challenge on a scale greater than ever before. Bringing together key brands and industry leaders from across Europe, the project will conduct a comprehensive textile waste analysis using more accurate, innovative Near Infrared (NIR) technology, while also mapping textile recycler's capabilities. This research will lead to an open digital platform to match textile waste from sorters with recyclers, enabling their alignment and building an infrastructure towards greater circularity.

The Project is driven catalytic funding provided by Laudes Foundation and facilitated by brand partners, adidas, BESTSELLER, and Zalando, as well as Inditex as an external partner. Fashion for Good partners Arvind Limited, Birla Cellulose, Levi Strauss & Co., Otto and PVH Corp. are participating as part of the wider working group.

The project brings together the largest industrial textile sorters in the North-West European region; including the Boer Group, I:CO (a part of SOEX Group), JMP Wilcox and TEXAID, placing key industry players firmly at the heart of the project and driving the industry towards greater circularity. Aligning the Sorting for Circularity Project with their own study in France ensures methodologies and findings can be standardised, compared and implemented on a larger scale.



**The aim of the 18 month project is to create a greater link between textile sorters and textile recyclers; stimulating a recycling market for unwanted textiles that can generate new revenue streams for sorters. To achieve a circular system, a new end-market for non-reusable textile is required, with an infrastructure and digital matching system that can support its activities.**

- *Katrin Ley, Managing Director, Fashion for Good*

## Techtextil India : First hybrid edition moves to November 2021

India's leading trade fair in technical textiles, nonwovens and composites, originally scheduled in September 2021, has now been postponed to 25 – 27 November 2021. On account of the developments around the current Covid-19 situation and its relative impact on the safety, well-being and continuance of business, Messe Frankfurt India has taken this decision in consultation with industry stakeholders.

Even as companies look forward to economic revival, the continued difficulties posed by the pandemic makes it necessary for industries to recover, plan and prepare before they can get down to business. The organisers feel that moving the show ahead will allow this additional time and is a necessary step that will in-turn create a healthy business environment when the industry can finally come together.

### Technical Textile sector remains future focused

Proving its growing importance in these critical times, technical textiles emerged as a power sector with advanced solutions in protective textiles, antiviral and air-purifying furnishing fabrics and home textile products, anti-microbial coating among others.

During the critical stages of lockdown when global trade came to a grinding halt, the medical textile industry proved its resilience in meeting demand for protective textiles while also providing a much-needed boost to the economy.

From being a primary importer of PPE kits to becoming its "second largest producer" in just two months, India had exported over 20 million PPE kits and more than 40 million N-95 respirators around the globe including countries such as the US, the UK, the UAE, Slovenia and Senegal, by the end of 2020.

Mr Raj Manek, Executive Director and Board Member, Messe Frankfurt Asia Holdings Ltd said: "We are all committed to putting up a great show!" Elaborating on working together with venue and service providers to align safety measures, he further added: "Right now, our focus is on the well-being of our exhibitors, visitors, employees and all stakeholders and we pray for everyone to be safe and in good health. In the coming months, our efforts will be strongly focused on meeting the safety imperatives and working in co-operation with venue authorities and service providers to implement a comprehensive safety concept, aligned with government guidelines."

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