



WELCOME

DEAR TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM EXPERT,

We know that many of you are following the progress of the European Textile Technology Platform very closely, being actively involved in the work of specific expert groups, contributing to the TEP-PIES system or using our on-line communication platform www.textile-platform.eu regularly. We also know that it is not easy to keep up to date with all the many developments and related information being circulated sometimes on a weekly basis. We therefore conceived this newsletter, which we plan to publish on a regular basis and with which we would like to brief you in a very concise format of no more than 1 page of all major developments and news items of our technology platform. We hope this form of communication is appreciated and look forward to your feedback. Also in 2008 we will keep up our efforts to improve the innovation capacities and opportunities for Europe's textile and clothing industry and we hope to be able to count on your continued active participation and contributions.

Dick HENDRIKS

Chairman of the Governing Council

Lutz WALTER

Secretary of the Technology Platform



NEWS

- **TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM 3 YEARS OLD:** It has been 3 years since the Technology Platform has been launched on 15 December 2004 in the presence EU Research Commissioner Potočník in Brussels. Since then the platform has developed into an impressive European-wide network of 550 registered textile innovation experts from industry and academia in 23 European countries.
- **EU LAUNCHES LEAD MARKET FOR PROTECTIVE TEXTILES:** In early January the European Commission has launched its Lead Markets Initiative, selecting 6 pilot markets with interesting growth potential based on innovative products and services. We are happy to find protective textiles, the proposal from our Technology Platform, as one of the 6 selected markets and will work with the EC on an action plan for better regulation, more effective standardisation, innovation-oriented public procurement and more support for research, training and networking all geared towards stimulating innovation and market growth in protective textiles and clothing.
- **EU SELECTS 10 TEXTILE RESEARCH PROJECTS FOR FP7 FUNDING:** During 2007, the first year of the FP7 programme, the EC has selected 10 textile research projects for a total funding of close to € 35 million. These projects which cover fibre research, technical and smart textiles as well as mass customisation for clothing will all start in 2008. The Technology Platform played an important role in assuring the EU funds and bringing the project consortia together.
- **3RD TEPIES CALL FOR PROJECT IDEAS FOR FP7-2008:** In preparation of the second year of FP7 the Technology Platform using its TEPIES system has again collected more than 30 ideas for textile-related projects to be submitted to the EC in March 2008. Interested companies can contact the initiators of these ideas to investigate possible involvement in those projects.
- **HTG EDUCATION LAUNCHES INDUSTRY SURVEY ON HIGHER EDUCATION NEEDS:** This survey initiated by the Horizontal Task Group on Higher Education seeks to clarify the needs and recent experiences of textile/clothing companies across Europe in this domain. The objective is to initiate actions to improve the provision of a sufficient number of appropriately qualified graduates needed by the industry and to intensify industry-university collaboration.



EVENTS

- **3RD ANNUAL PUBLIC CONFERENCE 28-29 MAY 2008:** The 2008 edition of the **Annual Public Technology Platform Conference** is scheduled to take place on **28-29 May 2008 in Brussels**. The 1,5 day event will be devoted to Innovation in Mass Customisation of Clothing and Fashion. It will showcase results of EU projects and industry success stories in this domain.
- **NETFINTEX FINAL CONFERENCE & EU CONFERENCE ON TEXTILES:** Having investigated the Industry's experiences and needs in the field of Innovation Financing, the NetFinTex project showcases its final results together with some interesting success stories on 14th February in Milan, the day before the big EU conference on Textiles and Clothing organised by the European Commission, Euratex and SMI.



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