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### **RegioGreenTex: Techtera and two partner members of a European project for recycling textiles**

On February 21, 2023, forty-three **RegioGreenTex** project partners met in Brussels to launch the three-year project, which will **change the way we deal with textile recycling**.

RegioGreenTex is a partnership of four groups (industries, civil partnerships, governments, academic bodies). It brings together **partners from eleven European textile regions**. Heads of networks, enterprises, research organisations and regional representatives. All these bodies will work for **better recycling** and **stronger resilience of the European textile value chain**. The project will strengthen interregional cooperation, support employment and competitiveness within **European small/medium enterprises**. This will be achieved through investment and the **establishment of more virtuous production processes**; especially regarding waste recycling systems.

For Techtera, participation in RegioGreenTex is in line with action carried out by the cluster for a more circular, innovative and competitive textile industry. The project is also a continuation of the work done by Techtera at the European level, to **strengthen links between the main textile regions of the European Union** and joint initiatives carried out with other European textile centres and clusters.

It is also a way to support Techtera members directly:

- Two small/medium enterprise members of Techtera are project partners: [Rovitex](#) and [Recyc'Elit](#). They will contribute directly to the implementation of RegioGreenTex by setting up innovative systems linked to the recycling of textile waste.
- Techtera will lead a regional "Hub", including a set of activities that should lead to more investment, both private and public, in companies in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region working on textile recycling.

More generally, for the next three years, RegioGreenTex will be a major player in the implementation of the [European Union strategy for sustainable textiles](#).

Textile has been recognised as one of the principal industrial ecosystems of the European Union. This strategy has given a direction to follow for those involved in European, national and regional economic policies. RegioGreenTex responds to this strategy by offering a set of real tools for its implementation, with the creation of investments for small/medium

enterprises, co-financed by the project budget, and the establishment of services and interregional cooperation, which will generate more investment in the coming years.

RegioGreenTex is co-financed by the European Union, through programme I3 (Interregional Innovation Investments), which is part of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). It is coordinated by the European textile confederation EURATEX.

## FOCUS

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### Digital and ecological transition of the European textile industry: consult the study carried out by the EuroBoosTEX partnership

**Techtera is a partner of the European EuroBoosTEX project** alongside four other textile clusters, launched last September. Its aim is to **stimulate the environmental and digital transition of European textile small/medium enterprises**; and to **boost their competitiveness at the international level**.

An analysis of the textile sector carried out by EuroBoosTEX has made it possible to **identify the main trends** that will determine the future of the textile industry in the years to come.

#### The textile industry: a sector in full transformation

The textile sector is a **very large industry**, closely **interconnected** and directly linked to other sectors. In order to be relevant, the strategies now being considered must take into account the **entire value chain**.

The sector has undergone a series of **major transformations in recent decades**. This is due to a **combination of technological changes, increased demand for sustainable products and processes**, and the **growing emergence of international competition**.

**Numerous technologies to help this transition already exist** (artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, recycling and reuse of materials, etc. You will find them listed in detail in the study.

#### Support is necessary on certain key issues

Nevertheless, investments and support are needed to bring circularity and digitisation on an industrial scale into the European textile sector. The study highlights a strong need for enterprises to be **supported in this change**.

Among the determinants of productivity, there are important factors such as **technological innovation**; the **diffusion of new green technologies**; the **adoption of better management practices** and the **training of qualified human resources**.

However, it is more complicated for small/medium enterprises to carry out these activities independently. A **joint approach to the textile ecosystem** will facilitate adoption of the required measures, maximise potential collaboration and achieve better results.

Moreover, the adoption of rapid recovery measures must be carried out, in parallel and in addition, to the adoption of a long-term strategy.

#### Support from the EuroBoosTEX consortium

Thus, the consortium's support will make it possible to **channel investments in favour of innovation**, and **diversify top-quality/high-end solutions** through calls for projects and dedicated funding throughout the project.

EuroBoosTEX will support initiatives to implement a personalised transition strategy to: fill gaps and mismatches; train the workforce; develop new sustainable and technological applications. This will support the European textile industry in its double transition to green and digital.

**Contact:** Julie RAFTON-JOLIVET – [jrafton@techtera.org](mailto:jrafton@techtera.org)

## They are new members

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### PAG

Founded by four mountain professionals, **PAG** develops tomorrow's outdoor textile products and democratises technicality and quality for as many people as possible. But, without making compromises.

The aim is to offer the best of available textile technologies, in a 100% French design and manufacturing process. All with respect for people and their environment.

**Website:** <https://pag-nkw.com/>



### TESCA GROUP

As a textiles and seat components manufacturer for the automotive industry, the Tesca group demonstrates its expertise in comfort and materials around the world with agility through a long-term vision.

Innovation is in perpetual motion in the company: it encourages the emergence of new ideas and fosters its execution.

With special attention paid to the user in terms of comfort, new functionalities and safety, our research programs are oriented towards the key themes of the automotive industry: weight reduction, optimisation in the conception of our parts and the expertise of our ecological footprint.

The Group holds a significant number of patents in the conception, design and manufacturing of parts and seat components, such as headrests, armrests, seat upholstery, padding; likewise for the conception and manufacturing of textiles such as « smart textiles ».

**Website:** <https://www.tescagroup.com/>

# Your appointments with the cluster

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## **March 23-24, 2023: Closing conference of the CONTEXT network - FLORENCE – ITALY**

The “CONTEXT” European network concerning smart textiles brings together experts from 35 different countries, all associated with the world of **smart textiles, connected wearables and other applications**.

Supported by Europe for five years, the network has generated “States-of-the-Art”, exchanges, partnerships and projects - both academically and industrially.

The closing conference will be an opportunity to take stock of this action; to present demonstrators and continue to fuel discussions on the subject of smart textiles, in order to prepare future European projects.

**Contact** : Stéphane BONE – [sbone@techtera.org](mailto:sbone@techtera.org)

## **April 25-27, 2023: JEC WORD exhibition (Composites) - Parc des expositions PARIS NORD VILLEPINTE - FRANCE**

JEC WORLD is the international exhibition that brings together the **worldwide composites industry, offering users a complete overview of processes, new materials and dedicated systems**.

In 2019, this unique event drew more than 1,300 exhibitors and 43,500 visitors over the three days of the show; thus, giving exhibitors the opportunity to develop their network by showcasing their know-how to clients. Despite the pandemic, the event was able to be held in a hybrid format in 2022, and drew 32,000 visitors from 115 countries and 1,200 exhibitors including 26 international pavilions.

As part of the 2023 edition, the [Techtera](#), [Axelera](#), [Polyméris](#) and [CIMES](#) innovation clusters will support French companies **on a joint regional stand, under the “Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Composites” banner**.

*This action benefits from the help of Rhône-Alpes Region.*

**Contact**: Lucie MAZET-LAGARRIGUE – [llagarrigue@techtera.org](mailto:llagarrigue@techtera.org)

## **Mai 8-12, 2023: Techtexil North America & Technical textiles mission in United States - TEXGLOBAL – NORTH CAROLINA / GEORGIA – UNITED-STATES**

As part of the European **TEXGLOBAL** project, Techtera invites you to participate in a dedicated textile mission to the United States – from May 8 to 12, 2023.

It will take place between Raleigh (North Carolina) and Atlanta (Georgia) in order to offer you a wide panorama of a very dynamic region for the industry, both in terms of technology and market.

You will thus join a delegation of European textile companies and be able to discover, or deepen your knowledge of, the American market for technical textiles.

### **On the programme (being finalised):**

- Visit to **Techtextil North America** and B2B meetings on site: major event for the technical textiles and nonwovens industry. The show brings together all those involved in the value chain (R&D, production of raw materials and production process – right up to recycling).
- Site visits in Georgia and North Carolina: **Georgia Institute of Technology, NC Wilson College of Textiles, Clemson University** ...

**Contact** : Julie RAFTON-JOLIVET – [jrafton@techtera.org](mailto:jrafton@techtera.org)

### **Mai 15-19, 2023: Exploratory mission dedicated to composites based on recycled materials in Japan – REC-N-COMP – TOKYO / OSAKA - JAPAN**

As part of the European **REC-N-COMP** project, Techtera is organising an exploratory mission to Japan for companies active in the **sector of composites based on recycled materials, in particular textiles and sustainable composites** in general.

The programme will consist of **visits to partners and Japanese companies, over one week, between Tokyo and Osaka.**

The delegation will also visit the “Highly-functional Material Week” in Osaka. This meeting brings together several exhibitions, including the “Sustainable Materials Expo” devoted in particular to advanced recycled and biosourced materials, and “Plastic Japan” focused on plastics and composites.

The mission is open to member companies that are REC-N-COMP project partners, including Techtera.

**Contact**: Robin ODDON - [roddon@techtera.org](mailto:roddon@techtera.org)

### **Mai 29 to June 2, 2023: Security and Defence trade mission in Canada – EU-ALLIANCE - CANADA**

As part of the **EU-ALLIANCE** European project, Techtera supports its members of the textile industry for a Defence and Security mission in Canada.

The consortium will organise a webinar to present the programme of the mission and give you the keys to the understanding of the issues and opportunities of the Canadian market.

The mission’s planned programme includes an official reception, meetings with market experts, a matchmaking event, B2B meetings and pitches in front of contractors.

The aim of this European mission is to open as many doors as possible with institutions, contractors and manufacturers, in order to make relevant contacts and understand the organisation of the Indonesian security and defence market.

The objective of the EU-ALLIANCE project is to support the internationalisation of European SMEs in technical textiles, connectivity, advanced technologies and advanced materials. The project targets in particular the dual-use (civil and military) security and defence markets in four countries: the United States, Canada, Japan and Indonesia.

Programme co-financed by the European Union’s COSME programme.

**Contact** : Julie RAFTON-JOLIVET – [jrafton@techtera.org](mailto:jrafton@techtera.org)

## June 8-14, 2023: ITMA 2023 - Textile Technology Event - MILAN - ITALY

For the second time, Techtera will be a partner of ITMA, an event held every four years, dedicated to **machines and technologies for textiles and clothing**.

With a global audience welcoming key decision makers from the **world's largest textile and clothing producers and owners of major brands**, ITMA is the place to meet suppliers of textile technology systems and equipment. It is also the place to gather market intelligence and forge partnerships.

**Contact:** Robin ODDON – [roddon@techtera.org](mailto:roddon@techtera.org)

## June 26 – July 7, 2023: Fashion Retail Tour - JAPAN

Now that the frontiers have been reopened, the Fashion Retail Tour programme in Japan is making a comeback within Techtera's services.

The programme will take place over three days: from June 29 to July 1, 2023.

After this long period without travel, it is important to feed on new ideas by total immersion in other viewpoints. In our case, the viewpoint is "Retail", whose pioneers in terms of innovation are Japan and South Korea. The programme will allow participants to discover the technologies and new approaches implemented in the Japanese Retail sector.

Different types of visits will be organised; the aim being to provide a condensed and effective vision of the "Retail and Customer Experience" innovations coming from Japanese companies.

The Fashion Retail Tour will take place during the same week as another mission, organised by R3ilab on the theme of digitisation of the textile value chain in Korea. We work hand in hand with the organisation, to offer you a full week in Asia. Thanks to the complementarity of our programmes, you will first: learn about the process; and then have a real immersion concerning Retail.

**Contact:** Alec BILLON-BLOUIN – [dev@techtera.org](mailto:dev@techtera.org)

## Life of the members

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### Marck & Balsan have obtained GOTS and GRS certification

GOTS certification (Global Organic Textile Standard) allows the marketing of textiles containing fibres from organic farming.

The GRS label (Global Recycled Standard) guarantees the composition of a product derived from recycled materials.

These two certifications also ensure that the production processes comply with environmental and social criteria.

[Marck & Balsan](#) may now buy and resell GOTS or GRS certified products, thus guaranteeing its customers the traceability of the fibres used in its products.

Also, [Marck & Balsan](#) have won the call for tenders from the “Grand Ouest” Group, made up of thirteen French departments (counties), to supply clothing and accessories for firefighters:

- TSI (Service and Intervention Uniform) label: Civil Security for men and women
- Male and female everyday uniforms
- Headwear: kepis and tricorns
- Trimmings accessories and attributes

**Website:** <https://www.marcketbalsan.fr/>



### **A mask designed by SKYTED for people to make radio/phone calls in public without being heard!**

Skyted has designed an open-air mask that absorbs sound. Supported by AIRBUS and the European Space Agency, this start-up has produced a solution for silent in-flight calls.

Developed using state-of-the-art aerospace technology, the mask is soundproof for private and confidential calls in the real and virtual world. Perfectly suited for the hybrid workplace, Skyted offers “new travellers” comfort and privacy on aircraft, open workspaces and public transport, as well as in the virtual world through Metaverse and online games.

This mask has several advantages:

- 80% of voice vibration is absorbed
- External noise is not picked up by the internal microphone
- Compared with a COVID mask: the airflow can enter and exit the mask without constraint
- The product is made with biobased or recycled materials

This innovative solution will be launched in May.

**Website:** <https://skyted.io/>

# Calls for projects

## EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL CALLS FOR PROJECTS

LIFE Programm - *More information:* [here](#)

Horizon Europe - *More information:* [here](#)

European Defence Fund - *More information:* [here](#)

**Contacts:** [sbone@techtera.org](mailto:sbone@techtera.org) - [mperraud@techtera.org](mailto:mperraud@techtera.org) - [jjaupitre@techtera.org](mailto:jjaupitre@techtera.org) - [ichaouki@techtera.org](mailto:ichaouki@techtera.org)

## CART'TEX

**Call for applications for the CART'TEX chart (reserved for TECHTERA members)**

Textile companies wishing to join "CART'TEX", the chart of textile skills created by TECHTERA, can make themselves known to Issam CHAOUKI.

**The CART'TEX database is the daily tool of the cluster for managing the search for partners for all projects, and for the response to business opportunities.**

**Contact:** [ichaouki@techtera.org](mailto:ichaouki@techtera.org)

## Techtera

91 bis chemin des Mouilles – 69 130 ECULLY - FRANCE

Tel: +33 04 20 30 28 80 | Fax: +33 04 20 30 28 89

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



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