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A look back at Techtera's General Meeting: between reports and outlook

During this meeting, the innovation cluster took stock of phase IV, the results of which are convincing. Phase IV (2018-2022) represents 249 ideas considered, 57 innovation projects supported and financed, for a total amount of aid obtained of €65.9 million, of which 95.7% concerned collaborative projects, Techtera's core business. Significant member loyalty should be highlighted, with an average seniority of 5.8 years and a 51% growth in the number of members between 2019 and 2022.

Philippe Sanial took the opportunity to thank Louis Vovelle for his commitment to the cluster in recent years. The General Meeting also voted unanimously to appoint Louis Vovelle as Honorary Chairman of Techtera.

The innovation cluster also reviewed the 2022 figures. In 2022, the value chain in the textile sector included 269 members of Techtera. There were 230 companies, 30 laboratories, universities and technical centres. The year 2022 was also a record for the number of projects submitted and funded, with twenty-four R&D projects funded and labelled, representing €33 million. More than 40 projects were submitted, the results of which will be unveiled in 2023. The year 2022 was dedicated to Europe, with recognition at European level, thanks to the renewal of its Gold Label and Techtera's investment in European interclustering projects, including EuroBoosTEX, Caliméro and MC4. The initiatives proposed by the cluster were particularly effective, with the organisation of 9 Innovation Workshops, 21 Competitiveness Workshops and 58 Work Groups, set up to build R&D projects. The international aspect took the form of support for four exploratory missions and five international fairs.

Download the [annual report](#) retracing the highlights of 2022.

Techtera also presented the first results and actions during the first quarter of 2023 and its roadmap for the year.

FOCUS

Focus on European funding opportunities: “Cascade Funding”

Third-party financial support, also known as “Cascade Funding”, is a European Commission funding mechanism that grants certain European-backed projects to launch, which then could issue calls for additional funding. This support is currently implemented within the framework of the Euroclusters programme, which aims to contribute to the resilience and acceleration of the green and digital transition.

Six specific objectives have been put forward:


1. **Networking:** to improve the resilience of the European industrial ecosystem by developing the links and interactions of value chains in the European single market
2. **Innovation concerning strategic autonomy:** to improve the capabilities of critical technologies and requirements in the ecosystem
3. **The adoption of processes and technologies:** to reinforce the transformation towards a green and digital economy
4. **Training:** to improve and update workforce skills, and attract talent
5. **Internationalisation:** to improve global access to the value and supply chains
6. **Communication:** to attract those involved economically, especially small/medium enterprises outside the Eurocluster regions

There are many advantages to be derived from these strategies:


- **Lighter files:** on average 10 to 15 pages
- **Short projects:** between 6 and 18 months
- **Funding not taken into account in the “minimis” (*European funding*) rules**
- Evaluations managed by project teams and carried out by independent experts
- **Easier access** via local or national partners
- **More agile management** of European funds

Among the calls currently open, we find in particular:


[DREAM Eurocluster](#) - Innovation Open Call to financially support small and market-oriented projects involving SMEs

 Deadline: 25 May 2023


[Epicentre Eurocluster](#) - Call for proposals to support SMEs and Start-ups in the development of innovative solutions

 Deadline: 29 May 2023


[CirInWater](#) - Innovation lump sum to support SMEs in developing new products, services, or methods, addressing water challenges

 Deadline: 31 May 2023


[PIMAP4Sustainability](#) - Call for innovation funding for SMEs from the Photonics, Advanced Materials & Advanced Manufacturing value chains

 Deadline: 31 May 2023


[METASTARS](#) - Open calls for Innovation Projects in the Aerospace & Defence ecosystem

 Deadline: 6 June 2023


[xBUILD-EU](#) - Call for proposals for Innovate, Global & Digital and Green grants

 Deadline: 7 June 2023


[EuroBoostTEX](#) - 1st Call- Individual Innovate Boost Grant for textiles

 Deadline: 7 June 2023


[SILEO Eurocluster](#) - Open Call for Business Digital Transformation Projects

 Deadline: 20 June 2023

[RESIST Eurocluster](#) - Open-call to provide financial support to Automotive, Transport & Mobility SMEs, start-ups and/or mid-cap companies

 Deadline: 21 June 2023


[RE-CENTRE](#) - Call for innovation funding to financially support small cross-sectoral partnerships

 Deadline: 27 June 2023

[METASTARS](#) - Call for innovation services for SMEs from the Aeronautics, Space, Defence and ICT sectors

 Deadline: 31 December 2023

[Friend CCI](#) - Call for Expression of Interest for Service Providers

 Deadline: 6 August 20

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They are new members



BILLON

The company **D2P BILLON** becomes BILLON again, following the takeover by an investor attached to the local industrial fabric, with the creation of **two new knitting divisions**: BILLON Design and BILLON Technic. Certified **OEKO-TEX®**, BILLON is notable for its French know-how: ranging from the purchase of the yarn to finishing.

Specialising in the creation and manufacture of knit fabrics, **BILLON Design** is recognised worldwide for the creativity of its knits. From Polyamide/Lycra® Jacquards with yarn dyed stripes, to microfibre crochet and elastic lace: all fabrics are developed from a range of synthetic yarns and a range of Polyamide dyed yarns, specially designed for their appearance and feel.

BILLON Technic specialises in the study and design of high-performance fabrics for better protection. Thanks to innovative knitting and finishing technologies, Billon Technic offers a range of knits providing performance that meets strict standards regarding abrasion, fire resistance, breaking resistance, etc, for making personal protective equipment. These textile creations are developed for administrative markets (police, army, public service, firefighters), the aerospace industry, the automotive industry, and sport – thanks to the acquisition of machines for seamless knitting and footwear.

BILLON also has an entity, **BILLON Teinture**, specialising in the treatment of synthetic fibres, which complies with European standards, including the REACH standard.

Website: <https://billon.com/>



ReValorem

ReValorem is **involved in the recycling of unsold products from luxury brands**.

Since 2019, it has supported its clients in Europe and the United States **to innovate, recycle, and reintegrate raw materials derived from recycling into new products**.

A tailor-made process of identification, manual dismantling, characterisation and sorting, allows the preparation of recycled raw materials. ReValorem wishes to give a social dimension to its action for the environment and works with more than 70 employees in integration. Knowledge of materials and assembling ready-to-wear: shoes, leather goods, eyewear and perfume allows ReValorem to train and help its clients to develop recycled and recyclable products.

The ambition of the organisation is to be able **to sell its recycled raw materials in an open or closed local and sustainable ecosystem**; for controlled production where the environmental impact is as low as possible. At the same time, its knowledge of plastic

polymers, textile fibres, leather, metals, glass and wood, make its activity the most complete offer on the market.

Website: <https://www.revalorem.fr/>

Your appointments with the cluster

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.

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Mai 25 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.

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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.

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June 26 – July 1, 2023: Textile & Innovation Retail Tour – JAPAN - KOREA

From analysing the various stages of the value chain, including distribution and innovation, in terms of customer relations, **this programme is an immersion into the heart of some of the most innovative countries in the world: South Korea and Japan.**

Partners for many years, Techtera and **R3ilab** have decided to work together to offer two complementary programmes for one single mission. Participants will thus have the possibility of organising their trip as they wish: either by following the entire route or by choosing just one destination.

From June 26 to 28, **R3ilab** will be in charge of the mission to South Korea, focusing on the digitisation of the various stages of the textile-clothing value chain.

From June 29 to July 1, Techtera will be in charge of the mission to Japan, dedicated to retail and product innovation.

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October 10 -13, 2023: POLLUTEC Trade show (Solutions for environment) – LYON EUREXPO - FRANCE

Following the call for expressions of interest, two member companies from the network will be represented in the regional village: [Recyc'elit](#) and [Chomarac](#).

Techtera will also be present at the show to present its current projects on the Circular Economy and Industry of the Future axis. The exhibition will also be an opportunity for the Techtera network to organise conferences, in particular on the start-up [Recyc'elit](#), and on the [Calimero](#) project.

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October 24-27, 2023: A+A Trade show (PPE)– DÜSSELDORF – GERMANY

A+A is a major trade fair for the textile industry dedicated to protection, safety and health at work. The event takes place every two years and offers a comprehensive overview of processes and new materials in the field of PPE (personal protective equipment).

This event is the largest event for the promotion of know-how and the identification of prospects and future partners in a 70,000 m² exhibition area. At its last edition, it brought together more than 1,200 exhibitors from 56 countries.

Once again, Techtera will be present at the event to support firms, in partnership with [Business France](#).

This action benefits from the support of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region.

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Life of the members



Association of “Synergies TLC” and “Tissages de Charlieu” for the creation of “Nouvelles Fibres Textiles”

The Tissages de Charlieu and Synergies TLC are joining forces to create the first industrial pilot for automated sorting and unsmoothing by colour and composition of end-of-life clothing: “Nouvelles Fibres Textiles”.

An area of 2,500 m² is currently being developed to accommodate the first automated sorting and unsmoothing line – operational from autumn 2023.

Nouvelles Fibres Textiles is the first industrial infrastructure combining automated sorting technologies (Pellenc ST) with recycling technologies (Andritz Laroche). It will be able to sort clothes automatically by composition and colour and will also be able to remove hard points and pre-fray clothes. At the end of the line, Nouvelles Fibres Textiles will produce a secondary raw material designed for the fraying/spinning, nonwovens and composite materials industries.

Tissages de Charlieu and Synergies TLC will cooperate with Andritz and Pellenc ST, producers of industrial devices/machines, and with all clients, on “applied research work”. This is to obtain the best possible recovery of end-of-life textiles: locally, economically and humanely.

The results of this work will make it possible to lay the foundations for a second material preparation plant by 2025; with an annual capacity of 25,000 tonnes of post-consumer textiles.

Websites: <https://tissagesdecharlieu.fr/> - <https://synergies-tlc.com/>



Marck & Balsan: worn-out firefighters' outfits to insulate their offices

Marck & Balsan works with its clients and proposes the **recovery of worn-out textiles** to treat them and give them a second life.

Among the applications implemented, **service and intervention outfits** (firefighters) have been **collected, transformed and recycled**, to be used:

- At one of its sites: for **insulating the ceiling** of the maintenance room and the offices of a mezzanine
- On another site: as a **sound barrier** between employees in offices

Website: <https://www.marketbalsan.fr/>

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](#)

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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.

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Techtera is supported by:

