

## Editorial

### Major regional agreement for a sustainable textile industry in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

Historically centred on the production of silk for fashion and decoration, **the regional textile sector has metamorphosed to become a pillar of the French textile industry.** This is notably through the development of a sector for technical and functional textiles, now used in numerous fields.

On April 11, 2024, the [Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes](#) (*Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region*) signed an agreement with the textile industry for a more virtuous and sustainable economy.

This ambitious sector agreement brings together **three key organisations in the textile sector:** [UNITEX](#), [IFTH](#) and [TECHTERA](#).

Together, they are committed to working on **four major themes to transform the regional textile industry:** encouraging the transition of enterprises towards a more virtuous economy; managing and upgrading post-production textile materials; developing eco-design and preventing waste; and, finally, improving moderation and efficiency in the use of energy and water in the textile sector.

Each of the actions carried out is co-supported with a leader among the three organisations. **The associated budget is €500,000 over 2.5 years.**

This procedure is based on solid and historical collaborations between the different organisations in the ecosystem. By strengthening existing cooperation, each enterprise in the Region's textile sector should find, in this combined action, elements to increase its competitiveness!

Do not hesitate to contact us to find out more about this initiative and the opportunities it offers.

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## Focus

### Techtera labels and approves the PATENTH project: IFTH accelerates the environmental transition of textiles

To limit the impact of their products, IFTH (*French Institute of Textiles and Clothing*) has launched the PATENTH project, aimed at supporting the sector in the environmental transition towards sustainable and responsible practices. PATENTH proposes innovative tools to assess, improve and certify the environmental performance of textile products throughout their life cycle.

The project takes place in two stages. The first step is to assess the current situation by analysing materials according to four criteria: hazardous substances, discharges/emissions, product durability and optimisation of end-of-life/recycling. The second step defines the indicators and specifications needed to establish standards, ensure statutory compliance and develop eco-designed systems.

As part of PATENTH, various testing techniques are implemented. These are essential to support companies in their eco-design procedures and to guarantee the transparency and traceability of information all along the value chain. Data management and the digital transformation of laboratories are central; with a single database to evaluate materials and to provide manufacturers with recommendations.

Finally, IFTH works on recycling, the recovery of textile waste and the reduction of microplastics, thus promoting the circular economy.

PATENTH is financially supported by the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Region and administered by BPI France. It is certified by Techtera, and supported by Unitex and ModeAura.

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## They are new members

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### AURA CHANVRE

**AURA Chanvre** is an association whose mission is to develop a local, ecological and reasonable textile fibre by supporting a cooperative and sustainable industrial model in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region.

Thus, it supports farmers in the cultivation of textile hemp, develops local systems for processing straw, and helps firms to integrate hemp into their textile and building/construction products.

The properties of hemp fibres are numerous: they are long, breathable, and tough. Combed and then spun, they produce high quality natural and plant-based fabrics.

The fibre and hemp chaff are used to make hemp wool and hemp concrete. These **bio-sourced** and **insulating** materials are popular in the field of **eco-construction**.

The creation of a hemp textile industry in France represents numerous advantages:

Hemp is a great ally for **organic farming** and helps **preserve water resources**. Its cultivation increases the chemical and structural quality of soils, avoids pathogens and invasive plants, and does not require **irrigation, pesticides** or **weeding**.

**Website:** <https://aura-chanvre.fr/>



### OTEGO

OTEGO is an international expert as regards coated and laminated technical textiles. Specialising in the design, manufacture and marketing of technical and functional textiles, the company offers solutions for protection against heat, anti-adhesion and abrasion resistance.

Present in more than 110 countries with local representatives on five continents, OTEGO aims to provide innovative and high-performance systems suitable for various industrial sectors, including healthcare, aeronautics, automotive, and construction.

The company also proposes personalised systems; developing tailor-made textiles to meet the specific needs of each client.

Innovation is at the heart of the OTEGO strategy. The company is dedicated to continually improving its products and services to stay at the forefront of technology. It works closely with its clients to create textiles that meet today's technological challenges.

Aware of environmental issues, OTEGO integrates sustainable practices into its production processes. OTEGO favours the use of recyclable materials; and develops ecological textiles.

**Website:** <https://otegotextile.com/fr/>

## Your appointments with the cluster

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### **November 5-6, 2024: Regional visit to the Ecomondo exhibition, international trade show for ecological transition – RIMINI - ITALY**

Ecomondo, the equivalent of the **Pollutec trade fair in Italy**, is an unmissable event for those involved in the **ecological transition**. This international event brings together manufacturers, service companies, policy makers and public bodies concerned with technologies and solutions for a **green and circular economy**. By exploring areas such as water management, waste disposal, textiles, bioenergy and more, you will discover the latest advances in research and innovation.

In partnership with the Techtera, Axelera and Business France innovation clusters, the "Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Enterprises" agency is organising a Visitors Delegation, from November 5 to 7, starting from Lyon.

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### **November 23-26, 2024 : Congress on Polymer and Composite Materials in Building and Civil engineering - 77420 CHAMPS-SUR-MARNE**

SFIP is launching the 4th edition of the congress on "Polymer and Composite Materials in Building and Civil engineering" to be held on the 27th & 28th November 2024.

This event is organised in partnership with CSTB, ENPC, Orgagec, Plastics Europe, Techtera, UPB and the University Gustave Eiffel.

Experts from the building and civil engineering industries, as well as the polymers and composites' ones, are invited to take part in this key event, to share their knowledge and devise joint developments.

**These conferences and exchanges will cover the following main themes:**

- Changes in regulations, legislation, and directives
- Decarbonisation of industrial sectors: eco-design, circularity, sustainability, eco-responsible alternatives, bio-based materials, dismantling, recycling, reuse, etc.

- Innovation in materials and processes: flooring, cabling, road surfaces, waterproofing membranes, structural and architectural applications, decoration, paints, 3D printing, etc.
- Functionality: mechanical, thermal, fireproofing, waterproofing, acoustic, soundproofing, haptic, aesthetic, energy, photovoltaic performance, etc.

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## Life of the members

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**Tannerie Végétale (imitation leather made from vegetal material) is among the 100 start-ups selected for investment in 2024 by “Challenge” magazine**

Phyli® is a flexible and innovative material, entirely plant-based, offering a feel similar to leather while being biodegradable and recyclable with a reduced carbon footprint. It constitutes an attractive alternative for fashion brands

concerned about their environmental impact.

The next fundraising round of La Tannerie Végétale is planned for the coming months. This will allow the enterprise to continue its innovative efforts and develop its range of products. This step marks a new phase of growth for the start-up.

**Website:** <https://www.la-tannerie-vegetale.fr/>



**Recyc'Elit and DECATHLON sign a strategic partnership to revolutionise textile recycling**

Created in 2019, the Rhône-Alpes start-up Recyc'Elit has developed a chemical recycling process for complex polyester-based textiles. This is a 100% circular process, upgrading not only polyester but also co-materials such as elastane, cotton and polyamide.

In mid-May 2024, Recyc'Elit announced a strategic partnership with DECATHLON. This will allow it to deploy its system and thus contribute to transforming the textile ecosystem from a linear model into a circular model, by transforming textile waste into resources for manufacturers of the textile industry.

This partnership aims in particular to create a value chain with all partners wishing to get involved in this process.

The DECATHLON investment will be accompanied by a long-term commercial partnership, including, among other things, the creation of bottle top collecting.

Furthermore, Recyc'Elit, recently installed on the site near Lyon, will have, from the beginning of 2025, a pre-industrial demonstrator capable of processing 10 tonnes of waste annually.

**Website:** <https://recyc-elit.com/>



## A big step forward for SOFILA with the opening of its new laboratory

SOFILA has just reached an important milestone with the inauguration of its brand-new laboratory. Specialising in the development of custom-designed yarns, the enterprise offers a wide range of materials and thread thicknesses, ranging from 10 to 3500 dtex. It offers various yarn transformation processes, such as twisting, assembly, covering and texturing. Over the past twelve months, nearly 100 projects have been completed, involving research into the materials and prototype design; with ongoing discussions between the laboratory and the production teams.

In order to comply with the precision and reliability requirements of its partners, SOFILA has modernised its laboratory. These improvements include providing more space, a review of the lighting, regulating the climate, better organisation of samples and analysis flow. Also, there is a new tool for monitoring the laboratory qualification stages. The tests carried out cover measurement of the count (*yarn thickness/length*), composition of the yarn, twist, intertwining points, elasticity/breakage, and the texturing index. Each production batch is rigorously tested in the laboratory.

At the same time, SOFILA carries out fundamental research projects in partnership with academic institutions. These allow it to continually improve its technical capabilities.

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

## Calls for projects

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### 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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