

Textile Recycling Expo 2025 Special Edition



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France sets new fashion benchmark: 2.8 bn apparel purchased in 2024

■ Harry White

French consumers shattered records in 2024 with a 2.8 billion apparel purchases, marking a significant resurgence in the country's fashion market, according to a comprehensive report released by ReFashion, the French eco-platform overseeing textile, footwear, and home linen recycling.

Polling over 10,000 retailers and importers, ReFashion's analysis reveals that consumer demand rebounded sharply after a sluggish 2023, buoyed by the surging popularity of online pureplayers, clearance sites, and the rising appeal of footwear.

French consumers purchased 3.5 billion new items of clothing, shoes, and home linens in 2024, averaging more than 10 million items every single day. Apparel led the surge, with purchases rising by 2.4% to hit 2.8 billion units. Shoe sales saw an even sharper rise of 9.3%, totaling 259 million pairs, while home linens recorded a modest increase of 0.6% to 362 million units. This marks a continued growth trajectory of 400 million additional products sold annually over the past five years.

The sector's revenue echoed the positive trend, rebounding with a 2.9% increase following the first-ever drop in 2023. The turnaround was driven largely by strong



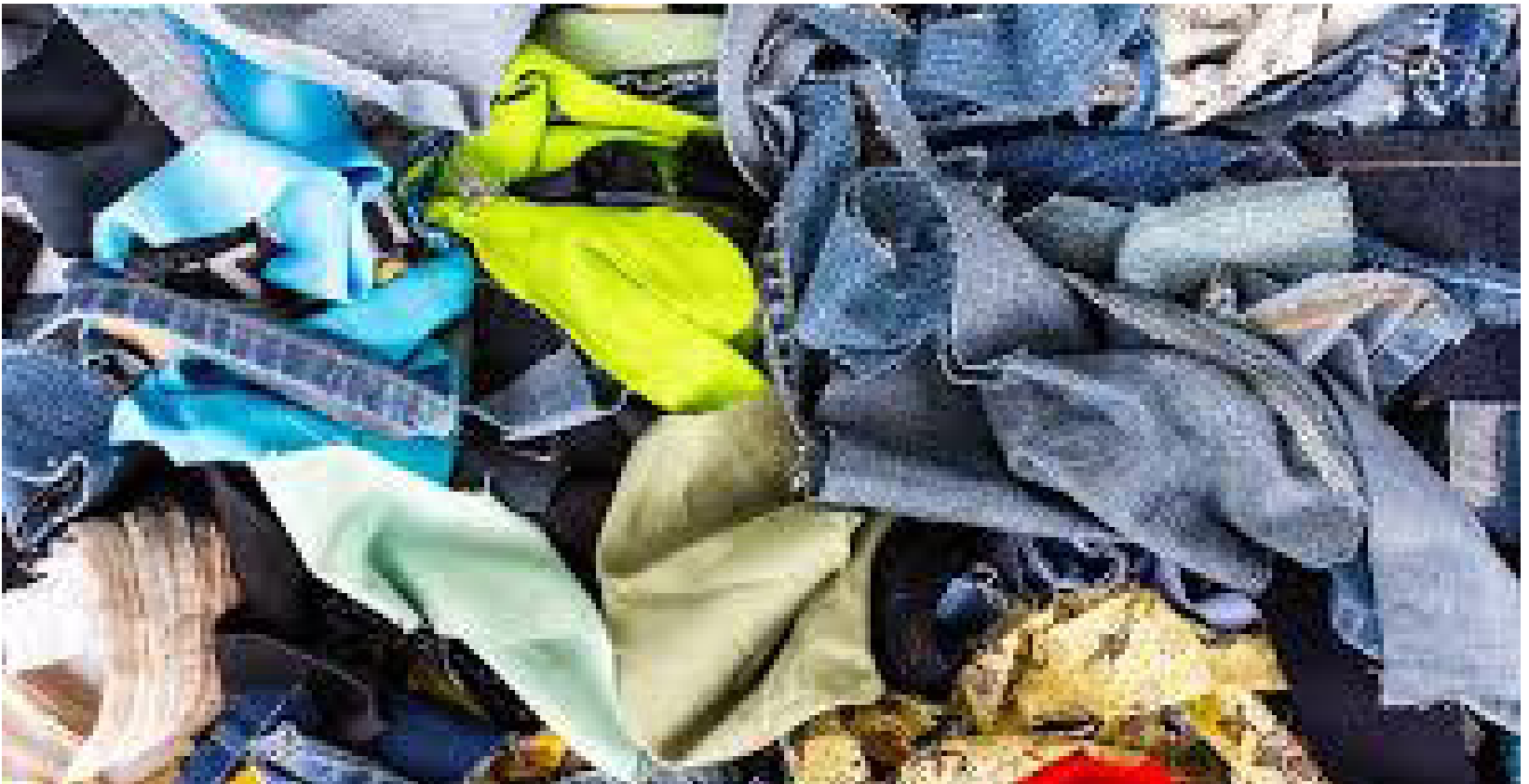
consumer sentiment and nearly 30% growth in sales from digital pureplayers and inventory clearance platforms.

On an individual level, the average French shopper bought 42 items in 2024, consisting of 26 garments and three pairs of shoes. Women led the charge with an average of 32 clothing items purchased, compared to 19 for men. Adult fashion was the key driver of growth, while sales of children's and baby clothing declined.

A noteworthy shift in the market was the continued rise of secondhand fashion. Pre-owned items now represent 7.1% of the overall market, with consumers buying an average of 7.3 secondhand pieces annually. Online marketplaces such as Vinted, alongside flea markets and social economy initiatives, are leading this transformation. The average resale price of a secondhand item stood at \$10.26, underscoring the appeal of affordable, sustainable fashion options.

EU Textile Recycling push could save 440,000 tonnes of CO₂ annually, study finds

■ Amzad Hossain Monir



A new study commissioned by the European Commission and conducted by the IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute reveals that even a modest increase in textile-to-textile recycling across the European Union could unlock significant environmental benefits. The researchers found that raising recycling rates to just 10% by 2035 could reduce annual carbon emissions by 440,000 tonnes and save 8.8 billion cubic metres of water.

Currently, only around 1% of textiles are recycled back into new textiles globally, with most discarded garments ending up in landfills, incinerators, or

being “down-cycled” into lower-grade products like insulation or rags. This new investigation addresses a critical research gap: the environmental impact of implementing textile-to-textile recycling at a meaningful scale.

A Modest Yet Ambitious Goal

While 10% might seem conservative, the IVL researchers argue that this target is ambitious given the current state of recycling infrastructure in Europe. “We wanted to present a scenario that is both realistic and achievable in the near term,” said one of the lead authors of the study. “Even this level of progress

would offer clear, measurable benefits for climate and water resources.”

Using detailed life cycle assessments, the study evaluated the environmental impact of five major recycling interventions: enhanced collection and sorting, increased fibre-to-fibre recycling, reduced incineration and landfilling, decreased production of virgin fibres, and energy trade-offs related to less incineration. The results were conclusive: reaching the 10% recycling milestone would bring a 92% probability of reduced climate impacts and nearly a 100% probability of easing water scarcity pressure.

Quantifying the Gains

The projected savings 440,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually represent roughly 0.5% less climate impact compared to the current trajectory. The water conservation potential, estimated at over 8.8 billion cubic metres, marks a 3% improvement and underscores the urgent need for sustainable practices in an industry known for its heavy water footprint.

Scaling for 2030 and Beyond

This study aligns with the European Union’s broader strategy for sustainable textiles, which aims for all textile products on the EU market to be durable, repairable, and recyclable by 2030. It also echoes findings from a 2022 McKinsey report suggesting that textile-to-textile recycling could scale to 26% by the end of the decade,

provided technological and regulatory pathways are adequately supported.

The researchers caution that current recycling technologies must become significantly more energy-efficient, and recycled fibres must reach quality levels high enough to replace virgin materials. “We need strong policy levers,” the report states, “including potential taxation on virgin fibre use, to drive demand for recycled alternatives.”

Policy, Infrastructure, and the Road Ahead

The authors also highlighted key systemic barriers, particularly in the patchwork of textile collection and sorting systems that differ from country to country. Without standardised and efficient collection methods, much of the recyclable material remains inaccessible or unusable.

To overcome these hurdles, the researchers advocate for coordinated policy support at the EU level. This includes investment in advanced recycling technologies, harmonised collection infrastructure, and incentives to encourage the production and purchase of garments made from recycled textiles.

This study may prove to be a tipping point in the EU’s efforts to transition from a linear to a circular textile economy. As the fashion industry faces increasing scrutiny over its environmental impact, evidence-based research like this provides a compelling case for immediate action.

Bexley appoints former Lacoste executive Sébastien Fayet as Managing Director

■ Matthew Davis



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“We have been able to transform the brand by relying on its DNA: quality, affordable, durable, and timeless men’s fashion. Digital retail, design, the customer experience, internationalisation, and our staff’s professionalism have been at the heart of our transformation. I am proud of the progress the team has made and happy to hand over the baton to Sébastien Fayet, whose experience will be a major asset in writing the future chapters of Bexley’s story.”

Bruno Luppens

Ex Managing Director, Bexley

French menswear brand Bexley has announced the appointment of Sébastien Fayet as its new Managing Director, ushering in a fresh chapter for the brand as it accelerates its growth across Europe. Fayet, a seasoned executive with over two decades of experience at Lacoste, succeeds Bruno Luppens, who has helmed the company since its acquisition



“

“I am honoured to join Bexley at such a pivotal moment. The brand has a strong identity and an impressive legacy. I look forward to building on that foundation and guiding Bexley as it continues to expand and evolve in the modern menswear market.”

Sébastien Fayet

Newly appointed MD, Bexley

by LBO France in 2017.

Fayet brings a robust global perspective shaped by a distinguished tenure at Lacoste, where he began in 2002 and held several top-level roles across international markets. Most recently, he served as CEO of Lacoste France, a position he assumed in 2020 after driving strategic growth across the Asia-Pacific region. His appointment signals Bexley’s ambitions to deepen its footprint across the continent and further evolve into a premier name in affordable, high-quality menswear. “Sébastien’s leadership experience and international mindset

align perfectly with Bexley’s ambitions for the future,” said a spokesperson from LBO France. “We are confident that under his guidance, the brand will reach new markets and new heights.” During Luppens’ seven-year tenure, Bexley underwent a significant transformation, evolving from a footwear-centric brand to a comprehensive menswear label. Ready-to-wear, which once made up just 25% of revenue, now constitutes over half of the company’s sales. The brand’s retail footprint also expanded rapidly, with 31 new monobrand stores opened between 2020 and 2024, bringing the total to 45 locations across France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Spain.

Bexley’s revenues in 2024 reached €80 million, with 30% generated through online sales—underscoring the success of its omnichannel strategy and commitment to customer experience.

Reflecting on his tenure, Luppens said: As Managing Director, Fayet is expected to lead Bexley into its next phase of growth, focusing on international development, brand desirability, and sustainable profitability.

EURATEX Joins European Alliance for Apprenticeships as Official Member

■ Luke Wilson



Photo: ©Jing Daily

The European Apparel and Textile Confederation (EURATEX) has been officially welcomed as a new member of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA), marking a pivotal milestone in the Confederation's commitment to strengthening Europe's skills ecosystem. The announcement came during the high-profile event "Apprenticeships for the Union of Skills and the Clean Industrial Deal" held in Brussels, gathering policymakers, industry leaders, and education stakeholders from across the continent.

The formal induction took place in a distinguished signing ceremony hosted

by European Commissioner Roxana Minzatu, Executive Vice President for Social Rights and Skills. Commissioner Minzatu personally awarded the membership certificates to the new EAfA partners, underlining the EU's strategic focus on fostering quality apprenticeships as a cornerstone of its social and industrial policies.

EURATEX's inclusion in the EAfA comes at a time when the textile and clothing industries are undergoing rapid transformation driven by sustainability goals, digitalization, and global shifts in labor markets.

The LYCRA Company and Qore[®] join to launch renewable LYCRA[®] fiber with QIRA[®]

■ Oliver Taylor



The LYCRA Company has announced a collaboration with Qore[®], the producer of QIRA[®] a next-generation, bio-derived 1,4-butanediol (BDO). This strategic partnership marks a significant milestone in the company's ongoing mission to innovate responsibly and reduce its environmental footprint.

What is QIRA[®]?

QIRA[®] is a material derived from dent corn, offering a renewable alternative to traditional fossil-fuel-based BDO. It plays a critical role in creating sustainable versions of spandex and elastane fibers. By replacing petrochemical feedstocks with corn-based QIRA[®], The LYCRA Company aims to significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions across the value chain.

Sustainable LYCRA[®] Fiber Set for 2025 Launch

The new LYCRA[®] fiber made with QIRA[®] will be commercially available at scale by late 2025. This innovative material maintains the performance and stretch characteristics the LYCRA[®] brand is known for comfort, durability, and fit while offering brands and consumers a greener alternative.

Environmental Impact and Industry Implications

According to Qore[®], using QIRA[®] can reduce CO₂ emissions by up to 93% compared to conventional fossil-derived BDO. This dramatic reduction can contribute to industry-wide efforts to meet climate targets and minimize reliance on non-renewable resources.



Over 100 exhibitors lead textile recycling innovation at brussel's expo 2025

■ Rahbar Hossain

The inaugural Textiles Recycling Expo 2025 is set to commence on 4–5 June at Brussels Expo, bringing together over 100 exhibitors and industry leaders to showcase cutting-edge recycling technologies and strategies aimed at fostering a circular economy in the textile sector.

Event Overview

Organized by Applied Market Information Ltd (AMI), the Textiles Recycling Expo 2025 is a free-to-attend event designed to address the pressing issue of textile waste. The expo will feature live demonstrations, technical showcases, and a comprehensive



conference program, providing a platform for stakeholders across the textile value chain to collaborate on sustainable solutions.

Exhibitor Highlights

The expo will feature a diverse array of exhibitors, each presenting innovative solutions aimed at enhancing textile recycling processes:

BASF and trinamiX: BASF will introduce loopamid®, a recycled polyamide 6 derived entirely from textile waste, including complex fabric blends with elastane. trinamiX will showcase its PAL Two Spectrometer, a portable NIR-based textile identification tool that

streamlines sorting processes.

Valvan: Demonstrating its Fibersort® and Trimclean® systems, advanced technologies for automated textile sorting and recycling, enhancing the quality and efficiency of material recovery.

Mesdan: Presenting its Laboratory Shredding Machine, capable of transforming industrial textile waste and worn-out garments back into their original fiber forms, supporting the production of new textiles.

Andritz and Pellenc ST: Showcasing their automated sorting line at the Nouvelles Fibres Textiles facility in France, capable of sorting garments by composition and color, removing non-textile components, and preparing materials for recycling into fibers suitable for spinning, nonwovens, and composites.

AIMPLAS: Highlighting its research and development initiatives in polymer recycling, focusing on sustainable solutions for textile waste management.

Stadler: Displaying its integrated sorting systems designed to handle complex textile waste streams, improving the efficiency of recycling operations.

Picvisa: Introducing its optical sorting technology, which utilizes artificial intelligence and machine learning to accurately identify and separate different textile materials.

Redwave: Presenting its sensor-based sorting machines, capable of detecting and sorting textiles based on material

type and color, enhancing the purity of recycled outputs.

Syre: Showcasing its chemical recycling processes aimed at converting textile waste into high-quality raw materials for new textile production.

Conference Program

The expo's conference program will feature keynote speakers and panel discussions with representatives from leading organizations, including H&M, Looper Textile, Syre, and the European Commission. Topics will cover challenges and opportunities in scaling up textile recycling initiatives, policy developments, and innovations driving the circular economy in the textile sector.

Industry Alliance Hub

A central feature of the expo will be the Industry Alliance Hub, a collaborative space organized by EURATEX, Fedustria, ReHubs, Denim Deal, and Accelerating Circularity. This hub will facilitate networking, dialogue, and knowledge exchange among brands, recyclers, policymakers, and innovators committed to advancing textile recycling.

The Textiles Recycling Expo 2025 promises to be a landmark event, bringing together key stakeholders to explore and implement sustainable solutions in textile recycling. Attendees can expect to gain valuable insights, forge strategic partnerships, and witness firsthand the innovations shaping the future of the textile industry.



Circ[®] calls for policy acceleration at Textiles Recycling Expo

■ Sayed Abdullah

At the Textiles Recycling Expo held in Brussels on June 4-5, Circ[®] emphasized the critical need for robust and forward-looking policy frameworks to accelerate textile circularity across Europe. During a panel hosted by the Textile-to-Textile (T2T) Recycling Alliance, Dolly Vellanki-Seijger, Circ's Sourcing & Public Affairs Manager, presented key recommendations aimed at embedding recycled content requirements within the upcoming EU ESPR (Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation) Delegated Act.

The panel convened experts from across the European textile value chain

to discuss regulatory mechanisms that could unlock demand and enable the large-scale adoption of textile-to-textile (T2T) recycling technologies. As a core member of the T2T Alliance, Circ is contributing to a unified industry vision for achieving measurable progress on circularity targets.

Key Policy Recommendations Presented:

Mandatory recycled content targets:

- » 10% by 2028
- » 15% by 2030
- » 30% by 2035



Inclusion of both post-industrial and post-consumer textiles in content requirements

Establishment of a robust verification system, combining Chain of Custody protocols with mass balance accounting methods

According to Vellanki-Seijger, aligning policy with the pace of technological innovation is essential to scaling sustainable solutions. “The success of circular systems depends not only on technological readiness but also on clear, enforceable policies that create market demand and ensure traceability,” she noted.

Circ’s participation in the Brussels Expo reflects its continued leadership in advocating for circular economy

frameworks that are actionable, transparent, and inclusive of all stakeholders across the supply chain.

The Textiles Recycling Expo 2025 brought together more than 3,300 delegates from 67 countries and featured over 120 exhibitors, solidifying its role as a leading platform for knowledge exchange on textile recycling innovation and policy development.



AI textile waste sorting system DAEDALUS debuts in brussels expo

■ Benjamin Harris

At the inaugural Textile Recycling Expo in Brussels, Next Technology Tecnotessile showcased a cutting-edge innovation aimed at revolutionizing textile waste management and recycling. The company introduced DAEDALUS, an advanced automated system designed for sorting and selecting textile waste with high precision, aligning with the European Union’s push toward circularity and sustainability in the textile sector.



sensors and recognition algorithms to classify textile waste by fiber composition, color, and textile structure (weft/warp, knit, etc.), enabling more efficient recycling workflows and supporting traceability requirements anticipated under the upcoming European Ecodesign Regulation and Digital Product Passport (DPP) framework.

During the event, industry stakeholders across the European textile value chain positively responded to DAEDALUS’s technical depth and systemic relevance. The solution aims to increase recycling volumes and facilitate better material recovery, fostering a more circular textile economy.

Representatives including Andrea Falchini, Enrico Venturini, Leonardo Marchetti, and Luca Montomoli were actively involved in the exhibition and discussions, highlighting Tecnotessile’s commitment to collaborative innovation.

“DAEDALUS is more than a machine—it’s a step forward in meeting the traceability, classification, and valorisation needs of textile waste management,” said a spokesperson from Next Technology Tecnotessile. “We’re proud to contribute to a smarter, greener supply chain for Europe.”

DAEDALUS, presented as a key solution to the environmental and industrial challenges of the green transition, is built around artificial intelligence, industrial automation, and sustainability principles. It integrates advanced

Aware™ showcases fiber-forward traceability at textiles recycling expo

■ William Moore

At the recently held Textiles Recycling Expo, Aware™ Traceability Technology made a strong impression with its message: verified proof is key to credible and scalable circularity.



Photo: ©Aware™ Traceability Technology

With over 3,600 followers closely watching their updates, Aware™ engaged with diverse stakeholders across the circular textile supply chain. The focus was on fiber-forward, batch-level digital traceability—offering a clear path to making recycled materials not only visible but also verifiable and valuable.



Photo: ©Aware™ Traceability Technology

The event atmosphere was charged with urgency and optimism, reflecting the industry’s fast pace and shared commitment to traceable, transparent solutions. Aware™ expressed enthusiasm for the collaborative conversations and the promising road ahead.

Louisa Hoyes of TOMRA urges unified action on textile recycling at brussels expo

■ Jack Thompson

At the Textiles Recycling Expo 2025, held in Brussels, momentum was palpable as industry leaders gathered to address the systemic challenges and opportunities in textile circularity. A standout moment from the event was the panel titled “What’s Needed to Boost Textile Recycling Rates,” featuring key voices from across the sector.



Photo: Panel discussion on “What’s Needed to Boost Textile Recycling Rates.” held at textile recycling expo 2025, © Louisa Hoyes

“There’s a lot of work ahead, but seeing so many passionate, committed people in one place – all aligned on the need for change – was incredibly energizing. Proud to be part of it.”

Louisa Hoyes, Segment Director for Textiles at TOMRA Recycling, joined an lineup including Ana Rodes (Recover), Patricia Moñino Amorós (Accelerating Circularity), Mohamed Bouraoui Kechiche (Decathlon), and Maria Åkerfeldt (H&M) to dive into the pressing issues and real-world pathways to improve textile recycling performance across the globe.

Key Takeaways from the Panel:

» **Systemic Collaboration Over First Movers:** Hoyes emphasized that textile recycling is not a chicken-and-egg

scenario. “It’s not about one company going it alone,” she said. Instead, she called for synchronized action across the value chain – from collectors, sorters, and recyclers to brands and technology providers.

» **From Pilots to Commercial Impact:** The panel agreed that while innovation is abundant, most remain stuck at pilot or lab scale. Scaling these solutions will depend heavily on robust policy frameworks. “The technology exists,” Hoyes noted, “but what’s needed now is clear, supportive legislation to de-risk investment and facilitate commercial growth.”

» **Policy as a Catalyst:** Speakers stressed the importance of legislative backing – including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), harmonized waste classification standards, and financial incentives – to create the structural backbone for recycling growth across EU markets and beyond.

Canary islands consortium participates in the Textiles Recycling Expo 2025

■ Oliver Taylor



The consortium, comprised of representatives from the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC), the Technological Institute of the Canary Islands (ITC), and the University of La Laguna (ULL), marked its presence at Textiles Recycling Expo held in Brussels on June 4–5. This international trade fair, exclusively focused on textile recycling, gathered over 3,300 participants from 67 countries, along with 126 exhibitors, showcasing cutting-edge solutions in both mechanical and chemical recycling.

The event featured live demonstrations of fiber-sorting systems, chemical treatment technologies, and waste recovery equipment, offering attendees a comprehensive view of the industry’s technological frontier. The consortium’s primary goal was to

gather technical insights essential for the design of upcoming pilot plants dedicated to textile separation and recycling.

During the expo, the consortium members closely analyzed the latest characterization tools, processing lines, and value-added applications derived from recycled textiles. Their active participation in expert-led sessions also provided a deeper understanding of current EU regulations, industrial implementation case studies, and emerging innovations within the circular economy. With a shared commitment to advancing a truly circular textile value chain, the consortium’s engagement at the event reinforces its strategic vision of integrating sustainable recycling technologies into regional textile systems.

H&M freezes U.S. prices as Zara and Shein raise costs amid tariff surge

■ Arif Uz Zaman



“

We look at each individual order to decide what’s the best sourcing market depending on the craftsmanship, the skills, the pricing situation, but also now more than ever, the geopolitical situation.

Patrice Louvet

President and CEO of Ralph Lauren Corporation

As rising tariffs disrupt global trade and reshape fashion supply chains, Swedish retail giant H&M is taking a bold stance: keep prices steady in the United States, even as major rivals like Zara and Shein

raise theirs.

This strategic decision, aimed at capturing value-conscious American shoppers, comes as the fast-fashion industry contends with inflation, shifting consumer sentiment, and new geopolitical headwinds that are driving up import costs.

H&M CEO Daniel Erver acknowledged the complexity of the moment during a Thursday interview with Reuters, describing the U.S. market as “turbulent” due to ever-changing tariffs. “The challenge in the coming months,” Erver said, “is to understand consumer sentiment, which we see has dropped in the U.S. due to all the turbulence, with the fact that some [competitors] will be

forced to raise prices more, and what that creates as an opportunity.”

According to retail intelligence firm Edited, average U.S. prices at Zara have jumped 28% over the past year across categories such as dresses, jeans, and shirts. Meanwhile, H&M prices have dropped by an average of 3%, a notable outlier in a sector grappling with inflationary pressures.

Chinese-founded Shein, another major player, has also increased prices after the U.S. rolled back “de minimis” duty exemptions that had previously allowed low-cost parcels to enter the country tariff-free. The result: slower customer growth for the e-commerce powerhouse.

Strategic Patience Amid Rising Costs

H&M’s strategy isn’t without risks. By keeping prices steady, the world’s second-largest listed fashion retailer is absorbing higher costs, putting pressure on profit margins already under strain.

Yet analysts suggest that the company’s cautious pricing might be a savvy long-term move. “Maybe they are going to raise prices in the U.S.,” said Alexander Siljstrom of Pareto Securities, “but just to a lesser extent as compared to competitors.”

Indeed, H&M appears to be walking a fine line: holding prices just long enough to lure shoppers from competitors, but not so long as to endanger its bottom line.

Reshaping Supply Chains: From

China to Closer Shores

A key lever in H&M’s ability to hold prices lies in its evolving supply chain. In response to the growing impact of tariffs particularly those on Chinese imports, the company has spent the past 18 months consolidating its supplier base, favoring larger vendors with manufacturing capabilities in multiple countries.

This shift has seen H&M move sourcing away from tariff-heavy China to more cost-effective alternatives such as Bangladesh. As part of its “nearshoring” initiative, the brand is also investing in suppliers closer to key consumer markets like Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco for Europe, and now Brazil, where H&M plans to open its first stores in the second half of 2025.

Future-Proofing Through Flexibility

Erver emphasized that the company’s supply strategy is designed for responsiveness. By maintaining supplier capacity below 100%, H&M can quickly ramp up production on high-performing items. This agility is essential in a fast-paced retail landscape where consumer tastes can change overnight.

H&M currently operates around 500 stores across the U.S. its second-largest market after Germany accounting for 13% of its total sales in 2024. That footprint, coupled with a stable pricing approach, could allow the retailer to deepen its U.S. presence just as some competitors price themselves out of reach for budget-conscious shoppers.

Nature Coatings achieves prestigious GOTS Certification

■ Jack Thompson

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With GOTS certification, we've cleared a crucial hurdle that allows us to integrate seamlessly into certified supply chains and support the world's most ambitious sustainability goals.

Jane Palmer
CEO and Founder
of Nature Coatings

Nature Coatings, a pioneer in sustainable pigment innovation, has officially earned the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) certification, the highest worldwide standard for organic textiles. The award-winning company, known for transforming wood waste into safe, carbon-negative black pigments, now becomes one of the few global pigment producers approved for use in GOTS-certified fashion and textile products.

By achieving GOTS certification, Nature Coatings' BioBlack TX pigment dispersions have been independently verified to meet:

- » Stringent environmental criteria
- » Non-toxic, heavy metal-free formulation
- » Ethical labor standards
- » Clean and safe manufacturing processes

BioBlack TX: A Certified Organic Black Pigment for Sustainable Fashion

BioBlack TX, derived entirely from wood waste, is a revolutionary alternative to traditional petroleum-based black dyes and pigments. With GOTS approval, BioBlack TX becomes one of the few pigment solutions eligible for full integration into GOTS-certified supply chains empowering eco-conscious brands to meet sustainability targets without compromising color performance or visual appeal.

Trusted by Leading Fashion Brands

Nature Coatings' BioBlack TX is already making waves in the fashion world. It has been adopted by top-tier brands and groups, including:

- » Levi's®
- » Ferragamo
- » Kering Group
- » Jack & Jones
- » Selected HOMME

As fashion and textile brands increasingly prioritize GOTS-certified materials, BioBlack TX offers an unmatched combination of sustainability, compliance, and innovation.

Textile Exchange unveils bold 2030 strategy to drive systemic sustainability

■ William Moore



Photo: © Textile Exchange

“

We've had strong engagement, but we're not seeing enough movement on impact. To meet our targets, we need to realign around where change truly begins: the raw materials at the start of the supply chain.

Claire Bergkamp

CEO of Textile Exchange

A bold new direction emphasizes accountability, raw material impact, and producer equity to drive meaningful progress in fashion sustainability.

Textile Exchange, the global nonprofit driving sustainability in the fashion and textile industry, has entered a pivotal new chapter. This week, the organization unveiled a streamlined five-year strategy leading up to 2030, one that signals a shift from consensus-building to collective accountability, aiming to close the widening gap between ambition and action.

At the heart of this recalibration is a candid admission: despite more than two decades of progress, widespread industry engagement, and over 90,000 certified sites worldwide, the fashion sector remains off track to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with science-based targets. Textile Exchange's own

benchmark, a 45% reduction in emissions from fiber and material production by 2030 remains a distant goal.

Since joining the organization in 2023 following leadership roles at Stella McCartney and the Global Fashion Agenda, Bergkamp has led a strategic review to refine Textile Exchange's scope and priorities. The outcome is a sharper, more targeted blueprint for industry transformation, doubling down on Tier 4 of the supply chain: the often-overlooked producers and farmers who cultivate and create raw materials.

“

We're building our strategy around producer voice and equity. If a brand wants to make progress on climate, they have to invest in the people producing the materials. That means shifting financial flows, not just storytelling.

Claire Bergkamp

CEO of Textile Exchange

From Commitment to Action

The new strategy revolves around three interconnected focus areas:

- » Industry Engagement
- » Measurable Climate and Nature Outcomes
- » Transformation of the Standards System

The transformation of its standards system rebranded as “Materials Matter”



Photo: Claire Bergkamp, CEO of Textile Exchange

represents a key pillar of change. This shift introduces a unified, outcome-based certification framework designed to simplify the industry's fragmented standards landscape. Rather than checking boxes, brands will now be encouraged to focus on tangible, measurable results.

This realignment comes at a time of significant volatility for the sector. From growing resistance to ESG frameworks in the U.S., to impending regulatory changes in Europe and persistent geopolitical instability, brands are under heightened pressure to show credible climate action. At the same time, producers often underfunded and overburdened are demanding equitable inclusion and recognition.

True Cost Accounting & Investment in Producers

One of the strategy's most urgent calls to action is for brands to adopt true cost accounting, a practice that considers the long-term environmental and social value of materials rather than short-term

financial savings. Regenerative cotton, responsibly grazed wool, and recycled synthetics often carry a premium. Textile Exchange argues that brands must stop externalizing these costs onto producers and instead create sourcing models that provide financial support and shared responsibility.

In parallel, the organization is building out its data and reporting infrastructure to enable transparent, science-based impact tracking. By refining metrics and standardizing outcome reporting, Textile Exchange hopes to make climate and nature outcomes traceable and comparable across the sector.



“

There's no silver bullet. But we believe the pathway to transformation starts with uniting the industry around material-level impact and making sure those producing our fibers are empowered, supported, and seen.

Claire Bergkamp

CEO of Textile Exchange

Beyond Pledges: Toward Real Systems Change

While the roadmap to 2030 is anything but straightforward, Textile Exchange's refreshed strategy is clear in its emphasis on implementation over intention. The nonprofit is calling for coordinated investment, shared risk, and on-the-ground engagement between brands and raw material producers.

This recalibration marks a critical turning point for Textile Exchange and, potentially, for the fashion industry at large. By aligning strategy with systems change, equity, and tangible impact, the organization is moving beyond pilot projects and toward lasting transformation. As the 2030 deadline looms, the sustainability conversation is shifting from fragmented standards and storytelling to unified accountability and systemic impact. The industry now watches to see whether this bold step forward can turn long-standing ambition into real, collective action.



Textile PRO forum strengthens EU-wide collaboration for EPR harmonisation

■ **Matthew Davis**

The Textile Producer Responsibility Organisations (PRO) Forum convened its second in-person meeting this week, uniting more than 30 delegates from 21 organisations across Europe in a coordinated push to harmonise Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) across the textile sector.

Hosted by EURATEX, the European Apparel and Textile Confederation, the two-day meeting marked a significant milestone in advancing circularity within the industry. Building on the Forum's 2023 launch, the gathering demonstrated a renewed commitment to fostering structured, practical cooperation among national PROs, textile industry associations, and EU-level stakeholders. Over the course of the meeting, participants immersed themselves in targeted sessions focused on key priorities shaping the

future of EPR implementation. Deep-dive discussions explored:

- » Eco-Modulation Fee Reporting
- » Support for Recycling Practices
- » Policy Updates on the Waste Framework Directive
- » Progress Reports from Five Active Workstreams

Forum's workstream leads showcased tangible outcomes in several critical areas:

- » Reducing Administrative Burdens –
- » Developing a Shared EPR Framework
- » Scaling PRO Coverage Across Europe

With momentum clearly building, the Textile PRO Forum reaffirmed its value as a unique and timely platform to coordinate EPR across Europe. By aligning national efforts, supporting innovation, and accelerating the shift to a circular economy, the Forum is positioning Europe's textile sector for a more sustainable, resilient future.

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EU climate target delay would be a mistake, says European Commission Executive Vice President Teresa Ribera

■ Luke Wilson

French President Emmanuel Macron's recent call for a delay in the European Union's 2040 climate targets, European Commission Executive Vice President Teresa Ribera has stated that such a move would be a "mistake." Speaking on Euronews' Europe Today morning show, Ribera firmly rejected the notion of postponing the European Commission's upcoming proposal on climate targets, signaling her commitment to the EU's long-term environmental agenda.

Ribera, who oversees the EU's green transition portfolio, is expected to present the 2040 climate goals following next Wednesday's meeting



Photo: European Commission Executive Vice President Teresa Ribera

of the college of commissioners. Her comments come in direct response to Macron's unexpected intervention during the EU Council summit in Brussels on Thursday, where the French President urged caution in setting the new climate benchmarks.

Macron told reporters after the summit that the EU should not rush into finalizing its 2040 targets, suggesting instead that the bloc should "take more time to come to an agreement" to ensure that climate ambition remains compatible with economic competitiveness. "We want to make this climate ambition compatible with European competitiveness," Macron

“

I believe in the possibility of a Europe that reconciles an ambitious climate agenda with respect for the commitments of the Paris Agreement and that preserves its competitiveness. All that requires is technological neutrality, the ability to invest and consistency in trade policy.

Emmanuel Macron
French President

asserted. The French leader also emphasized that setting the 2040 targets should be a comprehensive and democratic process: Ribera responded decisively when asked by Europe Today presenter Méabh McMahon whether she was prepared to heed Macron's request and delay the proposal.

"I think it could be a mistake," she said. Ribera underlined the importance of the 2040 target in the broader context of Europe's climate strategy, especially in light of the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement. Highlighting the EU's broader climate roadmap, Ribera emphasized the need for coherence between long-term goals and intermediate steps.

eventual flexibilities is the thing to be discussed, but we are working hard and we will table our proposal in the coming days."



This year is the 10th anniversary of the Paris agreement, and we want to identify how we can keep on going in something we that we think is quite essential for the economic and social welfare of Europeans and worldwide.

Teresa Ribera
European Commission
Executive Vice President



We have already identified that we want to be a fully decarbonised economy by 2050, we have targets for 2030, we need some clear orientation around 2040, and the reduction of 90% is a clear goal.

Teresa Ribera
European Commission
Executive Vice President

She acknowledged that while discussions may continue on how to balance various components and integrate flexibility, the core target remains unchanged. "Then how we can combine the different pieces, the

The European Union has committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. This goal builds on its existing target to cut carbon emissions by 55% compared to 1990 levels by 2030. The yet-to-be-finalized 2040 milestone is seen as the crucial bridge between these two commitments—a bridge that Ribera insists must not be postponed any further.

While the debate between economic competitiveness and environmental ambition continues at the highest levels of EU leadership, Ribera's stance makes it clear: the European Commission remains determined to stay the course on climate action, with or without consensus from all member states at the outset.

ECHA adds three new hazardous chemicals to candidate list, raising total to 250

■ Matthew Davis



The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has announced the addition of three more hazardous chemicals to its Candidate List of substances of very high concern (SVHCs), bringing the total number of entries to 250. These additions reflect growing concerns about environmental persistence, bioaccumulation, and toxicity, and they signal potential future regulatory actions under the EU's REACH legislation.

The Candidate List identifies chemicals that may pose serious risks to human health or the environment. Companies using these substances are legally required to manage the associated risks and to inform customers and consumers about safe usage.

New Substances Identified

The latest update includes two

substances that are classified as very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB), and one that is toxic for reproduction:

1,1,1,3,5,5,5-heptamethyl-3-[(trimethylsilyl)oxy]trisiloxane

» **EC number:** 241-867-7

» **CAS number:** 17928-28-8

» **Reason for inclusion:** Very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB)

» **Uses:** Commonly found in cosmetics, personal care products, perfumes, fragrances, and as a laboratory reagent.

Decamethyltetrasiloxane

» **EC number:** 205-491-7

» **CAS number:** 141-62-8

» **Reason for inclusion:** Very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB)



» **Uses:** Used in a wide range of products including cosmetics, lubricants, greases, and automotive care products.

Reactive Brown 51(Tetra(sodium/potassium) 7-[(E)-{2-acetamido-4-[(E)-(4-[[4-chloro-6-({2-[(4-fluoro-6-[[4-(vinylsulfonyl)phenyl]amino}-1,3,5-triazine-2-yl)amino]propyl}amino)-1,3,5-triazine-2-yl]amino}-5-sulfonato-1-naphthyl)diazenyl]-5-methoxyphenyl}diazenyl]-1,3,6-naphthalenetrisulfonate)

» EC number: 466-490-7

» Reason for inclusion: Toxic for reproduction

» Uses: Utilized primarily in textile treatment and dye products.

ECHA emphasized that the number of impacted chemicals is actually higher than the number of entries, as some entries represent groups of substances.

Legal and Regulatory Implications

Inclusion on the Candidate List triggers several obligations for companies under

the EU's REACH Regulation:

» **Information Disclosure:** Suppliers must inform customers and consumers if an article contains a listed substance in concentrations above 0.1% weight by weight. Consumers have the right to request this information from suppliers.

» **ECHA Notification:** Importers and producers of articles containing Candidate List substances must notify ECHA within six months of the substance's inclusion—by 25 December 2025 in this case.

» **Safety Data Sheets:** EU and EEA suppliers of these substances, whether sold individually or in mixtures, are required to update their safety data sheets accordingly.

» **Waste Framework Directive:** Companies must also report SVHCs present in articles to ECHA's SCIP (Substances of Concern In Products) database if they exceed the 0.1% threshold.

While inclusion in the Candidate List does not immediately ban the substances, it is a critical step toward possible future restriction. Substances from the Candidate List may be moved to the Authorisation List, meaning companies would need explicit permission from the European Commission to continue their use.

This move by ECHA reflects the agency's continued commitment to safeguarding both public health and the environment from the risks posed by hazardous chemicals.



EU launches sustainable textile working group to tackle crisis and drive circular reform

■ M A Mohiemen Tanim

Official launch of the European Parliament’s Sustainable Textile Working Group brought together policymakers, social enterprises, and civil society to confront one of the region’s most urgent sustainability and social equity challenges: the transformation of the textile industry into a fair and circular system.

Co-hosted by MEPs Saskia Bricmont, Barry Andrews, and Lara Wolters, the event convened key civil society players including RREUSE, Changing Markets Foundation, Clean Clothes Campaign, Fashion Revolution, Fair Trade Advocacy Office, ECOS, the European Environmental Bureau, and industriAll Europe to chart a course for Europe’s textile transition.

A Crisis in the Making: Reuse Sector Under Siege

The celebratory tone of the group’s formation was tempered by sobering realities on the ground. According to a February 2025 policy paper by RREUSE, social enterprises operating in the reuse and recycling of textiles are being squeezed to the brink of collapse. The causes? An unsustainable influx of low-quality fast fashion, overproduction driven by digital retail, rising operational costs, and the absence of stable policy frameworks to fund textile waste management systems.

Despite the EU’s 2025 mandate for separate textile waste collection, operators face a yawning funding gap.

Without mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes in full operation across member states, the cost of textile recovery falls heavily on nonprofits and social enterprises. In countries where EPR is already in place, such as France and the Netherlands, current systems have failed to curb the flood of discarded garments or equitably fund social sector engagement.

A Call to Recognize Social Enterprises as Central Actors

The new working group offers hope by pledging to include these on-the-ground actors in shaping EU textile policy. At the event, RREUSE and its coalition partners urged MEPs to support a package of targeted measures:

- » Emergency funding mechanisms to prevent further closures of sorting and reuse facilities.
- » EPR frameworks that prioritize waste prevention and reuse before recycling.
- » Inclusive governance structures that give social enterprises a formal voice in EPR management.
- » Local reuse prioritization under the proximity principle to reduce export burdens.

Each tonne of textiles managed by a social enterprise has the potential to create 20–35 jobs—often for individuals facing social exclusion—highlighting the dual environmental and social dividend

at stake.

The Policy Blueprint: Ambition with Accountability

The October 2024 policy recommendations developed by the same civil society coalition push even further. Centered on three pillars that are “What’s in my clothes,” “Who made my clothes,” and “How my clothes are sold”—the roadmap offers a comprehensive reform agenda for the new EU legislative cycle.

Key proposals include:

- » Binding material footprint targets for textiles by 2030, 2040, and 2050.
- » Ecodesign standards mandating durability, repairability, and minimal environmental toxicity.
- » A ban on the destruction of unsold or returned garments.
- » Mandatory transparency on supply chains, working conditions, and production volumes.
- » Incentives for fashion brands to decarbonize their supply chains without penalizing Global South suppliers.

The document also calls out greenwashing and social-washing as systemic risks that must be curbed through pre-market verification of environmental claims, clearer labeling, and regulation of misleading advertising.

Strategic contribution of Certilogo in digital product passport transformation

■ Farin Tasnim Fariha

Building an Ecosystem



Security is Key



Making it Future-Proof

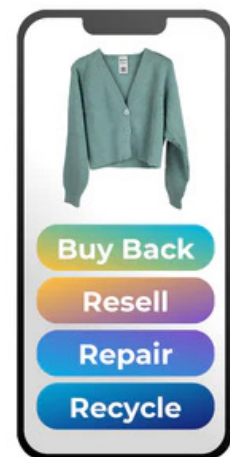


Photo: © Certilogo

Certilogo is a platform that provides Digital Product Passports (DPP). It is trusted by 80+ global fashion and luxury brands. Created by Michele Casucci, the platform has secured over 570 million products every 3.8 seconds in over 180 countries since 2006, providing a unique opportunity to connect with consumers.

The specialty of Certilogo is “Secure by Design™”, which incorporates security and system reliability at every stage of the DPP. This concept delicately detects counterfeit or cloned product IDs. At the same time, it supports circular economy initiatives and sustainable business models. As the EU DPP deadline approaches in 2027, secure brands like Certilogo will dominate and stay ahead.

The platform has the ability to secure millions of products. The Secure by Design™ concept provides benefits



Many brands initially view DPP through the lens of compliance.

Michele Casucci

Certilogo’s founder and CEO

against counterfeit and unauthorized access. At the same time, it ensures that the brand remains in control. Brands choose comprehensive security features or streamlined turn-key solutions.

Certilogo enables verified resale, premium care programs, and circular economy initiatives through secure digital identities. It ensures brand protection, making watered-down and illegal distribution difficult. Certilogo can track products for ESG reporting. At the same time, it is able to provide circular services such as recycling and proven resale.

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H&M profit falls, but strategic wins at COS and Move impress markets

■ William Moore

H&M Group, the Swedish fast fashion powerhouse, released its Q2 2025 financial result, revealing a decline in both sales and profits. However, CEO Daniel Erv er remains confident in the company's strategic direction, citing robust growth in select segments like H&M Move, womenswear, and especially the standout performance of premium brand COS.

“

Our plan, with its focus on the product offering, the shopping experience, and brand, is again confirmed by the progress we see.

Daniel Erv er
CEO of H&M Group

Sales Down, Outlook Stable

From March to May, H&M's reported net sales fell to SEK56.7 billion (~US\$6 billion), down from SEK59.6 billion year-on-year. Operating profit also dipped to SEK5.9 billion from SEK7 billion, and net profit declined to SEK3.9 billion compared to just over SEK5 billion during the same quarter last year. The gross margin dropped to 55.4%, impacted by currency headwinds,

elevated freight costs, and a stronger US dollar.

H&M delivered a modest 1% increase in local currency sales, which is notable given the retailer operated with 4% fewer stores.

CEO Focuses on Strategic Progress and Future Growth

CEO Daniel Erv er struck an optimistic tone during the earnings call, stating:

He pointed to notable growth in key segments, especially H&M womenswear and H&M Move, which have outperformed in recent quarters. COS, one of H&M's lesser-highlighted portfolio brands, received special mention for its exceptional growth trajectory.

Brazil Expansion and June Sales Growth

H&M is poised for further international expansion, with new store openings and online launches in Brazil scheduled for early H2 2025. This marks a significant strategic milestone, tapping into a market of over 200 million consumers. June is also shaping up positively, with the company expecting a 3% year-on-year sales increase in local currencies, even factoring in a 1% negative calendar effect.

Apna Organics showcases sustainable innovations at Denimsandjeans Vietnam 2025

■ Mohammad Mithun



Apna Organics proudly participated in Denimsandjeans Vietnam 2025, held in Ho Chi Minh City, reaffirming its commitment to sustainable innovation in denim processing.

At the renowned industry trade show, Apna Organics presented its latest range of eco-friendly chemical solutions tailored for denim fabric and garment finishing. These cutting-edge innovations are designed to significantly reduce environmental impact minimising water usage, energy consumption, and chemical waste while maintaining the high performance and durability that denim producers demand.

Visitors to the Apna Organics

booth experienced firsthand how the company's green chemistry technologies are helping brands and manufacturers transition toward more responsible production models. "We are thrilled with the enthusiastic response from industry professionals," said a company representative. "Events like Denimsandjeans are vital for driving sustainable change and fostering partnerships that move the denim sector forward."

Apna Organics extended heartfelt thanks to all who visited and supported the company during the show, underlining its ongoing mission to enable a cleaner, smarter, and more circular denim industry.

World's first plant-based structural color ink for fashion launched by Sparxell and Positive Materials

■ M A Mohiemen Tanim



“

This textile ink launch transforms how brands can access our breakthrough technology. For too long, the textile industry had no choice other than to accept that vibrant colors meant environmental damage. Sparxell's bio-inspired technology shatters that assumption, delivering exceptional results from plant-based cellulose.

This is just the beginning – our vision is to make bio-inspired color technology the new standard across fashion, proving that high performance and working in harmony with nature are perfectly aligned.

Dr. Benjamin Droguet
 Founder and CEO of Sparxell

Sparxell, a Cambridge-based color platform technology company founded by University of Cambridge scientists Dr. Benjamin Droguet and Professor Silvia Vignolini, has officially launched the world's first commercially available plant-based, bioinspired structural colour ink. This development was made possible through a strategic partnership with Positive Materials.

This launch marks a major breakthrough in sustainable color technology, offering fashion brands a biodegradable, non-toxic alternative to conventional dyes, synthetic plastics, and heavy-metal



Rather than requiring custom development projects, fashion designers and procurement teams can now order the most sustainable colorant options out there as easily as conventional alternatives, but with the added benefit of containing 100% biodegradable pigments that are free from toxic chemicals.

Our collaboration with Sparxell represents exactly the kind of innovation the textile industry needs, aligning perfectly with our mission to create low-impact textiles that don't compromise on performance.

Elsa Parente

Co-CEO and CTO of Positive Materials

pigments. Derived entirely from plants and engineered at the microscale, Sparxell's structural color ink mimics nature's own vibrant hues, such as those seen in Morpho butterfly wings, using plant-based cellulose to reflect light and create stunning color without harmful chemicals.

A World-First Innovation for the Fashion Industry

Sparxell's textile ink is available from end of June 2025, debuting in the brand's signature blue shade in

both matte and shimmer finishes. It represents the first time that a structural color ink based on plant-derived cellulose has been made accessible to fashion brands via standard purchasing channels eliminating the need for bespoke development projects and enabling broad industry adoption.

From emerging designers to global luxury houses and mass-market labels, brands now have access to revolutionary sustainable colorants that combine vibrancy, durability, and environmental responsibility.

A Scalable, Sustainable Solution

The launch is backed by Sparxell's collaboration with Positive Materials, a leader in textile innovation. Positive Materials brings vital manufacturing expertise and operational infrastructure to scale Sparxell's prototype into full production while upholding rigorous sustainability standards.

The partnership rollout includes the introduction of an all-over printed cotton jersey featuring Sparxell's technology, which will be available across European markets starting September 2025.

This launch follows Sparxell's recent milestones, including a €1.9 million grant from the European Innovation Council and selection for LVMH's La Maison des Startups accelerator programme, reinforcing its position as a leader in next-generation color solutions.

Woolmark and COLOURizd™ launch sustainable breakthrough in wool dyeing with QuantumCOLOUR™ Technology

■ Luke Wilson



“

“After extensive testing on Merino wool and wool blends, we realized the team at COLOURizd™ is on to something truly revolutionary. This method enables us to create vibrant tonal depths while drastically reducing environmental impact.”

Julie Davies

Woolmark’s General Manager of Processing Innovation & Education Extension

Woolmark, the global authority on wool, has partnered with COLOURizd™, the leader in dry textile coloring processes, to unveil the QuantumCOLOUR™ technology, a revolutionary, low-impact wool dyeing solution that dramatically cuts water usage and chemical reliance.

Transforming Wool Dyeing: Introducing QuantumCOLOUR™

The COLOURizd™ QuantumCOLOUR™ process offers a cutting-edge alternative to traditional wool dyeing methods. Requiring only 0.5 liters of water per kilogram of yarn, the system completely eliminates bleaching, pre-treatment,



Woolmark represents the gold standard in the wool industry. This partnership allows us to bring our high-performance, low-impact process to a new market enabling wool manufacturers to adopt more responsible production methods.

Jennifer Thompson

CEO of COLOURizd™

and wastewater discharge making it one of the most sustainable yarn coloring processes available today.

Why QuantumCOLOUR™ is a Sustainable Game Changer

Traditional wool dyeing uses 60–120 liters of water per kg of yarn and depends on harmful chemicals like acids, caustic soda, bleach, and salts. In contrast, QuantumCOLOUR™ uses a bluesign®-certified pigment and binder system, ensuring no toxic waste or chemical runoff. The pigment is injected directly into the yarn fiber bundle, resulting in high-performance coloration with minimal environmental footprint.

This innovation aligns with the global push for eco-conscious textile production, especially as manufacturers face increasing pressure to meet sustainability targets.

Woolmark's Endorsement Adds Global Credibility

The technology has been rigorously tested and validated by Woolmark on 100% Merino wool, as well as wool blends with cotton, TENCEL™, and nylon proving its flexibility across yarn counts from 30/2NM to 80/1NM. Third-party lab assessments confirmed excellent colorfastness, durability, and wear performance, ensuring that sustainability doesn't come at the cost of quality.

COLOURizd™ technology is already trusted by major global brands including Wrangler, Lee, Cone Denim, and GANT. With Woolmark's endorsement, the platform is now poised to reshape the wool manufacturing landscape by combining innovation, performance, and sustainability in one cohesive solution.

Key Features of QuantumCOLOUR™ for Wool:

- » **Ultra-low water use:** 0.5L per kg of yarn
- » **Chemical-free:** No bleach, acids, or caustic soda
- » **Waste-free process:** No wastewater infrastructure required
- » **Durable & colorfast:** Validated for long-lasting wear
- » **Versatile application:** Effective on wool, cotton, TENCEL™, and nylon blends
- » **bluesign® certified pigments:** Environmentally safe and industry-compliant



Photo: An investigation by Unearthed and Greenpeace Africa found an area of protected wetland cleared of vegetation and used as a textile dump © The Guardian

Fast fashion waste from UK overwhelms Ghana's ecosystems

■ Rahbar Hossain



Photo: Textile waste on the beach at Jamestown in Accra. Photograph: Misper Apawu/The Guardian

An investigative report by Unearthed in collaboration with Greenpeace Africa has uncovered that clothes discarded by UK consumers are turning up in massive waste dumps within Ghana's protected wetlands. Garments bearing the labels of major UK and European fashion brands including Next, Marks & Spencer, George at Asda, Zara, H&M, and Primark have been found not only in inland dumps but also washing ashore on beaches and clogging waterways.

These illegal textile dumping grounds have been located in areas designated as Ramsar sites, internationally recognized for their ecological importance. The Densu Delta, one such site, is a sanctuary for endangered leatherback and green turtles, as well



Photo: A man sorts through bales of secondhand clothes at Kantamanto market. Photograph: Misper Apawu/The Guardian

as migratory birds like roseate terns and curlew sandpipers. Despite its protected status, new dumpsites have been carved into the landscape, stripping vegetation and laying waste perilously close to lagoons and streams. In the Akkaway area, drone footage revealed open piles of garments resting on bare earth, without any of the pollution control measures found in engineered landfills, such as lined bases or leachate collection systems.

Local residents who rely on these wetlands for their livelihoods say the effects have been devastating. “Before, you could drink the river water. But now it’s black,” said Seth Tetteh, a fisherman who has lived near the Densu Delta for seven years. “When you cast your net, it brings in fish, clothes and other things. It’s very tedious.” Ibrahim Sadiq, a 19-year-old student, recalled the area’s previous biodiversity alligators, birds, and bush cats before pollution overtook

the region. Now, stagnant pools of contaminated water bring unbearable stench and mosquito swarms.

At the heart of the crisis is Ghana’s Kantamanto Market in Accra, one of the world’s largest second-hand clothing markets, which receives over 1,000 tonnes of garments each week. However, traders say the quality of imports has deteriorated drastically. “In the past, we had good clothes to sell to take care of our families, but these days the used clothes are poorly made and already falling apart when we open the bales,” said market vendor Mercy Asantewa.

The city of Accra is overwhelmed. According to Solomon Noi, head of Accra’s waste management department, about 100 tonnes of garments leave Kantamanto daily as waste, yet the city can collect and process only 30 tonnes. The remaining 70 tonnes are dumped in open drains,

lagoons, wetlands, and coastal areas. There is only one engineered landfill in the region, with a second currently under construction.

The scale of the UK's textile waste contribution is staggering. Every year, UK consumers discard approximately 1.5 million tonnes of used textiles. Of that, about 730,000 tonnes are either incinerated or landfilled. From the 650,000 tonnes destined for reuse or recycling, 420,000 tonnes—over two-thirds—are exported abroad, with Ghana receiving more than any other nation.

Calls for legislative reform are growing louder. In 2023, a group of Ghanaian traders visited Brussels to lobby for the European Union to introduce extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation that would hold fashion brands accountable for the environmental consequences of their products at end-of-life. Similarly, the UK's Textile Recyclers Association has petitioned the government to adopt a comparable policy.

Some fashion giants claim to be taking steps. Marks & Spencer says it does not export excess clothing and now offers repair services through Sojo, alongside in-store recycling initiatives in partnership with Oxfam and Handle. George at Asda insists its production volumes have not increased in a decade and boasts more than 800 recycling banks across the UK. Primark maintains that it does not authorize any garments from its textile takeback schemes or unsold inventory to be sent to Ghana or

any other part of Africa.

"We know that no single company can solve the issue of textile waste alone," a Primark spokesperson said. "Real progress will only come if the industry comes together."

H&M echoed similar sentiments, acknowledging the challenges posed by inadequate waste management systems in receiving countries. Zara's parent company, Inditex, has voiced support for government-mandated EPR policies, arguing that only uniform regulation can establish accountability and promote circularity.

Yet, on the ground in Ghana, change remains distant. Protected ecosystems are being buried under mounds of synthetic waste. Local governments appear to be in breach of both national environmental regulations and international commitments under the Ramsar Convention. The Weija Gbawe municipal assembly, which supervises the Akkaway dump, has failed to respond to formal requests for comment regarding its role in the destruction of the wetland.

The textile waste crisis highlights the darker side of the fast-fashion economy: while consumers in the Global North continue to purchase disposable clothing at breakneck speeds, the Global South is left to deal with the environmental and social fallout. As Ghana's rivers blacken and biodiversity vanishes beneath heaps of unwanted garments, the need for urgent, systemic change is undeniable—and overdue.

Ralph Lauren appoints former Burberry CEO Angela Ahrendts as Lead Independent Director

■ Oliver Taylor



Photo: Angela Ahrendts © Fast Company

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We are proud to have a board comprised of deep, unique, and differentiated experiences, all of which continue to contribute to our strength and durability as a business.

Patrice Louvet

President and CEO of
Ralph Lauren Corporation

Ralph Lauren Corporation (NYSE: RL), the iconic American luxury fashion house, has announced the appointment of Angela Ahrendts, former CEO of Burberry and ex-Apple executive, as its new Lead Independent Director, reinforcing its commitment to strong leadership and strategic innovation.

Ahrendts' new role will become official following her re-election at Ralph Lauren's 2025 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, scheduled for Thursday, July 31.

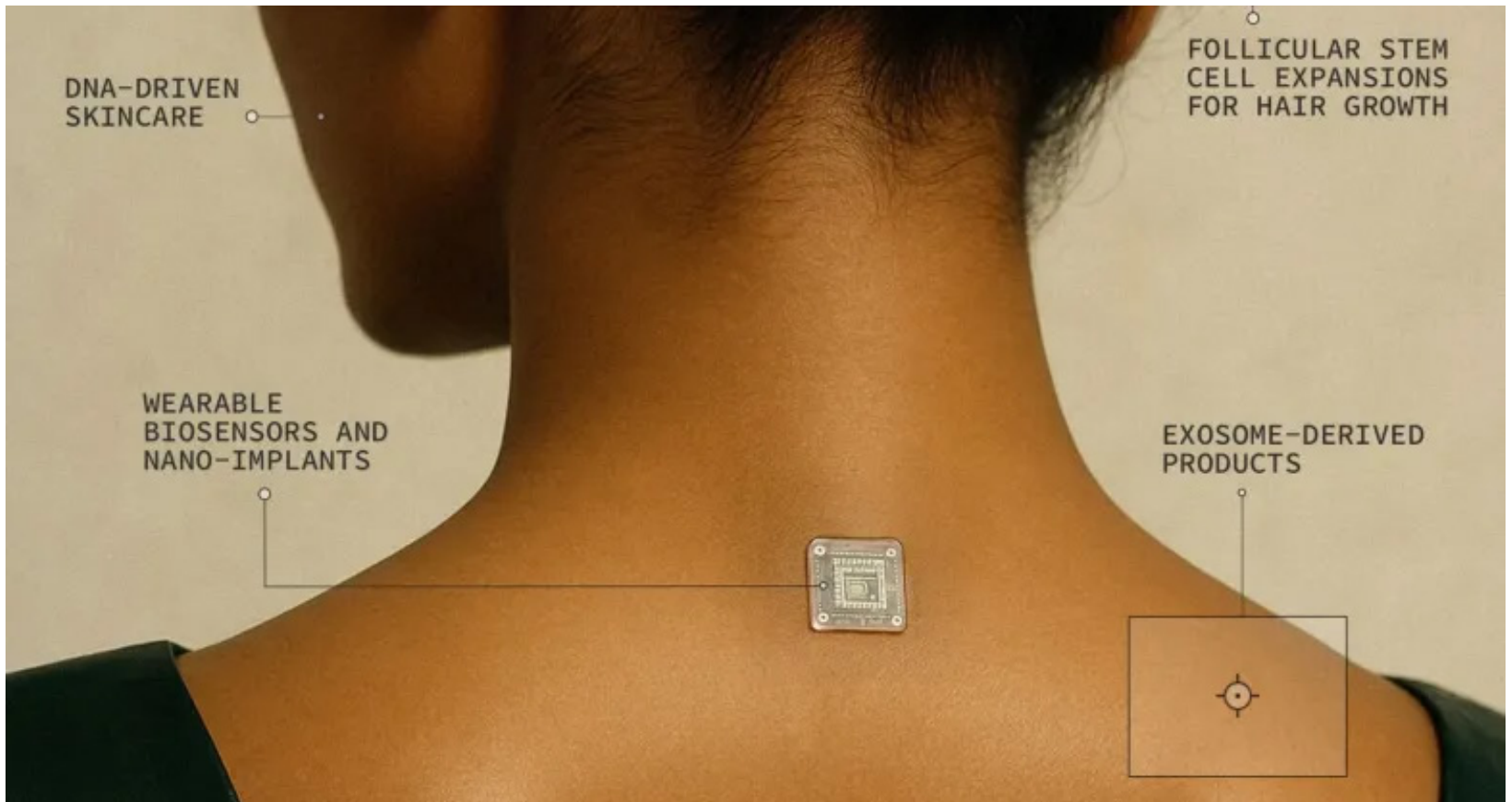
Angela Ahrendts, a renowned figure in

the luxury and technology sectors, brings decades of global leadership experience to Ralph Lauren. She has been a member of the company's Board of Directors since August 2018, currently serving as Chair of the Finance Committee and as a member of the Nominating, Governance, and Sustainability Committee. Her illustrious career includes a transformative tenure as CEO of Burberry from 2006 to 2013, where she revitalized the British fashion house and drove significant growth. Ahrendts later joined Apple Inc., where she served on the executive team as Senior Vice President of Retail and Online Stores, overseeing the tech giant's global retail strategy until her departure in 2019.

Ahrendts will succeed Hubert Joly, who will retire from the board after 16 years of service. Joly, the former Best Buy CEO, joined the Ralph Lauren board in 2009 and became Lead Independent Director in 2021. He played a pivotal role in evolving the board's diversity and governance, serving on both the Talent, Culture and Total Rewards Committee and the Finance Committee.

DNA-Coded skincare with nanobots

■ Mohammad Mithun



In this cutting-edge era of technology, science has entered an era of fiction where DNA is being coded. Skincare nanobots are a technology that uses microscopic robots or nano-implements to monitor the skin in real-time. This can then release active ingredients to address skin changes such as hydration, inflammation, UV damage, and aging.

Skin aging requires the removal of waste products. Diamondoid-based medical nanobots can repair active tissues. Devices like L'Oréal's "Cell Bioprint" tap skin proteins, analyze proteomic patterns, and recommend personalized ingredients.

According to Vogue Business, brands

like Skin + Me & Skin Trust Club are using consumer DNA to create a variety of skin care products. They can monitor skin conditions and hormone levels in real-time to provide the right medication. Again, skin care can recommend collagen boosting serums and fragrance-free products based on genetic characteristics. The survey said that 68% of consumers would use skin care products based on proteomic data at the gene level. Using products that identify genetic predispositions improves skin health. This approach reduces side effects and optimizes treatment effectiveness. Electro responsive nanoparticles can be implanted anywhere in the body to

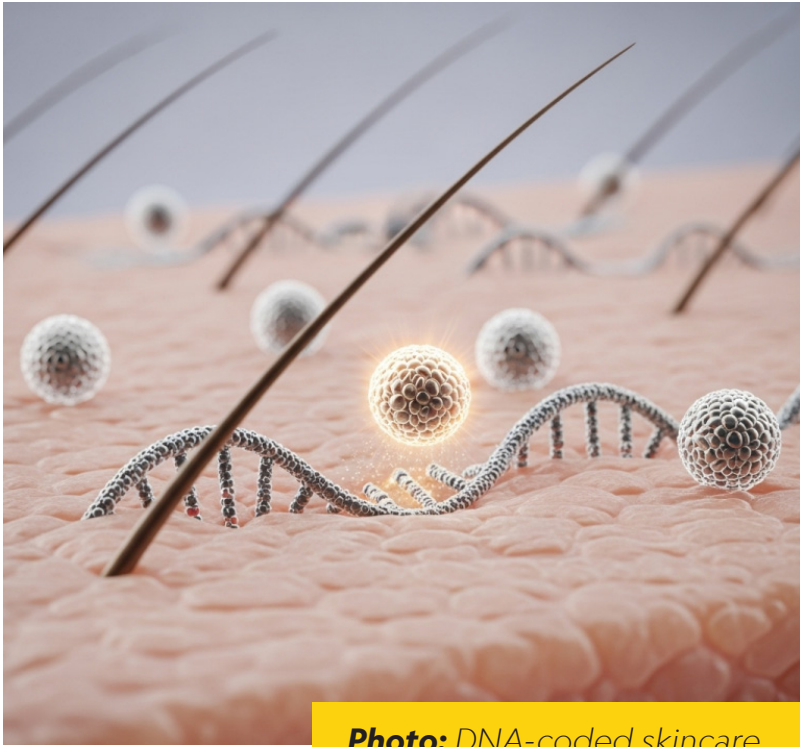


Photo: DNA-coded skincare, wearable nanobots

precisely release the drug when needed. The implant even tracks the release rate and sends that data back digitally, similar to an IV drip with Bluetooth. So, it can be adjusted remotely.

Nano-formulation is possible using biotech (silk peptides, polyphenols). This method is environmentally friendly, aiming to reduce dependence on petrochemicals. Haut.AI & SkinGPT helps users visualize the future skin appearance based on product usage and further enhances their experience.

The global market for DNA-based skin care is growing rapidly due to its high efficacy. As a result, its value is expected to reach \$7.61 billion by 2024 and grow at a CAGR of 6.8% until 2030. DNA-based and nanobot technologies are playing a significant role in long-term skin solutions. This innovation promises to make skin care more effective, preventive, and sustainable.



Photo: DNA-coded skincare with nanobots

Colorifix launches Colorifix Studio at Future Fabrics Expo 2025

■ M A Mohiemen Tanim

Colorifix has officially launched Colorifix Studio at the Future Fabrics Expo 2025, hosted by The Sustainable Angle in London. The launch marks a significant step toward democratizing access to Colorifix's revolutionary dyeing technology, previously available only to select early adopters and strategic partners.



A Curated Showcase of Bio-Dyed Innovation

Colorifix Studio introduces a curated collection of fabrics and colors, each piece a testament to the company's proprietary bio-based dyeing process. The selection is more than aesthetic; it's a celebration of renewable, non-toxic, and petrochemical-free materials. Every textile in the studio has been carefully chosen for its unique characteristics, showcasing the diversity and versatility of Colorifix's bio-dyes.

Revolutionary Technology, Now Open to All

Colorifix's patented technology uses

engineered microorganisms to deposit color directly onto fabric, eliminating the need for harsh chemicals, vast amounts of water, or toxic effluents that plague traditional dyeing methods. Until now, the technology has been limited to a select group of strategic scaling partners. Colorifix Studio changes that, opening the doors for designers, brands, and manufacturers of all sizes to explore, experience, and adopt this groundbreaking innovation. This democratization of access could accelerate industry-wide change, helping meet rising consumer demand for sustainability and regulatory pressures for cleaner production.

New Fashtrax tool set to revolutionize compliance in UK fashion and textile sector

■ Benjamin Harris

A cutting-edge digital platform, Fashtrax, developed by the Textiles Transparency Team at Manchester Metropolitan University's Fashion Institute (MFITT), is set to transform compliance and sustainability efforts across the UK fashion and textile industry.

The tool, backed by the £5.4 million InterAct programme part of the Made Smarter Innovation initiative and supported by the UK Fashion and Textile Association (UKFT), aims to streamline the often-overwhelming process of regulatory compliance for businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). With complex and evolving global standards, including the upcoming EU Digital Product Passport (DPP), Fashtrax is poised to become a critical resource in ensuring transparency, sustainability, and competitiveness in the UK's fashion supply chain.

A New Era of Compliance and Innovation

Fashtrax integrates over 100 regulations

“

Fashtrax is designed to simplify compliance in a complex world. With regulation coming from all angles especially around sustainability many SMEs struggle to keep up. This platform offers them clear, actionable guidance that levels the playing field.

Julie Hodson
MFITT co-lead

and 40 environmental standards, drawing from the UKRI-funded Legi-Standards database project. At the heart of the platform is the Compliance Navigator, an intelligent diagnostic tool that delivers customized compliance recommendations based on variables such as business size, product category, and supply chain scope. While currently under development, the Compliance Navigator is slated for pilot testing with 20 industry partners this summer and a full public release in late 2025.

Agentic AI transforming brand strategy to next level

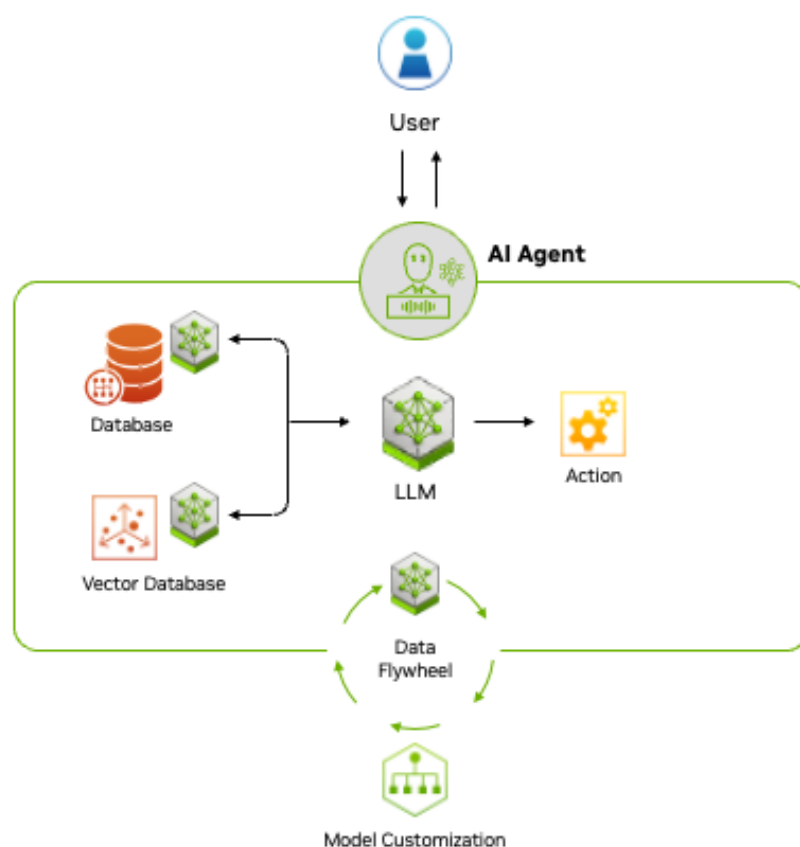
■ Farin Tasnim Fariha

In this new era, technology is not a tool, it is actively participating in decision-making. Agentic AI systems are one of the latest technologies in the world.

Agentic AI can make various decisions on its own like agents, can analyze problems, set objectives and take various steps according to that objective. This artificial intelligence is currently capable of following various commands as well as starting work on its own. It can plan various types of plans to meet goals and work on complex projects.

This word was also in the discussion at big events like Cannes Lions. Currently, the term agentic AI is on the lips of most executives in the fashion industry.

During VivaTech, LVMH’s Chief Information Officer Franck Le Moal said that they are working with Google to create an AI agent. At the ShopTalk event, Diane von Furstenberg CEO Graziano de Boni told Vogue Business that they are now thinking about how to use AI agents to make their brand smarter and more customer-focused.



Agentic AI has many advantages. They are capable of making decisions without human intervention. They learn from past mistakes and improve their decisions. Gartner predicts that by 2029, 80% of common customer problems will be solved autonomously—potentially reducing operational costs by nearly 30%.

Trey Courtney (Global chief product and partnerships officer at Mood Media) says, “Brands are using custom-trained task agents that understand their brand voice, past campaigns and audience preferences to suggest initial





We call it invisible intelligence because it's a way to empower sales associates to provide the best service at a much larger scale.”
“Currently, brands do this for their top 1 percent of customers, or their VICs. But now, they’re thinking about how to scale that to the next 30 percent of their highest-spending customers.

Raakhi Agrawal

Managing director and partner at management consultancy BCG

campaign themes, story arcs, product ideas and even early-stage visual and copy prototyping.”

This artificial intelligence analyzes real-time data to provide brands

with experiences that can adapt to customer preferences, from product recommendations to recommendations. This artificial intelligence helps brands take action without high-cost staff by automating complex tasks and reducing human error.

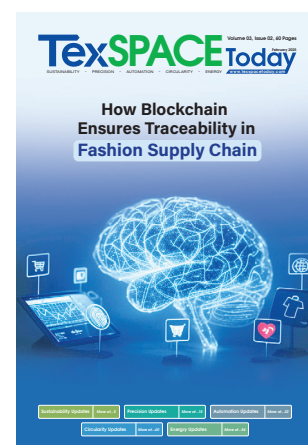
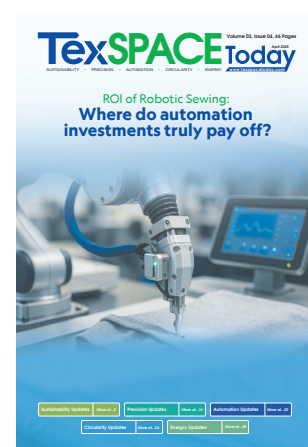
Agentic AI learns and improves over time, ensuring that marketing strategies, customer interactions, and business operations become more effective with each cycle. By adopting agentic AI, brands can differentiate themselves through improved customer experiences, faster innovation, and more agile operations.

Agentic AI can process huge amounts of data & they are transforming digital marketing that’s why brands should know about this. Agentic AI will be ideal for all industries. Marketers can integrate Agentic AI technology with other marketing tools and platforms.

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France leads textile recycling innovation with launch of CETIA's AI-Powered SensorHUB

■ Farin Tasnim Fariha



Photo: CETIA's AI-Powered SensorHUB

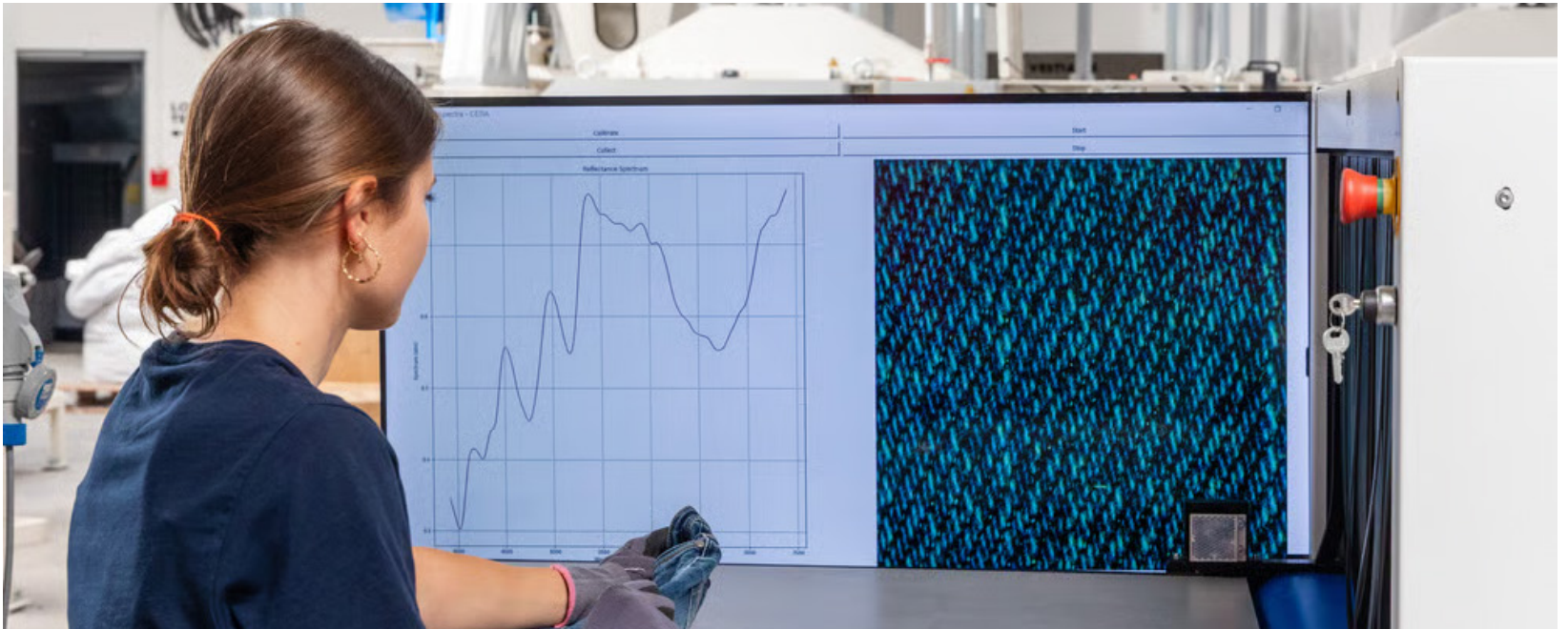
CETIA (Centre Européen du Textile Innovant et de l'Automobile) has officially launched SensorHUB, an advanced sorting unit that uses artificial intelligence and multi-sensor technology to automatically identify and classify end-of-life garments and shoes.

Developed in collaboration with Italian technology leader Brustia Alfameccanica srl, known for its pioneering work in X-ray applications for textiles, SensorHUB combines 2D/3D vision systems, hyperspectral imaging,

NIR sensors, and X-ray technologies to perform fast, precise sorting of used clothing and footwear.

Automating What the Human Eye Can't See

As textile waste volumes continue to surge across Europe and beyond, the fashion industry urgently needs scalable solutions to redirect used garments to appropriate recycling streams. SensorHUB addresses this challenge head-on by identifying complex features such as material composition,



This is a call to action. We need partners who want to be part of the future of textile recycling. The technology is ready and the industry is moving.

The CETIA team emphasized

color, type, and additional elements like zippers, rivets, and linings all in a single pass.

A Turning Point for Circular Fashion in France

Backed by Refashion, the eco-organization for textile waste, and supported by the Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine, the SensorHUB initiative aligns with France’s national goals for building a circular, sustainable, and economically viable recycling ecosystem. The project stands as a strategic response to EU directives and environmental mandates that call for more effective post-consumer textile management.

SensorHUB will enter real-world industrial testing this fall, and CETIA is actively inviting sorting operators, recyclers, and industrial stakeholders to collaborate in validating this next-generation solution.

Why SensorHUB Matters: Key Features

- » AI-powered sorting of textiles and shoes
- » Automated identification of fiber types, accessories, and colors
- » High-speed processing for industrial-scale operations
- » Enables closed-loop recycling and sustainable textile reuse
- » Strengthens France’s circular economy leadership

As countries race to meet climate goals and circular economy targets, SensorHUB puts France at the forefront of sustainable fashion innovation. With testing set to begin soon, this is a pivotal opportunity for industry players to engage with a powerful tool that can redefine waste management in textiles.



Photo: ©Jing Daily

Middle East: a bright spot for global luxury brands

■ Jack Thompson

Amid a global dip in luxury sales, the Middle East continues to shine as a resilient market for the high-end fashion industry. Thanks to robust tourism and significant local wealth, the region has defied the downturn facing other global markets, with some luxury brands reporting double-digit growth across Gulf countries.

In 2023, luxury sales in the Gulf rose by 6% to \$12.8 billion, outperforming the global luxury market, which saw a 2% decline, according to retail consultancy Chalhoub Group. The increase reflects a strong appetite in the Middle East for premium fashion, jewelry, and beauty products categories that continue to drive demand despite global economic uncertainty.

Tourist Spending Fuels the Luxury Market

A key driver of this performance is the region's thriving tourism industry. Bain & Company, a top consulting firm, estimates that 50–60% of luxury sales in the Middle East are driven by tourist spending. Visitors from Russia and Asia, including wealthy elites and high-net-worth individuals, are contributing heavily to the region's luxury boom.

Regional Tensions Add Short-Term Risks

Despite strong fundamentals, geopolitical instability continues to pose risks. The air war between Israel and Iran in June prompted airlines to



Short-term volatility has increased in the last few weeks and may continue, depending on how the situation develops. At this point, we have not adjusted our long-term growth forecast, as we continue to see considerable potential in the region.

Federica Lovato
Senior partner at Bain

cancel and reroute flights. While those disruptions are now easing, the recent unrest highlights the volatility that can impact tourism and, by extension, luxury spending.

High-End Brands Expand Footprint in the Gulf

Luxury fashion houses are doubling down on their Middle Eastern presence. Brands such as Dior, Saint Laurent, and Valentino have opened new stores in Bahrain, while Prada reported a 26% year-on-year increase in first-quarter regional sales. Hermès also saw 14% growth over the same period.

Retailers are investing in immersive experiences to cater to affluent clientele. Zegna showcased its spring menswear collection in Dubai's opera house, transforming it into an Italian-style villa for a catwalk event. Louis Vuitton hosted a dawn meal in the Dubai desert, and Chanel welcomed elite guests in Abu Dhabi for a high jewelry dinner.

Meanwhile, Elie Saab marked its 45th anniversary with a grand show in Riyadh, featuring a live performance by Celine Dion.

Travel Retail Players Stay Optimistic

Travel retail companies are also expanding. Gebr. Heinemann, co-led by Max Heinemann, recently entered the Saudi Arabian market, operating luxury fashion outlets in Jeddah airports. Despite regional tensions, Heinemann remains bullish.

Luxury travel agencies, like Global Travel Moments, noted that while there's currently "more caution" among travelers booking trips to the broader Middle East, long-term travel volumes have so far remained steady.

Middle East: A Strategic Gateway for Global Luxury

The Middle East also serves as a critical gateway to India, where high tariffs have slowed luxury expansion. With brands like LVMH facing challenges in opening stores directly in India, Gulf cities are becoming key hubs to reach Indian high-net-worth shoppers.

As global luxury markets brace for continued headwinds in 2024, the Middle East stands out as a rare growth engine. Strong tourism, strategic geography, and an appetite for opulence are propelling the region's high-end fashion scene into a new era, one where Dubai, Riyadh, and Bahrain are becoming just as influential as Paris, Milan, and New York.

Australian fashion rental platform 'The Volte' launches in the UK

■ William Moore



The Volte, Australia's leading peer-to-peer fashion rental platform, has officially launched in the United Kingdom, marking a significant step in its global expansion. The company celebrated the UK debut with an intimate breakfast event in London's stylish Soho district earlier this week.

Attendees from across the fashion and sustainability industries gathered for the event, where The Volte's Chief Brand & Strategy Officer, Kellie Hush, introduced the platform to the UK market. Hush outlined The Volte's vision of reshaping the fashion landscape by connecting borrowers and lenders through a tech-driven sharing economy model.

With a strong commitment to sustainability, The Volte champions a more circular fashion economy by

encouraging the rental of better-made, designer garments rather than fast fashion alternatives. The platform provides users the opportunity to access luxury fashion without the environmental footprint or high cost of ownership.

Originally founded in Australia, The Volte has grown rapidly as consumers seek more ethical and flexible ways to engage with fashion. The UK launch signals a broader mission to make fashion both sustainable and profitable on a global scale.

As UK fashion enthusiasts gain access to The Volte's extensive catalogue of designer rentals, the brand is poised to make a significant impact in the British fashion ecosystem, promoting conscious consumption while redefining the value of every dress.

Pineapple & Banana fiber wigs: sustainable beauty takes root

■ Jack Thompson



Photo: Pineapple & Banana Fiber Wigs

In a remarkable twist that's capturing the imagination of both environmentalists and beauty enthusiasts, the fashion and beauty industries are turning to the tropics quite literally. Wigs made from pineapple and banana fibers are making waves as the latest innovation in sustainable beauty.

Yes, you read that right. What was once considered agricultural waste is now being transformed into stylish, natural-looking wigs. As the world increasingly prioritizes eco-conscious choices, this unexpected fusion of beauty and sustainability is rapidly gaining traction.

A Natural Solution to a Synthetic Problem

Traditionally, synthetic wigs have dominated the market, many made from petroleum-based plastics and treated with chemicals that are harmful

to both the environment and wearers. But pineapple and banana fibers offer a clean, biodegradable alternative.

Why the Buzz?

- » **Eco-Friendly Impact:** By repurposing agricultural byproducts, these wigs help reduce waste and carbon emissions linked to conventional wig production. No synthetic fibers. No harmful dyes.
- » **Safe & Comfortable:** Natural fibers are gentle on the scalp, making them an excellent choice for people with sensitive skin or medical conditions. Plus, their breathable nature makes them ideal for long wear.
- » **Aesthetically Stunning:** Don't let the word "fiber" fool you—these wigs are far from coarse. The result is hair that looks as soft and shiny as real human hair, with the added benefit of being cruelty-free and sustainable.

Beyond Retro launches groundbreaking upcycled collection

■ Harry White

Beyond Retro, the vintage fashion brand known for its sustainability ethos, is once again setting the benchmark for circular fashion with the release of its newest Beyond Retro Label collection, a masterclass in upcycling, craftsmanship, and global creativity.

Crafted entirely from post-consumer textiles that would otherwise be discarded, each piece in the collection has been expertly handmade in India by a dedicated team. These items are not merely garments; they are stories stitched together from the remnants of fashion's past and they are ready to hit stores across the UK and the Nordics.

At the heart of this release lies a commitment to sustainability without compromise. The materials used in the collection are sourced from textiles that no longer meet traditional resale standards. But rather than sending them to landfills, Beyond Retro has elevated these fabrics, reworking them into striking contemporary silhouettes and one-of-a-kind fashion pieces.

The collection features reimagined denim, bold silhouettes, and exclusive designs, every item made by hand, never mass-produced. Each garment tells a tale of transformation,



Photo: Beyond Retro Unveils Groundbreaking Upcycled Collection

demonstrating the brand's vision of circularity with style.

Key highlights of the collection include:

100% Upcycled Materials: From fabric sourcing to final stitching, sustainability is at the core of the process.

Handcrafted Excellence: Created by artisans in India with skill, care, and deep respect for textile traditions.

Global Appeal: While rooted in India's craftsmanship, the designs speak to modern fashion lovers across the globe.

H&M Group partners with Circulose to scale circular fashion materials

■ A. Peter Tessa



H&M Group has officially joined forces with Circulose as a Scaling Partner, marking a major milestone in the global push for circular fashion solutions. The multi-year partnership aims to significantly transition H&M Group's use of man-made cellulosic fibers (MMCF) to fiber made with CIRCULOSE®, a cutting-edge material derived entirely from recycled textiles. This collaboration solidifies H&M Group's role as a trailblazer in sustainable fashion and supports Circulose's mission to accelerate the adoption of circular materials at industrial scale.

This innovative fiber is produced by Renewcell, now operating under the Circulose brand, and is recognized as one of the leading technologies enabling circularity in the textile industry.

Deepening a Long-Term Sustainability Commitment

H&M Group first introduced fashion made with CIRCULOSE® in 2020,

positioning itself at the forefront of sustainable innovation. Now, as a Scaling Partner, the fashion giant is deepening its commitment to circular materials and expanding its use of CIRCULOSE® across a broader portion of its product lines.



H&M Group has been a driving force in advancing circular solutions and an early adopter of CIRCULOSE® since the Renewcell days. We're proud to now formalize this partnership to accelerate CIRCULOSE® adoption at scale. Their commitment plays a critical role in helping us reach the volumes needed to restart our factory.

Jonatan Janmark

CEO of Circulose

Syre and Selenis announce strategic partnership to launch textile-to-textile recycling plant in North Carolina

■ Matthew Davis



Photo: Syre and Selenis in strategic partnership



This is truly an important milestone on our journey to drive the great textile shift, with more than two years of planning now moving into action. We call this establishment a Blueprint Plant since the work there will lay the foundation for Syre's continued global expansion, with the process being mirrored and scaled up in our upcoming gigascale plants globally.

Dennis Nobelius

CEO at Syre

Syre and Selenis have entered into a strategic partnership to establish a textile-to-textile recycling plant in North Carolina, USA. Both companies are leaders in advanced recycling technologies, united in a shared mission to decarbonize and dewaste the textile industry.

This plant will combine cutting-edge depolymerization and polymerization technologies in a single, integrated site. The result is a cost-efficient, industrial-scale recycling operation capable of producing up to 10,000 metric tons of circular polyester annually. Operations are set to commence by mid-2025, with first commercial sales expected later that year. Launched in March



The partnership is a strong statement in driving innovation in advanced recycling technologies that deliver real-world sustainability solutions and importantly a positive impact on the LCA of final products. We are excited about this journey with Syre as it also allows us to further invest in the US market with existing asset expansion and bring the benefits of new technologies closer to customers.

Duarte Gil
CEO at Selenis

2025, Syre is on a bold mission to build gigascale textile-to-textile recycling plants worldwide. By producing circular polyester, Syre aims to cut CO2



When scouting locations for our plants, we have to carefully balance critical factors such as renewable energy, infrastructure, cost, and access to feedstock. I am really excited to partner with the Selenis team, having a similar sustainability direction and ambition to drive green transformation at scale.

Dennis Nobelius
CEO at Syre

emissions by up to 85% compared to the manufacturing of virgin, oil-based polyester.

The new facility will be developed alongside the existing Selenis production plant in Cedar Creek, creating a continuous production flow that spans pre-processing, depolymerization, polymerization, and PET chip production. The collaboration is driven by a shared focus on sustainability, innovation, and scalable green transformation.



As the two companies move through this exciting journey in tackling the impact of textile waste and the problems that it creates, together we have a vision of an innovation hub for textile recycling, paralleled with R&D investment, with the specific focus on being leading recyclers supporting the textile industry in becoming more sustainable – creating a unique space where pre-poly, depoly and polymerization happen all in the same site.

Eduardo Santos
Head of Corporate Strategy at Selenis



Photo: *Made-In-Italy-Innovation-Forum_MICS*

Made in Italy Innovation Forum 2025: Excellence meets circular transformation

■ A. Peter Tessa

Nestled along Lake Como, Villa Erba hosted the annual Made in Italy Innovation Forum, convening nearly 1,000 industry leaders, policymakers, researchers, and corporate innovators to shape the next era of Italian manufacturing through sustainability, digitalization, and design excellence.

A Premier Showcase of Circular & Digital Innovation

Organized by MICS (Made in Italy Circolare e Sostenibile), the Forum spotlighted groundbreaking case

studies and cross-sector collaborations aimed at rethinking resource use, extending product lifecycles, and embedding circular strategies in supply chains.

Keynote sessions, including institutional addresses by Gilberto Pichetto Fratin (Environment & Energy Security Minister) and Marco Nocivelli (Confindustria VP for Industrial Policy), underscored Italy's ambition: to balance global competitiveness with a sustainable industrial renaissance.



NEST Initiative: Driving Energy Transition

Wolfram Sparber of Eurac Research introduced the PNRR-backed NEST project, a powerhouse of research-industry-regulator collaboration dedicated to scaling renewable electrification, heat pump systems, agrivoltaics, and district heating innovations across Italy.

Sustainable Fashion & Leather

Roundtables explored the future of Made in Italy in textiles and leather, focusing on eco-design, circular production practices, end-of-life garment management, and fashion intelligence powered by digital tools

Green Interiors & Architectural Materials

Experts from universities and firms

such as A2A Energia and Politecnico di Milano debated how industrial carbonation and material innovation can reduce waste and emissions in furniture and building sectors

Manufacturing Meets Industry 5.0

Panels tackled smart factory readiness, AI-driven servitization, additive manufacturing, digital twins, and predictive maintenance catalyzing the twin transition of digital and green transformations

Ecosystem Synergies & Local Innovation Hubs

Moderator Fabiola Gallo led discussions on “Case del Made in Italy” regional innovation hubs in Milan, Bari, Bologna, Cagliari, and Taranto that are emerging as territorial accelerators for tech transfer, IoT, XR, smart mobility, and blockchain-enabled SMEs

Sustainable fibers from the sea: SeaWeave tackles fast fashion with Seaweed

■ Luke Wilson

The textile and garment industry is currently a leading contributor to oceanic microplastic pollution, largely driven by synthetic fibers and toxic dyes. Meanwhile, biobased alternatives are mostly reliant on land-intensive agriculture, demanding vast resources of arable land and freshwater both increasingly scarce. SeaWeave presents an innovative detour from these terrestrial limitations by harnessing the potential of macroalgae specifically, red and brown seaweed as renewable, marine-based feedstocks for fiber and dye production.

Macroalgae, fast-growing and abundant in marine ecosystems worldwide, constitute the backbone of the world's largest aquaculture sector, producing over 35 million tons annually. Yet, Europe accounts for a mere 0.8% of this global output, relying heavily on wild harvest. SeaWeave aims to unlock this untapped potential by focusing on cultivated seaweed biomass from the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea.

At the heart of the SeaWeave initiative is a consortium of seven research and industry partners from six countries, working together across disciplines to establish the full value chain from seaweed cultivation to functional textile production. The project seeks to develop novel pretreatment and



biorefinery processes that can extract valuable polysaccharides and pigments through an integrated and circular approach. These natural components will then be transformed into high-performance fibers and dyes for fashion and furniture applications. SINTEF, one of Europe's leading independent research organizations, plays a pivotal role in the project. Their work focuses on selecting and characterizing seaweed biomass, optimizing processing methods, scaling up experiments, and functionalizing seaweed-derived biopolymers for industrial use.

SeaWeave's ambitions are not limited to material innovation alone. The project also includes comprehensive environmental and social impact assessments to ensure the long-term viability and ethical integrity of the technologies it develops. These evaluations will be conducted in close collaboration with stakeholders, ensuring that the project's outcomes align with global sustainability targets and consumer expectations.

GRI launches new climate and energy standards to elevate global accountability and accelerate climate action

■ M A Mohiemen Tanim

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) has launched two transformative reporting standards: GRI 102: Climate Change and GRI 103: Energy. These new frameworks are designed to deliver accessible, science-based, and decision-useful



Amid an escalating climate emergency, the GRI Standards for Climate Change and Energy get to the heart of why companies need to be accountable for their impacts on people and planet, an essential precursor to understanding related risks and opportunities. By supporting organizations to disclose their climate change impacts in a comprehensive and comparable way, including the impacts of transition and adaptation plans, GRI 102 and 103 have a key role in the advancement of a cohesive and effective global system for climate reporting.

Robin Hodess

GRI CEO



disclosures that empower organizations to take accountability for their environmental impacts and contribute meaningfully to global climate goals.

Unveiled during London Climate Action Week, the launch marks a major milestone in advancing integrated and globally aligned sustainability reporting. By emphasizing transparency, scientific rigor, and social equity, GRI 102 and 103 aim to streamline corporate climate disclosures while deepening their real-world relevance and effectiveness. GRI 102: Climate Change sets a new bar for organizations to report their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions based on science-based targets aligned with international



Climate change is a deeply human issue, as much as it is an environmental one, and these new GRI Standards are unique in bringing these dimensions together. GRI 102 and 103 will enable transparency and action on climate and energy impacts that drives decision-making by companies, regulators, investors and other stakeholders.

Carol Adams

Chair of the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB)

climate agreements. Uniquely, it integrates metrics addressing the ‘just transition’—capturing the broader human and social implications of climate action, including impacts on workers, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples.

GRI 103: Energy focuses on a company’s energy-related activities, demanding robust disclosure of renewable and non-renewable energy use, decarbonization strategies, and the scope of energy reduction measures. Together, these Standards frame responsible energy use and emissions reduction as central to meaningful climate mitigation.

Science-Based, Globally Aligned, and Interoperable

Both standards are grounded in

authoritative climate instruments and are fully aligned with the GHG Protocol, streamlining emissions reporting and reducing duplication. This ensures that the information disclosed is not only accurate and relevant but also consistent with the expectations



We welcome the publication of GRI’s new Climate Change and Energy Standards. We are working together with the GRI to enhance the interoperability and efficiency of reporting using our respective standards. In this regard, we are delighted that the GRI have granted equivalence to IFRS S2 Climate-related Disclosures for disclosures of GHG emissions under GRI 102. This will enable companies to prepare just one set of GHG emissions disclosures in accordance with IFRS S2, to meet the requirements in both standards. Beyond this, the two standards can be used together assisting preparers in providing information to investors and a broader range of stakeholders about their climate-related impacts, risks, and opportunities in an efficient manner.

Sue Lloyd

Vice Chair of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB)



GRI's alignment with the GHG Protocol reinforces a clear message: organizations don't have to choose between standards. By using a common foundation for emissions data, companies can meet global reporting needs efficiently and consistently. This interoperability helps reduce duplication, increase transparency, and accelerate meaningful climate action. We're proud to support this step toward a more streamlined, impactful disclosure ecosystem.

Pankaj Bhatia

Co-Director at GHG Protocol (WRI)

of regulators, investors, and other stakeholders.

Carol Adams, Chair of the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB), reinforced this vision:

In a significant step toward harmonizing global sustainability frameworks, GRI 102 is designed to be complementary with the IFRS S2 Climate-related Disclosures, ensuring organizations can meet multiple reporting requirements with consistency. A joint statement confirms that disclosures on Scope 1, 2, and 3 GHG emissions made under IFRS

S2 are considered equivalent to GRI 102 requirements, provided they adhere to the GHG Protocol and are properly referenced in a GRI content index.

Sue Lloyd, Vice Chair of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB), welcomed the development:

This synergy was echoed by Pankaj Bhatia, Co-Director at GHG Protocol (WRI):

Tools, Training, and Global Input

To support adoption, GRI has rolled out several practical tools:

- » A dedicated GRI Academy course: Climate Reporting with GRI and IFRS Standards;
- » Detailed FAQs for both GRI 102 and GRI 103;
- » A GRI Community early adopter pilot, with case studies to be released in Q4 2025.

The development of the standards was led by a GSSB-appointed Technical Committee over a two-year, multi-stakeholder process. The global public comment period (November 2023 – February 2024) drew on input from communities most vulnerable to climate change and engaged experts in human rights, energy systems, just transition, science-based targets, and carbon credits.



Photo: © ZENGGI

ZENGGI Spring/Summer 2026: embracing soft power through nature-inspired design

■ **Mohammad Mithun**

Amid a world driven by fast-paced trends and constant clamor, ZENGGI distinguishes itself through a quiet resilience, an unwavering brand identity rooted in the rhythms, textures, and enduring grace of the natural world. The Spring Summer 2026 collection is a continuation of this narrative, a masterful balance of enduring elegance and contemporary insight. Gentle by nature and refined in expression, ZENGGI once again proves that authenticity lies in subtlety and that

softness is its own kind of power.

An Evolving Signature

ZENGGI has built a reputation on intelligent, outspoken minimalism that flows seamlessly from season to season. Rather than abrupt reinvention, each collection is an evolution, a renewal aligned with the shifting elements of time, yet always true to its essence. The Spring Summer 2026 collection reflects this ethos with remarkable clarity.

Technical Craft Meets Organic Beauty

Innovation meets nature in the technical fabrications of the collection. A feather-light silk-nylon blend with a mossy texture breathes life into wide pleated trousers and a collarless blouse with languid, subtly rounded lines. Meanwhile, a cotton-nylon blend with a bark-like texture transforms into an ankle-length shirt dress and a long, wide skirt, or cargo-pocketed pleated trousers pieces that blend outdoor resilience with a natural softness.

Stripes appear in refreshing ways, including a standout café au lait brown with white and blue that subtly contrasts with a finely crinkled viscose-nylon-cotton blend. This material forms the basis of roomy trousers, blouses, and a maxi shirtdress, offering comfort without compromise.

The Knitwear Narrative

Knitwear is always a strength for ZENGGI, and Spring Summer 2026 continues the tradition with luxurious understatement. Featherlight summer merino tees come in oversized silhouettes, while 100% cashmere and wool-cashmere blends deliver unparalleled softness in delicate forms.

In cotton khaki twill, utility and beauty intertwine. A wide worker jacket, matching trousers, and a long half-circle skirt—all carefully finished with unbleached cotton reflect ZENGGI's meticulous craftsmanship and commitment to honest materiality.

ZENGGI's garments are not about commanding attention, but rather inviting a second, more thoughtful glance. The clothing respects the female form, offering space rather than restriction long lines, roomy cuts, and delicate nips at the waist in blazers, sleek dresses, and tops that speak to the powerful interplay between strength and softness.



Photo: © ZENGGI



ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025 publishes exhibitor list & mobile app

■ Desk Report

ITMA ASIA + CITME Singapore 2025 has published its long-awaited exhibitor list exclusively through a newly released companion app for Android and iOS. The digital rollout comes ahead of the four-day technology showcase, which will take place at Singapore Expo from 28 to 31 October 2025.

The exhibition has already confirmed more than 770 exhibitors from 31 countries and regions, filling 70,000 m² of gross space across 19 product sectors—a footprint that spans the entire textile and garment manufacturing value chain. Organisers note that stand-space applications are

still coming in despite the official sales window having closed, signalling strong market confidence in the event.

Built by event-tech specialist Jublia, the mobile app lets visitors bookmark favourite exhibitors, create personalised itineraries and use an integrated way-finder to plot the shortest routes between stands. Exhibitors can likewise locate potential partners for on-site meetings. For now, the exhibitor directory is available only in the app; a web-based version will go live on the show website at the end of June, with the list slated for fortnightly updates.

HEYANNO SS26: The Anti(que) Core

■ Robert Heymen

For Spring/Summer 2026, HEYANNO unveils The Anti(que) Core Collection, a masterful blend of nostalgia and rebellion, echoing with the unfiltered rhythm of a soul in motion. This collection reads not like a fashion statement, but a poetic gesture untamed, deeply personal, and timeless. A journey rather than a destination.

Inspired by the spirit of the bohemian muse, HEYANNO's latest offering invites wearers to rediscover freedom as a state of being. The aesthetic? Nostalgic retro. Second-hand energy. A world built from weather-worn linens, sun-faded tailoring, and denim softened by memory. Silhouettes are relaxed, unburdened, and made to move drifting like footprints across sun-



Photo: © HEYANNO

Photo: © HEYANNO

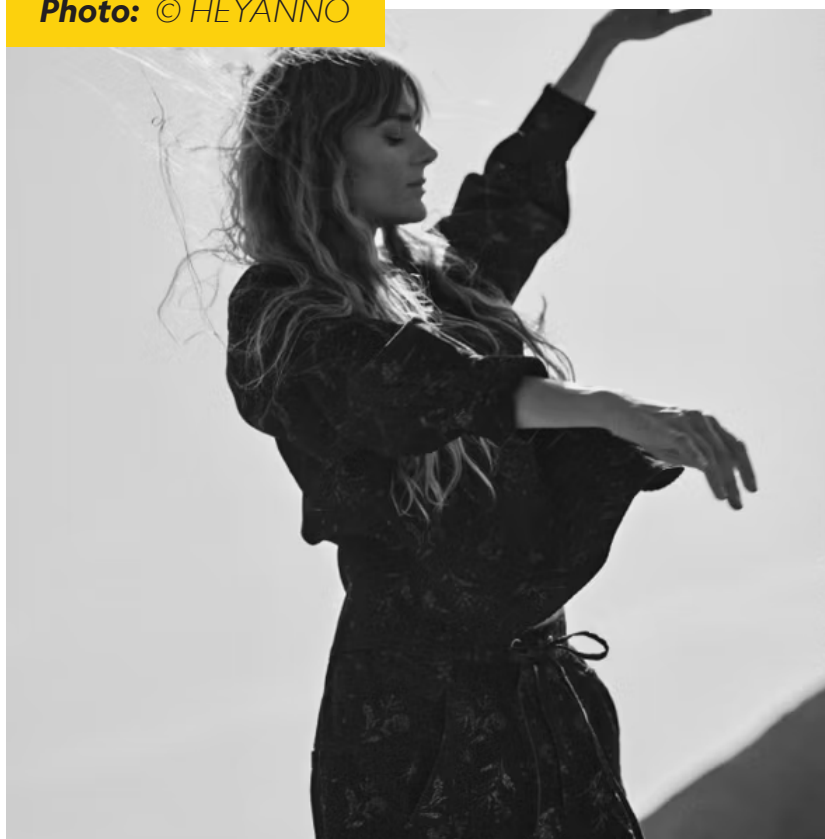




Photo: © HEYANNO

scorched terrain.

Shot against barren landscapes and bathed in golden-hour light, the collection's lookbook captures the raw, radiant essence of the HEYANNO woman. Unfiltered. Carefree. The images speak louder than any posed perfection—offering not only a visual feast but a philosophical manifesto for the modern wanderer. The brand's accompanying narrative text serves as both moodboard and mission statement, offering a lyrical guide to those who live by instinct and not permission.

Feel the pulse of unknown journeys
“A season sung by a restless heart,
where horizons whisper secrets carried

by wind and every breath of air feels like a possibility. She is a wanderer. A wild soul. An unbothered rebel chasing wild lights before sunrise. She follows hidden trails, guided by her instinct and a carefree attitude of ‘don't tell me what to do.’”

This isn't a collection for those seeking trends. It's for those who seek truth. For those who gather moments like treasures, not things. Who live not in pursuit of desire—but in presence. The HEYANNO woman is tired of looking for answers. She's found them within herself.

“She gathers moments like treasures rather than things. No desire to want – but to be. Tired of looking for answers, she's found truth within. Marching to the beat of her own drum, her heartbeat, a desire to have eyes of love and a heart full of freedom. This is a celebration of the fearless soul – of sunrise dances, starlit whispers, and the untamed joy of loud freedom. This collection is a soundtrack for those who live by their own rhythm, forever chasing horizons and never standing still.”

HEYANNO's Spring/Summer 2026 collection is not merely worn—it's lived in. It's a call to those who resist convention and follow intuition. It's for those who feel more than they speak, who move before they explain. The Anti(que) Core Collection is a soft rebellion, a sartorial poem for the untamed, a love letter to those who dare to just be.

MOS MOSH spring/summer 2026 – La Belle Botanique: a tribute to orchids

■ Oliver Taylor



Photo: © MOS MOSH



Photo: © MOS MOSH

MOS MOSH presents La Belle Botanique, a collection deeply rooted in botanical elegance and timeless sophistication. Inspired by the mesmerizing “Mille et une Orchidées” exhibition in Paris, this season captures the intricate grace of orchids, unfolding into a poetic narrative of fabric, form, and finesse.

At the heart of the collection is the orchid itself nature’s most refined flower. Through hand-painted prints, abstract motifs, and subtle gradients, MOS MOSH translates the orchid’s delicate architecture into wearable art. Soft hues reminiscent of early morning light watery blues, pastel rose, and pale lavender mingle with the unexpected

heat of spicy orange, painting a palette that feels both gentle and alive.

Texture and pattern form a quiet dialogue throughout the collection. Swirling paisleys echo the organic



Photo: © MOS MOSH

curves of floral growth, while heritage checks and ribbed knits ground the collection with a sense of countryside nostalgia. There's a whisper of vintage workwear in the soft tailoring, balanced by refined accents like soft leather trims and tonal embroidery, reflecting a lifestyle of slow living and considered beauty. Denim, a MOS MOSH signature, acts as the collection's foundation. This season, it evolves from sun-washed ecru to the depths of midnight black, offering fluid, flattering silhouettes that carry a sense of quiet confidence. Matching sets adorned with embroidered botanicals strike a harmonious balance between structure and softness, celebrating the modern woman's desire for both elegance and ease.

Attention to craftsmanship elevates every piece. Broderie anglaise, delicate lace inserts, and carefully placed tonal stitching showcase the brand's unwavering commitment to detail. These refined elements don't just decorate, they tell a story of care, patience, and reverence for nature's quiet complexity.

La Belle Botanique is more than a seasonal offering it's a tribute to natural beauty and enduring style. With garments designed to be cherished and silhouettes made to move gracefully with the wearer, MOS MOSH invites us to embrace a spring and summer where every detail blooms with meaning.



ITMA ASIA + CITME SINGAPORE 2025

28 – 31 October 2025 | Singapore Expo



Dhaka Roadshow

 12 July 2025 (Saturday)

 **Le Meridien, Dhaka**

Airport Road, Nikunja 2, Khilkhet, Dhaka , Bangladesh



Chattogram Roadshow

 13 July 2025 (Sunday)

 **Radisson Blu Chattogram Bay View**

S.S. Khaled Road, Lalkhan Bazar, Chattogram, Bangladesh

Register Now!



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