

Registration is open for the ITMF annual conference 2023

The ITMF Annual Conference 2023 is co-hosted by the China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC) and the Shaoxing Municipal People's Government and will feature international industry experts from around the world from along the entire textile value chain – from fibres to retail.

500+ high-level representatives from the entire textile value chain from China and around the world are expected to attend.

Under the general theme "Digitalization & Circularity – Megatrends Shaping the Textile Industry" experts from the industry and academia will shed light on how the textile value chain is coping with these trends and will help better understand the underlying dynamics and identifying the risks and opportunities. In the various sessions, experts will discuss among other topics



- How the fibre markets will adapt to the increasing demand for recycled fibres,
- How the textile industry can reduce the carbon footprint,
- How new technologies will accelerate the industry's transition towards more circularity or
- How upcoming regulation will impact production around the world. Etc.

In addition, ITMF will once again recognise the winners of the

- ITMF Start-up Awards 2023
- ITMF Sustainability & Innovation Awards 2023
- ITMF International Collaboration Awards 2023

In conjunction and coordination with the ITMF Annual Conference 2023, there will be two more events that will take place in Keqiao, namely:

- 10th Belt & Road Textile Conference 2023 (November 2-3)
- 6th World Textile Merchandising Conference (WTMC) 2023 (November 5-6)

More info about the conference can be found at: <https://www.itmf.org/conferences/annual-conference-2023> ■

IAF launches export assistance tool for fashion companies

'Gateway to Europe' is a full-service solution covering marketing and sales; logistics and fulfilment; customs and VAT; financial organisation and compliance and regulations. IAF points out that the platform is uniquely positioned to work within the context of its industry association members from all over the world.

It is powered by IAF's services partner Greenway Logistics which partners with national fashion industry associations and develops and runs a plug-and-play service that associations can offer to their members.

IAF believes cross-continental export fashion is a complex operation which can only be successful with knowledge of marketing, the right agent or distributor, knowledge and network to deliver products at the right time and lowest possible cost in the midst of an intricate framework of laws governing the industry.

It continues: "Through a network of specialists selected for their proven track record and specialisation in the fashion industry, Gateway to Europe is able to support fashion companies wishing to export to Europe from plan to successful sales."

In addition to this, IAF says Gateway to Europe enables fashion and sports industry associations to help their members to expand their businesses. Next month, Gateway to Europe is hosting a webinar for members of the Canadian Apparel Federation, adding that other non-EU countries will follow soon.

Earlier in July, the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA), the International Apparel Federation (IAF) and 128 other organisations got together to urge authorities at all levels to make labels more sustainable and economical by



harnessing the power of modern technology. The organisations argued that digital solutions – such as QR code labels – are now available to cut the considerable amount of material that these regulations require the industry to produce ■

A&E unveils new sustainable thread products awarded with gold level C2C certified™ material health certificates



Global thread maker, American & Efirid (A&E) continued its advancement of sustainable practices and environmental stewardship with the release of two sustainable cotton thread products, each earning a Gold Level C2C Certified Material Health Certificate™. Meeting the material health requirements of the multi-attribute Cradle to Cradle

Certified™ Product Standard, these new products bolster an already impressive sustainable thread line, and support increased sustainability and circularity within the textile industry. Specially processed under best manufacturing practices, A&E's new Anecot Plus® SPC and Chroma™ SPC long staple cotton thread products are created with Cradle to Cradle compliant dyes and chemicals, providing additional eco-friendly choices to customer brand and retail partners seeking certified, sustainable thread products to directly support their respective environmental goals.

"We are pleased to continue to offer sustainable sewing thread solutions to our customers," said Chris Alt, A&E President. "From fully recycled options as in our ECO100 thread line to our 100-percent biodegradable and organic products, we remain committed to creating responsible sewing threads. We are focused on meeting the current and future demands of our customers with new innovations, while doing right by the environment and the communities in which we operate."

Cradle to Cradle Certified is a globally recognized measure of safer, more sustainable products made for a circular economy. Products under C2C are rated based on their overall product safety, responsibility, and ability to be reused once their useful life has ended. Achieving the Gold level C2C Certified designation signifies A&E's unwavering dedication to minimizing its ecological footprint as the company continues efforts to be an environmentally conscious contributor to a regenerative economy.

"The Cradle to Cradle program certifies products designed for a circular economy and challenges us to re-think the way we make them," said Jimmy Summers, Chief Sustainability Officer, Elevate Textiles. "Products certified under C2C are rated based on their overall product safety, responsibility, and ability to be reused once their useful life has ended. The Material Health Certificate offers a solution to growing industry and consumer interest in knowing more about the chemicals used in products across their supply chains and avoiding chemicals of concern. This helps us continue on our path towards even safer product chemistries and circularity" ■