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AFFOA Looking to Drive Innovation for Functional Fabrics

By John McCurry Contributing Writer

Advanced Functional Fabrics of America, commonly known as AFFOA, marked its one-year anniversary in April. The institute—which is based at MIT and has nearly 100 members from a diverse group of manufacturers, startups and institutes of higher learning—is leading a \$317 million private-public effort to drive innovation in textile and fiber manufacturing.

AFFOA members say the institute has already produced a major benefit in helping to bridge the information gap between universities and manufacturers. New networking opportunities have been created that have potential to drive innovation.

Many AFFOA members have either submitted project proposals or are working on proposals based on

current research that they hope will meet AFFOA's approval for funding. AF-FOA opened a new headquarters facility on June 19 in Cambridge, Mass., near MIT. It includes a fabric discovery center that will provide a base for prototyping ranging from fiber design to new textile products. Other centers will open later this year in Georgia, North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

The Fabric Discovery Centers will serve as regional incubators and accelerators for start-up companies in advanced fabrics, provide rapid prototyping facilities and house training facilities for educational outreach and workforce development.

"Apparel will become the new platform from which the

digital world will be operating," said Eric Spackey, AFFOA's chief marketing officer and the chief executive officer of **Bluewater Defense**, a Puerto Rico—based manufacturer of uniforms for the U.S. military. "Clothing will be able to interact with the outside world. It's an exciting time. We are about to create a new industry. This was a fantastic idea by the Obama Administration."

Spackey believes that a decade from now, AFFOA will have secured an important place in the history of textiles and apparel by rapidly deploying and funding existing research and turning it into innovation and jobs. It's all about taking the technology that's already in labs.

Following is a look at a few of the efforts to convert ongoing research into new products.

Brrr is an Atlanta-based startup apparel company that incorporated in 2014. Co-founder and CEO Mary-Cathryn Kolb said her company was asked to be a charter AF-FOA member to provide an entrepreneurial voice. She says the projects that AFFOA will eventually bring to the market will have potential to bring manufacturing back stateside. Brrr's chemical-free technology is em-

bedded into garments at the nanotech level.

Kolb, which is partnering with the University of Georgia, the University of Kentucky and MIT, has two patent-pending projects that it is working on with AFFOA.

PVH Corp., sometimes known as Phillips-Van Heusen, is one of the largest global apparel companies with more than \$8 billion in annual revenues. It owns some of the world's best-known brands, including Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger, Van Heusen, Izod, Speedo and Arrow.

In early 2016, PVH came to the conclusion that it needed to put more attention and resources into research and development. It was part of a realization that the apparel sector trails other industries in terms of investing in R&D. As a result, it created its **Innovation Next** division. Barry McGeough, group vice

president, likens it to the Eureka Innovation Lab at Levi Strauss, Nike's Innovation Kitchen and Under Armour's Lighthouse, all created over the past few years.

"The apparel industry is new to the innovation game," McGeough said. "We realized we had to start investing in R&D."

So Innovation Next was created to see how PVH could do things better across all of its different brands and regions. This involved listening to brands to solicit ideas with the goal of developing a competitive edge.

"We took ideas from the defense industry and other industries, and we are looking everywhere and finding amazing stuff," explained McGeough. "Here's my thinking. Your

car and everything in your world is smart and connected. What will your expectations be? Will you accept living in a smart world where everything is smart but your clothes? We know that people will expect their clothes to do something, and that's for brands to figure out."

Another apparel firm participating in AFFOA is Miami-headquartered **Intradeco**. The company operates a factory in El Salvador and sources products from other manufacturers. It is a major supplier to **Walmart** and also has licenses to manufacture products for such brands as **Fruit of the Loom**, **Jockey**, **Russell** and **Geoffery Beene**.

Eduardo Siman, Intradeco's IT director, said one of the key areas his company is interested in is physiological monitoring, which he says is important to the company and is also has military applications. Intradeco is partnering with universities and startups, acting in an advisory capacity on manufacturing and merchandising.

"We are big in the activewear space," he said. "Monitoring from a garment will help us to understand measurements of sweat, temperature and pressure. If it can be done from a garment, it's a lot more convenient."





AFFOA MEMBER: Brrr is an Atlanta-based startup apparel company that makes garments embedded with chemical-free nanotechnology. The company is a charter AFFOA member. Brrr Cofounder and CEO Mary-Cathryn Kolb said the projects that AFFOA will eventually bring to the market will have potential to bring manufacturing back stateside.





Juice Up

Textiles are awash in fresh shades of orange, persimmon and mango.



Asher Fabric Concepts #WW2729 Dobby Open Cotton Stripes Garment Dye

Asher Fabric Concepts #WW2628 Cotton/Viscose Slub Open Weave Garment Dye



Cinergy Textiles Inc. #LVP-2009-1289 Printed Liverpool



Josi Severson "Fieldwork"



Kalimo #910769D/T33



Josi Severson "Los Barriles"



A Plus Fabrics Inc. "Needles"



Cinergy Textiles Inc. #HMC-LGS1607-324 Printed Chiffon



Cinergy Textiles Inc. #LVRCR-FL3258 Liverpool Crepe Print



A Plus Fabrics Inc. #LC-NM01 Chili Pepper



Cinergy Textiles Inc. #Jacquard-1297 Jacquard Paisley Knit



Cinergy Textiles Inc. #HB322 Stripe Knit Mesh



Cinergy Textiles Inc. #HMC-MX3517G Hi Multi Chiffon Print





Geo Pop

Pop Art motifs and bright colors mix with geometric design for a fresh take on geo patterns.



Confetti Fabrics #17745







Kalimo #912381D/T117



Sweater knits, mélange patterns and twill weaves and prints showcase an extra

A Plus Fabrics Inc. #HC293 Poly/Rayon Sweater Knit



A Plus Fabrics Inc. #723G Granny Sweater Knit



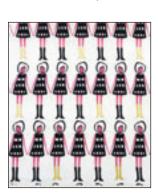
Pine Crest Fabrics "Dr. Seuss'





Pine Crest Fabrics #BTP091C1





Robert Kaufman Fabrics



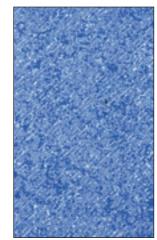
Hi-Lo Texture

dimension of textile texture.

Asher Fabric Concepts #NPC300 Nylon/Poly Blend Crepe



Asher Fabric Concepts #NPX175 Nylon/Polyester/ Spandex Interlock



Cinergy Textiles Inc. #LVRPL-6418-1289 Denim Look Liverpool Knit



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Sequins

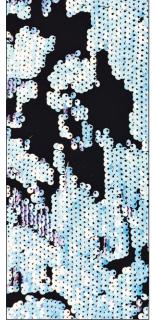
Sequined designs—and printed variations—add a touch of glamor and sparkle to swim fabrics, nets and velvet.



Lyma International s.r.l. #17114 "Nair"



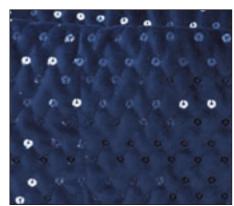
NK Textile #LS2002



JK Textile #SW19796



NK Textile #KKA31138-1



NK Textile #DHE-2017-030

Gold Standard

Designers go for the gold offering a gilded take on laces and knits.



Spirit Lace Enterprise #16119CO



Solstiss #497614.G



Tiss et Teint #66.5188



Solstiss #477N44.SB



Fabric Selection Inc. #KNT3803



Friedmans Ltd. #TS1413



Asher Fabric Concepts #PV018-N Poly Viscose Vintage Ottoman

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New Lines

Textile designs take on traditional stripes and line patterns and give them a fresh perspective with layered designs, abstract line patterns and novelty knits.



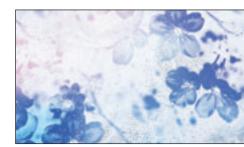
Asher Fabric Concepts #VPJR120-BL Poly Viscose Jersey Stripe



Asher Fabric Concepts #CRX22-ST Heavy Cotton Rib Stripe



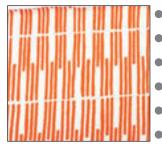
Robert Kaufman Fabrics #AMD-17231-111

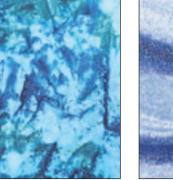


Friedmans Ltd. #TS1431 "Mimosa"









Robert Kaufman Fabrics NK Textile #NK53186 #AMDX-17223-64



Friedmans Ltd. #TS1452 "Stipple Flare"



Kalimo #912451D/9096



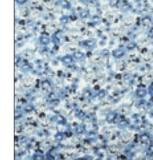




Pine Crest Fabrics #TFX810-



Pine Crest Fabrics #TFX808-52



Robert Kaufman Fabrics #SRKX-17228-67



Tricots Liesse Inc. #54856

Take

Textile designs find inspiration in butterfly, bird

and delicate laces.



Pine Crest Fabrics #TFX805-



Pine Crest Fabrics

#FTH1163C1

Confetti Fabrics #17670

Open Weave

Open-weave patterns, mesh, fishnets and loose-woven and knit designs offer a breezy take on textiles.



A Plus Fabrics Inc. #F-257K Douli Yarn Knit

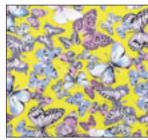


and feather motifs for prints

Texollini #78MD1 06249N

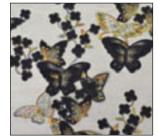
Rose Gold

Textile designers give pink a glamorous makeover in



Tiss et Teint #66.7623

Lyma International s.r.l.



NK Textile #SW18861





A Plus Fabrics Inc. #FN62



A Plus Fabrics Inc. #FN2045



NK Textile #WFG5950



NK Textile #MH170105

Fabric Selection Inc. #KNT3848



Fabric Selection Inc. #KNT3803

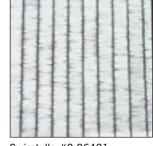


Asher Fabric Concepts #VCSL103-BK Cotton Slub Viscose Sweater

#PSLACE10



Asher Fabric Concepts #WW2678 Open Cotton Weave Checks 903/804v



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Velvet Crush

Textile designers bring the luxe look of velvet to prints, quilted designs and burnout patterns.



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Lectra Introduces Fashion PLM 4.0 at Industry 4/0 Event

French equipment and software maker **Lectra** recently introduced its latest product lifecycle management software at an industry event at the Paris-based company's technology center in Bordeaux.

More than 100 industry professionals, including representatives from brands and manufacturers such as Swedish fast-fashion house **H&M** and Shanghai-based **Dayang Group**, gathered at the two-day conference to examine "how Industry 4.0 is shaping and transforming the global fashion and apparel business."



Industry 4.0 is a manufacturing concept that encompasses automation and data exchange. Some call it the "smart factory." Lectra referred to it as the "fourth industrial revolution." Industry 4.0 includes the Internet of things (including Internet-enabled devices and equipment) as well as cloud computing and cyber-physical systems that allow equipment and humans to communicate and cooperate in real time.

"Industry 4.0 is not only revolutionizing how manufacturers operate but also how

brands and retailers need to function," said Lectra Chief Sales Officer Edouard Macquin. "Lectra's goal is to provide its customers with the technology and support they need to thrive and succeed in this new digital marketplace."

Workshop and presentation topics at Lectra's event included innovative new retail models and the advantages of a digitalized supply chain.

The technology company also introduced its **Lectra Fashion PLM 4.0**, a modular PLM solution that "acts as a connected,

intelligent nerve center for today's digital supply chain." The solution allows users from across the supply chain—from development to design to production—to work together in a system that can be adapted to different business models and allows companies "to jump on trends quickly."

"What interests us as a vertical manufacturer is connecting our physical supply chain with our virtual supply chain—our software, ERP [enterprise]

resource planning]," said Fred Walck, director, project management, for Mexico-based clothing supplier **Grupo Kaltex**. "For us, Lectra offers the most comprehensive solution: an end-to-end system designed specifically for fashion and apparel."

Lectra provides solutions designed for industries using fabrics, leather, technical textiles, and composite materials to manufacture its products. The company has more than 1,500 employees and customers in more than 100 countries.—Alison A. Nieder

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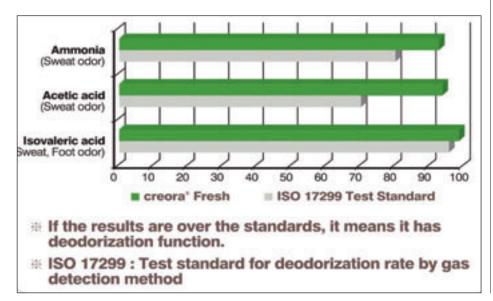
Hyosung and Sofileta Partner for New Creora Fresh Collection

French textile mill **Sofileta** is working with South Korean fiber company **Hyosung** on a new collection featuring Hyosung's **Creora Fresh** fiber.

Sofileta, which is known for its performance and technical textiles, has developed a collection featuring the Creora Fresh permanent antimicrobial technology, which works through a proprietary process that creates a chemical bond with the **Creora** spandex fiber.

"We are committed to leveraging our technical capabilities to service the needs of customers for performance plus fashion. Our expertise is to customize the fabrics for the needs of the specific end-use application," said Dominique Heuillard, Sofileta innovation manager, in a company statement. "Creora Fresh allows us to add another element of performance for intimates and sportswear."

Based in Seoul, Hyosung has a global network of more than 36 subsidiaries and international offices around the world. This year, the company is celebrating the 25th anniversary of Creora, which Hyosung produces in facilities around the world, including Korea, China, Vietnam, Turkey and Brazil.—A.A.N.





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Products and Services: Kagan Trim Center, in business for over 70 years, is proud to be your primary wholesale lace and trims supplier We offer a complete selection of apparel trim, from the most current designs of the season to all the basics. We have over 75,000 trimming items in stock, including elastic, ribbons, laces, and embellishments of every description. We're able to drop-ship our products from China to anywhere in the world, saving you time and money. Additionally, our team is comprised of experienced professionals in every aspect of the trimming industry, able to provide you with the answers you need, quickly and accurately, thus allowing you to get your finished product to market without delay! Please visit our easy-to-navigate website to see our products. All inquiries welcome.

LA TEXTILE Show

110 E. Ninth St. Los Angeles, CA 90079 (213) 630-3600

Products and Services: LA TEXTILE (Los Angeles International Textile Show) is the West Coast's bi-annual trade event for premier textile, design & production resources. Showcasing hundreds of the world's top fabric and trim companies, the caliber of exhibitors and trend direction are edited for a distinct contemporary and lifestyle fashion audience. The Sourcing pavilion spotlights manufacturing & design services, providing brands with the comprehensive range of services needed to manage the supply chain from concept to finished product. LA TEXTILE is hosted by the California Market Center (CMC) in downn LA's Fashion District. Next show is scheduled for October 2-4, 2017 for the Fall/Winter 2018/19 season.

La Lame

www.lalame.com

Products and Services: We at La Lame have captured the attention of a fabulous Italian digital printer and source for very exclusive prints and "FOIL" solids for use in swimwear, sportswear, dresses and intimate loungewear. Our "Beat Goes On" is the French assortment of woven/stretch. This collection is unique in its attraction of yarn dye fabrics that apply to many apparel lines. Also, we are proud to claim our post-surgical fabrics with great compression and recovery are performing very well with leading medical garments, some with copper yarn that enhances their performance. We are now linked with a major knitting and finishing company in the domestic USA that is the source for all apparel companies that must have a $\ensuremath{\mathsf{MADE}}$ IN THE USA label. We also supply beautiful lace fabrics from the finest mills in Europe. Visit the new La Lame showrooms at 215 W. 40th St. by calling Glen Schneer, Adrian Castens and Joel Goldfarb

Philips-Boyne Corp.

135 Rome St. Farmingdale, NY 11735 (631) 755-1230 Fax: (631) 755-1259 www.philipsboyne.com sales@philipsboyne.com

Products and Services: Philips-Boyne Corp. offers high-quality shirtings and fabric. The majority of the line consists of long-staple Egyptian cotton that is woven and finished in Japan. Styles range from classic stripes, checks, and solids to novelties, Oxfords, dobbies, voiles, Swiss dots, seersuckers, ginghams, flannels, and more. Exclusive broadcloth qualities: Ultimo, Corona, and Superba. Knowledgeable customer-service team, immediate shipping, and highest-quality textiles. Philips-Boyne serves everyone from at-home sewers and custom shirt-makers to couture designers and branded corporations

SOLSTISS

561 Seventh Ave. 21st floor New York, NY 10018 (212) 719-9194 www solstiss com juliette@solstiss.com Contact: Juliette

110 E. Ninth St. Suite B703 Los Angeles, CA 90079 (213) 688-9797 Fax: (213) 688-9796 www.solstiss.com chloe@solstiss.com Contact: Chloe

Products and Services: French lace mill Solstiss welcomes lace lovers in their Los Angeles and New York showrooms. You can find an assortment of couture textiles — Chantilly lace, guipures, trims, appliques, embellishments, jacquard velvets, high-end knits and jersey. Solstiss lace is made in France on Leavers looms, woven according to traditional techniques, which has made French lace famous all over the world for over a century.

Spirit Lace Enterprise

110 E. Ninth St., Suite A761-A763 Los Angeles, CA 90079 (213) 689-1999 info@spiritlace.com www.spiritlace.com

Products and Services: Our fabrics and textiles are carefully chosen from around the world, mainly European and Oriental regions. We carry different types of laces and embroideries such as Chantilly lace. Alencon lace. Venice lace, all over embroideries with or without beads, embroidered fabric with 3-dimensional appliques, handmade appliques, tulles, trims, etc. We work with bridal designers and haute couture fashion brands across the country. Most of our articles are in stock at the California Market Center. In-stock items require no delivery turn time. We help customers to arrange either p/u or delivery; others might vary from three weeks to nine weeks (not including shipping time). Our collection is updated according to forecasting trends every season. More than 20 years of experience. View our latest collection at DG Expo in New York, Booth# E103, July 19-20.

swisstulle

Contact: Martina Callegari, Sales Director +41 (0) 71 969 32 32 Fax: +41 (0) 71 969 32 33 m.callegari@swisstulle.ch http://swisstulle.ch

Products and Services: Founded in 1912. We are one of the leading warp knit Tulle and Bobbinet Tulle manufacturers, producing in Switzerland and England. Our expertise is rigid and elastic warp knits for fashion categories such as bridal, haute couture, and lingerie as well as the embroidery markets, including technical applications that excel in performance and quality. We have the latest machinery with a staff that guarantees quality standards. We cover the whole range of widths with special focus on large widths, resulting in exclusive wide seamless fabrics. Integrated dyeing and finishing is an essential part of our quality and service strategy.

The Button/ Accessory Connection, Inc.

152 West Pico Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90015 (213) 747-8442 (877) 747-8442 (Outside California) www.tbacinc.com

Products and Services: The Button / Accessory Connection (tb/ ac) has been a trim supplier to some of fashion's household names for over 30 years. But in 2016, tb/ac has taken action on a plan to not only offer even more valuable services to customers but also strengthen the local community with jobs by starting a garment program at their downtown LA facility. tb/ac offers full-service development, cut and sew and private-label manufacturing—for brands who need flexible order quantities at honest costs, with guaranteed quality. The factory is equipped with a wide range of sewing machines. Along with a dedicated finishing department with boilers, trim machines, heat press, packing space and distribution ware-house. tb/ac production and QC managers facilitate additional screen printing, embroidery, fabric dying, and all operations with necessary outside contractors. From development to delivery, plus trim supply, tb/ac is prepared to be the reliable supply chain resource for your brand's garment production.

Texollini

2575 El Presidio St. Long Beach, CA 90810 (310) 537-3400 www.texollini.com

Products and Services: We at Texollini use state-of-the-art technology to supply the fashion and garment industries with innovative and nd-driven fabrics. Speed-to-market, trend insights, and quality control have been the cornerstones of our Los Angeles-based facility for over 25 years. Our in-house vertical capabilities include knitting, dyeing, finishing, and printing, and our development and design teams are unparalleled. Contact us to find out how our quality-driven products will enhance your brand.

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3A Products of America

1006 S. San Pedro St. Los Angeles, CA 90015 Ph: (213) 749-0103 Fax: (213) 748-6447

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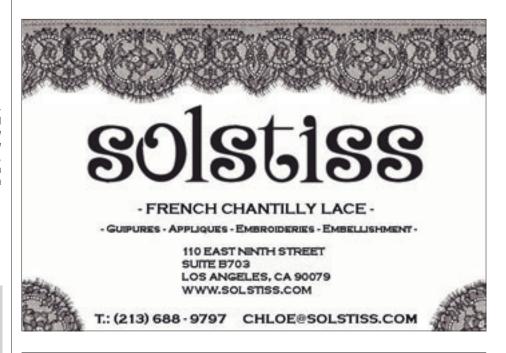
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