

update

Welcome to the Scottish Textiles Industry Newsletter

News in Brief

SCOTTISH FASHION AWARDS

The inaugural Scottish Fashion Awards were held at Stirling Castle on the 7th May 06 and an array of International fashion experts descended on Scotland to judge many awards including the 'Scottish textile/cashmere designer of the Year' award sponsored by Scottish Textiles. Jennifer Lang won the award with her innovative knitwear design.

CLIMATE CHANGE LEVY DISCOUNT SCHEME

As you will be aware you have been paying a Climate Change Levy (CCL) on your electricity, gas and coal supplies since 2001. British Apparell and Textile Confederation (BATC) has negotiated an 80% discount in the Climate Change Levy for virtually all textile manufacturers (with the exception of dyeing and finishing which has its own CCL agreement and the making up of garments which is, unfortunately, excluded from both schemes). Textile manufacturers could save at least £18,500 a year by participating in the scheme before accounting for the benefits from energy saving measures. In return for signing up to the Levy reduction scheme companies must agree to reduce their energy consumption by 10% over the next four years. For further information please contact Adam Mansell at BATC, batc@dial.pipex.com

Technical Turnaround

There are around 50 companies across Scotland working in the technical textiles sector, making up around 10% of the total textiles sector and employing around 20% of all textiles employees. The sector, however, makes up more than 40% of all sales and turnover per employee is almost double that of traditional textiles firms.

Kirriemuir-based J & D Wilkie is one company that is experiencing growth and looking forward to developing closer links with other firms in the sector. The company supplies specialised fabrics for the defence and healthcare sectors, including infra red and radar camouflage fabrics and



Ministry of Defence camouflage fabric

ballistic fabrics for the Ministry of Defence.

Bob Low, Managing Director of J & D Wilkie, says: 'We have found the series of workshops over the past year beneficial in

terms of networking within our normal markets but also in introducing us to different industries. For our company to grow, we realise we have to look outside the old traditional textile markets but that is much easier said than done. The opportunities for collaboration and cross-sector working enabled by Scottish Textiles will greatly assist us in this objective.'

The Scottish Textiles team is continuing its series of workshops for textiles firms working with advanced materials, helping stimulate knowledge transfer, encouraging innovative product development and facilitating market opportunities.

Blanket coverage



Nicola McLean models a Spencer Railton 'saltire dress' made from Scottish cashmere blankets

CONSUMER RESEARCH

Scottish Textiles recently completed research into consumer attitudes towards country of origin and ethical manufacturing issues when purchasing textiles and clothing. Consumers in the UK, Germany and the US plus retail buyers for Scottish textiles companies were surveyed for their views on these issues. The resulting report, which is available from Scottish Textiles, has highlighted products that would most benefit from more prominent Made in Scotland labelling or confirmation of ethical manufacturing processes, and the types and locations of consumers that would be most influenced by this information. For a copy of the report contact Scottish Textiles.



Scottish Enterprise

Graduate Programme is off to a flying start

Borders based Joelle Reid is undertaking a graduate project that would make even the most uncreative of us envious. With the help of Scottish Enterprise's graduate programme, Graduates For Business, Joelle has successfully secured a 12 month project with Peebles based cloth weavers and merchants, Holland and Sherry.

Holland and Sherry selected Joelle to work on a project to develop their semi-bespoke interior design service into a fully bespoke service.

The early months of the project involve a steep learning curve requiring Joelle to learn the different business processes, systems and costings. Joelle says:

"The initial difficulty was to adapt to the office working environment, but since then I have found new challenges in the development of a successful collection that coordinated and complemented the collections that are currently successful for Holland and Sherry. However, these challenges have definitely been

offset by the advantages! In addition to the traveling, which is a definite highlight, I have been given the opportunity to create my own collection that will be sold worldwide as Joelle Reid for Holland and Sherry."

This year alone, Graduates for Business will help over 150 businesses throughout Scotland to grow by identifying projects, varying from 3-12 months, and then matching graduates with the relevant skills set.

Lindsay Taylor of Holland and Sherry says:

"We are delighted with Joelle's progress. The support that GFB has offered since Joelle has started has been invaluable. While Joelle's knowledge and enthusiasm for her subject is excellent, Graduates for Business has greatly helped by providing a more structured approach to a challenging and diverse role."

To find out more about Scottish Enterprise's Graduates for Business visit www.scottish-enterprise.com/graduates.

Atishoo



Atishoo®, a new colourful range of stylish handkerchiefs for women has been launched by Gillian Webster. The exclusive Atishoo® designs reflect a love of fashion, colour and creativity. "We're living in the Age of the Lady from a fashion perspective", says Webster. "It's the age of vintage, retro and grown-up glamour. Atishoo® fits perfectly with that. Our designs embrace these elements, with butterflies, geisha

girls, and funky retro patterns full of colour and individuality". Since launching the website in February, Atishoo has expanded into the US, and plans to wholesale its handkerchief sets through department stores and introduce men's and children's handkerchiefs to the current range.

Further information visit www.atishoo.co.uk

Textiles Industry Conference 2006

The 2006 Scottish Textiles Industry Conference was held at the Hilton hotel in Glasgow last month. Organised by Scottish Textiles and attended by key industry leaders, academics and support agencies, the event aimed to inspire Scottish companies to think of new innovative practices to improve their business.

Speakers at the event included renowned Scottish entrepreneur Gio Benedetti, who shared his vision for the future of manufacturing in Scotland; Tessa Hartmann of the TFF Agency and organiser of this month's inaugural Scottish Awards; and branding and fashion entrepreneur Joyce Young of By Storm.



Joyce Young, By Storm shares her thoughts and experience

“Global market trends make it essential to share common aims and views of how to develop a sustainable model of textile manufacturing”

Delegates also attended a series of workshops designed to address critical issues facing the Scottish textiles sector such as improving the supply chain, benefits of outsourcing and building design capabilities.

In the evening, there was a showcase of designs from some of Scotland's leading companies as well as new work by students studying at Heriot-Watt University's Galashiels campus.



Conference provided excellent networking opportunities



James Sugden, Chair of the Scottish Textile Manufacturing Association, said: 'Global market trends make it essential that leaders of our industry, which still employs 20,000 people in Scotland, meet regularly to share common aims and views of how to develop a sustainable model of textile manufacturing for the future. These are not easy times, but I am delighted that once again Scottish Textiles were able to put together a thought provoking programme for our annual Conference which was enjoyed by everyone who attended.'

Conference speakers included (l-r) Joyce Young, James Sugden, Tessa Hartmann and Kirsty Scott – Scottish Textiles

International update

SURFIN' USA

Scottish Textiles are investigating the potential of holding a promotional event in Los Angeles to coincide with the promotion of Scottish fashion at LA Fashion Week in October 2006. Targetting trade buyers and fashion writers and influencers, the west coast offers a huge opportunity for developing presence for Scottish companies. For further information contact Scottish Textiles.



SCOTTISH
DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL

INTERIORS PAVILION – MOSCOW

To follow on from the Scottish Textiles Showcase event held in Moscow April 2005 SDI will take out a group of Scottish interiors companies to Heimtextil Rossija 19–22 September 2006. An individual programme of meetings will be set up for the participating companies by Svetlana Simonova in SDI Moscow. In addition companies will have the opportunity to show their companies products at Heimtextil Rossija on a small Scottish pavilion stand.

Heimtextil Rossija is run by Messe Frankfurt and takes place at the Crocus Expo Exhibition Centre in Moscow. The exhibition is an international trade fair for home furnishings, floor coverings and interior furnishings companies. For more information on the exhibition itself visit the Messe Frankfurt website at www.messefrankfurt.com.

INTERIOR LIFESTYLE – LAS VEGAS

SDI is working with interior companies on investigating the opportunities provided by the bi-annual Interior Lifestyle show in Las Vegas. A report will be available following the July 2006 show, and companies interested in exhibiting in January 2007 should contact Fiona Topping.

CHINA RESEARCH

SDI had commissioned market research on the Chinese markets, covering market opportunity and entry strategies for the fashion, interiors and technical textiles sector. The summary report will be available on Scottish Textiles website from 15th June, and the full report will be available on cd at the same time.

For more information on any of these contact Fiona Topping on 0141 228 2806 or email fiona.topping@scotent.co.uk

FOR YOUR DIARY

TECHNICAL TEXTILES WORKSHOP – 7TH JUNE 'END USER REQUIREMENTS'

The first workshop in the next series features specialist speakers from the healthcare, defence and aerospace sectors who will highlight the requirements and future opportunities for developing & supplying technical textile components.

The workshop is free to attend – for further detail contact Anne McLaughlan on 0131 313 6103 or email anne.mclaughlan@scotent.co.uk

Venue Details: 9.30 till 13.00 at Stirling Management Centre, Stirling

The next workshops dates are:

Wed 6 September 2006: Functional Fabrics

Wed 6 December 2006: Knowledge Trading

Wed 14 February 2007: Environmental Opportunities

BIODEVICE PARTNERING CONFERENCE – 13TH & 14TH JUNE

BioDevice Partnering is a forum where executives and companies from different sectors of the Life Sciences and Healthcare Industry can meet, network and generate interdisciplinary collaborations. The event will feature and foster opportunities for cross-sector activity including textiles, which are expected to generate future blockbuster combinations.

Visit <http://ebd.biotechgate.com/biodevice>

Venue Details: Sheraton Grand Hotel, Edinburgh

WEAVING MEETING

Date: 22 June

Venue: Ettrick Riverside Business Centre, Selkirk

Time: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

KNITWEAR MEETING

Date: 22 August

Venue: Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley, Stirling

Time: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

The Scottish Textiles Forum

The forum meets twice a year, bringing together key representatives from the industry, Scottish Executive, Scottish Enterprise, STUC and education bodies, to discuss plans for future industry support. The industry chairs of each of the Sector Groups report into the Scottish Textiles forum to represent the views of the Scottish Textiles industry.

The next Scottish Textile Forum meeting will be held on the 8 September 2006. Minutes from this meeting and all the Sector Group meetings are available at www.scottish-enterprise.com/textiles

How to contact us

The success of the Scottish textiles sector depends largely on the industry's own involvement and views, so we welcome your feedback and comments. If you have any suggestions, or would like to find out more about anything in this document:

E-mail scottish-textiles@scotent.co.uk Website www.scottish-enterprise.com/textiles Phone 0131 313 6243

Address Scottish Textiles, Apex House, 99 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5HD

