

Textile composites for a new generation of sustainable transports

Far from the traditional image of textile, UP-tex has led research projects on textile composites in view of creating new applications contributing to the emergence of a new generation of transports.

In practical terms, textile composites can for example be used to cover surface areas having irregular and complex outlines, to provide for a better protection against fire or to lighten structures thus enabling energy savings.

Textile now appears as a complex material at the heart of a wide range of applications in a high number of sectors. Europe has all the necessary assets to be at the forefront of this market with a high growth potential.

CROSSTEXNET: The first call to be announced on March 25th



CROSSTEXNET, an ERA NET network led by the Nord—Pas de Calais Region dealing with textiles at the crossroads of new applications, has organised its first annual meeting jointly with the European Technology Platform for the Future of Textiles and Clothing in Brussels on March 24th and 25th, 2010. At this occasion, CROSSTEXNET has announced its first call for proposals.

UP-tex very much appreciated this joint meeting which gathered clusters and public authorities from all around Europe involved in R&D in the field of advanced textile materials.

The creation of a European policy of Clusters largely backed-up

In the framework of the public consultation on the future of the EU innovation policy, several respondents have called for the creation of an ambitious European policy on clusters empowered with specific funds. The European Cluster Policy Group (ECPG) for example recommended the settlement of funds financing the establishment of networks of clusters and supporting their joint projects.

European clusters thus expect much from the EU Action Plan for Research and Innovation that will be presented by the European Commission during the Autumn 2010, as well as from the conclusions of the works of the ECPG.

TEXCOMP 2010: International Conference on textile composites (Lille, France, October 26th-28th, 2010)

UP-tex organises, with the support of several public authorities including the European Union, the Nord-Pas de Calais Region and Lille Métropole Communauté Urbaine, the 10th edition of the International Conference on Textile Composites at Lille Grand Palais. The last generation of innovations and applications of the sector will be presented to visitors from different backgrounds and geographical origins. More information is available on the following website: www.texcomp2010.com.

WHO WE ARE?

UP-tex is a French **dynamic research driven** cluster composed of 140 members, and gathering textile, upstream and downstream companies, research and technology transfer centres, as well as universities. It aims at becoming a **European benchmark in the field of Advanced Textile Materials, Sensory Perception Technology and Mass Customization by 2015**.

UP-tex promotes research and innovation by federating the best competencies, assisting its members in the definition of projects, helping them in rallying finance and giving them access to an Intelligence Platform. UP-tex also sets up working groups on how to foster innovation.

Textile is a material which contributes to sustainable development and serves **new functional requirements** in fields such as **health care and hygiene, transport, civil and building engineering, leisure activities, clothing and protective equipment**.

UP-tex TOWARDS EUROPE

UP-tex is committed to promoting an **ambitious EU policy on clusters and European wide inter-clustering**.

After having contributed to the creation of **CROSSTEXNET**, a textiles' ERA NET that has been launched on November 24th, 2009, UP-tex is now **willing to develop its relations with other European clusters to elaborate new textile materials and applications**. UP-tex is particularly interested in developing partnerships with clusters specialized in **building engineering, transport and medical care devices**. Indeed, our research driven cluster is at the edge of several lead markets and its projects go well beyond clothing and traditional uses.

Together, let's make the European policy on clusters become a milestone of the EU 2020 strategy for a more competitive Europe !