

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 Apparel 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@btinternet.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 Raiton 'saltire dress' made from 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