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### Latest News

#### European R&D project to revolutionise garment production



The Wool Trade Directory of the World

The European textile and clothing industry is embarking on a €23 million research and development programme to achieve a technology breakthrough in garment manufacture.

The Leadership for European Apparel Production From Research along Original Guidelines (LEAPFROG) project brings together 35 partners from industry and academia from 11 European countries. The four-year scheme will be coordinated by Euratex and co-funded to the tune of €14 million by the European Commission; the remaining funding will come from contributions of the involved partners.

"The selection by the European Commission of LEAPFROG as an integrated project under the 6th Framework Programme is a strong signal from the authorities of their commitment to the future of the European textiles and clothing industry and in the ability of EU manufacturers and researchers to deliver a breakthrough in clothing technology. Its success will complement the existing strengths of the industry in quality and innovation terms, and work to the advantage of the whole textile and clothing manufacturing pipeline" said William H. Lakin, Director General of Euratex.

LEAPFROG aims to achieve a step-change in productivity, quality and cost efficiency. It envisages a radical move towards rapid customised manufacturing, and a paradigm change in customer service and customer relationship.

For the first two years the project will concentrate on intensive research and development work with large-scale industrial demonstration, testing and training in the final two years.

The project consortium is in contract negotiations with the European Commission which, if completed by the year end, will allow work to start in the first quarter of 2005.

13 October 2004

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