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SHORT TAKES Lenzing, Candiani Denim Collaborate on 'Glacier Jacket,' Chargeurs Partners With Central Saint Martins

The European Commission seeks to help small textiles businesses adapt with a new research and innovation program.



GLACIER PACE

Art, the environment and the fashion industry came together in a project to protect glaciers as well as to promote circular textile solutions.

Fiber innovation firm Lenzing partnered with Italian manufacturer Candiani Denim and fashion studio Blue of a Kind on a pilot project to recycle glacier-protecting textiles into garments.

The result is the crisp, icy white "Glacier Jacket" made from recycled geotextiles. Marchi & Fidi Spa handled the mechanical recycling process.

Geotextiles act as glacier guards, covering imperiled ice in order to slow mountain melt. The practice has been used before, but usually with fossil fuel-based fibers, which create plastic pollution. Lenzing launched a pilot

project with its cellulose-based nonwoven material to protect glaciers across Austria in 2023.

Since geotextiles have a short shelf life of about two years, the project will give an end-of-life pipeline for the fabric. The glacier waste was sent to Candiani Denim in Italy, which created a white denim. The resulting fabric and garment are also fully recyclable.

"We view circularity as a valuable tool to develop sustainable solutions that have long-term continuity. This innovative concept not only involves the protection of glaciers but also the establishment of an Austrian-Italian network that can repurpose these protections and maximize the life span of their fibers," said Candiani Denim global marketing director Simon Giuliani.

Lenzing vice president corporate sustainability Krishna Manda highlighted the pace at which the glaciers are melting and encouraged the fashion industry to come up with creative solutions to protect the environment. He called it a "rallying cry for collective action."

"Together with our network of passionate industry experts, we can lead toward a substantial positive impact on our planet, safeguarding future generations. This project is an example to show the power of possibility when we collaborate," he said.

The project was unveiled during a ceremony at the

United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland, with a symbolic placing of the material over Italian contemporary artist Michelangelo Pistoletto's sculpture "Rebirth." The group also followed the development process with a film titled "Glacial Threads: From Forests to Future Textiles."

The jacket will now be showcased during Milan's Salone de Mobile in April.

—RHONDA RICH-FORD

TAKING CHARGEUR

Interlining company Chargeurs PCC is introducing its own educational program, following in the footsteps of other fashion suppliers working to ensure continuity to their know-how.

The company, part of France-based Chargeurs, a holding company publicly listed on the Paris Stock Exchange, has teamed with leading fashion schools in Europe, including Central Saint Martins in London, Institut Français de la Mode in Paris, IED in Milan and Florence's Istituto Marangoni, to organize masterclasses for fashion design students.

The latter will be held



The Chargeurs PCC factory



The European parliament building, Brussels

throughout 2024 by the company's management centered on apparel interlining products, new technologies in their manufacturing, as well as sustainability in the textile sector.

The Chargeurs PCC Academy program is aimed at filling a gap in today's fashion education about the subject, said chief executive officer Gianluca Tanti.

"With the Chargeurs PCC Academy, we want to enhance the educational programs by providing in-depth knowledge on what is a key component of any garment, both in terms of performance and fit and its impact on the supply chain and sustainability," the CEO said. "Exchanging and debating with leading academics and the students is an opportunity for Chargeurs PCC to further progress its innovation, research and development, discover new talents and pass on professional know-how to the future generations," he added.

At the end of the training cycles, students will be offered materials from Chargeurs PCC for their end-of-year and

graduate collections and the opportunity to access further training by the company's professionals. Kicking off with eight involved classes across the four fashion institutes, the company said it aims to roll out more collaborations on a global scale.

—MARTINO CARRERA

ON THE HORIZON

The European Commission moved forward with its Horizon Europe strategic plan, outlining research and innovation funding for the next three years, with a key focus on climate change and loss of biodiversity.

"Textiles of the Future" is one of the nine new co-funded partnerships under the Horizon Europe umbrella, and will be co-managed by the European Technology Platform for Future of Textiles and Clothing or ETP. The program will look at how the European Union textile companies can adopt and implement the bloc's impending regulations under the EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles.

"Textile research has been

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