

For Immediate Release

10 September 2019

HKRITA Is an Honoree in *Fast Company's* 2019 Innovation by Design Awards

G2G – A Mini Mill within The Mills joins 483 projects, products, and services from Nike, Microsoft, Mastercard, Gensler, and others.

HKRITA was honored in *Fast Company's* Innovation by Design Awards for 2019 in the Retail Environments category. Innovation by Design is the only competition to honor creative work at the intersection of design, business, and innovation.

The G2G is a mini production line that recycles post-consumer garments into clean and wearable clothes in a standard 40-foot container. The container is installed in a retail shop at The Mills, a revitalized art and cultural complex in Hong Kong. The container is made of double glazed wall which protects the retail space from the noise generated during the recycling process. The anti-vibration and dust-controlled design also minimizes disturbance to nearby business. Visitors can walk around the container, look inside and view the complete garment-to-garment process. They can even deepen their experience by recycling their own used clothes.

“The Garment to Garment System (G2G) brings recycling to life. Our old clothes can be used as raw material for our new clothes in real time. We are absolutely thrilled with this honour since this is the third major global design and innovation award that this project has won this year. The first and second are the Red Dot Award: Product Design and a Gold Medal of the International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva,” said Mr Edwin Keh, Chief Executive Officer of HKRITA.

Set up in a retail shop in The Mills, the G2G is a joint collaboration among HKRITA, the H&M Foundation and Novetex Textiles Limited with the support of The Mills.

“What started as a crazy idea by a research institute, a non-profit foundation, a yarn manufacturer and a landmark revitalization project to make something as complex as textile recycling engaging to the public is now an internationally recognized and awarded concept. This is a prime example of what can be achieved when you dare to collaborate and innovate across sectors and borders. We hope this helps more people around the world realize that clothes at end of life should be recycled,” says Erik Bang, Innovation Lead, H&M Foundation.

“Recycling is inseparable from our approach to sustainability, and we’re very proud to have been collaborators in the creation of G2G, which has been a rewarding and meaningful endeavour for us. As a company, we continue to invest in scaling technological innovations to be industrial solutions,” says Ms Ronna Chao, Chairman of Novetex Textiles Limited, which launched The Billie System in July.

Ms Vanessa Cheung, founder of The Mills and Managing Director of Nan Fung Development Ltd remarked that they were, “very thrilled about the winning of this important award with HKRITA and the innovative journey we have been walking through”. Furthermore, she pointed out that “The concept of sustainability is the foundation of the vision of re-invention shared by HKRITA and The Mills – respectively upcycling old garments and revitalizing former textile factories. ”

Fast Company editors and writers spend a year researching and reviewing applicants for the awards. This year’s applicant pool was the most competitive ever, with more than 4,300 entries. To see the complete list, go to: <https://www.fastcompany.com/ibd>

About The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA)

Established in 2006, HKRITA is funded by the Innovation and Technology Commission of the HKSAR Government and hosted by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. HKRITA engages in applied research to support the textile and apparel industry in order to boost its overall competitiveness, and to drive sustainable improvements and bring benefits to society. By providing one-stop services for applied research, technology transfer and commercialisation, HKRITA makes sustained efforts to promote successful projects for industry application.

Caption:



G2G – A Mini Mill within The Mills offers a brand new garment to garment experience to the public



Visitors can view the complete garment-to-garment process, turning old clothes into renewable ones.

To download the photos, please click:

http://www.hkrita.com/marketing/PressRelease/20190910_Innovation_by_Award/Photo.zip

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