

For Immediate Release

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HKRITA Signs MoU with Jeanologia and Looptworks to Establish the Green Machine Circular Textile Ecosystem, Marking a Breakthrough in Scalable Textile Recycling

The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA) yesterday officially signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with two key global partners, Jeanologia and Looptworks, to establish the Green Machine Circular Textile Ecosystem – a first-of-its-kind collaboration to accelerate the large-scale recycling of blended textiles.

Bringing together cutting-edge innovation, industrial machinery expertise, and real-world adoption, this tripartite initiative unites HKRITA with Jeanologia as the first official machinery partner and Looptworks as a prospective adopter. The partnership signals a decisive shift from research-driven innovation to practical, scalable deployment with industry support, creating a complete and actionable pathway for circular transformation.

At the centre of this ecosystem is HKRITA's latest Green Machine 4.0, the newest iteration of its pioneering hydrothermal recycling technology. This advanced version recovers polyester at 98% or higher purity from cotton-polyester textiles without harmful processes. Through this collaboration, Jeanologia contributes by delivering industry-ready machinery engineered to European standards that meets the CE high-pressure requirement, enabling seamless integration and streamlined logistics. Meanwhile, Looptworks, a Certified B-Corp recycling specialist, transforms diverse pre- and post-consumer textiles into high-quality GRS-certified fibres. This cross-industry collaboration supports expandable industrial implementation across diverse settings, enabling the industry to execute circular solutions at scale.

By integrating scientific innovation, engineering excellence, and operational deployment, the Green Machine ecosystem provides a viable pathway for circular transformation. This initiative empowers textile recyclers to process previously unrecyclable materials and unlock new revenue streams, while enabling fashion brands to incorporate recycled fibres into their supply chains in commercial volumes. It also supports manufacturers in adopting more sustainable production models, helping all stakeholders close the loop on textile waste and reduce dependence on virgin resources.

Mr Jake Koh, Chief Executive Officer of HKRITA, said, "The circular economy is no longer a distant goal—it is here. With the Green Machine 4.0 now proven adoption-ready and scalable, this partnership marks a decisive shift from research to commercialisation. True innovation is defined by real-world impact, and today we are making it a reality."

Mr Enrique Silla, CEO and Founder of Jeanologia, said, "For the last 25 years, we have transformed the denim industry through technology, innovation and collaboration. Today, we are bringing that same experience to one of the industry's greatest challenges: textile-to-textile recycling. At Jeanologia, we believe recycling must become part of the industry's pre-competitive space, where companies work together to create solutions that no single organisation can achieve alone. By combining HKRITA's innovation, Jeanologia's industrial engineering and textile bleaching expertise, and Looptworks' operational deployment, we are creating a model that can help make circularity a reality at industrial scale."

Mr Scott Hamlin, Founder and CEO of Looptworks, said, “Looptworks has had a relationship with HKRITA for over a decade. We are proud to have worked together with the research and management teams at HKRITA to further develop textile circularity innovations at scale. The Green Machine represents a shining example of what is possible for textile recycling. Blended materials have long been a major barrier to circularity, and this technology enables us to effectively realise their value at scale. By reintroducing recovered fibres into the supply chain, we are proving that circular solutions are both environmentally practical and economically viable.”

Aiming to ensure ecologically sound circularity in the industry, HKRITA invites textile recyclers, fashion brands, and manufacturing partners to join the ecosystem and explore opportunities for collaboration, adoption, and expansion.

Photo

Mr Jake Koh, CEO of HKRITA (middle), **Ms Begoña García, Jeanologia Global Director of Sustainable Innovation,** (left) and **Mr Scott Hamlin, Founder and CEO of Looptworks,** (right) have signed the MoU for this landmark tripartite initiative, advancing a complete and actionable circular textile ecosystem.



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 is hosted by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2026, HKRITA continues to contribute to the competitiveness of the textile and apparel industry by providing one-stop services in applied research, technology transfer and commercialisation. HKRITA also plays a vital and expanding role in driving sustainable improvements in the industry and thus bringing benefits to society as a whole.

About Jeanologia

Jeanologia is a Spanish technology company with more than 30 years of experience transforming the textile industry through innovation. Today, more than 40% of the world's jeans are produced using Jeanologia technologies.

The company pioneered technologies such as laser, G2 ozone and water recycling systems, helping brands and manufacturers eliminate harmful processes, reduce water and chemical consumption, and improve productivity.

As part of its Mission Zero vision, Jeanologia is now extending its expertise beyond garment finishing to accelerate textile circularity, developing industrial solutions for water reuse, textile recycling and the transition towards a waste-free industry.

About Looptworks

Looptworks is a Certified B-Corp textile-to-textile recycling specialist offering innovative, scalable solutions for brands and organisations world-wide. Based in Gresham, Oregon, Looptworks is the first and only GRS certified, recycling company in the United States equipped with a circular system capable of processing multiple types of materials into a range of finished spinning and nonwoven fibre products. The Looptworks facility is fully operational, and features a unique technology that transforms pre-and post-consumer textiles into high-quality recycled fibres.

Our process starts where others end.

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