

Cash injection can help region's textile sector fight forgers

Published Date: 14 August 2009

By Greg Wright

YORKSHIRE'S textile industry could soon play a major role in protecting the fashion world from forgers.

Yorkshire's textile manufacturers have received a £6m investment from Yorkshire Forward and the European Regional Development Fund.

The Textile Innovation Programme will provide practical and financial backing for manufacturers who will work with experts from universities and research organisations to create high-value products.

The programme, being run through the Textile Centre of Excellence in Huddersfield, follows a series of feasibility studies conducted earlier this year.

One area where the programme could have an impact is anti-counterfeiting.



Bill Macbeth:
Managing director of the
Textile Centre.

Bill Macbeth, the centre's managing director, said: "Our companies provide cloth for the most famous fashion houses across the world, and counterfeiting can seriously damage those brands and revenues. It's even more serious in other sectors of course, where counterfeit medical products kill thousands of people every year."

The centre has been working with APDN, a company based at Stony Brook University in New York. As a result, cloth can be authenticated with the same testing methods used by forensic labs for criminal investigations.

Jim Farmery, assistant director of business at Yorkshire Forward, said: "Yorkshire Forward is very pleased to invest in new platform technologies that will foster growth and, ultimately, reap positive economic benefits to the Yorkshire business community, and the UK and European public at large."

Boeing is developing a new 787 which is being made from woven carbon fibre and laminates. The Textile Innovation Programme's feasibility studies have demonstrated that woven aircraft components can outperform titanium and aluminium.

According to Mr Macbeth, the potential market for these strong, lightweight components is vast.