

Press release

Scaling up textile recycling

EREMA Group partners with Australian technology pioneer BlockTexx®

At K show in Düsseldorf, the world's leading trade fair for plastics and rubber, EREMA Group announced a strategic investment in clean technology company BlockTexx®. The Australian pioneer has developed a process that separates polyester and cellulose from blended textiles. By combining both companies' technologies, the partnership aims to scale post-consumer textile-to-textile recycling to industrial levels.

Düsseldorf, 15 October 2025 – Through the strategic collaboration the EREMA Group emphasizes its commitment to returning polyester to the apparel production cycle and scaling up textile-to-textile recycling. "The PET fibre industry is three times the size of the PET bottle industry. We have been investing in the research and development of textile and fibre recycling for several years. With the technology we already provide for PET fibre recycling, our next step is to aim for full-scale industrial textile recycling. We consider BlockTexx® a key partner in this. Their technology paves the way for used textiles to re-enter the production cycle," said Manfred Hackl, CEO of EREMA Group.

BlockTexx®'s process separates polyester and cellulose from post-consumer textiles and clothing, providing the polyester for EREMA's technology. The INTAREMA® FibrePro:IV system will process the polyester into recycled pellets suitable for new garment production. "Our thermomechanical recycling system is a core element for textile recycling," said Wolfgang Hermann, Business Development Manager for Fibres & Textiles at EREMA Group. "However, full-scale textile recycling requires a combination of technologies, with BlockTexx® unlocking the solution for processing polyester-blended textiles."

Industrial-scale expansion

BlockTexx® operates its first plant in Australia with a processing capacity of 10,000 tonnes per year, with plans for a second plant of 50,000 tonnes per year. Scaling up requires a strong investment partner. "Blended textiles like cotton-polyester account for over 60 per cent of global apparel production but are notoriously difficult to recycle due to fibre incompatibility and chemical contamination", says Adrian Jones, co-founder of BlockTexx®. EREMA Group's investment brings not only capital but also deep recycling expertise, proven technology and infrastructure. From the

very beginning, it felt like a true partnership, Jones notes: “Both companies share the same intellectual curiosity and EREMA Group was committed to this journey from day one.”

Textile industry faces recycling challenges

According to global non-profit Textile Exchange 75 million tonnes of synthetic fibres were produced in 2023, with polyester being the most common, accounting for 57 per cent of total fibre production. Recycling rates for polyester are estimated at only 1 per cent. “Currently, nearly all the recycled polyester in the clothing you see in retail stores is derived from PET plastic bottles” says Graham Ross, co-founder of BlockTexx®. As per Textile Exchange, recycled fibres constituted 7.7 per cent of the global fibre market in 2023, with 7 per cent being recycled polyester from waste PET bottles. Hackl emphasizes: “The goal must be to ensure that rPET from bottles is returned to new bottles. This investment is not only positive for the textile industry, but also for the plastics industry. By keeping rPET in the bottle-to-bottle loop, we can stabilize supply and prices for the market.”

With the EU recently adopting binding legislation that will make textile producers responsible for the collection, sorting and recycling of textile waste through mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes, the sector is set for change. As these rules come into force over the coming years, the demand for post-consumer textile recycling solutions is expected to grow significantly. “The EU legislation could fundamentally transform the sector. While most textile production takes place in Asia, Europe is a major consumer of fashion. This legislation will therefore have a significant global impact”, Ross notes.

Setting new standards for circularity

By combining mechanical processing, chemical separation, and fibre regeneration, the partnership establishes a model that sets new industrial standards for circularity. “Twenty-five years ago, people could not imagine bottle-to-bottle recycling. Today it is standard. I believe the same will happen for textile-to-textile recycling”, says Hackl. “The textile industry has been slow to recognize the importance of recycling, often citing difficulties as an excuse. Now there are no more excuses. Textile-to-textile recycling will become a reality at industrial-scale through the collaboration between EREMA and BlockTexx®,” adds Jones.

Find out more and meet EREMA Group and BlockTexx® at Textile Exchange Conference in Lisbon from 13–17 October 2025.

Pictures:



From left: Manfred Hackl (EREMA Group), Graham Ross (BlockTexx®), Wolfgang Hermann (EREMA Group), and Adrian Jones (BlockTexx®) holding the new fabric made from 100% recycled polyester at the Edvanced Recycling Center, where EREMA demonstrates live recycling and products made of recycleate during the K show.



The same representatives next to T-shirts made from 100% recycled polyester.

Photo credits: EREMA GmbH

EREMA Group

Another life for plastic. Because we care.

Based in Ansfielden near Linz in Austria, EREMA Group is the world's leading manufacturer of plastics recycling solutions. It stands for a plastics industry that takes responsibility for resources. The Group covers a wide range of applications to achieve the goal of implementing a circular economy for plastic waste. EREMA Group GmbH consists of seven companies and holdings: EREMA, which includes the business units UMAC and ReadyMac, PURE LOOP, PLASMAC, KEYCYCLE, Lindner Washtech, plasticpreneur and 3S. They cover the entire spectrum of mechanical plastics recycling - from planning and engineering through to developing and manufacturing recycling technologies as well as producing system components and trading previously owned systems. Supported by subsidiaries in the USA, China, and Africa, as well as a global network of representatives, EREMA Group recycling solutions are currently in operation in over 110 countries around the world, recycling approximately 26 million tonnes of plastic annually.

BlockTexx

BlockTexx® is a clean technology company recovering polyester and cellulose from textiles and clothing and based in Loganholme, Australia. The company is on an urgent mission to divert unwanted textile waste from landfill by using high value raw materials to create PolyTexx® and CellTexx®, for remanufacture into new products: fibre to fibre (clothing the world), fibre to product (protecting the world), fibre to agriculture (greening the world).

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