

## Press Release

### LAUNCH OF SMARTX

#### **SmartX – European Smart Textiles Accelerator to fund up to 40 smart textile innovators over the next 3 years**

Brussels, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 – The kick-off meeting of the SmartX project co-funded by the European Commission under the HORIZON 2020 programme\* was hosted by the European Textile Technology Platform (Textile ETP) in Brussels. The meeting brought together all 13 project partners from 7 EU countries\*\*.

SmartX is the short name for the European Smart Textiles Accelerator. Innovation projects supported through the SmartX Accelerator programme will focus on filling the industrial manufacturing gap that currently exists between an abundance of promising design prototypes and a growing end market interest in smart textiles and wearables. Bringing such products to market quickly and at reasonable price points requires the establishment of a novel industrial value chain composed of manufacturers of textiles and microelectronics, integrators and assemblers, data processing and IoT experts, manufacturing technology providers, distributors, funding providers and end users.

The SmartX Accelerator will establish a portfolio of up to 40 Trailblazer projects, which will pioneer one or more stages of the novel value chain with a specific focus on critical manufacturing steps. These projects will be selected by an international selection committee of recognized experts in the smart textiles field. The funded projects will be coached along the entire process from project generation to results exploitation by clusters experts trained in the SmartX Coaching Approach. Funded projects will mostly tackle 3 high-potential end markets (1) protective wear incl. sports gear, (2) industrial applications and (3) health care and wellbeing, markets where Europe has leadership positions. Small and medium-sized companies from across the EU and certain associated countries can apply for the funding through open calls.

In addition to the funding and coaching of innovation projects, SmartX will also develop a web-based collaboration platform for European smart textiles experts with a number of self-service and interactive tools.

A first public information session will be organized at the techtextil-texprocess fair on 14<sup>th</sup> May in Frankfurt. Interested parties can join this free-of-charge walk-in event at hall 3 C West meeting room Aspekt starting at 3 pm.

During the autumn SmartX will organize regional workshops in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Sweden and an IoT hackathon in Berlin to share knowledge and prepare companies for the upcoming call for projects.

The first call for projects is expected to open in November 2019. And two further calls will be launched during 2020.

The SmartX project will run until April 2022 and hopes to establish a blueprint for effective small-scale innovation funding at European level, using EU programmes such as HORIZON 2020.



Representatives of the project consortium at the kick-off meeting in Brussels on 3<sup>rd</sup> May

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\*\*The SmartX Consortium is composed of the following partners: Textile ETP (BE – coordinator), UP-Tex (FR), Po.In.Tex (IT), Texfor (ES), Smart Textiles (SE), Cluster Textil Moda (PT), DSP Valley (BE), CITC-EuraRFID (FR), DITF (DE), Centexbel (BE), Steinbeis (DE), IFM (FR), Sourcebook (DE)

Textile ETP - the European Technology Platform for the Future of Textiles and Clothing is an experts network of all stakeholders involved in textile and clothing related research and innovation across Europe. Launched in 2004, the platform has grown into the largest European textile research and innovation network connecting some 200 member organisations and well over 500 individual experts across Europe.

More: [www.textile-platform.eu](http://www.textile-platform.eu)