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# Recycled polyester market eyes buoyant 2015

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**WAKEFIELD – Demand for high grade recycled polyester is outstripping supply thanks to growing use by brands as diverse as H&M, Stella McCartney and adidas which are using the product in an**

**increasingly diverse range of applications – that's one of the conclusions of an investigation by Ecotextile News which interviewed several leading players in the global recycled polyester supply chain. All the companies we spoke to, among them Teijin, Polygenta, Hyosung and Unifi, expressed optimism about the recycled polyester fibre market for 2015**

"At the present time, the demand for high quality sustainable polyester yarns far outstrips the supply and this is helping to maintain the price," Marc Lopresto, executive chairman of Mumbai-based polyester manufacturing business, Polygenta told us. "Polygenta is experiencing growing demand for recycled polyester yarns in terms of both volume and application. Interestingly, customers are now increasingly demanding 100 per cent recycled yarns made from 100 per cent post-consumer PET waste rather than just industrial factory waste or a blend of recycled inputs. The ability to show transparently the entire manufacturing chain including sourcing and production has given comfort to customers and consumers that certain recycled yarns are truly sustainable and there has been no "green-washing."

All the companies we talked to suggested that the many technical issues traditionally associated with recycled polyester - such as levelling in dyeing and matching in pastel shades - have now been overcome, and the indications are that the recycled polyester market may be entering a 'second generation' where, among other things, efforts will be made to develop sustainable chemical recycling that is robust enough to process increasingly more complex recycled PET inputs.

Discussing its own work in recycled polyester sphere, Wenjie He from Japanese technology business Teijin's told us: "Teijin's chemical recycling uses the world's first chemical recycling technology that can chemically decomposes used polyester for new conversion into new polyester raw materials that offer quality and purity comparable to those derived directly from petroleum. On the other hand, the quality of materially recycled polyester fibre is influenced heavily by used polyester bottles' quality. In case there is any glass or metal mixed in the polyester it will be difficult to produce fine denier. It's a task not only the fibre/textile industry, but the entire supply chain of used polyester bottles should face.

"The biggest challenge is not the recycled fibre, but it recycled post-consumer garments that have been dyed and finished, but recently there are methods such as biodegrading substances that can be extruded from the yarn stage. We may look into these technologies in the future."

Meanwhile, a representative from Unifi told us: "One of the challenges that we work to address is getting designers to design more sustainably, so that a product can be easily recycled at the end of its useful life, and so that recycled yarns can be used in new products."

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