

# ***Environmental Solutions for Sustainable Growth in the Textile and Fibre Industry***

**Proposers: International Fibre Centre,  
Infotech Research  
CSIRO Textile and Fibre Technology Division**

**Feb. 2007**

## **Proposal**

**To develop a training and education package with application to the wider textile industries for business sustainability improvement through environmental management**

### **The International Fibre Centre (IFC)**

The IFC was established by the Victorian Government to support training and education in fibre and textile manufacturing industries.

The IFC has partnered textile companies and built up information as required by the industry to assist companies to address their development issues in an increasingly difficult and competitive market place.

Management of environmental issues and development of eco preferred textile products is both a challenge and a significant opportunity for the Australian industry. The companies that grasp these environmental opportunities are those that will lead a resurgence in Australian textile manufacturing.

The future of Australian textiles is in innovative “Clean/Green and Eco” products. These must be produced efficiently to reduce production costs and to meet key environmental performance standards demanded by the market.

### **The industry**

The industry is dominated by a large number of small to medium businesses (SMEs) with low levels of understanding of environmental issues and without the resources to internally build this knowledge and the technologies to take advantage of environmental – eco product development opportunities.

The SMEs need to build their knowledge of regulatory regimes and compliance requirements for environmental impacts associated with wastes and resource use. There are also opportunities for efficiency improvement that start within and extend through supply chains and products right to the end of their life cycles.

In addition there are some medium to large businesses with a mix of environmental knowledge at differing levels of these environmental issues within these organizations.

There is a different set of levels of environmental knowledge that will be of use to these businesses at

- management
  - technical
  - operational
- levels.

### **The Education Strategy**

1. Build awareness
2. Provide tailored packaged information
3. Establish enterprise specific delivery of the training packages
4. Provide support to the companies for uptake and use of this information

### **Issues to be considered**

- Engaging the target businesses (especially SMEs)
- Using existing resources (not redeveloping information resources)
- Transforming the information to useful knowledge within the businesses
- Ongoing support for the individuals and companies involved

### **Implementation strategy**

The environmental training program will be developed and rolled out with as much industry involvement as can be mustered. It will be developed in five distinct phases:

- Stage 1** A technical paper will be produced for publication based on the industry audits.
- Stage 2** The training materials will be developed collaboratively with each sector of the textile industry, down-stream and up-stream supply chain partners.
- Stage 3** The program will be launched with promotion and a launch event
- Stage 4** Sector specific delivery via a series of seminars tailored for technical/supervisory and operational needs.
- Stage 5** Enterprise specific delivery of the training program utilising specialists to facilitate the training to the needs of the enterprises concerned.

### **Development of the program**

We are seeking cooperation from stakeholders in the field to provide input into the program structure and strategies.