

## Interface - The knowledge connection for business

### Supports textile company initiate new R&D programme

Replin Fabrics, a leading textile supplier to the international aviation industry for over 35 years, is taking advantage of the global growth of smart textiles to ensure a competitive edge.

Replin also supplies fabric to the marine and rail industries. The firm has a strong presence across the global contract fabric market, from durable commercial upholstery in banks and theatres to high end contract and residential fabrics.

With over 70 employees, the Peebles based Replin, contacted Interface - The knowledge connection for business, to initiate an R&D programme within the company, in order to reap the benefits of new developments in smart textiles, materials, and new market opportunities.

The textiles market is currently undergoing a rapid change. Latest innovations include lightweight textiles strong enough to withstand the impact of a bullet, as well as scent-embedded textiles, stay-clean textiles, textiles with displays and fabrics that can change colour.

Many new textiles are also being developed for health, promoting faster healing, enhancing well-being and green technology areas.

Recognising that academic assistance would help the company understand the latest key trends in smart materials, Replin needed to develop a working relationship with an academic department which would ultimately result in recruitment of a key member of staff that could lead to new developments in this area.

For the company, the long term objectives of this collaboration included research into new market opportunities, market drivers for novel textiles, appropriate materials and properties, recommendations for new R&D areas to deliver commercial advantage and the development of R&D partnerships to implement the agreed new product areas, both in house and with academic groups.

Interface undertook a search to identify relevant expertise within Scottish Universities and Research



For further information on Replin Fabrics Ltd. please visit [www.replin-fabrics.co.uk](http://www.replin-fabrics.co.uk)

*"We needed help from an academic that could provide expert opinion and help us recruit an experienced and skilled candidate in smart textiles. Interface introduced us to Prof Bob Bradley who understood exactly what we were looking for and helped us in the recruitment process."*

David Breckenridge, Managing Director, Replin Fabrics Ltd.

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Institutes and through its links identified relevant expertise in seven Higher Education Institutions.

Interface went on to broker links to Professor Bob Bradley, Advanced Materials and Biomaterials Research Centre, Robert Gordon University. The outcome was that Professor Bradley assisted in recruiting Dr John Muri to join the company in late 2008. John

brought the necessary skills in textile engineering and experience in textile production and evaluation methodologies.

David Breckenridge, managing director of Replin Fabrics, is delighted with the result. He comments: "Scottish Enterprise recommended that we contact Interface to assist us in our search for the academic support. After teaming up with Professor Bob

Bradley, from Robert Gordon University, we realised that experience in the area of material science, chemistry, nanomaterials and chemical processes, rather than textiles, was required. Through working with Professor Bradley on an 'expert opinion' basis, the process was a great deal more focused on Replin's actual requirements."



## About Interface - The knowledge connection for business

There is a wealth of world-class technology, skills and research facilities available within Scotland's universities and research institutes.

With established links to thousands of world-class leading experts, Interface finds and introduces companies to the perfect academic partner.

Interface overcomes the challenge facing companies in understanding what is available or who to contact

in academia, for R&D or expertise capabilities by matching relevant expertise to specific business requirements.

**Collaborating with academic partners brings significant business benefits:**

- Develop innovative new products, services and processes
- Improve performance using technological advances
- Increase competitive advantage in key markets

- Enhance profitability in existing and new markets

Many companies don't know that innovative solutions to help their business grow can be developed with academic assistance.

Interface is here to help make the right connections for businesses.

For further information please contact:

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