

Press Release
For Immediate Release



Vestechpro, Scientific Partner of the Renaissance Project for the Reduction, Reuse and Recycling of Post-Consumer Clothing in Montreal

Montreal, October 21, 2021 – Vestechpro, Apparel Research and Innovation Center, has joined forces with Renaissance, a leader in the Quebec social economy. The center will bring its scientific expertise to the Renaissance Social Innovation Project, which aims to create the first consolidated sector in Quebec for the recovery, reuse, repair, reconditioning and recycling of used clothing. This project, selected by the City of Montreal as part of its *Acting to Support the Ecological Transition* program, will begin in fall 2021 and end in August 2023.

This collaboration will fuel Vestechpro's activities and expertise in applied research in the circular economy, one of its four research areas. It will also allow it to carry out scientific activities in mechanical recycling, the results of which could be beneficial to the development of new outlets for different sectors: construction, transport, clothing, geotextile, etc.

According to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, every second, the equivalent of one garbage truck of clothes is burned or buried in a landfill. The project will educate consumers through various actions to adopt more responsible consumption patterns, in order to reduce the quantity of clothing buried in Quebec at source.

Thanks to a tailor-made continuing training program provided by Vestechpro, Renaissance will set up an insertion path for the repair and reconditioning of post-consumer clothing in its possession. 10 tonnes of textiles should likely be reused with this training plan.

As part of this project, the Vestechpro team will also perform mechanical defibration tests on post-consumer clothing using its defibrator. This equipment was recently acquired with a grant from Canada Economic Development. The defibrator makes it possible to obtain textile filling consisting of short fibers which can be amalgamated with new fibers to make new yarn. To give new life to these recycled fibers, new opportunities such as padding, and insulation will also be developed. 100 tonnes of textiles should likely be recycled each year thanks to these actions.

Vestechpro is delighted with this synergy project that is fully aligned with its vision: to bring innovation through collaboration.

[About Vestechpro](#)

Vestechpro is a college center for technology transfer (CCTT) specialized in apparel, affiliated with Cégep Marie-Victorin, and member of the Synchronex network.

Since its founding in 2011, its mission has been to support companies and organizations in the apparel industry in the development of innovative products and projects by offering technical assistance, training and information dissemination services, and applied research.

As a Technology Access Center (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada), Vestechpro specializes in the following research areas: smart apparel, adapted and medical apparel, digital strategies, and the circular economy.

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