

BRITISH FASHION COUNCIL



PRESS RELEASE

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BRITISH FASHION COUNCIL LAUNCHES BRITISH HIGH-END MANUFACTURERS DATABASE

designerfactfile.com/Manufacturers

This morning Caroline Rush CBE, CEO of the British Fashion Council and Professor Christopher Moore, Director of the British School of Fashion, Glasgow Caledonian University launched the British Fashion Council's British High-End Manufacturers Database. The national database of UK-based manufacturers aims to make it easier for designers to form supply chain relationships and reach production units. The British High-End Manufacturers Database is the first milestone of 2017 for the BFC's Positive Fashion initiative.

In March 2015 the BFC and a working group comprising of M&S, UKFT, Creative Skillset, The Alliance Project and Centre for Fashion Enterprise worked alongside independent specialists in the sector to launch the [High-end and Designer Manufacturing Report](#). The need for a database of audited UK manufacturers was highlighted as a direct result of this report, for which research was undertaken by Glasgow Caledonian University and Oxford University.

The Database is free to use and will sit as part of the [BFC Designer Fact File](#), a dynamic designer business learning platform providing insights and training across a wide spectrum of topics. The topics covered are tailored to a range of business stages, from start-ups to established brands, and content is provided by leading industry professionals. In stage 1, the initial manufacturers recommended for the British High-End Manufacturers Database were sourced through designer recommendations as well as through research done for the HEDM Report. Moving forward in stage 2, the BFC will conduct a full audit of all manufacturers listed and the database will grow organically as designers and BFC partners recommend further manufacturers, and as suppliers come forward to submit themselves for listing.

Throughout 2017 and beyond the BFC looks to celebrate Positive Fashion best practice in the industry by direct example and through facilitating processes for change. Through the Positive Fashion initiative the BFC hopes to encourage designer businesses to prioritise sustainability and ethical practices. The three key focuses for Positive Fashion in 2017 are Sustainability, Diversity & Industry Education (including model health) and Local Manufacturing and Craftsmanship.

The British Fashion Council would like to thank Positive Fashion lead partner (2013-2016) M&S for their commitment to the initiative and their passion for developing and celebrating best practice in our industry.

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For British Fashion Council press enquiries please contact:

Sophie Matthews, British Fashion Council

sophie.matthews@britishfashioncouncil.com | +44 (0) 20 7759 1986

The British Fashion Council (BFC) was set up in 1983 to promote British fashion internationally and co-ordinate this promotion through fashion weeks, exhibitions and showcasing events. The BFC now supports designers beginning at college level and extending to talent identification, business support and showcasing schemes to help British designer businesses develop their profiles and business globally and promote British fashion and its influential role in Britain and London. The BFC Colleges Council offers support to students through its Foundation, BA and MA scholarships, links with industry through design competitions and Graduate Preview Day. Talent identification and business support schemes include BFC Fashion Film sponsored by River Island; BFC Rock Vault; BFC Headonism; BFC/GQ Designer Menswear Fund; BFC/Vogue Designer Fashion Fund and NEWGEN. The BFC supports Boden's Future British initiative. The BFC also runs and owns charities including the BFC Fashion Arts Foundation, the BFC Fashion Trust and the BFC Education Foundation. Showcasing initiatives and events include London Fashion Week, London Fashion Week Men's, LONDON show ROOMS, International Fashion Showcase, London Fashion Week Festival and the annual celebration of excellence in the fashion industry: The Fashion Awards.

Positive Fashion

In 2013, the BFC's executive board set a challenge to develop the organisation's ethical and sustainable agenda, through the initiative Positive Fashion. Designed to deliver positive change and highlight best industry practice, key wins have included the implementation of the Positive Change committee in 2014, creation of the high-end and designer manufacturing report in 2015 and population of the BFC Designer Fact File in 2016.