

Re_fashion INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2020

Eco TLC becomes
Re_fashion

**TO OPTIMISE TEXTILE AND FOOTWEAR RECYCLING AND
ACCELERATE THE INDUSTRY'S CIRCULAR DEVELOPMENT**

Rules TO SIGN and
RETURN with your
application file

2020 INNOVATION CHALLENGE RULES

CONTEXT AND PRESENTATION

Eco TLC / Refashion is the French public authorities-approved eco-organization for the Clothing, Home textiles and Footwear sector (CHF). Its mission is to bring together all stakeholders from the sector to develop eco-design, reuse and recycling of textiles and footwear by optimising material, financial and human resources management.

Additional information: <https://refashion.fr/pro/fr>

The industry aims to reach its target of 300,000 tonnes collected and sorted per year, with a material recovery rate (reuse and recycling) of at least 95% and a maximum residual waste disposal (non-recovery) rate of 2%. That represents at least 100,000 tonnes of used non-reusable textiles and footwear to be recovered per year.

The eco-organization is supporting innovative projects to achieve this end, within the framework of its current specifications.

More information on the specifications: http://www.consultations-publiques.developpementdurable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Annexe_arrete_cahierdescharges_agrement_2014-2019_FiliereTLC_consultationpublic.pdf

Since 2010, The eco-organization has thus organised an annual call for projects and has already supported 52 projects (see the [Overview of projects](#)).

This Innovation Challenge has a dual mission:

- To find and scale up innovative industrial and commercial solutions that optimise used household derived textile and footwear recycling
- To accelerate the development of a more circular industry in synergy with other sectors (building, automobile, etc.)

As part of the 2020 edition of its call for projects, the eco-organization is seeking to receive innovative projects aiming at recycling used non-reusable textiles and footwear derived from household consumption, focusing on the following strategic area(s):

1. Preparation of materials derived from used textiles and footwear:

- Sorting techniques, methods for characterising, separating and preparing materials
- Optimising reverse logistics and scaling up material deposits

2. Incorporation of recycled materials from textile/footwear waste within products for other sectors (building, automobile, etc.):

- Creating recycled materials that can be used by several industries (e.g.: plastic pellets, flocking material)
- Creating products (non textile nor footwear)

PROJECTS AND PROJECT LEADERS ELIGIBILITY

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE 2020 INNOVATION CHALLENGE, PROJECTS MUST:

- Concern the recovery of used Clothing, Home Textiles and Footwear (CHF) derived from household consumption and collected in France;
- Aim to develop one or more innovative, technically reliable and economically viable products, services or processes;
- Identify the industrialisation and commercialisation phases within 3 years from project completion; specify the scalability and profitability methods. The project must thus be able to lead to an **industrial demonstrator**;
- In direct relation to the preceding point, projects must be within TRL (Technology Readiness Level) 4 to 6 corresponding to the prototypes / pilots development stages (please refer to the TRL scale infographic hereafter) before the industrial validation stage. Projects within TRL 1 to 3 and TRL 7 to 9 will not be considered;

Technology readiness level (TRL)

Not eligible Research	1	Upstream research / Basic principles observed
	2	Technology concept formulated
	3	Experimental Proof of Concept
Eligible Development	4	Experimental prototype (lab validation)
	5	Demonstration prototype (in relevant environment)
	6	Industrial system prototyping (relevant environment)
Not eligible Deployment	7	Industrial demonstrator (operational environment)
	8	Complete and qualified system
	9	Commercialised system (operational environment)

For more information on TRL, please refer to: [Technology Readiness Level Definitions – NASA](#).

- Involve one or more partners representing the whole value chain for the project's success, however only one entity can position itself as the project leader;
- Be led by a federating entity, natural or legal person, such as (non-exhaustive list):
 - A company, whether subject or not to the L 541-10-3 article of the French environmental code
 - An organization or professional structure (federation)
 - An economic development professional committee
 - An association pursuant to the French 1901 law or a NGO
 - An industrial technical centre
 - A consular organization (CCI, trade chambers)
 - An economic development agency
 - A competitiveness or excellence cluster
 - An education institution, etc.
- There is no nationality requirement for project leaders.

Projects aiming at recycling products other than used CHF derived from household consumption (manufacturing off-cuts, professional clothing, etc.) won't be eligible, unless these products can be integrated within the same recycling process. In this case, such projects will have to give priority to used CHF recycling before the other products' recycling, and clearly highlight it.

PROJECT LEADERS

- Project leaders may submit a maximum of three projects to the 2020 Innovation Challenge, provided that they are each of a different nature.

OTHER CRITERIA TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT:

- Environmental assessment of the developed products/processes (Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) required, or as a minimum a Life Cycle Impact Assessment (LCIA) of 'inventoried' flows).
- Innovative technological or service content;
- Volume of used textiles and/or footwear recovered by the project (estimate required);
- The provisional commercial business plan; the identification of customers and their potential involvement in the project;
- Quality of the partnership (e.g. existence of a consortium agreement) and of multidisciplinary skills brought to successfully carry out the project;
- The effectiveness of planned provisions to manage the project throughout its development (resources devoted to coordination between partners and monitoring of deliverables, project management skills, etc.);

PROCEDURES AND SCHEDULE

Applicants must complete the application file which includes:

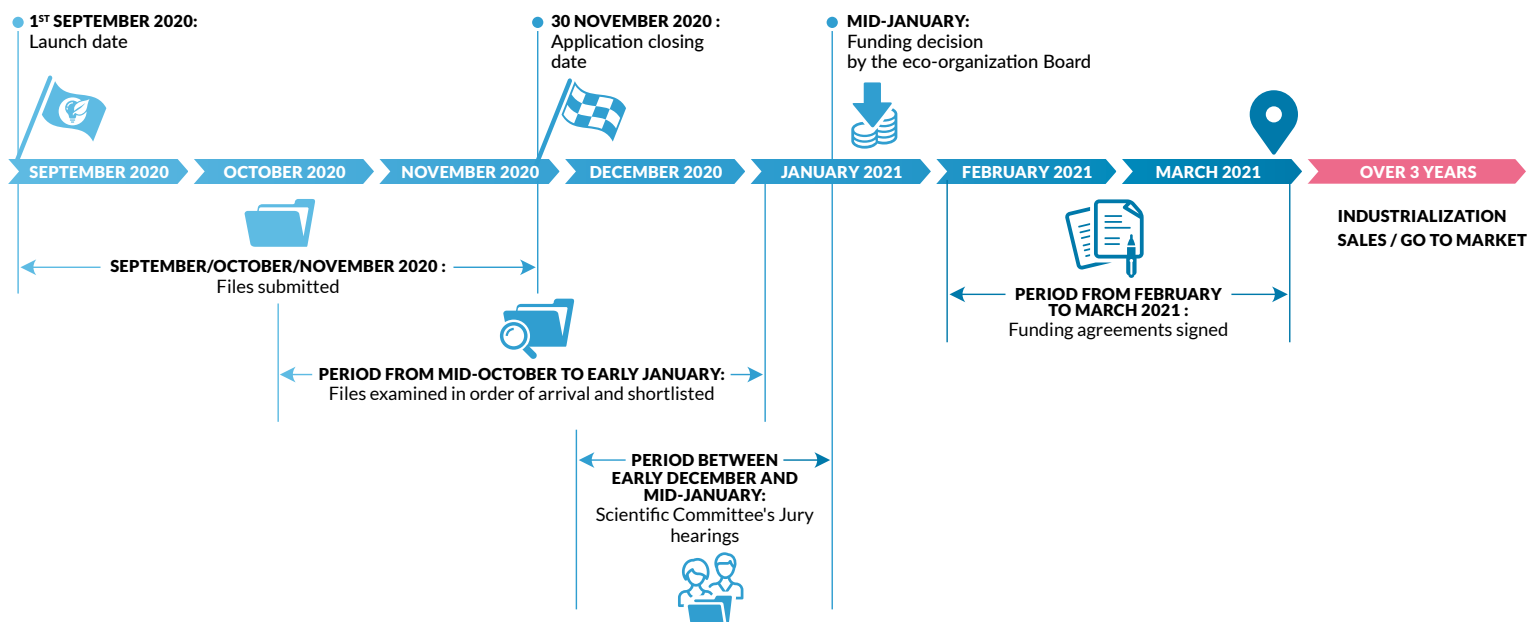
- **Rules** (this document) in PDF format (to be signed)
- **Project description** in Word format
- **Finance tables** in Excel format
- **1-page Summary** in PDF format

These can be downloaded from the website.

As the eco-organization funds the selected projects up to 50% of their total cost, projects can be co-funded by other structures (public or private) and benefit from, if eligible, the **Research Tax Credit (CIR)**. This information must be included in the finance tables in the application file.

The project partners must commit to conducting their work in accordance with the good practices in terms of business protection and security that should surround R&D and innovation projects, especially during any digital exchange of information.

KEY STAGES OF THE 2020 INNOVATION CHALLENGE:



- Applications that are incomplete or do not conform to the required format will not be considered.
- Applications must be in French or English (as long as a French translation is provided). In all cases, the Scientific Committee hearing will be conducted in French.
- Applications must be emailed to c.martin@refashion.fr by 30/11/20 at the latest.

USEFUL RESOURCES TO CONSULT

Applicants are invited to read and download the various studies carried out by the eco-organization [[Annual reports and studies](#)].

In particular, it is recommended to read the [2014 study on the disruptors and facilitators to textiles recycling](#) (only available in French).

They can also consult the details of the 52 projects supported by the eco-organization since 2010 in its annual [Innovation magazine](#).

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Expenses eligible for the eco-organization support are:

- Staff costs related to project implementation (salaries and employment costs);
- Subcontracting expenses (if less than or equal to 50% of the total budget);
- Expenses for project management support, engineering and environmental assessment, as well as transportation costs directly related to the project;
- Expenses for research equipment and materials including the set-up of pilot lines and prototypes, as well as equipment use or analysis costs, etc., related to the project;
- Purchases of materials, consumables and supplies related to carrying out the project;
- Overhead or structural costs, up to a limit of 5% of the total project cost.

The eco-organization's funding shall not exceed 50% of the project's total cost.

This financial support is provided by the eco-organization in the form of grants, net of all taxes.

The threshold date for considering expenses incurred as part of the project is the deadline for submitting applications.

Similarly, the financial amount considered is the one defined in the submitted application. Costs and allocation of expenses may vary during the course of the project, but not the total amount and therefore the maximum funding support requested to the eco-organization.

PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA AND METHODS FOR AWARDING SUPPORT

The eco-organization's Board votes on the funding amounts to be granted, under the conditions set out in its statutes, based on the Scientific Committee's recommendations.

In accordance with the eco-organization's specifications, the total budget allocated to R&D and studies support is at least €500,000 in 2020. In the event of partial use of this amount, the unused portion will be carried forward to subsequent years.

Applicants are requested to present their projects as accurately as possible. The aims must be clearly stated, and the project must be described from a technical, environmental, economic and financial point of view.

The projects' evaluation criteria are the following:

- The project being in accordance with the Innovation Challenge's strategic areas;
- The environmental benefits of the project, including the volumes of used CHF recovered by the project and the environmental impact of the developed products/ processes ([LCA/ LCIA](#));
- the industrialisation and commercialisation phases within 3 years: the project must be able to lead to an industrial demonstrator, and specify the scalability and profitability methods;
- The innovative nature of the project: the technological content, the innovative product or service within its market, with the expected results;
- The ecosystem of the project: partners, the identified customers, project management;
- The finance tables completed as best as possible in the application file; as a minimum the "Forecasted expenses" and "Detailed steps and deadlines" tables must be correctly filled in, following the instructions given underneath the tables;
- The project description: presentation, clarity, comprehensiveness; hand-written applications will not be considered.

The eco-organization Scientific Committee's Jury is sole judge of the admissibility of the projects submitted.

The Scientific Committee's Jury carries out a shortlisting of applications received. The project leaders marked highly enough (25 points minimum) are invited to come and present their projects to the Scientific Committee's Jury during a hearing.

The motivations behind the eco-organization decisions on whether or not to award funding are not intended to be communicated. The eco-organization will nevertheless endeavour, as much as possible, to provide guidance on the reasons for its decisions when communicating the results to applicants.

Projects funded by the eco-organization will be the subject of an agreement signed between the project leader and the eco-organization.

OBLIGATIONS, COMMITMENTS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

The eco-organization commits itself to observe strict neutrality and impartiality vis-a-vis submitted projects. Any member of the Scientific Committee's Jury having any link with the project leader or any of their partners commits to report any potential conflict of interest to the eco-organization and, consequently, will not participate in the Scientific Committee's Jury's projects shortlisting or selection debates.

The eco-organization is also committed to protecting the confidentiality of submitted application files. These aspects are the subject of a written commitment from each member of the Scientific Committee.

The Scientific Committee's Jury is made up of about twenty members representing the sector's stakeholders. Details of its composition can be found in the Innovation Challenge Presentation.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please contact:

Cécile MARTIN, Innovation & Recycling Project Manager

c.martin@refashion.fr

Project leader:

Represented by (First name – Surname):

Signed in:

On :

Signature preceded by the statement "agreed and signed":