

Press release

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Lenzing Number One in the World for Sustainable Wood Sourcing

- Ranked first by the Canadian environmental organization Canopy Planet Society
- Re-confirmation of Lenzing's leadership role in the field of sustainability
- Acknowledgment of the innovative strength of Lenzing's new TENCEL® fiber from recycled cotton waste

Lenzing - The Lenzing Group was rated number one globally with respect to the procurement of wood, the key raw material in cellulose fiber production. This was the conclusion of the latest global ranking compiled by the Canadian non-profit environmental organization Canopy Planet Society, who cooperates with 68 leading retail brands in the textile industry worldwide and is a driver in evaluating sustainable sourcing processes. Achieving the leading position in this ranking is another major recognition of Lenzing's sustainability leadership that is documented by numerous prizes, labels and certifications.¹ In its report², Canopy assessed the performance on forest conservation and wood sourcing practices of the major players of the cellulose fiber industry. It also commended Lenzing for its new TENCEL® fiber, which uses cotton fabric waste as an alternative source of raw material.

"We are proud of this ranking, and see it as further evidence of the leadership role played by the Lenzing Group in the field of sustainability. The origin of the wood, the most important material, is the decisive factor for us at the beginning of the production process", says Robert van de Kerkhof, Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) of the Lenzing Group, in commenting on the ranking. "Lenzing is continually striving to improve all its processes as well as its procurement guidelines. Lenzing will also continue to intensively provide support to the roadmap specified by Canopy as a means of preserving and protecting global forests. This is because sustainability is a core element of our business model", he adds.

Responsible sourcing combined with environmentally compatible technologies

Lenzing has been focusing on optimizing the sourcing of the renewable raw material wood for more than 20 years in accordance with the principle of sustainability. The company mainly relies on the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certification system whenever possible. In Europe with its strict forest regulations, Lenzing also makes use of the PEFC™ program as a means of demonstrating its sustainable procurement activities. Close to 100 percent of the wood and pulp used by the Lenzing Group is already certified by FSC® or PEFC™ or is controlled in line with these standards.³

The combination of high wood and pulp procurement standards with best practice process technologies reflects the sustainability leadership of the Lenzing Group. Both the production of Lenzing Viscose® fibers and the wide range of specialties, such as the TENCEL® fiber and Lenzing Modal®, are produced using high environmental standards and highly resource-efficient closed loop processes.

¹ <http://www.lenzing.com/en/responsibility/awards.html>

² <http://canopyplanet.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/The-Hot-Button-Issue-The-CanopyStyle-Report-2016.pdf>

³ Lenzing reserves itself the right to use and investigate small amounts of raw material that is submitted to a due diligence procedure largely following FSC® guidelines but may not yet be fully certified.

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Lenzing has been working steadily on the further improvement and environmental responsibility of its production processes. In this regard, Lenzing relies on the principle of closed loop production as well as the complete use of the raw material wood in its “biorefinery”. R&D expenditures of the Lenzing Group, which are already significantly higher than the industry average, were further increased in the current 2016 financial year to enable the company to press ahead with the development of new, ecologically-driven technologies.

Lenzing also a leader in alternative raw materials thanks to the new TENCEL® fiber from recycled cotton waste

Another criterion serving as the basis for Lenzing’s number one global ranking was its performance in the field of alternative raw material sources. Lenzing once again demonstrated its leadership in sustainable fiber industry innovations by developing the new TENCEL® fiber on the basis of cotton fabric waste. This groundbreaking innovation links pioneering work in textile recycling with the environmental award-winning closed loop fiber technology of TENCEL®.

With this innovation Lenzing underpins its core value sustainability as a key business driver. It paves the way to solutions for the textile industry’s pressing issue of more than 150 bn garments produced and partly disposed of every year.

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The Lenzing Group

The Lenzing Group is a world market leader headquartered in Austria, with production sites in all major markets as well as a worldwide network of sales and marketing offices. Lenzing supplies the global textile and nonwovens industry with high-quality, botanic cellulose fibers. Its portfolio ranges from dissolving pulp to standard and specialty cellulose fibers.

Lenzing quality and innovative strength set global standards for cellulose fibers. With 78 years of experience in fiber production, the Lenzing Group is the only company worldwide combining the manufacturing of all three cellulose fiber generations on a large scale under one roof – from the classic viscose to modal and the lyocell fiber TENCEL®.

The success of the Lenzing Group is based on its consistent customer orientation together with its leadership in innovation, technology and quality. Lenzing is committed to the principles of sustainable management and very high environmental standards. In addition to its core business of fibers, the Lenzing Group also operates in the field of engineering and plant construction.

Key Facts & Figures Lenzing Group 2015

Revenue: EUR 1.98 bn

Fiber sales volumes: 965,000 tons

Employees: 6,127

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