



The International Fibre Centre's (IFC) fundamental purpose is one of supporting training and education in the fibre and textile industries.

It is funded by the Government of Victoria, which recognises the long-term strategic importance of the fibre and textile industries and has set aside funds for the ongoing activities of the IFC until 2006/7.

Our head office is situated at Waurn Ponds campus of Deakin University however, all operational activities are handled at IFC's location on the Brunswick campus of RMIT University. The Brunswick campus continues to support and enhance TAFE and tertiary education and training and some product development activities, in collaboration with others.

Over recent months we have put a lot of thought into how the IFC might best assist the industry now that we hold a much reduced range of processing plant. This led to the development of a funding programme to support training and education projects that were proposed by industry and would be industry led. Expressions of interest in the Training and Education Projects Programme (TEP) were then called for and considered, followed by an application process.

From over 20 expressions of interest received a total of 12 applications were invited. By June, 11 of these proceeded to the approval and funding stage. IFC's funding commitment to these first round applicants exceeded \$700,000

To recap the aims of the TEP Programme; it is oriented towards proposals which:

- Meet an identified need that existing education and training arrangements do not or cannot meet.
- Demonstrate that benefits from the proposal will flow to Victoria
- Are funded in part by the proposed .
- Are forward looking in that they demonstrate an understanding of industry's education/training needs in the coming years .
- Can demonstrate the support and commitment of the senior levels (CEO, directors, members) of the proposed organisation .

Expressions of Interest in a further funding round (from fibre and textile organisations) are again invited: – **Closing date 13th September 2002**



Peter Loney – Chairman – IFC Board

OUTLINE OF SUCCESSFUL FIRST ROUND TEP APPLICATIONS

Grampians Wool Industries

The development of curriculum materials and other related resources that are not currently available to the industry, namely the development of specialist training material for its new purpose built carbonising plant.

Victoria Carpets

Develop training material for 1/8 gauge loop pile (Card-Monroe) high speed tufting machine and backing line. These types of tufters will increase the range and complexity of products that Victoria Carpets can produce. As a direct consequence of the introduction of the above technology, Victoria Carpet needs to re skill its work force and ultimately ensures the company remains competitive in an ever increasingly competitive industry.

RMIT University

Textile CAD Skills Development for RMIT Staff. This project is designed to enhance the skills of the School of Fashion and Textiles staff in conjunction with IFC, is developing a Centre of Excellence for training present and future Australian textile designers. The Centre is being developed in response to the increasing importance of the intellectual component, design in particular, of the textile supply chain. The Centre will encompass a large central CAD/CAM design laboratory with three small specialist laboratories attached. This project and associated funding will support the training of key staff on a range of CAD programs widely used in the Australian textile industry. The outcome of this program to the Australian Textile Industry will be greater availability of trained designers.

Macquarie Textiles

The need to have a pool of qualified assessors is paramount in any organisation that conducts "on the job" training. The new Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) section 7.3 makes it mandatory for assessors to have gained this qualification. This project will produce an interactive, self paced, plain English teaching and assessment CD Rom that provides the underpinning knowledge for this qualification (it will also be Internet ready). The product will be built over a trialed and proven model developed for another industry. For that industry, it has proven popular and financially successful with substantial Australian and International sales.

Macquarie Textiles

From Fibre to Fabric – The Life of Fred Fibre. This CD ROM will provide Certificate II Textile Production (Complex or Multi Processes) employees with awareness of the whole process from start to finish. The CD format allows informative yet lively animated training using technology which can be utilized at a time and place appropriate to employer, employee and workplace requirements. It will cover production errors and provide solutions. It will incorporate a range of assessment activities. The CD will be self paced and stand alone.

TexSkill Ltd

Various Technician Short Courses (approx 20) for the Textile Industry. The intended outcome is to address the urgent education and training needs of textile technicians/mechanics, technologist, designers, production personnel including quality control and other related job roles by organising and conducting a range of short courses and workshops aimed at upgrading skills and knowledge of new technologies, machine processes and improvements in production processes. All courses will be accredited at the appropriate AQF levels so that they can be articulated into other education programs (e.g. certificate and diploma levels). A feature of these courses will be working closely with industry to identify the courses needed, then liaising with machinery suppliers to utilise trainers from the machinery manufacturers' own training divisions, e.g. Schlumberger, Schlafhorst, Sulzer, Picanol etc) who are able to bring with them the latest updates in technology and expertise. These courses will be conducted in various locations in order to conduct them on the machinery and equipment required, whether in education and training centres such as RMIT, IFC, CSIRO, Deakin or in companies but where all courses are open to all industry participants.

Bradmill Pty Ltd

Yarn dyeing process training materials and weaving looms training materials project. The intended project outcome is the production of training materials (printed and CD-ROM based manuals) required in the re-training and upskilling of the workforce in relation to the new technology machinery being bought and installed in Bradmill's Yarraville site.

1. The dyeing operation requires the production of technical and operator training manuals and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) customised to the complex denim yarn dyeing machinery and associated production processes.
2. The weaving area, due to the replacement of most existing looms with new looms being purchased from Picanol (in Belgium), requires the production of technical and operator training manuals and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) customised to the new looms to be installed. In order to expedite the transfer of both skills and knowledge required for training, this project proposes that two technicians and a technical writer will work with the machinery manufacturer's technical and training staff in Belgium prior to installation. They will then continue on site at Yarraville during installation, commissioning and the first few months of production in order to produce the best possible training materials needed by technicians, loom tuners and operators.

Rocklea Spinning Mills

Trutzschler blowroom and cards – Short courses for technical personnel from Rocklea and Bradmill. This project's outcomes are to develop and conduct two short courses for cotton technicians, technologists, electronics/electricians from both Rocklea and Bradmill mills.

1. A one week course for technicians and mechanics to be conducted by instructors from Trutzschler machinery manufacturers.
2. A one week course for electronics/electricians to be conducted by instructors from Trutzschler.

These courses are aimed at upgrading our technicians' and electronics/electricians' skills, especially diagnostic skills, enabling them to deal more effectively with machinery problems and issues, and to improve operating efficiency.

TEP PROGRAMME



Rocklea Spinning Mills

Open end spinning technology – Short courses for technical personnel from Rocklea and Bradmill. This project's outcomes are to develop and conduct a five-day course for cotton technicians, technologists and managers from both Rocklea and Bradmill mills. This course will provide technological training for technicians and managers in open end spinning technology. Open end spinning is the most used spinning system in Australia. There is currently no specialist program for technical training in cotton spinning in Australia.

Rocklea Spinning Mills

Schlafhorst autocoro spinning machinery – Short courses for technical personnel from Rocklea and Bradmill. This project's outcomes are to develop and conduct two short courses for cotton technicians, technologists, electronics/electricians from both Rocklea and Bradmill mills.

1. A one week course for technicians and mechanics to be conducted by instructors from Schlafhorst machinery manufacturers.
2. A one week course for electronics/electricians to be conducted by instructors from Schlafhorst.

These courses are aimed at upgrading our technicians' and electronics/electricians' skills, particularly diagnostic skills, enabling them to deal more effectively with machinery problems and issues, and to improve operating efficiency.

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