

David Rigby Associates

Sector/Cluster Studies in Fibres, Textiles and Clothing Since 1983

Scottish Enterprise (SE)

- A review of investment trends in the world fibres, textiles and clothing industries and Scotland's strengths and weaknesses to identify possible *inward investors* into Scotland and the arguments to be used to convince them. (With Locate in Scotland.)
- An analysis of the companies in the *ladies' tailored outerwear* sector of the Scottish clothing industry to identify their development needs. This led to recommendations on how the existing assistance regimes, involving a number of organisations, could be improved and better targeted.
- An assessment of the *industrial textiles* industry on Tayside and its potential in world markets. (With Tayside Regional Council.)
- A study of the *lace* industry in Ayrshire and its position in world markets. This has led to an industry repositioning and identity programme.
- A study of the European market and recent changes in technology to produce a European market entry programme for the Scottish *designer knitwear* industry.
- A survey of the *cut & sew knitwear* industry in Ayrshire to assess its position and potential, to assist SE in determining how it, and other agencies, could best provide support.
- A study of the process of *new firm formation* and development in the Scottish *textiles and clothing* industry to recommend policies for encouraging and nurturing new firms.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise

- A project to understand the recent poor performance of the *Harris Tweed* industry in world markets. Recommendations were made for specific improvements in product design and marketing, for a revised levy system for funding generic promotion of the Harris Tweed trademark and for changes in the types of assistance provided by Highlands and Islands Enterprise to this important industry.

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

- Sector Competitive Analyses
 - carpets (with a later up-date)
 - interior textiles (household textiles and furnishings)
 - lingerie
 - protective and high performance clothing (PPE)
 - technical textiles and nonwovens
- Technology studies
 - the feasibility of very late-stage coloration of clothing and textiles (eg in a shop)
 - biotechnology in the textile industry (see DTI "Biotechnology Means Business" publication)
 - a search for UK textile and clothing research projects eligible for support by the EUREKA scheme.
- A review of the UK fibres, textiles and clothing industries to identify *supply gaps* which might be filled by UK or overseas investors.
- A review of the world *technical textiles* industry and opportunities for UK companies.

Cluster Mapping in Textiles and Clothing

- For NWDA, focusing particularly on technical textiles, nonwovens, performance outerwear and furnishings.
- For NWDA, a follow-on project to assess the feasibility of setting up a real or virtual centre of excellence in performance materials.
- For EMDA, focusing particularly on knitted fabrics and clothing.
- For One North East, focusing particularly on clothing.

China Textile Institute (Taiwan)

- A review of the Taiwanese *fibre, textile and clothing* industries and their competitive position in world markets up to the year 2000 to make recommendations on the optimum development plan for these industries and the technologies that will be required.

European Commission (Belgium)

- A review of the European textile and *clothing industry-related research priorities* in the Brite/Euram R&D support scheme.
- Preparing and leading a two-day industry Roundtable meeting to establish Brite/Euram *research priorities* for the European *shoe and leather industry*.
- Preparing and leading a two-day industry Roundtable meeting to establish the common *research priorities* in a number of materials-based industries, including *fibres, textiles, leather, timber, plastics etc.*

International Labour Office (Geneva)

- Current situation and trends of technology in the *clothing industry*.

Latvia

- An assistance programme to textile and clothing companies to prepare them for *inward investment* and *export marketing* activities. (Part of a TACIS scheme project.)

Messe Frankfurt, Tectextil show organisers, (Germany)

- A review of the world *technical textiles* industry up to 2005 with forecasts of demand by end-use sector and primary product types (eg yarns, fabrics, composites).

Federal Government of Australia

- A strategic review of the Australian knitted fabric and garment industry to establish its future prospects in the light of rapidly increasing imports from China and to recommend what action the Government might take. An updating study was carried out two years later.

Romania

- Restructuring of the Research & Development organisations in the *textile and clothing industry*. (Part of a PHARE scheme project.)

Bradford City Council

- A project to investigate the West Yorkshire clothing and wool industries to define strategic assistance programmes which might be supported by the EC. Included looking at the possibility of establishing a clothing centre in Leeds.

Coventry City Council - Coventry Clothing Centre

- A study of the export opportunities in four European countries for a group of local *Asian clothing and knitwear* companies to make recommendations on the best form of export assistance and other support schemes to provide.

Industrial Development Board for Northern Ireland

- An investigation of the *Irish Linen* industry and its position in world markets leading to a development plan for the industry and specific recommendations for the various companies, industry bodies and assistance agencies associated with the industry. (See the IDB publication “A Fibre for the Future: the Report of the Linen Task Force”). Subsequently, research in world markets for various companies in the industry.
- A survey of the Northern Ireland *dyeing, finishing and printing* industry and the potential for exporting its services.

The Irish Export Board

- Investigations of the strengths and weaknesses of a number of sectors of the Irish *clothing* industry (ladies’ underwear, men’s shirts, men’s tailoring, ladies’ outerwear) resulting in recommendations for export strategies and action plans.

Enterprise Ireland

- A strategic review of the Irish craft knitwear sector which produced recommendations for improving product design, reducing costs and increasing exports.

NEDO Joint Textile Committee

- An investigation of the potential for the UK *garment fabric* industry to substitute for imports from high-cost developed countries. (See the NEDO publication “Changing Needs and Relationships in the UK Apparel Fabric Industry”).
- The production of a strategic business planning kit for use in the *cotton, knitting and clothing* industries. (See the three NEDO publications.)
- A review of the UK *dyeing and finishing sector*. (See NEDO publication)

Nottingham City Council

- A strategic assessment of the local *dyeing and finishing industry* to provide guidelines for the Council’s support activities.
- A review of the needs of local *clothing* companies and the activities of other *clothing advisory centres* in the UK to produce a plan for the installation and use of CAD/CAM equipment in the *Nottingham Fashion Centre*.

SCOT (Scottish College of Textiles)

- A strategic review of the collage’s capabilities and the UK technical textiles industry leading to the formation of a centre of excellence in technical textiles and polymers.
- A strategic review of the College leading to its merger with Heriot-Watt University

Welsh Development Agency

- Strategic assessments of the Welsh *clothing, knitwear and furniture* industries leading to recommendations for a series of initiatives to help the small and medium-sized companies in their development.
- A review of the needs of Welsh *clothing* companies and the activities of other *clothing advisory centres* in the UK and mainland Europe to produce a plan for setting up the *Welsh Garment Centre*.
- A strategic review of the Welsh *clothing* industry. Included an Economic Impact Assessment of Welsh clothing initiatives and a cost/benefit analysis of the Welsh Garment Centre.

UNCTADD/GATT (India)

- Provided the marketing input to a mission investigating the Indian jute industry and its future prospects.