

## **EPIC Group and CleanKore Announce Bold Plans to Advance Sustainable Denim**

The partnership will aim at eliminating hazardous Potassium Permanganate Spray and most manual processes in denim finishing, while reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions, water and chemical use in the process

**July 18 2022:** Hong Kong based Epic Group, a leading garment manufacturer for global brands today announced its strategic partnership with CleanKore, a denim innovation and patent licensing company. This partnership aims at scaling the CleanKore patented yarn dyeing technology that provides numerous sustainability benefits for both the denim mill and garment manufacturer.

CleanKore patented technology changes the chemistry and the process used to dyeing yarns at the denim mills by keeping intact the white core of the yarn and only dyeing the surface. This technology significantly reduces water, chemicals and process time in the denim garment finishing stage.

Denim garment finishing often involves onerous manual processes such as handsanding and hand whiskering, spraying of harmful Potassium Permanganate (PP) (done by heavily protective equipment donned personnel), and multiple washing cycles. CleanKore technology coupled with lasers enable elimination of the PP spray process, significantly improving health and wellbeing of apparel workers, as well as emissions of harmful chemicals. Manual processes are eliminated in most styles and significantly reduced in others.

CleanKore technology also enables the reduction of wash cycles – reducing water, chemical use and process time, adding to the sustainability credentials of the end products. The products currently tested by Epic Group and CleanKore demonstrate up to 44% of water savings in garment finishing and up to 60% of energy savings in the fabric dyeing stage, along with the elimination of PP spray.

Through their partnership, Epic Group and CleanKore are planning to rapidly scale up the adoption of this technology in partnership with Epic Group's customer base. In the first year, the partnership plans to reach over 4 million pairs of denim and working towards a scale of 15 - 20 million pairs of denim per annum in the next 3 years, converting a large portion of Epic Group's denim production to CleanKore technology.

Speaking on the partnership Mr. Darryl Costin Jr, President and CEO, CleanKore emphasized that, "as a company committed to sustainability we could not have asked for a better partner to scale our ground-breaking technology. Epic Group has a phenomenal team from top to bottom who are completely aligned with our goals. Unlike other technologies, we are thrilled to offer a much more sustainable product to consumers that is cost neutral. With

Epic Group we are moving to make elimination of toxic Potassium Permanganate spray a norm in the manufacturing industry.”

Mr. Ranjan Mahtani, Chairman, Epic Group said, “as a leading global denim manufacturer committed to improving sustainability in product and process, we work with breakthrough technologies that reduce negative impacts to the planet and the people. CleanKore technology offers a fantastic value proposition of significant sustainability benefits to our associates and the environment, without increasing the cost. Sustainable products should be scalable – not niche, and we will rapidly scale up the adoption of this technology. CleanKore coupled with Epic Group’s advanced technologies such as laser and low-liquor ratio washing machines will create a new benchmark for sustainably manufactured denim.”

### **About Epic Group**

For decades, Epic Group has been a key player in the apparel industry, first as a major textiles trading house, then as a leader in sourcing quality fabrics, and since 2005 as a state-of-the-art manufacturing group with facilities worldwide. We have a global footprint across Africa, Asia, UAE, the UK, Jordan, & United States. We have evolved to become a leading manufacturer and trusted supplier to our valued clients, focusing on innovation, state-of-the-art technology & cutting-edge design. Through a passionate and driven team of people, we enable our global retailers to deliver on their consumer expectations. We are a highly driven group that focuses on excellence in execution, quality, and passion. We use modern technologies, insights, and trends to provide a partnership approach to our relationships. Sustainability is at the heart of what we do, from the head office to the manufacturing plants. We employ over 30,000 people.

For more information, visit [www.epicgroup.global](http://www.epicgroup.global)

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### **About CleanKore**

CleanKore’s patented technology is an exciting and novel approach to dyeing yarns at the denim mill. This technique goes against the grain when compared to conventional dyeing. The result is a large and circular bright white core with a small ring of indigo dye. CleanKore is proven to significantly reduce costs throughout the supply chain while improving sustainability, including the elimination of Potassium Permanganate spray.

For more information, visit [www.cleankore.com](http://www.cleankore.com)

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