CALL FOR R&D PROJECTS 2016

Application from 1st September to 31st October 2016
On 3rd April 2014, the authorization for the Eco TLC eco-organisation has been renewed for six years by ministerial order of French Ministries for the Environment and Industrial Recovery (French law gazette -Journal Officiel- of 14th May 2014).

In accordance with the specifications appended to the authorization, Eco TLC is in particular to support research projects. These latest have to contribute to the development and the sustainability of the clothing, household linen and footwear waste sector by aiming at:

- develop the eco-design of clothing, household linen and shoes with regard to their end-of-life, in particular in terms of durability and recyclability, while making sure not to lead to a transfer of pollution to the other stages in the product’s life cycle nor transferring one type of environmental impact to another;

- optimise collection, sorting and final processing by the various operators involved, in order to meet the needs of recycling industries or to generate new opportunities. The development of adapted sorting methods and the improvement of the quality of the recycling material have to meet the requirements of industrial sectors demanding material made from used clothing, household linen and footwear.

The overall objective of the sector with regard to collection, sorting and recovery, is to divert 50% of the tonnage of products marketed -that is to say 300 000 tons- from residual household waste by 2019. This represents the doubling of the volume collected, sorted and recovered compared with figures as of the end of the previous agreement (2009-2013).

The target of the sector for waste derived from sorted clothing, household linen and footwear is to achieve, between now and 2019, at least 95% material recovery (reuse and recycling) and a maximum of 2% ultimate waste (that is to say, not the object of any type of recovery).

Candidates’ projects should offer or develop innovative solutions, and/or improve existing solutions, for reuse, recycling or recovery of materials from used clothing, household linen and footwear from households. These solutions should be reliable and viable, both in terms of products and in terms of process, and likely to be used on an industrial scale.
In particular, Eco TLC would welcome projects in the following areas (not excluding projects meeting all the objectives in the specifications but concerned with other subjects):

• Eco-design of products, in particular shoes, taking an "end-of-life" approach, which is to say, aimed at enabling or improving:
  ✓ Methodology for processing and/or for separating fibres and materials with an eye to recycling them at an industrial scale
  ✓ Disassembly of constituents
  ✓ Elimination or reduction of disruptive recycling elements
  ✓ Increase of life expectancy of TLC products

Projects must include an environmental assessment that is multi-criteria and which takes into account the entire life cycle.

The Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) allows to rationalize impacts and to make them objective by avoiding the transfer of pollution from one impact to another, or from one stage of the life cycle to another. At the stage of R&D project, it is often difficult to make a complete LCA (lack of data and time). Assistance provided through engineering consulting firm specializing in environmental assessment will be eligible for each project leader.

**Useful documents to consult:**

Candidates who wish to submit an application to request financial support are invited to review the various studies conducted on sorting and recovery of clothing, household linen and shoes:

• Study conducted by Ademe in June 2009 on the latest development in sorting and recovery of textiles from clothing, household linens and shoes

Studies conducted on Eco TLC’s behalf on existing processing and initiatives known to date:

• Assessment of the current situation (updating the study from 2009) on the sorting and recovery of textiles from clothing and household linens consumed by households (study conducted by RDC Environment)

• Best practice in sorting, recycling and recovery of household shoes (study conducted by Bio Intelligence Service company)

• Study on recycling facilitators and disruptor (conducted by ENSAIT)

These studies can be downloaded from the www.ecotlc.fr website or upon requested from Eco TLC (available only in French).

Applicants looking for information related to eco design may consult the "Issue of design for integration of thought end of life" released by the « Pôle Eco-conception » of Saint Etienne (contact « Pole Eco-conception » contact@eco-conception.fr to obtain this document (only available in French).
Candidates may also refer to R&D projects already supported by Eco TLC and feedback in the brochure “Roads to innovation”, which can be downloaded on Eco TLC website http://www.ecotlc.fr or available upon request from Eco TLC.

Eco TLC’s call for R&D projects is issued each year on 1st September.

Six calls for project have already been issued since 2010 and 22 projects are currently or have been already supported.

ELIGIBILITY OF PROJECTS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The following are eligible for funding of projects led or owned by a federative unit such as (non-exhaustive list):

- A company, whether subject to article L 541-10-3 of the French environmental code or not
- A professional organization or body
- A professional board for economic development
- A not-for-profit organization (acc. to French law from 1901)
- An Industrial Technical Centre
- Chambers of commerce, trade and industry
- An agency for economic development
- A Competitive Cluster
- An educational institution etc.

Eligible projects may involve one or several partners but, in this case, there must be a sole representative acting with Eco TLC as the project owner. If the project is awarded financial support, the payment agreement will be signed with the sole owner, who will be the recipient of the financial support.

There is no stipulation regarding nationality for project owners, for natural persons or legal entities.

Projects that target products other than clothing, household linen and footwear may possibly be eligible, provided that they could be adapted for use with clothing, household linen and footwear. In this case, the projects in question should be of interest for clothing, household linen and footwear, for example due to the identity of the material, and the owner should demonstrate their adaptable character.

The projects should result in practical implementation and/or create the conditions that allow practical application.

A project that is limited to one study or one exposition would not be eligible.

There is no restriction as to the size of companies.

The same candidate can respond each year to Eco TLC’s call for projects. An owner may submit a maximum of three projects per year, on condition that they are different in nature.
An owner cannot submit more than three projects in the same year.

There is no requirement for legal form or legal status on the part of the organisation submitting the project.

The total sum for the project, which is the subject of the request for support, should be itemised and a cash flow statement provided. Funding from Eco TLC may not exceed 50% of the overall cost. The cash flow statement must specify the identity of the other financier(s) as well as the respective amounts contributed. The owner is required to contribute financially.

Financial support paid by Eco TLC are subsidies inclusive of tax.

R&D projects can be jointly backed by other organisations, both public and private, in particular by Ademe.

NB: Ademe is a member of Eco TLC’s scientific committee.

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**SELECTION CRITERIA FOR PROJECTS & DETAILS OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

The board of Eco TLC votes on financial support, under conditions established by its articles of association, and on the recommendation of the scientific committee.

According to the applicable terms and conditions, the total budget earmarked for funding for R&D and for studies is €500 K for the year in 2014 (half of which is allocated to studies). If part or all of the funding is not used, it will be carried forward to later years.

Candidates are requested to present the project, for which the application for support is being made, as accurately as possible. Objectives should be stated clearly and the project should be described from the following aspects:

- technical
- economic and financial, for example in the form of a business plan
- environmental

The scientific committee at Eco TLC shall be the sole judge of whether projects submitted to them are admissible.

The scientific committee completes a pre selection of the application files. Projects holders who have obtained a sufficient scoring (for further information, refer to the scoring scale, criteria and coefficient in the appendix) are invited to present their project to the scientific committee.

The underlying decisions by Eco TLC pertaining to the allocation of support or to a negative decision are not communicated, but Eco TLC will endeavour, as far as possible, to give some detail when informing candidates of the results.
The closing date for acceptance of applications to Eco TLC (31st October 2016) is binding. Applications must be complete; neither applications nor additional document(s) received after this date will be considered.

Any applications that fail to observe the requested form (cf. application to be completed in full and in detail) will not be examined.

Projects awarded financial support by Eco TLC will the subject of an agreement signed by the entity that owns the project and Eco TLC (cf. the agreement on type of support available upon request). Upon request by the recipient of the financial support, it shall be possible to pay a part of the subsidy awarded, up to a limit of 30% of the total, in advance upon signing of the agreement. This advance is reimbursable should the planned work not be completed.

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**OBLIGATIONS & UNDERTAKINGS**

Eco TLC undertakes to observe strict neutrality and impartiality with regard to the projects that are submitted. In particular, any member of the scientific committee who has any links whatsoever with the owner of the project or one of their partners undertakes not to take part in the discussion leading to a recommendation, which will be made by the committee to the board of directors.

Similarly, any member of the board, who has ties with the owner of the project or one of their partners or who is an employee of the owner of the project or one of their partners, shall not take part in the vote regarding the award of the requested financial support.

Eco TLC undertakes to observe the confidential nature of the applications submitted and to have the members of the scientific committee sign a written undertaking to this effect.

The scientific committee includes 14 members who represent actors of the sector. The formation of the scientific committee at Eco TLC can be seen on the website www.ecotlc.fr.

Eco TLC undertakes to conduct a full report once a year on committee activity for the General Directorate for Risk Prevention at the French Ministry for the environment (Direction Générale de la Prévention des Risques du Ministère de l'Ecologie) to include files concerning applications that failed to obtain support.

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**ELIGIBLE EXPENSES**

Eligible expenses are:

- Expenditure for staff relating to implementation of the project; it should identify the different categories of staff involved in the project. This item in the expenses will take into account the gross salaries and employer’s contributions.
Expenditure for sub-contracting, provided that the cost of these services is less than or equal to 50% of the overall cost for project expenditure; an overspent may be tolerated on a case-by-case basis, depending on the partnership selected. Expenditure for project support and management, engineering etc., is eligible.

Expenditure for equipment and material, usage fees for material or analyses etc., chargeable to the project

Procurement of material, consumables and supplies related to realisation of the project

The cut-off date for taking expenses incurred into account is the closing date for submission of applications (31 October 2016).

### PROCEDURES AND TIMETABLE

Closing date for submission of applications: **31st OCTOBER 2016**

Application to be submitted by
- Email (PDF format)

Correspondence for the attention to:

Jean Luc Bartharès
Eco TLC
4, cité Paradis
75010 Paris, France

Jl.barthares@ecotlc.fr

Applications should be completed in French.

Indicative schedule:

- Preselection phase: from 1st November to 30th November 2016
- Interviews to be held by the scientific committee with the project owners of preselected projects: first two weeks in December
- Decision on financing to be made by the board at Eco TLC: January 2017
- Signing of financing agreements: February 2017

### INFORMATION:

For any information please contact:

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