



Institute Board of Trustees Approves New Associate Membership

In an effort to broaden the membership base of the Institute to include critical peripheral and supplier groups, the Board of Trustees has approved a new membership category, Associate Member. Associate Member companies are not primary textile manufacturers but are within the textile industry supply chain. To provide representation a “cluster” concept has been developed to include the following industry participants: machinery suppliers, dye and specialty chemical companies, and systems/software providers. Other clusters may be identified at a later date. Once a cluster reaches a membership of five (5) companies, they will be entitled to elect a representative to the Board of Trustees, the Technical Advisory Committee, and the Intellectual Property Committee. Sharing representation, and likewise the cost of full membership, will offer a voice to important, smaller members of the industry at an affordable dues level. Such an organization will benefit the Institute through significantly broader participation.