

PRESS RELEASE

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HERMÈS EXPANDS ITS TEXTILE SITE IN PIERRE-BÉNITE (RHÔNE, FRANCE), CRADLE OF ITS REGIONAL DIVISION OF EXCELLENCE

Hermès inaugurates the extension of its long-established site in Pierre-Bénite in the south of Lyon. To support the success of the collections and the growth of the workforce, the Holding Textile Hermès, integrated textile division of the Hermès group, expands its work and production spaces and is equipped with a new printing line. In the birthplace of silk and French textile, Hermès reaffirms its territorial anchor in the region and strengthens its textile division, which counts 950 employees, amongst which more than 600 craftsmen and women. By 2026, Hermès foresees the creation of up to 120 jobs in this division.

The new printing line will be complemented by a second one by 2024, to continue the innovation process of the sector and to contribute to the development of the house's emblematic know-how in printing 'à la lyonnaise'.

The Pierre-Bénite workshop houses know-how such as printing and textile finishing. The reconfigured site now comprises three buildings structured around courtyards and linked by an overhead walkway, promoting strong synergies between artisans and all employees of the sector. This place of innovation embodies Hermès' commitment to transmission and perpetuating exceptional know-how as well as its social and environmental ambitions. The group strengthens its role as a socially responsible company, creating high-quality jobs.

A dynamic boost for employment and training with a strong local anchoring

The Holding Textile Hermès, created in 2001 to bring together all the group's textile divisions, masters all aspects of textile expertise - from manufacturing to weaving, engraving, dyeing, and finishing. Thanks to this unique model of integrated *métiers*, Hermès is committed to preserving the artisanal dimension of manufacturing its printed silk objects.

For its development, the Hermès textile sector is pursuing a recruitment and training strategy in close collaboration with its local partners: the *Pôle emploi* employment service in Oullins and Bourgoin-Jallieu, the metropolitan employment integration centre (Rhône section), and several schools and colleges in the Lyon area (Lycée La Martinière Diderot, Maya Campus Roanne, Itech, Ecam...).

Established within the Holding Textile Hermès, the *École du textile d'Hermès* trains people of all ages and backgrounds, without qualifications or in conversion, for exceptional *métiers* such as weaving, engraving, dyeing, and printing, as well as manufacturing (edge-rolling and stitching). Vocational training lasts twelve months for weaving and manufacturing, and three years for table printing, two of which are accompanied by artisan-trainers. Transmission is at the heart of Hermès' artisanal model: the artisans share their exceptional know-how with apprentices, on a mentoring basis.

In 2022, the Hermès textile division obtained the "*Entreprise du Patrimoine Vivant*" (Living Heritage Company) label. This distinction recognises the company's commitment to conserving, protecting, and promoting heritage know-how.

Silk, a canvas for infinite expression

Since its arrival in the house in 1937 with its first silk twill *carré*, *Jeu des Omnibus et des dames blanches*, the silk *métier* stimulates creative minds, deploys exceptional know-how and perfects innovative techniques. The iconic 90 × 90 cm scarf has been joined by several other sizes and printed objects such as ties, shawls, ready-to-wear, and bath sheets. This collective process of creation is the result of a dialogue between the artistic direction, Design Studio, artisans, and colour specialists. To create these colour schemes, Hermès craftsmen and women draw on a constantly expanding repertoire of gestures, including a colour library of over 75,000 shades.

A multi-faceted architecture focused on nature

The design of the new Pierre-Bénite site was entrusted to the Lyon-based firm, Unanime Architectes. The architectural plan was conceived as a place to live as well as a place of production and collaboration. The architecture was designed to allow natural light to flood the workspaces. The colourists, who work with natural light, are installed in an open area with bay windows.

The entire construction was optimised according to bioclimatic principles with eco-certified and biosourced materials, 700 m² of solar panels on the car park roofs, a green roof on top of the logistics building (730 m²), 1,900 m² of sun protection on one of the car parks, and a ground-source heating and air conditioning system, all contributing to the environmental performance of the building, which meets the conditions for the 'Bâtiment Biosourcé' (Biosourced Building) label. The building's architecture asserts its contemporary character while blending into the surrounding garden, which plays a prominent role and features a participatory vegetable garden. The buildings are structured around verdant courtyards. Local species were planted to create spaces conducive to promoting biodiversity. Committed to preserving ecosystems, Hermès worked with environmental experts, including an ornithologist to safeguard wildlife habitats.

By redeveloping this site, which is next door to the Pierre-Bénite leather workshop, Hermès is reaffirming its regional anchor in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region where, alongside its long-standing partners, it contributes to the influence and innovation of the fashion and textile sector.

Since 1837, Hermès has remained faithful to its artisan model and its humanist values. The freedom to create, the spirit of innovation, the constant search for beautiful materials, the transmission of *savoir-faire* of excellence, and the aesthetic of functionality all forge the singularity of Hermès, a house of objects created to last. An independent, family-owned company which encompasses 16 métiers, Hermès is dedicated to keeping the majority of its production in France through its 54 workshops and production sites and to developing its network of more than 300 stores in 45 countries. The group employs 19,700 people worldwide, including 12,400 in France, of which nearly 7,000 are craftsmen*.

Axel Dumas, a sixth-generation family member, has been Hermès CEO since 2013. Founded in 2008, the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès supports projects in the areas of artistic creation, training and the transmission of *savoir-faire*, biodiversity, and the preservation of the environment.

* As of 31st December 2022