2018 REPORT
The State of Skills in the Apparel Industry

New York - October 4, 2018
There is an unprecedented skills crisis in fashion industry — 62% of respondents are struggling to fill skilled roles creating ‘war for talent’ across supply chain. Big fashion retailers, brands, manufacturers and vendors face a shortage of workers with key, specialized skills, according to Alvanon’s new survey data.

Fashion innovation company Alvanon has partnered with 13 leading apparel organizations* to survey professionals throughout the fashion industry on the skills gaps, learning and talent development needs within the apparel sector. ‘The State of Skills in the Apparel Industry 2018’ special report represents the views of 642 executives, HR leaders, industry practitioners and employees across the international supply chain.

- One of the biggest issues facing brands and vendors is hiring people with the right skills.
- 62% of respondents are struggling to fill certain positions.
- Respondents are largely unhappy with the training being provided.
- The imperatives for business now include figuring out how to engage employees and provide professional development, or risk losing them.
- Survey findings conclude that failure to respond to skill shortages will result in the generalization of poor market practices which adversely impact business performance across the supply chain.

The survey is part of Alvanon’s ongoing efforts to address the training and development needs of the apparel industry worldwide. The 642 respondents comprised one-third of workers from North America, one-third Asia Pacific, one-fourth Central & South America, the rest from Europe and others.

*Supporting Organizations include: American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA), Americas Apparel Producers Network (AAPN), Association of Suppliers to the British Clothing Industry (ASBCI), Australian Fashion Council, California Fashion Association (CFA, Canadian Apparel Federation, Inexmoda (Colombia), The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA), The International Textile and Apparel Association (ITAA)

Alvanon, founded in 2001, is a global innovations company shaping the future of fit, through modern technology and an innovative data-driven approach. Alvanon operates as advisor across 89 countries to many of the world’s leading apparel organizations – helping them improve their fit and engage more intimately with the modern-day consumer.

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Live webinar
Made in USA: “An Industry Talent & Skills Gap Assessment”

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