



FAST COMPANY ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2020 WORLD CHANGING IDEAS AWARDS

Novetex Textiles' The Billie System Receives an Honorable Mention



The patented operations of The Billie System take place in Tai Po, Hong Kong.

High-resolution images: http://ftp.catchonco.com/TheBillie_FastCompanyAnnouncesWinnersOf2020.zip

NEW YORK, April 29, 2020 – The winners of *Fast Company's* 2020 World Changing Ideas Awards have been announced, honoring the businesses, policies, projects, and concepts that are actively engaged and deeply committed to flattening the curve when it comes to the climate crisis, social injustice, or economic inequality. All of the finalists are highlighted in the May/June issue of the print magazine, which hits newsstands May 5.

Now in its fourth year, the World Changing Ideas Awards showcase 26 winners—with Health and Wellness, Corporate Social Responsibility, and AI and Data among the most popular categories. A panel of eminent judges selected winners and finalists from a pool of more than 3,000 entries across transportation, education, food, politics, technology, and more.

The 2020 World Changing Company of the Year is **Abbott**, for a range of devices and projects to improve global health—from a new implant to keep babies' hearts beating, to fighting malaria, to advancing the careers of underrepresented people in STEM. The 2020 awards feature entries from across the globe, from Vancouver to Singapore to Tel Aviv.

In Hong Kong, Novetex Textiles' **The Billie System** has been selected as an honorable mention in the Corporate Social Responsibility category. Through its upcycling factory in Tai Po, The Billie System is developing new resources from textile waste, enabling circular practices in the textile industry.



Additional honorees include hunger-fighting nonprofit **Food Rescue Hero**, carbon-tracking nonprofit **Climate Neutral**, and other game-changing companies in industries ranging from healthcare to disability empowerment to cleaner transportation.

Fast Company's World Changing Ideas Awards celebrates, among others, an electric engine for airplanes that eliminates emissions from flights—and expensive fuel from the tricky financial calculus of the airline industry; an online marketplace that connects food companies with farms to buy surplus produce to fight waste; and an initiative to offset all of the carbon costs of shipping, creating a new model for e-commerce sustainability. These initiatives illustrate how some of the world's most inventive companies are addressing grave global challenges.

"There seems no better time to recognize organizations that are using their ingenuity, resources, and, in some cases, their scale to tackle society's biggest problems," says Stephanie Mehta, editor-in-chief of *Fast Company*. "Our journalists, under the leadership of senior editor Morgan Clendaniel, have uncovered some of the smartest and most inspiring projects of the year."

About The Billie System

The Billie System is an upcycling factory and textile mill in Hong Kong created by Novetex Textiles Limited to help promote a circular economy. Formally launched in July 2019, the innovative, award-winning system is a combination of new and existing technologies designed to process textile waste such as discarded garments, excess apparel and raw material inventory. Without using any water or emitting hazardous discharge, The Billie System yields quality recycled fibres that can then be spun into yarn to recreate a variety of textiles. In developing a new resource from textile waste, The Billie System advocates circular practices in the textile industry. For more information on The Billie System, visit www.thebillieupcycling.com.

About the World Changing Ideas Awards

World Changing Ideas is one of *Fast Company's* major annual awards programs and is focused on social good, seeking to elevate finished products and brave concepts that make the world better. A panel of judges from across sectors choose winners, finalists, and honorable mentions based on feasibility and the potential for impact. With a goal of awarding ingenuity and fostering innovation, *Fast Company* draws attention to ideas with great potential and helps them expand their reach to inspire more people to start working on solving the problems that affect us all.

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