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Special Issue on: “RFID for fashion and apparel: advancements in research, technology and implementation”

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Description:
The fashion and apparel industries define an increasingly complex and dynamic field, due to the advent of own brands and the globalization of sourcing and supply chain decisions. This context has recently attracted the attention of several researchers in the area of operations and supply chain management. Accordingly, the main criticalities of the fashion and apparel industries include short product life cycles, high volatility, low predictability of demand and high purchasing impulse. Moreover, as in any other manufacturing business, balancing production and demand is a further challenge faced by fashion and apparel retailers, exacerbated by the fact that demand is highly variable and influenced by trends, and the selling season is very short, as well as by the need to produce and provide various, complex and fashionable textile products.

Radio frequency identification (RFID) technology offers attractive ways to improve supply chain efficiency through greater coordination between marketing and manufacturing. RFID enables real-time tracking of items, safety monitoring and automation of warehouse operations, which lead to increase in sales volumes and improved profitability for suppliers and retailers. Moreover, RFID implementation in a business organization has a significant impact on the entire supply chain efficiency, from suppliers to retailers. RFID has also the potential to help retailers solve several key issues of the fashion and apparel industries. As mentioned, since the product life cycle of fashion items is very short, it is vital to ensure that the product is delivered to the store as quickly as possible. In this regard, as RFID provides the capability to track and trace items, it could streamline many activities along the supply chain. Moreover, fashion and apparel retailers often need space to display products of different styles, sizes and colors; consequently, efficiently managing items at retail stores becomes a relevant task. An RFID-based stock management system can help employees identify the needed items for the customer more quickly and accurately, at the same time enabling frequent inventory counts of high value merchandise. As a further point, RFID gives each clothing item a special identifier, so that counterfeiting and illegal products selling can be prevented or at least reduced. Finally, RFID is a promising technology for EAS in the apparel industry, where thefts are one of the main causes of shrinkage.
Subject coverage

Expected contributions to this special issue should focus on, but are not limited to, the following areas:

1. **Research in RFID for fashion and apparel**, including: design of new RFID solutions for fashion, business models for RFID in fashion and apparel, backroom to sales floor compliance;
2. **RFID technology developments**, including: RFID tags for the fashion and apparel industries, performance measurement, tag testing; and
3. **RFID implementations in the fashion and apparel industries**, including: case studies, pilot studies, business process re-engineering, feasibility studies, process analysis.

Notes for Prospective Authors

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Submission to this special issue must be performed using the online submission system on MS Tracker [http://mstracker.com/submit1.php?jcf=rft](http://mstracker.com/submit1.php?jcf=rft). The submission cover letter should clearly state that the manuscript is submitted to this special issue, by reporting the title “RFID for fashion: advancements in research, technology and implementation”. Authors should also indicate their affiliation to the Global RF Lab Alliance (GRFLA) network. All papers submitted will be assigned to one of the guest editors and will be handled through a rigorous peer review process.

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Important Dates

Submission deadline: September 1st, 2013
Reviewer report: October 1st, 2013
Submission of the revised/final paper: November 1st, 2013

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