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29/03/2017

**DAVID PETERS' BLOG**

**UK Leather Federation announces new five-year plan**

The UK Leather Federation chose the 2017 APLF exhibition in Hong Kong as the platform for launching a new five-year strategy. The new strategy's aims are to promote UK-made leather to a wide variety of stakeholders through a broader membership base, supporting what the representative body referred to as "best practice in quality, sustainable leather manufacturing".

Speaking in Hong Kong on the first day of APLF, the organisation's chairman, James Lang, commented: "The UK leather industry operates from a stable base and its future growth will come from even better products supplied to even broader markets. The UK Leather Federation needs to grow to meet that challenge."

Nine leather manufacturers, education providers and technology companies jointly represented the UK at a national pavilion at this year's APLF. The federation said UK leather is a £210 million industry, with exports of £160 million and 1,400 employees. Its members supply what it called "performance, sustainable leathers" to a variety of sectors including the global automotive, aviation, footwear, interiors and accessories industries.

The UK Leather Federation also said it regards itself as "fortunate" to have the support of the Leathersellers' Company, one of the most senior of the livery companies of London, the city's ancient trade guilds that remain active and influential to this day.

Master of The Leathersellers' Company, Ian Russell, joint host with the UK Leather Federation of a reception in central Hong Kong during the fair, commented: "The UK leather industry, though relatively small, is uniquely diverse and dynamic, producing some of the highest-quality leathers for a large number of leading global brands. The Leathersellers' Company is pleased to continue its heritage of supporting the UK leather industry."

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