

News

TECHNOLOGY

Blockchain makes leather debut

The blockchain revolution, which promises to change the way many transactions are processed and logged, is coming to the leather industry. Applied DNA Sciences (ADS) and tech specialist Everledger are joining forces to develop a special application to provide certification, and assurance for high-end brands and products.

Everledger said its blockchain platform provides a tool to track the provenance of goods, in order to deliver transparency as well as asset protection. The tool is currently used in a number of industries, including diamonds, coloured gemstones and jewellery.

Under the terms of the project, Everledger and ADS will work together to develop the CertainT platform that embeds DNA into products to provide



Leanne Kemp of Everledger promotes forensic identification through using blockchain tech.

tags, and test and track products to help guarantee authenticity, traceability, sustainability and quality.

"We are expanding the breadth and depth of our CertainT platform solution to existing customers, while

also positioning us for potential customers on their journey to digitising their supply chains," said Judy Murrah, chief information officer of ADS. "We strive to allow our customers to have more transparency and accountability in their supply chains to the benefit of all stakeholders, whether financially, operationally or in social responsibility."

Everledger founder and CEO Leanne Kemp added, "If an asset does not have an identity, it does not have ownership, value or existence. In the high-end products market, authenticity, provenance [and] value cannot be separated. By incorporating a forensic layer to uniquely identifying an asset, we can provide the added confidence in the data captured and tracked on our blockchain-enabled platform."

REVENUE

Half-year profits up at Prada

Luxury goods-maker Prada reported an 11% increase in its first half profits for 2018. The group announced a net income of €106 million for the first six months, with revenue reaching €1.5 billion, which was 3% higher than the same period in 2017.

Leather goods now account for more than half of Prada's revenues. The company says leather sales saw an 8% increase to €859 million, a result that was, in part, achieved by its decision to introduce mid-priced luxury bags, as well launching the new Prada Black Nylon collaboration. In regard to the leather figure, revenue from footwear sales rose 4% to €308 million due to Prada's well-received launch of a range of trainers.



Prada's introduction of trainers and mid-priced bags helped to boost its profits.

SUSTAINABILITY

Four more tanners sign CSCB pledge

Brazil's efforts to encourage sustainability have received a welcome boost, as four new members are set to join the country's Leather Certification of Sustainability scheme (CSCB). The new signatories are Zas Couros, Finileather Couros e Acabamentos, Soubach Special Leathers and Couros Nobre, which have all signed up to a set of standards that aim to improve the environment, social and economic performance of tanneries in the South American country.

Denise Zaca Bandini, administrative manager at Zas Couros, said, "We've observed that our sector is seeking more sustainable practices for the future of the leather industry and future generations. Our expectation in joining the CSCB is to continue the work we've already done and be open to improvements, in order to ensure product quality, safety and human well-being."

Meanwhile, Rafael Luis Petry at Finileather said his company recognised that the CSCB is a major step for the leather industry, in terms of sustainability.

"Our company believes that this certification will create parameters for the sector, helping to constantly improve its processes with the seal of the three pillars of sustainability," he explained.

"Beyond our own concern to actively contribute to the preservation of the environment, we realise that consumers are increasingly valuing positive environmental practices," said Pedro Tunholi, commercial director at Soubach. "Therefore, we have chosen to join this important programme, which will certainly strengthen our trust and relationship with clients, and make us even more competitive in the prospection and conquest of new markets."



Soubach Special Leathers is among the signatories.