

# 2023 UCI CYCLING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: STAFF BIBS CREATED TO BE RECYCLABLE

# RADICIGROUP AND OTHER COMPANIES FROM BERGAMO PARTNER FOR CIRCULARITY

On the occasion of the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships, the Union Cycliste Internationale chose Santini to make the bibs from totally recyclable materials, reflecting its ever-growing commitment to sustainability. The UCI's historic partner brought together a pool of companies, all in the Bergamo area (Italy): RadiciGroup, Sitip, EFI Reggiani and Acerbis.

## Hashtags: #santinicycling #acerbis #acerbismotorsport #handguards #efireggiani #efiprint #RadiciGroup #sitiptechnicaltextiles #sitipfabrics

Bergamo, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - In 2022, the Union Cycliste Internationale released the UCI Climate Action Charter, which lays out an action plan to advance the environmental sustainability of the sport with a specific principle to reduce waste and accelerate the transition to a circular economy. This year, the UCI Cycling World Championships, which will be held from 3 to 13 August, are bringing together most of the cycling disciplines in a single location: Glasgow and across Scotland. To mark the occasion, the UCI turned to its Official Partner, Santini, to make the bibs that the staff (judges, volunteers, commissaires etc.) and accredited photographers wear throughout the event.

To fulfil this request, Santini created a supply chain made up of five zero-mile companies, all located in the Province of Bergamo: RadiciGroup, Sitip, EFI<sup>™</sup> Reggiani and Acerbis.

The bibs for the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships in Glasgow and across Scotland are "eco-designed", which means they are specifically created to have a second life after use. Once the event is over, the bibs could be collected and sent to RadiciGroup and transformed into new material, to be then processed by Acerbis to create X-Elite handguards for mountain bikes. This project is a concrete example of the circular economy at work, allowing 100% of the materials used to be recovered.

## The production cycle

To optimise the production cycle of the bibs for the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships, the products must be eco-friendly from the very first phase. The fabrics were therefore made from Italian nylon yarn produced by RadiciGroup. The impressive properties of the yarn guarantees that the resulting material is comfortable, high-performance, soft and luxurious: ideal for technical sportswear. The choice of nylon – an infinitely recyclable thermoplastic material – is strongly intertwined with UCI's sustainability goals for "limited-use" garments: RadiciGroup was able to channel its know-how and expertise in the field of chemistry



to create "circular" bibs, working alongside the other partners. As the innovative yarn selected by RadiciGroup allows for easy and high-quality printing, the fabric is also highly customisable, because sustainability does not mean sacrificing design, aesthetics or functionality.

The yarn is then provided to Sitip to create the "ARAS NG" warp-knitted fabric (95 g/100 m2): a totally recyclable single-fibre material made from 100% polyamide.

The resulting fabric is the first nylon of its kind, designed to meet the transfer printing needs of the third project partner, EFI Reggiani, as well as the recyclability standards requested by RadiciGroup.

The choice of fabric was born from extensive applied research, in which EFI Reggiani tested a wide range of fabrics to find the best colour results and the best resistance to rubbing and perspiration, which is vital for the bibs' intended use. In addition to using the new GOTS-certified EFI Reggiani IRIS Plus water-based inks, EFI Reggiani opted for a printing solution on transfer paper that does not consume water and requires a minimal amount of energy per square metre.

Finally, the white fabric from Sitip and the transfer paper printed by EFI Reggiani arrived at Santini, who were responsible for transferring all the graphics for the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships bibs from the paper onto the fabric. Santini also took care to assemble the garments using only thread and components made from nylon or chemically similar materials, allowing the bibs to enter the recycling process at the end of their lives without any further processing.

### A second life for the bibs

At the end of the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships in Glasgow and across Scotland, the bibs used over the course of the eleven days could be transformed into new raw materials to be used again within the cycling world. RadiciGroup has already verified that the recycling process is technically feasible at its plants specialising in the regranulation of recovered materials.

The resulting materials can be used by Acerbis to create a finished product: the X-Elite handguards, which are attached to the handlebars of some mountain bikes to protect the riders' hands and shield the brake levers during falls.

The bibs for the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships are therefore born from a zero-mile production process, which saw neighbouring companies come together to achieve the common goal of creating a remarkable recyclable product.

For more information: www.santinicycling.com

**Santini Cycling Wear** was founded in 1965 by Pietro Santini who spotted a market for technical cycling clothing as a result of his abiding passion for the sport and competition. In what would seem like a revolutionary and contrarian choice today, the Bergamobased company made the pivotal decision to design and manufacture all of its products exclusively in Italy. Each item is designed and developed by a designer team with deep-rooted passion for the two-wheel world to meet four key requirements: fit, performance, comfort and durability. Santini currently produces 7,000 items of clothing per day and exports 85% of its output. It is deeply committed to ongoing investment in researching and developing innovative textiles and new production methods. However, people – athletes - remain its central focus as it continues to refine its creations to allow cyclists pursue their sporting passions in comfortable but inimitably stylish kit (www.santinicycling.com)



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#### About the UCI

Founded on April 14, 1900, in Paris, France, the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) is the worldwide governing body for cycling. It develops and oversees cycling in all its forms and for all people: as a competitive sport, a healthy recreational activity, a means of transport, and also just for fun. The UCI manages and promotes the ten cycling disciplines of road, track, mountain bike, BMX Racing, BMX Freestyle, cyclo-cross, trials, indoor cycling, cycling esports and gravel. Five of these are featured on the Olympic Games programme (road, track, mountain bike, BMX Racing and BMX Freestyle), two in the Paralympic Games (road and track), and four in the Youth Olympic Games (road, mountain bike, BMX Racing and BMX Freestyle). For more information: www.uci.org

**RADICIGROUP** - With approximately 3,000 employees, sales of €1,543 billion in 2022, and a network of production units and sales offices spanning Europe, North and South America, and Asia, RadiciGroup today is a worldwide leader in the manufacture of a vast range of specialty chemicals, polyamides, high performance polymers, and advanced textile solutions, including nylon and polyester yarns, recycled yarn, bio yarns from renewable sources, nonwovens, and personal protection equipment for the healthcare and manufacturing sectors. Its products build on advanced chemical know-how and the vertical integration of the polyamide supply chain. They are developed for applications in a wide variety of industry sectors, including the Automotive, Electrical/Electronic, Consumer Goods, Apparel, Furnishings, Building, Home Appliances and Sports sectors. Underpinning the RadiciGroup's strategy is an overriding commitment to innovation, quality, customer satisfaction, and social and environmental sustainability. www.radicigroup.com

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#### SITIP

Established in 1959 by Luigi Pezzoli in the heart of the Seriana Valley, near Bergamo, Italy, and currently managed by the second generation of that same family, Sitip is a benchmark brand in the production of synthetic and stretch warp-knitted fabrics, as well as circular knitted fabrics, for technical industrial applications and clothing, particularly sportswear and urbanwear. A major aspect of the company's approach is the research and development it conducts in close cooperation with its clients and partners, enabling Sitip to become a key player in the textile sector. A strong commitment towards reducing its environmental impact and a desire to constantly focus on taking an ethical approach resulted in the company publishing its first Sustainability Report in 2021, underpinned by various certifications. Sitip S.p.A. exports to all corners of the globe from its Italian production sites in Cene in the province of Bergamo, Asolo in the province of Treviso through its subsidiary Accoppiatura Di Asolo, and from Malta through its subsidiary Nylon Knitting Ltd.

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ACERBIS is a manufacturer of plastic materials and technical-sports clothing committed to finding innovative and experimental solutions in sectors such as motorsport, automotive, sport and racing. The group has three distribution offices (Italy, United States and United Kingdom), three production plants (two in Italy and one in Czech Republic) and numerous logistic bases. It distributes its products in more than 100 countries and sells directly in Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, UK and Austria.

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