



Creative Industries Sector Deal unveiled

The government and the Creative Industries Council have announced a Creative Industries Sector Deal. Digital and Culture Secretary Matt Hancock, Business Secretary Greg Clark, and Nicola Mendelsohn, co-chair of the CIC, announced last week the government and industry will invest over £150million to support Britain's culture and creative businesses. As part of the government's Industrial Strategy, up to £2 million will be available to improve the nation's skills through an industry-led package, including a creative careers programme. The 'Get It Right' campaign is set to receive £2 million to tackle online piracy and educate consumers on the value of copyright, as well as implement new action to crack down on copyright infringement. A new creative industries trade and investment board will aim to increase the industries' exports by 50% by 2023.



Queen's Award for Enterprise

More than 200 businesses have received the 2018 Queen's Awards for Enterprise. These annual awards recognise outstanding achievement by UK companies across four categories: sustainable development, promoting opportunity through social mobility, innovation, and international trade. Among the 230 was Turnstyle Designs Ltd (above), which has been awarded in the category of International Trade in recognition of exceptional export sales. "I am extremely proud that Turnstyle Designs has been selected for such a prestigious award," Steve Roberts, the company's MD and founder, said. "The award is in recognition of the whole company in every department and all their hard work." Silverlining Furniture Group Ltd and Astro Lighting Holdings Ltd were also winners within the same category. Joseph Joseph Ltd has been awarded for the innovation of its kitchen bin, Totem, which allows users to separate waste and recycling.



Investment takes eporta to the next level

B2B interiors marketplace eporta has raised \$8 million in a Series A funding round which will enable the company to grow significantly. The funds will help the online interiors company to expand its international footprint, double its 30-strong UK team based in Clerkenwell and launch multiple new product categories - including fabrics, bathroom products, and surfaces. This will be the first investment outside the US for San Francisco-based Canvas Ventures, who led the group of investors. Paul Hsiao, the company's founding managing member and general partner, will join the board at eporta. Eporta CEO Aneeqa Khan says: "Paul's expertise and track record in rapidly growing impactful businesses will be instrumental as we continue to push transparency and efficiency to our industry, supporting our peers as they bring their spectacular projects to life." Other investors include LocalGlobe, Oxford Capital Partners, Talis Capital, Samos Ventures, as well as angel investors Guy Hands, Sofa.com's founder Rohan Blacker, Betfair co-founder Ed Wray, Simon Kai, co-founder of Zoopla, and Achica.com founder Will Cooper.



Design Guild Mark Awards 2018

The Furniture Makers' Company has announced this year's recipients of the Design Guild Mark. Twelve designs representing both domestic and contract furniture have been awarded. These include Group, designed by Philippe Malouin for SCP, the Race Antelope Chair, designed by Ernest Race for Race Furniture Limited, and Byron and Comez's Aphelion Console, designed for Benchmark. The award winners of the Design Guild Mark's new 2D category, which recognises excellence in fabrics, textiles, wall coverings, floor coverings, and carpets, have also been announced. Three designs were awarded the Mark this year: Silicastone, designed by Alasdair Bremner and David Binns for Alusid, Jitterbug from the Shoreditch Range, designed by Gary Bridge for Axminster Carpets, and The Alchemy Collection designed by Rachel Evison for Bute Fabrics.