



Evolution St. Louis to use cutting-edge technology to shorten U.S. supply chain, help brands react to emerging trends

John Elmuccio co-founder of [Evolution St. Louis](#),

1. What are the new products being created by Evolution St. Louis?

Evolution St. Louis, founded by myself and my partner Jon Lewis, and was created to strengthen “Made in USA” fashion and American-made apparel by creating the manufacturing facility and supply chain of the future. Our high-tech manufacturing facility, in partnership with STOLL, will use cutting-edge 3D and seamless complete garment, knitting technology to revitalize the knit sector.

2. How can the industry benefit from Evolution St. Louis?

The apparel, fashion and luxury markets are ripe for disruption and resurgence in the United States. By shortening the supply chain, using cutting-edge technology and locating production in the United States, brands and retailers will be able to better keep pace with emerging trends and react to —



not just anticipate — customer demand.

We will also be working with emerging brands and designers that often have difficulty sourcing overseas because they don’t have the scale and help them to bring their production back to the United States.

Additionally, our high-tech, environmentally friendly apparel manufacturing facility will provide clean, safe and sustainable working conditions with jobs that require highly skilled workers. We are expecting scaling to 50-60 good-paying and sustainable manufacturing jobs in St. Louis over the next 2 years and plan on

adding more jobs as our company expands.

3. What are the most promising present and future markets for Evolutions St. Louis?

We plan to use this innovative technology to fill the “white space” in the industry’s supply chain. While large retailers source from countries like China, some brands have experienced increased difficulty in production runs of 500 – 5,000 pieces. We also see an opportunity with all the emerging, direct-to-consumer brands that need a more responsive supply chain. Moving forward, there are opportunities in the Performance Apparel, Automotive and Medical sectors.

4. Who are your partners? How have they helped you succeed in present and future markets for Evolution St. Louis?

We will be collaborating with Germany’s leading flat-knitting machine manufacturer, STOLL, to install 300 flatbed knitting machines over the next five years, utilizing their industry-leading Autarkic Direct Feeding (ADF) technology and the latest CMS knit and wear® machines for seamless knitting. STOLL’s knitelligence® platform of software solutions help ideas

become a reality – from design and pattern creation to intellectual property protection to production.

Jon Lewis and I have also worked with elected leaders, the Missouri Department of Economic Development, St. Louis Development Corp., the Saint Louis Fashion Fund to make our vision a reality.

5. Your participation in international exhibitions and conferences for 2019-2020? What are your expectations from the exhibitions and conferences that you attend?

Having just returned from ITMA 2019 in Barcelona, I was pleased to see technological advances in all aspects of manufacturing as well as a focus on sustainability. In addition to flat-bed knitting, leaps forward in printing, yarns and auxiliary equipment that support our machines was very encouraging. I’m looking forward to implementing some of these new technologies as well as anticipating their impact on the future.