Business Week
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Ciba and BASF invest in venture fund for advanced materials

4 Sept 2006

Swiss Ciba Specialty Chemicals has announced that it is participating in the Pangaea Ventures' Fund II, LP, and will be one of the lead investors in the fund together with BASF and Solvay. According to the company, this investment will strengthen Ciba's access to promising early-stage innovations, and its network with other companies and institutions including universities, national research centres and venture capital firms.

"Developments in advanced materials and specialty chemicals will dramatically impact the way people live and businesses operate in the next decade and beyond," said Martin Riediker, chief technology officer. "Such technologies and materials are evolving at a rapid pace. Ciba endeavours to be at the forefront of such advances. The improved access to new technologies provided by this investment complements our own in-house R&D activities. It will support our new product development activities and enhances our ability to pursue innovations which offer the greatest promise."

Pangea Ventures is a venture capital firm focused on advanced materials and specialty chemicals that include nanotechnology and energy and environmental technology.

Mountain Hardwear expands product development team

4 Sept 2006

Mountain Hardwear Inc., has announced several new appointments within the company's product development team. Tracey Mammolito has been named product manager and Dan Ramos has been appointed to the newly established position of accessories product manager. Meanwhile Chris Hilliard has been promoted from the assistant product manager for Equipment to the new role of product manager for tents and bags.

Sales slip at Pacific Sunwear in August

4 Sept 2006

US specialty retailer of apparel, accessories and footwear Pacific Sunwear of California, Inc. has reported a 4% drop in sales for the four weeks of fiscal August ended August 26. Total sales slipped to $168.8 million from $175.7 million during the same period last year. Total same-store sales decreased 9.4% during the same period.

On a more positive note, total sales for the first 30 weeks of fiscal 2006 were $782.3 million, an increase of 2.3% over the $764.8 million reported during the same period in 2005, however, same-store sales decreased 5%.

The company currently operates 828 PacSun stores, 106 PacSun Outlet stores, 205 d.e.m.o. stores and nine One Thousand Steps stores—a total of 1,148 stores in the USA and Puerto Rico.

Adidas takes over joint venture in Korea

4 Sept 2006

Effective September 1, the adidas Group has assumed full ownership of its brand adidas subsidiary in Korea, adidas Korea Ltd., by purchasing the remaining 49% of shares from its joint venture partner. The terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

According to adidas, this move underscores its strategy to support its brands with wholly-owned subsidiaries in key markets. The Group is convinced that this step will further strengthen its leading position in Asia.

UK's first corporate clothing, workwear and PPE conference

4 Sept 2006

A conference entitled 'Clothing the Workplace' has been organised by corporate clothing, workwear, PPE and textiles website Director-e and an independent and non-profit making forum for clothing and textiles, the ASBCI. It will be held at Mottram Hall in Cheshire, on October 24 and will present speakers from various customer, supplier and research organisations in the work, corporate and technical clothing sector. These will include Bureau Veritas CPS UK, Carrington Career & Workwear, the DTI, DuPont Personal Protection, John Lewis PLC, London Fire Brigade and Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service, Malcolm Ball Associates, W.L. Gore & Associates (UK), Simon Jersey, Syscom PLC, The Woolmark Company, the University of Leeds and more.

Speakers have been asked to clarify the 'global' sourcing scene, 'must know' standards, design imperatives, buyer

priorities and latest innovations currently shaping the corporate clothing, workwear and PPE industry. Subjects addressed will range from ‘What does a buyer really want?’ wardrobe management and colour communication through to standards updates on EN471 and EN343, global sourcing hotspots, quotas on imports and the current status of smart and interactive textile developments.

FGL Announces Second Quarter Results

4 Sept 2006

Canada's largest retailer of sporting goods The Forzani Group Ltd. has reported improved financial results for the 13 weeks ended July 30.

Net earnings for the period were $1.9 million compared with a loss in the prior year's second quarter of $2.3 million.

Sales for the quarter were $337.9 million, an increase of $32.8 million, or 10.8%, compared with $305.1 million in the 2005 period. The increase was partly due to the addition, on January 31, of The Fitness Source Inc. Exclusive of the acquisition of Fitness Source, retail system sales increased $29.1 million, or 9.5%.

All categories performed well, in particular team sports, cycling and inline hardgoods lines, athletic, casual and licensed clothing, and footwear.

Revenue for the 26-week period ended July 30 was $564.4 million, an $82.6 million, or 17.1% increase over the 26-week period last year.

Tommy Hilfiger ski collection to feature Sympatex technology

5 Sept 2006

US-based sportswear, footwear and accessories company Tommy Hilfiger has entered into a strategic partnership with Sympatex Technologies to reinforce the functionality and fashion of its European autumn/winter 2006 ski collection. Sympatex durable membrane technology will enable the company to produce waterproof, windproof and breathable skiwear combining functionality and fashion.

Sympatex Professional can be used for specific and extreme challenges and with Sympatex Allweather. The Sympatex laminates offer water and wind impermeability up to 100% as well as breathability. They are said to be hard-wearing and to provide optimal protection in all weather conditions as well as wearing comfort.

6,743 trade visitors at Asia Outdoor

5 Sept 2006

A total of 6,743 trade visitors from China and other parts of Asia participated in the first Asia Outdoor, held on August 23-26. Some 174 exhibitors occupied a floor space of over 215,000 square feet and 55% of exhibitors came from abroad. The products presented at the show were mainly for spring and summer 2007, although some companies presented their collections for the coming winter season 06/07.

According to the fair's organisers, 86% of trade visitors were from China and the remaining 14% came from neighbouring countries.

Highlights included a fashion show featuring outdoor sports gear, a climbing competition, a design competition for outdoor sports equipment, a 'tent city' and campgrounds, a shoe testing trail, and a development forum for the Asian outdoor sports industry.

Next year's Asia Outdoor will be held from August 23-26 and will be open to trade visitors only.

Creora showcases latest products at Lyon Mode City

5 Sept 2006

Elastane brand Creora, developed by Korean company Hyosung Corporation, focused on its new developments for intimate apparel, hosiery and swimwear at the Lyon Mode City show, held on September 2-4.

Creora recently launched a family of fine denier elastane yarns specifically developed for higher gauge warp and circular knit machinery designed to produce lighter weight fabrics. The resulting fabrics are said to be soft, sheer, and featherweight, for underwear that fits well and feels comfortable next to the skin.

The company also exhibited its black elastane Creora H-100D, which delivers ‘blacker’ black garments and hosiery and Creora H-450, which is a low heat settable elastane, is said to be well-suited for heat-sensitive fabrics for intimate apparel, sports, underwear and swimwear, especially with polypropylene.

G3 welcomes new athlete coordinator

5 Sept 2006

Canadian manufacturer of skis, telemark and backcountry equipment G3 Genuine Guide Gear has appointed telemark adventurer and mountaineer Naheed Henderson as its new athlete coordinator.

The company creates backcountry ski equipment for guides and avalanche professionals.

Bayer expands production in China

5 Sept 2006

Bayer MaterialScience has inaugurated its new production facilities in Shanghai, China. The project at the Shanghai Chemical Industry Park will involve total expenditure of approximately $1.8 billion up to 2009.

The company's existing facilities will now be supplemented by a world-scale polycarbonate production unit with a starting capacity of 100,000 tons per year; the first polyurethane facility at the Bayer site; a crude MDI (diphenylmethane diisocyanate) splitter with a capacity of 80,000 tons per year; and a production unit for HDI (hexamethylene diisocyanate) with an initial capacity of 30,000 tons per year.

Satra demonstrates clothing and footwear testing

5 Sept 2006

UK-based research and technology centre Satra has teamed up with National Geographic for a new television series entitled 'I didn't know that' to provide science and technology information to modern audiences.

Part of the programme is called 'Testing Testing' in which Satra opens up its laboratories to demonstrate what can be involved in heat and flame testing of clothing and active outdoor footwear.

This included the 'torching' of SID (Satra Instrumented Dummy). Manequin SID is made of fire retardant fibreglass and painted black so his surface absorbs any heat. Dressed for example in firefighter/aircrew clothing or industrial coveralls, SID is engulfed in a 1,000ºC inferno produced by 16 propane-fired burners. Over one hundred temperature sensors predict the extent and area of skin burn damage.

Further features include foot pressure mapping, boot water-resistance and a climate chamber in which feet are wired up to a computer to monitor diminishing comfort levels with boots worn as the temperature drops to minus 40ºC.

The series will premiere on the National Geographic Channel on September 7 at 9pm, and will be shown in 164 countries world-wide.

Ironclad gloves to be sold at Dick's Sporting Goods

5 Sept 2006

High-performance gloves and apparel manufacturer Ironclad Performance Wear Corporation has revealed that its task-specific gloves will be sold by sporting retailer Dick's Sporting Goods. Targeting athletes and outdoor enthusiasts, Dick's offers a variety of brand name sporting goods equipment, apparel, and footwear in a specialty store environment.

Seven styles of Ironclad gloves have been shipped and will be available in September in 200 Dick's retail stores across the USA. Styles include the Cold Condition, the Summit, the Box Handler, and the General Utility Digital Camo, which will also be stocked, was designed specifically for Dick's.

Turkish trade delegation visits US

5 Sept 2006

Turkey's minister of State for Foreign Trade and Customs, Mr Kursad Tuzmen will lead a Turkish trade delegation to the United States from September 10-15. The delegation includes more than 60 government officials, business executives and trade association leaders. Sectors covered will include textiles and apparel, jewellery, furniture, leather goods and machinery.

"Turkey has experienced unprecedented growth in the last four years and we are eager to grow our longstanding business relationship with the United States," said Mr Tuzmen.

Representatives from the Istanbul Textile and Apparel Exporters' Association (ITKIB) will be part of the delegation. The association is made up of 17,000 members accounting for 20% of all Turkish exports including clothing, textiles and leather goods.

In an effort to enhance US-Turkey commercial relations, the government of Turkey has declared 2006-07 'The Year of Turkey in America'. Turkey aims to implement a trade development strategy that focuses on increasing trade between the two countries and attracting new American investment in Turkey.

Between 2000-2005, bilateral trade increased from $7 billion to $10.5 billion. The United States is Turkey's fourth largest export market and sixth largest source of imports. Europe is Turkey's largest single trading partner, accounting for 46% of its international trade flows. The country has greatly increased trade with neighbouring and surrounding countries from $22 billion in 2002 to $57 billion in 2005.

Jersey Lomellina launches JL Respiro recyclable fabric

6 Sept 2006

Italian textile company Jersey Lomellina has launched JL Respiro, a light, breathable and environmentally-friendly fabric. Produced from an ecological microfibre, the fabric is 100% recyclable and can be reused and reintegrated into the production cycle.

Created with special microfibre Dryarn polypropylene (made by Italian synthetic fibres, polymers and chemicals company Aquafil), less energy and raw material is used in the production process and lower toxic emissions of CO2, CH4, N2O, HFC, PFC, and SF6 are released into the environment, thereby reducing the impact on global warming.

The fabric is hypo-allergenic and bacteriostatic, protecting the body by preventing the growth of harmful micro-organisms without destroying bacteria such as Staphylococcus epidermidis, which produces and protects the skins' natural pH.

Insulating and breathable, JL Respiro is said to provide a light yet impenetrable barrier against even the most extreme situations. It can help to prevent skin irritation and allergies, as well as the attack micro-organisms that cause bad odours.

Even during prolonged physical activity, the fabric is said to help to maintain a constant body temperature by wicking moisture away, and preventing muscular pain caused by thermal change.

Comfortable, ergonomic and elastic, JL Respiro is said to be suitable for athletic wear. It is also said to be resistant to abrasions, tears, and fading as well as being easy to clean.

Nano-Tex Resist Spills treatment incorporated into new apparel lines

6 Sept 2006

Nanotechnology-based textile enhancement company Nano-Tex Inc. has revealed that casual apparel, activewear and swimwear designer Perry Ellis International, Inc. and business, casual and golf apparel manufacturer Hart Schaffner Marx have incorporated Nano-Tex's Resist Spills fabric treatment into their autumn line of men's suits and separates.

These new collections are the first menswear suit designers to take the new technology to market although the company plans to add additional menswear brands to its portfolio of designers by the end of the year.

Nano-Tex's Resist Spills fabric treatment provides stain repellency and durability to protect fabrics from everyday spills and stains without compromising the look and feel of the garment.

Management change at DyStar

6 Sept 2006

Chief executive officer of German products and services provider for the textile industry Dystar Dr Clemens Willée has decided to leave the company to pursue other interests. A replacement will be appointed in the coming months. In the interim, president of Platinum Portfolio Operations Phil Norment will assume the role of CEO. Mr Norment will be supported by Dr Rudolf Strobl, platinum member of the DyStar operating board, who will function as deputy CEO.

Strengthening yuan threatens China's textile exports

6 Sept 2006

According to a report published by China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the country's textile industry will start to lose money if the yuan continues to appreciate.

"With their average profit margin currently at 3%, textile companies will no longer be able to absorb the cost of the rising yuan," said the report. This warning follows market forecasts that the yuan would appreciate by 3% against the $ to 7.72 over the next twelve months.

Chinese textile manufacturers have been marking down their prices this year to sustain their exports and offset the negative impact of the rising yuan.

The growth rate of China's textile exports has slowed but its textile exports still rank the world's largest. From January to July, its textile exports reached $7,051 million, up 18.7% compared with the previous year. The growth rate is 4.3% lower than the previous year and 3.1% lower than in January.

SDC Perkin Innovation Award finalists announced

6 Sept 2006

A list of finalists for the 2006 SDC Perkin Innovation Award, held to mark the 150th anniversary of the discovery of mauveine by William Henry Perkin, has been revealed.

The award is designed to honour an individual, company or organisation that has made an outstanding contribution to colour in recent years.

Judges include Dr Ian Holme, consultant on textile

dyeing and finishing; Professor Duncan Phillips, professor of textile chemistry, University of Manchester; Dr Mike Bartle, production director, Cloverbrook Fabrics; Professor John Davison, managing director, Chemographics; Mr Arthur Welham, international technical consultant, Sclavos (SDC president); and Dr Nigel Corns, pilot plant manager, James Robinson Ltd (representative of the Royal Society of Chemistry).

The finalists include black colorants for ink-jet printing from Dr Philip Double (Fujifilm Imaging Colorants Ltd, UK); Coloured bubbles Dr Ram Sabnis CCol (USA); and a scanner method to assess colour fastness by Dr Hossein Izadan (University of Leeds, UK).

The winner will be announced at the SDC Gala Awards Dinner on October 13 following the Society's Colour Conference in Belfast.

$14 million illegal textile products seized

6 Sept 2006

US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at the Savannah Port of Entry has seized more than $14 million in goods that were misdescribed in an effort to circumvent trade laws and regulations.

CBP officers and import specialists discovered shipments of jerseys presented with false country of origin documents. The shipments containing almost a million jerseys and shirts were part of an alleged scheme to circumvent the China textile quotas by claiming they were produced in another country.

Port director Frank Jaramillo stated, "Our CBP officers and import specialists continue to maintain a strong enforcement posture and will continue to review textile shipments to ensure compliance with laws and regulations governing imports. Textiles will continue to be a priority issue."

Avery Dennison names new director of marketing – RFID & Security

6 Sept 2006

US-based information management, brand identification and solution-enabling products company Avery Dennison Corporation has appointed Philip Calderbank as director of marketing – RFID & Security.

Mr Calderbank will be responsible for Avery Dennison RIS' world-wide strategy for RFID and security products. He has spent the past twelve years in RFID-related businesses most recently from software integrator Seeburger, Inc., where he served as vice president, RFID.

He replaces Mischa Reis, who will now lead Avery Dennison's strategy team in Pasadena, California, as director, corporate strategy and business development.

The company's brand identification products include fashion-inspired woven and printed fabric labels, heat transfers and embellishments for tag-free labelling, graphic tags, integrated bar code tags, leather and leather-like patches and sock bands.

The North Face opens new Glasgow super shop

6 Sept 2006

Specialist outdoor clothing and equipment supplier The North Face has opened a new 'Super Shop' in the heart of Glasgow.

In close collaboration with Scottish outdoor retailer Tiso, and described as 'the largest collection of The North Face in Scotland', the 2,500 sq. ft shop has taken over the entire first floor at Tiso's Buchanan Street store.

Following the successful conception of the Covent Garden and Manchester flagship stores, the company has been heavily involved with the development of the 'Super Shop', the retail concept designed to personify the brand and celebrate its outdoor exploration heritage.

68% international exhibitors at Eurobike

6 Sept 2006

This year's Eurobike, August 31 – Sep 3, welcomed 31,810 trade visitors from around the world, 19,684 cycling fans on Open House Day, and 1,064 journalists from 32 countries.

Trade visitor attendance at the bicycle trade exhibition was up 6% (44% from outside Germany) and 826 participating exhibitors (68% international). A total of 76 countries were represented, an increase of 7% compared with the previous year's event.

Sport bikes, racing and touring bikes, city bikes, recumbent, collapsible and electric bicycles, plus clothing and accessories were all on display.

The next Eurobike will be held August 30 - September 2, 2007 in Friedrichshafen, Germany.

7thOnline appoints new VP Analytics and Optimisation Solutions

7 Sept 2006

Provider of assortment planning and optimisation solutions to the apparel, footwear and accessories

sectors 7thOnline has named Dr Saman Hong as vice president Analytics and Optimisation Solutions. He has worked with 7thOnline on a consulting basis over the past year, and will join the company full-time in this new role.

With over 30 years experience in retail technology and operations analysis he will be responsible for the expansion of the company's optimisation suite.

Highest ever Q2 results at Cherokee

7 Sept 2006

Global licensor and brand management company Cherokee Inc. has reported record second quarter revenue and earnings for its quarter ended July 29.

Net revenues for the period rose 10.2%, or $1.1 million, to $12.4 million compared with revenues of $11.3 million in the comparable period last year.

Net earnings increased by 8% to $4.9 million compared with $4.6 million in the prior year period.

Cherokee currently has licensing agreements in a number of categories including family apparel, fashion accessories and footwear.

Honeywell uses Spectra fibre from Innovative Textiles

7 Sept 2006

US-based technology company Honeywell International's has reported that it has secured a contract to supply its Spectra fibre to Innovative Textiles for use in its Power Pro fishing The long-term supply contract is expected to be worth $45 million.

Spectra fibre is said to make the fishing line easier to use, cast more smoothly, and last longer and can be used for both deep sea and fresh water environments. The material is made of polyethylene and has one of the highest strength-to-weight ratios of any synthetic fibre, including nylon, polyester and aramid. Its extra-thin diameter makes it up to four or five times thinner than equivalent strength nylon monofilament. The fibre is ten times stronger than steel on a weight basis, yet light enough to float.

Commonly referred to as 'superlines', low-stretch, small-diameter fishing lines, such as Power Pro, have grown dramatically in popularity during the past decade.

Nilit unveils new brands at Interfilière 2006

7 Sept 2006

Israel-based producer of nylon 6.6 Nilit launched a series of new brands at Interfilière - Lyon Mode City, on September 2-4, including new additions to its range of finished lingerie, activewear, legwear and bodywear.

One of the company's newest brands which was highlighted at the show was Sensil Flexelle—an all-polyamide bi-component fibre which weaves as a 'flat' yarn but crimps and transforms into a flexible weft when heated (for example, in dyeing at about 90-100°C). Used in combination with other flat yarns, it is said to offer comfort and stretch, superior dyeability and durability against UV radiation.

Income increase at JoS. A. Bank Clothiers in Q2 and first half

7 Sept 2006

American casual wear, sportswear, footwear and apparel company JoS. A. Bank Clothiers, Inc. has reported net income of $7 million in the second quarter ended July 29 compared with $5.3 million in the second quarter of 2005.

For the first six months of 2006, net income increased to $12.8 million compared with $12.1 million in the first six months of 2005.

Celanese to raise polyvinyl alcohol prices

7 Sept 2006

Dallas-based chemical company Celanese Chemicals is to increase the price of all Celvol, Celvol E and Celvol SP grades of polyvinyl alcohol (PVOH) in North America, South America, Europe and Asia by 7%. The increase will be effective October 1, or as contracts allow.

According to PVOH commercial director Scott Neuheardt, the price increase is mainly due to continuing and sustained increases in energy and raw material costs.

These products are used in a range of industrial and consumer end-use applications including adhesives, coatings, engineered fabrics, and textiles.

25 Brazilian companies at Lyon Mode City

7 Sept 2006

For the fifth year running, ABIT, the Brazilian Textile and Apparel Industry Association, organised for a number of Brazilian brands to participate at the international trade fair Lyon Mode City, in France, held on September 2-4. The 25 companies all showcased their spring/summer beachwear and lingerie collections for 2007 and an exclusive section was reserved for Brazilian products in the two daily fashion shows which took place at the fair this year.

The Brazilian textile and apparel sector comprises more than 30,000 companies that provide jobs for approximately 1.65 million workers, and the country is the eighth largest textile producer in the world. Brazilian textile exports to France grew 45% between 2002 and 2005 while Brazilian imports of French products increased by 7%. However, these numbers appear to have declined in recent months.

AATCC engineering design competition for students

7 Sept 2006

The American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC) has announced its second annual engineering design competition, developed by its Materials Interest Group. Submissions are invited from both graduate and undergraduate students with the aim of promoting innovative product development from an engineering design perspective.

The theme of this year's competition is 'Design of Material Structures' and the contest has been divided into three areas: Industrial/Technical; Protective/Medical/Biomedical; and Smart/Electronic.

Entries will be evaluated on concept originality, design element integration, technical feasibility, clarity of supporting documentation, technical and materials rationales, efficacy of proposed commercialisation of the idea and viability of economic cost analysis.

The winners will be announced on June 1, 2007.

BASF to exhibit at Intertextile

7 Sept 2006

German chemical company BASF will make its first appearance at Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics at the Shanghai New International Expo Centre on October 25–28.

Its Performance Chemicals for Textiles business unit will participate at the fair under the motto 'You love life. We love to make it better'. The aim is to show how the company's textile finishing products improve products in terms of comfort, easy care and style.

The company will also introduce its non-iron and easy care labels for clothing and Cosinel for non-iron bed linens.

The Performance Chemicals for Textiles business unit includes products and concepts for weaving, pretreatment, optical brightening, analogue and digital printing, coating and finishing, as well as dyeing auxiliaries.

CMAI completes 2007 nylon fibres & feedstocks analysis

8 Sept 2006

US-based petrochemical, plastics and fibres consulting firm Chemical Market Associates, Inc. (CMAI) recently completed its annual global study entitled 2007 World Nylon Fibres and Feedstocks Analysis. The study covers the future outlook and historical perspective for nylon intermediates, nylon textile, industrial, carpet fibres and engineering thermoplastics markets (ETP) from 2001 to 2011 and the analysis covers major issues and trends that CMAI believes will have a significant impact on global nylon markets during this timeframe.

CMAI forecasts that growth for nylon polymerisation will be approximately 1.8% per year over the forecast period, and stronger in nylon 6 than nylon 6.6. The downstream demand for fibres and resin will be concentrated in Asia, where nylon 6 is preferred.

Aditya Birla forms joint venture in viscose fibre plant in China

8 Sept 2006

Indian manufacturer of viscose staple fibre Aditya Birla Group is to set up a joint venture (JV) with Hubei Jing Wei Chemical Fibre Company in the Hubei province, China.

Under the agreement, the Aditya Birla Group, through its cellulosic fibre companies Grasim Industries Limited, India, Thai Rayon Public Company Limited, and P.T. Indo Bharat Rayon, Indonesia, will form a joint venture, Birla Jingwei Fibres Company Limited, with Hubei Jing Wei.

"This is a win-win situation for Hubei Jing Wei, its stakeholders and our group. We will bring in the world-class manufacturing practices and global marketing experience to ensure high product quality and market penetration. We intend to ramp up the current

capacity of 30,000 tpa to 60,000 tpa in the next one year. The JV will leverage upon the Aditya Birla Group's dominance in dissolving grade pulp production and Jing Wei Group's substantial presence in yarn spinning," said Shailendra Jain, director, Aditya Birla Management Corporation, responsible for the pulp, fibre and spinning business.

The new company is Aditya Birla's second joint venture in China and the group is currently exploring further business opportunities in sectors such as phosphoric acid and acrylic fibre.

Aditya Birla Group employs 82,000 staff at its 72 manufacturing facilities in India, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Egypt, Canada, Australia, Belgium and China.

Positive fourth quarter at Bernard Chaus

8 Sept 2006

Women's work and casual sportswear company Bernard Chaus, Inc. has reported a decline in earnings for the fourth quarter ended June 30 and fiscal year 2006.

For the fourth quarter, revenues increased by approximately 27% to $36.4 million from $28.7 million in the fourth quarter 2005. The company reported a net loss for the period of $1.05 million compared with net loss of $3.3 million in the prior year period.

For fiscal 2006, revenues were $136.8 million compared with $143.3 million in 2005. The company's net loss for the fiscal year was $4.9 million compared with net loss of $1.2 million the previous year.

The North Face appoints new footwear sales manager

8 Sept 2006

Outdoor apparel and equipment brand The North Face has appointed Andrea Casoni as footwear sales manager Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA). Footwear is the company's fastest growing category.

Based in Pederobba, Italy, he will report to Patrik Frisk, vice president Sales for The North Face EMEA.

Mr Casoni has over twelve years of experience in the footwear industry having held positions with Nike and Rebook.

Compression undergarments included in Dunning Golf Apparel

8 Sept 2006

Canada-based performance apparel designer Dunning Golf has introduced its spring 2007 collection featuring a complete, golf-specific playing system of more than 160 pieces.

Developed in conjunction with the company's Tour professionals—including Zach Johnson, John Senden, Craig Barlow, Bob Estes, Brian Gay and Bob Burns—the collection includes compression undergarments, polos, mock necks, shorts, trousers, pullovers and thermal tops. The company is utilising fabric technologies in the range among which are the Interface Coolmax Channel, which wicks moisture away from the body's surface keeping it cool and dry and provides sun protection from UV exposure (40+ rating). The fabric is anti-microbial for odour control and offers high breathability. The four-way stretch and moisture management is said to be maintained for the life of the garment.

The Interface Stretch fabric is a newly developed blend of Coolmax and Lycra with the look of a double-mercerised shirt and golf-specific weight. It provides similar properties to the Interface Coolmax Channel.

The Interface Thermal is windproof and has next-to-body insulating properties as well as moisture wicking and anti-microbial benefits.

All Dunning Golf pieces feature golf-specific cuts for freedom of movement throughout all phases of the swing.

Eddie Bauer introduces stain release technology

8 Sept 2006

Washington-based sportswear and accessories retailer Eddie Bauer has added stain release to the wrinkle- and stain- resistant benefits of its Khakis with Nano-Tex for men.

The Nano-Tex enhanced fabric is said to add durability and quality to the garment with superior fade resistance.

Updated trouser fits have also been added to the company's portfolio for both men and women.

Ashworth enjoys revenue increase in Q3

8 Sept 2006

Golf-inspired lifestyle sportswear designer Ashworth, Inc.

has posted improved financial results for its third quarter and first nine months ended July 31.

Consolidated net revenue for the third quarter increased 9.3% to $52.8 million compared with $48.3 million for the third quarter of 2005. Net income was $0.7 million compared with a net loss of $3.4 million for the same quarter of the prior year.

Net revenue for the domestic segment increased 7% to $42.8 million for the third quarter from $40 million and revenue from the international segment increased 20.8% to $10 million from $8.3 million for the same period in 2005.

Consolidated net revenue for the first nine months ended July 31 increased by 6.7% to $159.4 million compared with $149.5 million for the first nine months of 2005. Net income of $5.3 million for the nine-month period compared with $1.5 million for the same period of the prior year.

Net revenue for the domestic segment increased 5.1% to $130.4 million from $124 million for the nine-month period in 2005. Net revenue from the international segment increased 14.1% to $29 million.

G-III Apparel Group posts sales increase

8 Sept 2006

US-based manufacturer and distributor of outerwear and sportswear G-III Apparel Group, Ltd. has posted increased sales for the three-month period ended July 31. Net sales totalled $69.1 million and net loss was $1.7 million compared with net sales of $54.6 million and a net loss of $301,000 during the comparable period last year.

For the six-month period ended July 31, the company reported net sales of $83.5 million and a net loss of $10.6 million compared with net sales of $68.3 million and a net loss of $5 million in the 2005 period.

Strong sales growth for Lenzing

8 Sept 2006

Austria-based man-made cellulose fibre producer the Lenzing Group posted a consolidated sales increase of 14.9% to €533.5 million for the first six months of 2006 compared with €464.4 million for the 2005 period.

Rising interest rates in the dollar zone and an unfavourable exchange rate situation lowered the financial result to minus €6.4 million compared with plus €1.1 million.

The current strong quantity demand mainly concerns the textile fibres business sector. The company was able to expand its business in Asia and the European market situation is also more stable after last year's turbulent events. Demand for high-quality specialties has continued to rise. It was successful in establishing newly developed fibre applications in the market and positive growth rates were also achieved in the home textile market. Quantity demand in the nonwovens business sector was also good, although price development was unsatisfactory.

Good quantity demand in the fibre business is expected to continue in the coming months.

Demand for textile products, especially in China and Japan, continues to be strong, however, energy and raw material prices will continue to rise. The resulting substantial pressure on margins will have to be compensated by further cost savings and increased efficiency.

Third consecutive quarter of increased sales at Cutter & Buck

8 Sept 2006

American sportswear designer Cutter & Buck Inc. has posted net sales of $35 million in the first quarter ended July 31, an increase of 17.6% compared with the same period in 2005.

First quarter sales in the corporate sales business unit were $15.2 million, a 10.8% increase over the same period in the prior year. Golf sales were $8 million during the first quarter, a 1.1% increase over the same period in the prior year. Specialty Retail sales of $6.9 million increased approximately $1.5 million, or 26.5%, during the first quarter compared with the same period in 2005.

Net income for the first quarter was $2 million compared with $2.1 million in the corresponding period last year.

Berghaus appoints new operations director

8 Sept 2006

UK-based outdoor apparel and footwear brand Berghaus has appointed Michael Lockett as operations director.

Mr Lockett joins the company from J Barbour and Sons Ltd.