Business Week
11 Sept - 17 Sept

Spiegel Brands Acquires Carabella and A.B. Lambdin

11 Sept 2006

US-based women's apparel marketer Spiegel Brands Inc. and private equity investment firm Golden Gate Capital have completed their acquisition of swim and evening wear company Carabella Corporation and its Carabella and A.B. Lambdin catalogue businesses.

Financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

41% revenue increase at Quiksilver in Q3

11 Sept 2006

Branded apparel, wintersports and golf equipment, footwear and accessories company Quiksilver, Inc. has reported improved operating results for the third quarter ended July 31. Consolidated net revenues for the quarter increased by 41% to $525.9 million from $373.8 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2005. Consolidated net income for the period was $5.3 million compared with $24.6 million the year before.

Net revenues in the Americas increased 41% during the third quarter to $277.4 million from $196.3 million in 2005. European net revenues increased 43% to $191 million from $133.6 million and Asia/Pacific net revenues increased 31% to $56.3 million from $43.1 million in the third quarter of 2005.

Sunoco appoints new board member

11 Sept 2006

US-based petroleum and petrochemical products manufacturer Sunoco, Inc. has elected John Jones, III, to its board of directors, effective September 8. Mr Jones is currently chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. He is also a director of Automatic Data Processing, Inc.

The company's chemical intermediates are used to make fibres, plastics, film and resins.

Dow presents XLA fibre at Lyon Mode City

11 Sept 2006

The Dow Fiber Solutions (DFS) introduced its new 'bi-stretch' fabric functionality—which stretches both horizontally and vertically—and features Dow XLA elastic fibre for high performance swimwear at Lyon Mode City, September 2-4.

The fibre is chlorine proof and is said to be the first olefin-based stretch fibre that is naturally resistant to harsh chemicals, high heat and UV light. When used for swimwear, fabrics made from Dow XLA can be more fitted, more comfortable and resistant to sagging. Bi-stretch woven fabrics are reportedly 20-30% lighter than traditional warp-knit fabrics and thus enable a more fitted look and an enhanced quality and feel to the garment.

The heat and chemical resistant fibre can be used in swimwear, ready-to-wear and workwear to improve the flexibility of the fabric. It is produced in Dow's manufacturing site in Tarragona, Spain, where the company opened a dedicated plant in 2004.

Swimwear producers that have already used the fibre include Nike (Europe), adidas, London-based State of Undress (SOU) and Spain-based TCN by designer Toton Cornella.

New women's Berghaus Infinity Light Jacket with PrimaLoft

11 Sept 2006

The Infinity Light Jacket for women from UK-based outdoor apparel and footwear company Berghaus, filled with PrimaLoft synthetic insulation, is now available for retail. The jacket is a windproof, shower resistant, insulated pull-on and was launched at Outdoor in Friedrichshafen in July.

The jacket is said to be ultralight, highly compressible with a great warmth-to-weight ratio. It is designed to be worn either over or under a shell for a versatile layering system.

The jacket also features a Pertex outer which is lightweight, windproof and features a water repellent finish.

Vietnam's textile and garment exports to the US reach $1.5 billion

11 Sept 2006

According to the Vietnamese Ministry of Trade, Vietnam's

exports quota-bound textile and garment products to the US have reached some $1.5 billion so far this year, 8% higher than in the same period last year.

Almost all of the categories subject to quotas have already used over 75% of their total quotas for the year with nearly four months to go.

Despite the quotas imposed, Vietnam expects to earn $5.5 billion from garment and textile exports, mainly to the EU and the USA in 2006, up nearly 14.6% against 2005.

Texbrasil Guide launched

11 Sept 2006

The Brazilian Textile and Apparel Industry Association (ABIT) is offering the largest register of the Brazilian textile sector on its portal, free of charge. It offers information about Brazilian manufacturers, Brazilian and international buyers/agents, service providers and suppliers of machines, equipment and their parts as well as textile trade organisations from Brazil and other countries. Launched just two months ago, the system has already been accessed 140,000 times.

The Guide provides access to information on the textile and apparel industry and its products at different levels, allowing the user to search by country, state, company and product.

The system has been launched in Portuguese and English with an initial database consisting of 20,000 entries

Improved sales at West 49

11 Sept 2006

Canadian outdoor apparel, footwear and accessories retailer West 49 Inc. has reported a sales increase for its second quarter ended July 29.

Net sales increased 49.2% to C$39.7 million from C$26.6 million for the second quarter of last year. Gross margin for the quarter increased by 76.5% to C$9 million compared with C$5.1 million for the second quarter in 2005.

Net sales for the six-month period ended July 29 increased 65.6% to C$75.2 million compared with C$45.4 million the corresponding period the previous year. Gross margin doubled to C$16.8 million, compared with C$8.4 million the year before.

South African visit to India for improved trade relations

11 Sept 2006

Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is to pay an official visit to India in response to increased market and trade access among countries of the south.

South Africa and India have a partnership in developing the agenda of the south, and are members of the India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) Forum.

Ms Mlambo-Ngcuka has been invited by Indian Vice President Bhairan Singh Shekhawat and will promote the objectives of South Africa's Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative (AsgiSA) and Joint Initiative for Priority Skills Acquisition (JIPSA). She will also focus on co-operative projects for small industry development particularly for the benefit of rural women as well as the development of small businesses in the fields of ceramics, jewellery manufacturing and textiles.

Indian products exported to South Africa include cotton, yarn, finished leather goods, machinery and instruments, handmade yarn fabrics, handicrafts and hand made carpets. Products imported to the country from India include chemicals and precious metals. Total bilateral trade between the two countries grew to almost R14.5 billion ($1.9 billion) last year.

Brazil and Egypt discuss bilateral cotton trade

12 Sept 2006

More intense cotton trade between Brazil and Egypt was the main focus of a seminar held at the headquarters of the Brazilian Association of the Textile Industry (ABIT) last month.

Director superintendent of ABIT Fernando Pimentel, president of the Textile Industry Union of São Paulo (Sinditêxtil-SP) Rafael Cervone Netto, vice president of the Brazilian Association of Cotton Producers (ABRAPA) Haroldo Rodrigues da Cunha and representatives of the Egyptian consulate took part at the event.

Egypt is traditionally an exporter of long-fibre cotton which has greater value in the international market. The country has shown an interest in acquiring Brazilian average length fibre cotton which is needed for the textile industry.

During the meeting, Mohamed Agami, Egyptian trade consul in Brazil, suggested that an agreement be signed between ABIT and the Egyptian Textile Chamber so that trade between the two countries could become stronger. He also proposed that a Brazilian delegation visit Egypt.

According to Fernando Pimentel, ABIT could work as a certifying entity for the ‘Cotton from Egypt’ seal of origin.

Brazilian companies such as Dudalina, Karsten and Bonfio, among others, already use Egyptian cotton, which is known as 'white gold' in Egypt. "We have been importing Egyptian cotton for ten years now and are fully satisfied with the product," declares ABIT advisor Alfredo Bonduki. He added, "We know that countries like Brazil and Egypt, both with great inclination to the production of textile goods, have plenty of room for mutual cooperation."

Bayer MaterialScience raises prices for polyurethane chemicals

12 Sept 2006

Effective September 15, German chemical company Bayer MaterialScience AG is raising the sales prices of the polyurethane raw materials Desmodur T80 and T65 by €0.60 per kilogram, and Desmophen and Arcol by €0.10 per kilogram. This applies to all deliveries in the EMEA region (Europe, Middle East, Africa) and is a result of continued increases in energy and raw material costs for manufacturing polyurethane raw materials as well as rising demand. This will also generate the margins necessary for new investments that will safeguard future demand. Contractual obligations in existence at the time when the price increases come into effect remain unaffected.

The company is among the world's largest polymer companies with business activities focused on the manufacture of high-tech polymer materials. The main segments served include sports and leisure, automotive and construction.

New footwear and action sports trends at Outdoor Retailer

12 Sept 2006

The 25th Outdoor Retailer Summer Market event, August 10-13 in Salt Lake City, focussed on growth on the footwear and action sports sectors with 972 exhibitors attending.
The steady emergence of the action sport market at Outdoor Retailer was compounded by new exhibitors such as Quiksilver USA, 686 and Olukai.

Other trends highlighted at the fair were luxury camping, with high-end camping gear designed around comfort exhibited. Products included camp furniture, canoes and kayaks, wired apparel, grills, radio coolers and hammocks.

The footwear segment also continues to build momentum as an essential part of the outdoor community and since the presence of footwear-specific exhibitors over the years has steadily increased.

Summer Market now offers the opportunity to explore niche markets, such as outdoor walking and women's climbing shoes, and provides buyers with easy access to hundreds of top brands all in one place.

Many outdoor industry manufacturers and retailers have been turning their attention towards the youth market, also known as the 'Millennial Generation' in response to growing interest from this group. A number of exhibitors showcased new outdoor products designed to appeal to the younger generation.

Outdoor Retailer Winter Market 2007 will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, January 27-30.

Quick estimates of index for textiles industry

12 Sept 2006

The Central Statistics Organisation of the Indian government has released its Quick Estimates of Index for Industrial Production (IIP) in July. The general index stands at 233.9, 12.4% higher than the level in July 2005.

15 of the 17 industry groups included showing positive growth in July compared with the corresponding month of the previous year, including 'Wool, Silk and Man-made Fibre Textiles' (25%). However, 'Leather and Leather & Fur Products' fell 7.2% and 'Jute and Other Vegetable Fibre Textiles (except cotton) fell 5.1%.

DSM expands production capacity for Dyneema

12 Sept 2006

High performance polyethylene (HPPE) products manufacturer Royal DSM N.V. is to invest in new production capacity for its Dyneema fibre. The new unit will be built at the company's facility in Greenville, North Carolina.
The investment will amount to several tens of millions of dollars and will bring the total number of fibre lines for the company to ten. The expansion is a response to the continued strong demand for the fibre in all its application areas. The new unit is expected to come on stream early 2008 and construction is planned to start by the end of this year.

Dyneema is a superstrong polyethylene fibre that offers maximum strength combined with minimum weight. It is up to 15 times stronger than quality steel and up to 40% stronger than aramid fibres, both on weight for weight basis. The fibre floats on water and is resistant to moisture, UV light and chemicals. It can be used for ropes, cables and nets, safety gloves and in fine yarns for applications in sporting goods and the medical sector. It is also used in bullet resistant armour and clothing for police and military personnel.

The company is also constructing two new

manufacturing facilities at its Chemelot site in Geleen, the Netherlands for increased production of Stanyl polyamide 46 and Stamylan UH ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene. The new facilities, which will each double existing production capacity, are scheduled to come on line in 2008. The total investment will be around €100 million.

Stamylan UH is used as a high strength, wear-resistant engineering plastic in industrial, sports and other applications and in Dyneema.

Fire recovery on track at Lanxess' Tarragona site

12 Sept 2006

German chemical company Lanxess has put two compounding lines for the production of ABS plastics back on stream at its plant in Tarragona, Spain. The compounding facilities were damaged in a fire on August 18 and production was temporarily disrupted as a result. The fire has had no effect on the project to expand capacity in Tarragona. The realignment of the business unit is also proceeding completely according to plan.

Opening ceremony for Stahl's ninth manufacturing facility

12 Sept 2006

The Grand Opening Ceremony for the $18 million manufacturing facility for Stahl Coatings and Fine Chemicals (Suzhou) Co. Ltd. took place on September 8, straight after the ALCE show in Shanghai. 500 guests from China and South East Asia were invited.
The facility is to serve the leather and coatings industry world-wide.

A series of short speeches were given including speeches from vice chairman of the China Leather Industries Association Madam Zhang Shu Hua, general manager of Stahl Coatings and Fine Chemicals, Suzhou, Alfredo Aymami and consulate general of The Netherlands Mr Jan Van Weijen.

All visitors were given guided tours of the factory and were able to view a mini exhibition showcasing the products and services that will be provided by the Suzhou plant.

Stahl plans to produce some 17,000 tonnes of product per year from the new plant, initially including acrylics, pigments and lacquer emulsions for the leather and shoe industries and surface coatings for the flexible substrate industry.

Textronics expands into UK with NuMetrex clothes

13 Sept 2006

US-based electronic textiles firm Textronics, Inc. has introduced its NuMetrex brand of clothes that monitor the body into the sports and consumer retail markets in the United Kingdom.

The NuMetrex Heart Sensing Sports Bra was launched by Textronics in December 2005, and was named 2006 Sports Product of the Year by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association. The garment features electronic sensing technology that is integrated into the knit of the fabric, which picks up the heart's electrical pulse and radios it to a wrist watch via a small transmitter in the bra. It will be available in the UK in October.

The company is currently working to expand the collection to include a heart rate sensing shirt for men which will be released to market this fall.

Intertex Milano and Ready to Show run concurrently

13 Sept 2006

The eleventh Intertex Milano and the ninth Ready-to-Show will be jointly held from September 13-15, the same week as the Italian exhibition Milano Unica.

The two international exhibitions will be a focal point for a number of textile and clothing industries to meet and where buyers will be able to find quality suppliers from all over the world.

150 exhibitors from 26 countries will attend and a Madagascan group will attend for the first time

Intertex Milano is dedicated to textile materials, fabrics, yarns and accessories for the clothing industry while Ready-to-Show will feature men's and women's wear, children's wear, knitwear, underwear and fashion accessories.

Decline in sales at ADS

13 Sept 2006

Canadian technical textiles manufacturer ADS Inc. has posted a decline in sales for the second quarter ended July 30. Sales totalled $13.3 million in the period, a decrease of $3.2 million, or 19%, compared with the same quarter last year.

For the six-month period ended July 30, sales totalled $24.9 million, a decrease of $4 million compared with the

$28.9 million recorded for the corresponding period in 2005.

The company believes sales decreases are a result of the weakness of the disposable wipes and footwear markets; the strength of the Canadian dollar; and the realisation of a major, non-recurring sale during the second quarter last year in the international market.

The company anticipates a sales turnaround in the disposable wipes market during the third quarter. In the footwear sector, the world-wide migration of manufacturing activities to China continues to affect the company's revenues. ADS estimates that the appreciation of the Canadian dollar had a negative impact of approximately $1 million on sales results during the six-month period, compared with the same period last year.

New performance baselayers from Patagonia

13 Sept 2006

US-based outdoor apparel company Patagonia has introduced two new performance baselayers with the aim of moisture control: recycled Capilene polyester, and chlorine-free merino wool. Both fabrics move moisture away from the skin, provide environmentally safe odour control and are machine washable.

Huntsman to present at Credit Suisse Chemicals Conference

13 Sept 2006

President and chief executive officer Peter Huntsman and executive vice president and chief financial officer Kimo Esplin of Huntsman Corporation are to present at the 2006 Credit Suisse Chemicals Conference on September 19.

US-based chemical company Huntsman manufactures for a variety of industries including chemicals, plastics, automotive, textiles, footwear and furniture.

Executive vice president and chief financial officer of The Dow Chemical Company will also contribute.

The North Face opens flagship store in Prague

13 Sept 2006

US-based outdoor apparel and equipment brand The North Face will open its first retail store in the Czech Republic, September 14, in the Jungamannova area, Prague.

The flagship store will offer a complete selection of authentic outdoor apparel, footwear, equipment and accessories.

New Australian Merino wool website

13 Sept 2006

A new comprehensive website about Australian Merino Wool is now online; the site includes information on textile innovations, latest knitwear trends, events and news.
Merinoinnovation.com was commissioned by Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) to assist the global apparel industry in accessing information about Merino wool.

AWI Chief Executive Officer, Dr Len Stephens said, “Australia is the world’s leading Merino wool producer and innovator and we are constantly being asked to provide information about its use and supply.”

Compiling the trends and forecasting section of the site is Sophie Steller, who has more than 17 years experience in yarn, colour and trend research, specialising in all aspects of knitwear and design.

New labelling solution from Avery Dennison

14 Sept 2006

US-based information management, brand identification and solution-enabling products company Avery Dennison has launched a new labelling solution to help companies meet Department of Defence (DoD) RFID and bar-code identification requirements. The solution consists of new scalable ItemSight software bundled with a scanner, plus optional label production systems. The label production options include the company’s AP5.4 and 64xx series printers, and ALX print/apply systems.

The user scans the container’s barcode and the software then converts its data to EPC- and DoD-compliant 96-bit formats, such as SGTIN, SSCC96 and DoD96. The converted files can then be electronically transmitted to customers and vendors. With an optional printer, users can produce Gen 2 RFID-enabled labels and barcoded labels for application beneath the existing container label.

For DoD applications, the system provides and records pre-encoded labels. The scanner reads the RFID label and logs the carton content. The system then logs the cartons to the pallet.

The software can be integrated into a company’s existing IT environment, and comes with on-site installation support. Customers can start with the basic programme and then scale up as production levels increase.

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.

European technical textiles workshop

14 Sept 2006

A workshop examining how advances in technical textiles can enhance the quality of life for Europeans will take place on October 22-23 in Lisbon, Portugal.

The event will map materials activities, including those of textiles, biomaterials and packaging, and the results will be presented to the European Commission to help identify areas requiring further research and finance.

Textile sector boosts Bangladesh exports

14 Sept 2006

Bangladesh's export earnings totalled $1.143 billion in July, an increase of 26.4% compared with July 2005. According to the country's Export Promotion Bureau, the woven garments, knitwear, leather and home textile sectors are largely responsible for the export growth.

Bagir and Eleksen create iPod-enabled suit

14 Sept 2006

Provider of touch-sensitive smart fabrics for consumer electronics in apparel and accessories Eleksen Group plc. Is to collaborate with Israel-based apparel company Bagir to produce its iPod suit for men. Bagir works with major retailers throughout the US and UK including Brooks Brothers, Lands End and Marks & Spencer and the suits should be available by November.

The Bagir suit jacket integrates Eleksen's ElekTex smart fabric touchpad technology, which transforms a lapel into a 5-button electronic control panel. The suit is said to be machine-washable and wrinkle-resistant.

Extended Hi'Tech section a hit at Interfilière

14 Sept 2006

393 exhibitors attended this year's Interfilière, September 2-4 and a combination of The General Forum provided a showcase for fabrics, with various display techniques and trends tables. The Austrian embroidery exhibit attracted interest, as did the presentation given by president of the Association of Austrian Embroiderers Mr Streitler.
Other popular attractions included the Tissuthèque Fabric library, Speaker's corner and The Summer Party.

Topics covered at Speaker's Corner included: "The advantages of giving fabrics added-value", with Emmanuelle Bonnettin (Rocle by Cotton), Didier Dieppois (European Stretch Fabrics), Jean-Jacques Behar (DGE Engineering) and Ezio Acerbe (Chance by Intesa); "How far can the featherweights go?", with Ria Stern (Hyosung), Martin Hermann (Willy Hermann), Maryvonne Bigio (Tissages Perrin Verel) and Danièle David (Eurojersey); "New plant fibres are hot property", with Friedrich Ruhrnossl (Lenzing), Gerhard Neudorfer (Seacell Gmbh), Berndt Roth (Handel & Diller) and Dominique Heuillard (Louis Vidon); and "Products and innovations: is 2006 a good year?", with Rahel Greuter (Greuter-Jersey) and Michel Caillibotte (Dow Fiber Solutions).

VF Jeanswear names president of Lee Brand

14 Sept 2006

VF Jeanswear Limited Partnership, a division of US apparel company VF Corporation, has named Joseph Dzialo president of the Lee brand.

Mr Dzialo most recently served as senior vice president and general manager of US sales for The Timberland Company. He has served in a variety of leadership positions at companies including Nine West Group and US Shoe Corporation.

He will join the company September 25 and will be based in Merriam, Kansas.

Puma included in Dow Jones Sustainability Index

14 Sept 2006

From September 18, sport lifestyle company Puma will be listed in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index.

Puma AG CEO Jochen Zeitz said, "We are very pleased that Puma has made it into the Dow Jones Sustainability Index, which not only acknowledges our involvement for sustainability, but also clearly affirms that we are on the right path with our transparency approach and our responsibility in the social and environmental field."

18,000 visitors at ASR

14 Sept 2006

Over 700 surf, skate, swim, snow, moto and youth culture brands exhibited at the recent Action Sports

Retailer Expo (ASR), September 8-10, in San Diego. More than 18,000 visitors were reported to have attended the event with exhibitors including skateboarding hard goods and footwear distributor Tum Yeto and boardsports brand WESC.

A selection of new lifestyle brands was presented by Boost Mobile at the Gold Box Mission and the ASR Runway Show highlighted the latest trends from young contemporary and swim lines at ASR.

Now in its 25th year, ASR takes place three times a year, with spring and summer/autumn season shows in San Diego and ASR Holiday in Newport Beach.

Adidas authorised NFL footwear supplier

15 Sept 2006

The American National Football League (NFL) has named adidas as an authorised supplier of footwear for the League. Adidas may now supply NFL players with branded footwear for use during games, and may also use NFL and club logos to promote its footwear products.

Earlier this year, adidas signed contracts with the top two NFL draft picks, Mario Williams and Reggie Bush. Both players are featured in upcoming adidas brand campaigns and will be wearing adidas footwear and TechFIT apparel during the 2006 NFL season.

Adidas joins Reebok, another company within the adidas-Group, as well as Nike and Under Armour as authorised footwear suppliers of the NFL.

Asics GEL-Cardio for diabetic shoes

15 Sept 2006

Athletic and technical footwear manufacturer Asics has introduced a new shoe for diabetic users.

The GEL-Cardio helps protect against foot injuries to which diabetics are specifically prone and has been created for type II diabetes sufferers.

To prevent the development of blisters or other foot problems the shoe incorporates a long vamp design, hard insole board, soft sockliner and a lining that reduces compression and friction. To help reduce the risk of infection, the sockliner has an anti-bacterial surface to help control humidity. The hard insole board and ortholyte sockliner reduce the load on lower limbs.

The shoe includes the SpEVA midsole, with a DuoMax and AHAR outsole to enhance easy motion.

Increase in international visitors at Prêt à Porter

15 Sept 2006

The 102nd session of Prêt à Porter in Paris, September 2-5, welcomed 41,928 visitors, 18,565 (43%) of whom were international visitors. Attendance from American and Japanese visitors had risen considerably compared with previous sessions.

1,500 labels were exhibited at this year's event, 420 of which were new labels. The fair's main focuses included womenswear, and ethical fashion, which was represented in the 'So Ethic' section featuring brands such as Ciel (UK), Article 23 (France) and La Vie Devant Soie (France).

The 'Haute Fantasy' accessories section attracted a great deal of attention and included brands Karine Arabian, Minority and Katherine Pradeau.

Among the exhibitors at The Shibuya section of apparel designed for the 15-25 age range were Julius and Friends by Paul Frank, My Jok and Combhard.

The 60 designers at the Blythe Dolls Show included Christian Lacroix, Paul&Joe, Paule Ka, Martin Grant, Chantal Thomass and Agatha Ruiz de la Prada.

The Performing Boutique welcomed more than 650 participants, offering conferences and workshops on sales, buying and events.

The Round Tables on Ethical Fashion were attended by Monica Fossati (Ekwo), Elizabeth Pastore Reiss (Ethicity), Philippe Schiesser (Ecoeff), Hervé Guetin (Seyes Pull Over) and Frédéric Alegoet (Kanabeach), among others.

The next edition of Prêt à Porter Paris will take place February 1-4, 2007.

First half sales over $504 million at Doublestar

15 Sept 2006

Chinese footwear company Doublestar has reported sales of more than $504 million for the first six months of 2006.

Having started production 85 years ago, Doublestar is one of the largest shoe-making manufacturers in China and currently produces nearly 100 million pairs of shoes a year with over 140 production lines.

Besides its traditional shoe-making production, the company has now invested in over 30 industries including clothing, tyres and machinery. The brand is now valued at $6.21 billion.

Intradeco Apparel acquires Baxter International and V-Tec

15 Sept 2006

US-based textiles and apparel supplier Intradeco Apparel has acquired denim and casualwear company Baxter International as a subsidiary.

Baxter International is known for its V-Tec process, which uses jet equipment for dying knit fabric instead of employing garment dying processes. With the use of jet equipment in the fabric stage of colour, it is easier to control consistency between dye lots and the process is suitable for all types of textiles, including lightweight fabric, without causing any degradation of the material.

V-Tec is also environmentally friendly, as it contains no heavy metals and uses a reduced amount of water. The process is formaldehyde-free, which is particularly important when manufacturing children's apparel.

BASF premiere at the SGIA 2006

15 Sept 2006

German chemical company BASF will exhibit for the first time at the SGIA Specialty Printing and Imaging Technology Expo in Las Vegas, September 26–29.

Visitors will learn about all aspects of digital printing over the four days and can find out about the Bafixan and Helizarin EVO ink systems. They will be able to discuss cooperation and new marketing concepts with the company's inkjet experts.

The product range of 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.

Bayer divests holding in GE Bayer Silicones

15 Sept 2006

Bayer MaterialScience is selling its 49.9% interest in the joint venture GE Bayer Silicones to its partner General Electric. The transfer of the interest, which for Bayer represents a financial investment, is occasioned by the sale of the GE Advanced Materials business unit to New York-based Apollo Management, L.P. The proceeds of the sale of Bayer's interest total €475 million. The transaction will improve Bayer's non-operating result by around €250 million and closing is expected at the end of the year.

GE and Bayer formed the joint venture GE Bayer Silicones in 1998 and the company employs 650 people in Germany, most of them at the Leverkusen headquarters. It serves an array of different industries including automotive, coatings, paints and inks, footwear, plastics, textiles and leather.