Business Week
02 Oct - 08 Oct

New viscose fibre with Outlast technology

03 Oct 2006

Phase change materials company Outlast Technologies, Inc. and specialty fibre manufacturer Kelheim Fibres GmbH have introduced a new viscose fibre with Outlast technology. The new fibre is said to offer all the benefits of regular viscose such as soft, fine feel, the ability to absorb moisture and hygienic properties while also providing Outlast's temperature-buffering capability for added comfort.

Until now, temperature regulating properties had only been incorporated in acrylic fibres.

CEO of Outlast Technologies Pat Gruber said, "Our new Outlast viscose fibre allows us to apply the benefits of our technology to intimate apparel, knitwear, women's wear such as dresses and even more mainstream products like shirts/blouses and pants. Our home furnishings offering will also be enhanced with the addition of Outlast viscose fibre for use in bedspreads, blankets, sheets and mattress ticking."

Outlast viscose fibre is a man-made cellulosic fibre that can be blended with most fibres, from cotton, polyester and polyamide to technical fibres such as aramid.

Kelheim's pilot plant facility was critical to the success of the new product. "We are very pleased with the high level of incorporation of microcapsules we have been able to reach while still retaining the critical properties of viscose such as processability, dyeability and soft handle," said CEO of Kelheim Fibres Robert Gregan. The company has developed a special manufacturing unit to develop it.

Schoeller fabric collections for shoes and accessories

03 Oct 2006

The footwear industry has been transferring the comfort of soft-shell clothing to footwear and Swiss textile company Schoeller has launched new footwear and accessories using the stretch fabrics.

Soft-shell shoe are said to fit well and comfortably and be easy to slip on and off. In clothing it can also offer comfort and soft-shells can provide new optic impulse as well as water and dirt repelling properties.

The company's Keprotec fabrics contain Kevlar fibres and are used for shoes and boots which have to meet high requirements in terms of robustness, durability and a long life cycle, combined with comfort.

The different footwear qualities in this product range and the similarly abrasion-proof 'dynatec' group offer further features such as breathability, good air permeability, full surface reflection, comfortable stretch or a high standard of fire- and cut-proofing.

Another feature is weight, and this ranges from extremely light fabric to the compact weight class. Lighter fabrics with good stability are being used more and more for running, sailing, tennis or athletic shoes.

The company also uses modern reflex fabrics, textiles with the new semi-transparency, 3D structures and lots of gold, silver, copper and metallic variations. Other fabrics from the spirit line and stretch fabrics from the dynamic and the dynamic-extreme range also combine a cool appearance with modern function.

Finishing techniques include NanoSphere technology, which offers water and stain protection, 3XDRY, which provides active moisture management, ActiveSilver for antimicrobial protection and freshness and schoeller PCM for temperature regulation. Combined with the 'c_change' membrane technology, which opens or closes depending on temperature and moisture, the new footwear is wind and water proof and ensures a feelgood climate.

Accessories in the range include the reflective schoolbag, the evening bag in 'glow-in-the-dark' fabric, the semi-transparent bag, the suitcase with a NanoSphere finish, the cut-proof tool case and the soft, water-repelling soft-shell.

Jaguar and Nilörngruppen join forces

03 Oct 2006

Sweden-based label specialist Nilörngruppen has designed the brand profiling for Jaguar's future clothing collections. The design work comprises labelling, layout and packaging design for the whole of Jaguar's clothing range. Production will take place through Nilörn's production units and its network of partners. The assignment has been initiated through Nilörn Belgium, and the design work has been carried out by design teams in the UK and Sweden. The new labelling and packaging for Jaguar features is designed to appeal to style-conscious men with exacting requirements for technical innovation.

Record exhibitor attendance expected at Intertextile

03 Oct 2006

2,000 exhibitors will be participating in this year's Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics, a 30% increase compared with 2005. The fair takes place October 25-28 at the Shanghai New International Expo Centre (SNIEC).

Apparel fabrics such as cotton, wool, silk, linen, ramie, man-made, knitted and coated materials will be featured as well as lingerie and swimwear fabrics, functional fabrics, prints, fibres and yarns, embroidery and lace.

This year's event will occupy over 80,500 m2, 27% more than in 2005. Extensive booth space is being secured by companies from mainland China and returning country pavilions include Germany, Japan, Pakistan, Portugal and Turkey. Joining this year's fair are exhibitors from Malaysia, Russia, Singapore and the Ukraine.

This year's symposium held from October 26-28 will feature topics including cotton trends for spring/summer 2008, colour trends for 2007/08, womenswear trends for autumn/winter 2007/08 and fabric trends for 2008.

BASF & Arch Chemicals team up

03 Oct 2006

German chemical company BASF's Performance Chemicals for Textiles business unit and US-based biocides company Arch Chemicals, Inc. have formed an alliance to market Arch's Reputex 20 freshness enhancing finish and its associated Purista brand label, which is used on treated consumer products. The companies will work together to enter new application sectors in everyday clothing and home textiles, such as shirts, fashion tops and bed linens.

Reputex is an antimicrobial treatment for cellulosic textiles such as cotton and cotton blends. It helps textiles to stay fresher for longer by controlling the growth of micro-organisms, which can cause odour and fabric deterioration.

The two companies will jointly participate at the Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics from October 25–28.

Animal fur inspires Polartec's Bio mimicry fabric

03 Oct 2006

US-based outdoor apparel and equipment supplier Mountain Hardwear's new Mastiff Pullover for men uses bio-mimicry Polartec Thermal Pro fabric designed to imitate the insulation properties of animal fur.

The pullover provides an efficient insulation layer offering high warmth to weight ratio. A lightweight fleece, it is suitable for backcountry or alpine climbing and includes Polartec Power Dry panels under the arms for increased flexibility, reduced bulk and enhanced moisture transfer; a half zip for ventilation; zipped chest pocket; and Polartec Power Stretch cuffs with thumb loops.

Polartec branded products are produced by US-based company Malden Mills.

Nano-Tex appoints UK Business Development Director

03 Oct 2006

US-based textile technology company Nano-Tex has named Rhea Mazzaschi as UK Business Development Director. She has over twelve years experience in the apparel industry and will be responsible for growth and expansion of the company's fabric-enhancing technologies in the UK market.

Prior to joining the company, Ms Mazzaschi held various positions at Israel-based apparel company Delta Galil.

Broder Bros acquires Amtex Imports

03 Oct 2006

US-based distributor of imprintable activewear Broder Bros., Co. has acquired substantially all the assets of imprintable activewear company Amtex Imports Inc.

The acquisition of Amtex will facilitate the entry of Broder Bros into the Chicago market, where the company has leased a 425,000 sq.ft facility which will operate as a multi-branded distribution centre.

Amtex is a single location distributor with approximately $40 million in annual revenues, and around 40 employees. The purchase price was approximately $6.8 million and the company acquired approximately $4.5 million in net working capital.

Production restricted following explosion in Bayer TDI plant

03 Oct 2006

Following a recent explosion in a process vessel at the Baytown Industrial Park in Texas, German polymer producer Bayer MaterialScience is experiencing production restrictions. An international team of experts from Bayer is working hard to investigate the cause of

the incident in close collaboration with the responsible authorities.

One of the company's two TDI production lines in Baytown was shut down and will remain so temporarily. The damage in economic terms cannot yet be calculated.

TDI (toluene diisocyanate) is an important basic product in the manufacture of polyurethanes.

The total annual capacity of Bayer MaterialScience's TDI production facilities in Baytown amounts to 200,000 metric tons, a high proportion of which comes from the production line that has been shut down. For this reason it declared a state of force majeure on September 29. The company will inform customers about this without delay.

A new step for Indigo Fashion edition

03 Oct 2006

Indigo Fashion, one of the five salons at Première Vision Pluriel, welcomed 11,087 visitors at the September session, representing an increase of more than 9% compared with the February edition and 38% compared with the September 2005 event. 14,996 visits were registered, an increase of more than 30% compared with February and 63% compared with last September. International visitors comprised 73% of the total and represented 92 countries.

Business appeared to be buoyant in all sectors including womenswear, teenwear and childrenswear, knits, dresses, swimwear and prints. Visitors from various sectors including Haute Couture, ready-to-wear labels, sportswear, mass market textile goods and lingerie.

24 young designers from the Texprint competition participated and artistic director of Lanvin, Alber Elbaz, distributed the prizes.

The next edition will take place February 20-23, 2007.

Staff changes at ispo Group

03 Oct 2006

Stefan Reschke is taking on the newly created position of ispo international exhibition director within the ispo Group and will be responsible for ispo Russia and ispo china.

Mr Reschke MBA has been a member of the ispo team since 2001. In 2004, he took over the exhibition management of ispo china; and as Asia Pacific leader, he has been responsible for all activities of the ispo Group in that region since 2005.

The present exhibition director of ispo Russia and community manager of board_ispo, Mick Wallace, is moving to industry and is taking up the post of marketing manager for Germany, Austria and Eastern Europe at Quiksilver & Roxy.

Mr Wallace's duties as community manager of board_ispo will be undertaken by David Badalec, who has been a member of the ispo team since October 2004.

Kellwood Company acquires Vince

04 Oct 2006

US-based apparel and soft goods marketer Kellwood Company and CRL Group, LLC, have reached an agreement for Kellwood to acquire the assets of CRL Group, LLC, owner of the California-based women's sportswear brand Vince. The brand is expected to achieve sales in excess of $45 million in 2006.

Rea Laccone will continue as chief executive officer and Christopher LaPolice as president of Vince.

The transaction is expected to be completed by the end of October 2006.

Retail, apparel and footwear conference to be held in London

04 Oct 2006

International middle-market investment bank and institutional securities firm Piper Jaffrey will hold the Piper Jaffray London Retail, Apparel and Footwear Conference, October 11. The conference will feature presentations by management teams in the retail, apparel and footwear industries from both Europe and the United States.

Presentations will be made by companies such as Abercrombie & Fitch Co., Crocs, Inc., Deckers Outdoor Corporation, Genesco Inc., Gruppo Coin S.p.A, Guess?, Inc., Kohl's Corporation, Mariella Burani S.p.A and Polo Ralph Lauren Corporation.

C.C. Filson names new president and CEO

04 Oct 2006

Bill Kulczycki has been appointed president and chief executive officer of men's outdoor apparel, headwear and gloves, luggage, accessories and footwear manufacturer C.C. Filson Company. He replaces Doug Williams, who has become chairman of the board and will be based at the company's Seattle, Washington, headquarters.

Mr Kulczycki has spent the last seventeen years at Patagonia in a variety of management roles where, for the last seven years, he has held the position of vice president of business development.

AirBoss receives USJS order

04 Oct 2006

AirBoss-Defense, a division of AirBoss of America Corp. has received its first major order for chemical warfare agent protective overboots from the US Joint Services. The order is worth approximately $9.8 million and will be manufactured starting in the fourth quarter of 2006 and delivered during the following 12-month period.

AirBoss-Defense holds two contracts as the sole supplier of chemical/biological protective footwear (AFS overboots) and hand wear (JB2, Type II gloves) to the US Joint services.

Huntsman sells European Commodities business to SABIC

04 Oct 2006

US-based chemical company Huntsman Corporation has signed a definitive agreement with Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), under which SABIC will acquire Huntsman's European Base Chemicals and Polymers business.

SABIC will acquire the business for a purchase price of $700 million in cash, subject to certain adjustments at closing. The transaction further allows Huntsman to reduce its UK pension liabilities by approximately $126 million. The transaction will not include Huntsman's Teesside-based Pigments division or the Wilton-based aniline and nitrobenzene operations of its Polyurethanes division.

After giving effect to the announced divestiture and the recently completed sale of Huntsman's US butadiene and MTBE business, total revenue from Huntsman's differentiated businesses (including the Textile Effects division recently acquired from Ciba), will equate to nearly 80% of Huntsman's revenues for the twelve month period ending June 30. Total net debt, on a pro forma basis for the same period, is expected to drop to approximately $3.5 billion after application of the proceeds from the announced divestiture—more than a 40% reduction from approximately $6 billion in net debt at the end of 2004.

Huntsman manufactures for a variety of industries including chemicals, plastics, automotive, textiles and footwear.

International textile meeting in Heidelberg

04 Oct 2006

From September 24-26, the heads of 32 textile research institutes from Europe, North Africa and the USA met in Heidelberg, Germany, to discuss current trends in the field of research and future prospects for the textile industry. The international event was hosted by the Hohenstein Institutes.

The focus at this year's meeting, organised by European group for the development of textile research GEDRT (Groupe Européen d´échange d´expériences Sur la Direction de la Recherche Textile), was on innovative strategies for the textile industry, how to involve industrial partners and the international exchange of experience, as demonstrated by the USA.

In addition, the various institutes gave presentations about some of their research, services and training, and reported on the situation in the textile industry in their own country. A visit to the Hohenstein Institutes in Bönnigheim and tours round one of Germany's research centres rounded off the programme of events.

Members of the TEXTRANET (European Network of Textile Research Organisations) also met September 27 in Heidelberg to exchange information about forthcoming research projects at EU level.

Higher visitor numbers at SIMM

04 Oct 2006

The 56th edition of the Madrid International Fashion Fair (SIMM), which took place September 1-3, brought together a selection of trends in Spanish and Latin American fashion.

19,382 visitors were recorded at the event and the 2,000 foreign buyers represented a 20% increase compared with the September 2005 edition. The countries with the strongest growth in terms of participation included Argentina, Australia, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, the US, Lithuania, Paraguay and Russia, all of which tripled the number of buyers at this year’s fair. The number of professionals from Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Mexico, Switzerland and Uruguay doubled.

1,440 collections of men's clothing, women's clothing, lingerie, swimwear and accessories for spring/summer 2007 were presented by 877 companies at SIMM and exhibitors included Elisa Cortés, Cabotine, Guerral, Guitare, Oky-Coky and Fuentecapala.

SIMM also hosted the third edition of the LatinoAméricaFashion Show. The show consisted of a joint fashion parade with Isabel Henao (Colombia), Julia y Renata (Mexico), and Melk Z-Da (Brazil). Three solo fashion parades were presented by Olga Piedrahita

(Colombia), Miguel Vieira (Portugal) and Máxime Perelmuter (Brazil).

The next edition will take place at Feria de Madrid, February 16-18 and will feature autumn/winter 2007/2008 collections.

In 2005, the production value of Spanish companies working in the field of clothing manufacture came to €11,650 million. Some 6,300 companies are involved in the industry in the country, with more than 223,000 employees.

Management changes at Columbia Sportswear

04 Oct 2006

Vice president of Footwear at outdoor apparel and footwear company Columbia Sportswear, Brad Gebhard, has resigned his position to pursue other opportunities.

The company is now looking for a replacement and in the interim the Footwear Division will be overseen by a management team led by vice president of Sales Mick McCormick.

A new platform for CTC Asia laboratory in Hong Kong

05 Oct 2006

Quality assurance solutions provider for the footwear and leather goods industry CTC Asia, the Hong Kong subsidiary of France-based CTC, has expanded and updated its laboratory. Its surface area has been increased five-fold to accommodate new testing machinery including sole abrasimeters, sole flexometers and tensile machines.

The expansion has been carried out in response to growing demand for CE label commodities for products such as shoes and gloves for professional usage. The company is the only laboratory in Hong Kong to run the entire range of tests on safety gloves and has held HOKLAS accreditation in accordance with the ISO/IEC 17025:1999 since September 2005.

CTC Asia provides laboratory testing for leather shoes, accessories, gloves and bags, as well as chemical analysis for textiles, plastics, and leather, finished-product inspections, and performance analyses.

Ciba and Clariant sign agreement for Masterbatch business

05 Oct 2006

Swiss Ciba Specialty Chemicals has signed an agreement to sell its Masterbatch business to Basel-based specialty chemicals company Clariant. The sales price was not disclosed. The divestment is expected to be concluded in the fourth quarter of 2006 after the necessary regulatory approvals.

All of the approximately 300 employees will transfer to Clariant. The Ciba Masterbatch business, with sales of CHF80 million ($63.8 million), operates in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and France.

Lanxess raises prices

05 Oct 2006

With immediate effect, Germany-based Lanxess chemicals group has increased its prices for ion exchange resins, technical rubber and ABS plastics. The company stated that these price rises are necessary due to the continued high cost of raw materials and the increase in energy and transport expenditure.

The Ion Exchange Resins business unit has increased its prices worldwide for the Lewatit and Ionac product groups by 5-7%, depending on the energy and raw material requirements in the manufacture of the grade concerned. These products are mainly used in industrial water treatment, consumer applications, catalysis and chemical processes.

The company's Technical Rubber Products (TRP) business unit has increased its prices for the product groups Baypren (CR), Buna EP (EPDM), Krynac/Perbunan/Baymod N (NBR) and Krylene/Krynol (E-SBR). The price increase is between €50-€400 per metric ton, depending on the product group. The areas affected are Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. These products are mainly used in the automotive, mechanical engineering, construction, electrical and footwear industries.

Interstoff Asia Autumn welcomes 267 exhibitors

05 Oct 2006

Interstoff Asia Autumn 2006 has opened its doors at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre and will run until October 6. 267 exhibitors from 10 countries and regions are showing and the event includes seminars and fashion shows. Interstoff Asia now focuses on three essential elements: creation, function and fashion.

Korean participation will once again be highlighted with the 'Dynamic Korea' pavilion and will include 33 Korean companies. It will also include a delegation of ten silk manufacturers from the JinJu region in Korea, all of which are members of the Korea Silk Research Institute.

Manufacturers and suppliers from Taiwan will showcase

their products under the banner ‘Amazing Taiwan’ which will feature 17 Taiwanese companies including functional textile manufacturers. The Taiwan Textile Federation (TTF) will bring two key exhibits to the show, an interactive demonstration area and a functional fabric display. Buyers will be able to examine over 100 functional fabrics featuring over 15 functions including water repellency, moisture transferral and quick drying, anti-static, oil repellency, water-vapour permeability and liquid water-impermeability, ultraviolet protection, windproof, flame resistance and reflectivity.

The fair will also highlight the colours, textures and moods for autumn/winter 2007/2008 at the Interstoff Asia Directions Trend Forum, which has been designed by American trend forecaster Here & There. The season's four themes are 'enchantment', 'indigenous', 'enthusiasm' and 'androgynous'.

Furthermore, four fashion presentations will illustrate the diversity and originality of Asian fashion with models presenting outfits from Hong Kong, Korea, Turkey and the ASEAN region.

Source It opens in Hong Kong

05 Oct 2006

Source It 2006 has opened at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and runs until October 6. The show, held for the first time in autumn, hosts exhibitors from nine countries and regions including Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Laos, Malaysia, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The show gives a comprehensive look at the latest collections of garments and apparel fabrics from the ASEAN region and around the world.

The Source It CEO Forum 2006 provided attendees the opportunity to hear discussions about Free Trade Agreements as well as the competitiveness of the ASEAN region, China and Hong Kong. The forum, entitled 'Impact of bilateral & regional FTA's on buyers' preferences & suppliers’ competitiveness’, was held October 4.

Huntsman launches branding programme for colour and finishing effects

05 Oct 2006

Huntsman’s Textile Effects business segment recently launched a global branding programme, High IQ, for its innovative textile colour and finishing effects. High IQ stands for innovation and quality and the programme was launched with five ‘intelligent’ effects - Cool Comfort, Lasting Color, Freshness, Easy Care Plus and Sun Protection. Additional effects are being developed. Huntsman’s Textile Effects business supports mills worldwide in producing fabric to defined specifications. The company has developed the High IQ programme to help ensure reliable product sourcing, and to support differentiation throughout the textile processing chain, thereby adding value to garments. According to the company High IQ labels will provide clear benefit statements for consumers, enhancing convenience and confidence in garment selection and purchase.

New 3P concept launched to protect polyamide during processing

05 Oct 2006

Global manufacturer of differentiated and commodity chemicals Huntsman’s Textile Effects business segment, based in Switzerland, has launched a new 3P Concept to protect polyamide fibres during processing. The 3P Concept comprises products and processes that protect fabrics from damage during processing steps such as high-temperature dyeing, drying, heat setting and moulding, as well as during storage and use. The concept is said to prevent yellowing or browning and promote shade and whiteness consistency.

The concept is said to allow all processing methods to be used without impairment of the fibre quality resulting from thermal damage, which is especially important with stretch fabrics for leisure-, sports- and swimwear as well as for intimate apparel. It can also be used in conjunction with fluorescent whitening agents and reactive dyes for polyamide.

“Lack of protection during processing results in poor quality, yellowing, fading of colours or whites, loss of mechanical properties, and irreversible fibre damage,” said Peter Otto, global head of Marketing in Textile Effects. “To prevent this, full white or dyed polyamide fabrics often require high resistance to different heat processing treatments. The 3P Concept ensures that the polyamide fibre is protected during processing, allowing costs to be reduced and adding lasting value to textiles.”

Sales at Zumiez increase 47%

05 Oct 2006

Total net sales at specialty retailer of action sports-related apparel, footwear, equipment and accessories Zumiez Inc. increased 47.3% for the five-week period ended September 30. The company reported sales of $28.7 million, compared with $19.5 million for the five-week period ended October 1, 2005. The company's comparable store sales increased 14.9%, versus an increase of 10.1% in the prior year period.

Zumiez focuses on skateboarding, surfing,

snowboarding, motocross and BMX. It currently operates 230 stores.

New VP of Sales at Execute Sports

05 Oct 2006

Performance items producer for the sports industry Execute Sports, Inc. has named Celeste Berouty as the vice president of Sales. Ms Berouty previously served as director of Sales, Wetsuit Division, at Body Glove Wetsuit Co.

She will be responsible for developing the Execute brand of vests, rash guards and wetsuits, wake skates and the Kampus footwear line for both the mass retail and the specialty markets.

Coolmax Clean featured at Expofil

05 Oct 2006

European provider of customised solutions for all sectors of the polyester market AdvanSA featured its recently launched Coolmax Clean technology at Expofil, September 19-22. The product is said to complement the performance of the moisture management microfibre Coolmax with its added Stain Release Technology. The fibre surface modification by nano-technology provides advanced moisture evaporation while improving stain release and providing greater softness.

More than 200 attend Gerber Software Users Conference

06 Oct 2006

More than 200 participants attended Gerber Technology's 8th annual Software Users Conference, September 21-22, in Irving, Texas. The conference featured new product and solution offerings and provided a range of educational seminars on Fashion Lifecycle Management, WebPDM, and AccuMark software solutions, as well as best practices for their implementation and ongoing optimisation.
Attendees were able to choose from more than 30 educational hands-on, 'tips & tricks' and information sessions. Representatives from The adidas Group, Ash City, Cintas, Kellwood, Mervyns and Pacific Sunwear provided insight into how they incorporate Gerber's technologies.

Gerber Technology develops and manufactures integrated software and hardware automation systems for manufacturers and retailers in the sewn products and flexible materials industries.

Indian industrial production reaches new high

06 Oct 2006

According to Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Kamal Nath, industrial production in India registered a ten-year high of 12.4% in July compared with the level in July 2005. Industrial growth from April to July grew 10.6% compared with 8.9% in the same period last year. The record high in industrial production has been propelled by the consistent high level of growth in the manufacturing sector, the minister said.

Industries that performed particularly well in July include 'Wool, Silk and man-made Fibre Textiles' (25%), 'Transport Equipment and Parts' (22.4%) and 'Textile Products (including Wearing Apparel)' (17.3%).

Consumer goods registered a growth of 17.9% in July compared with July 2005 and capital goods recorded a high growth of 15.4%.

Polymer Group opens textile plant in Suzhou

06 Oct 2006

US-based textiles producer Polymer Group Inc. has opened a new manufacturing facility in Suzhou, China.

According to the company, it is now China's largest producer of spunmelt fabrics and the country's only vertically-integrated producer of medical fabrics.

The new plant houses a multi-beam Reifenhauser spunmelt line and a finishing line for the medical, industrial protective apparel, and hygiene markets.

Fossil introduces NFL watch collection

06 Oct 2006

US-based watchmaker and leather goods company Fossil, Inc. has teamed up with the National Football League (NFL) to design, manufacture, market and distribute an official NFL watch collection for men and women featuring all 32 NFL teams.

Fossil's official NFL collection will offer one to six styles for each club and each team's logo will be displayed on the dial with various styles and functions. Select models feature Big Tic motion technology.

Foot Locker donates over 4,000 pairs of shoes & socks to children

06 Oct 2006

Thousands of underprivileged children in Los Angeles will be given a pair of brand new athletic shoes at the Fred Jordan Mission's 18th Annual Back-to-School New Clothing Giveaway, in partnership with athletic specialty retailer Foot Locker. Each child will be custom-fitted with well-fitting shoes and Foot Locker will donate athletic shoes and socks to more than 4,000 children. Several children will be modelling their new athletic shoes, socks, and apparel throughout the day on a special runway.

The Mission also receives products for this event from over 25 companies nationwide, including Avery Dennison, Kids Kaps and Wal-Mart.

Positive Q3 results at Wolverine

06 Oct 2006

US-based casual, active lifestyle, work, outdoor sport and uniform footwear marketer Wolverine World Wide, Inc. has reported record revenue and earnings for its third quarter.

Third quarter revenue totalled $298.9 million, a 7.1% increase over third quarter 2005 revenue of $279.1 million.

For the first three quarters of 2006, revenue reached $800.2 million, an 8% gain over the $740 million reported for the first three quarters of 2005.

According to chairman and CEO, Timothy O'Donovan, three of the company's four major operating groups-the Hush Puppies Company, the Heritage Brands Group and the Outdoor Group-posted increased revenue in the quarter. The Wolverine Footwear Group experienced a decline, which was said to be principally due to a planned reduction in the Bates military business.

International businesses contributed significantly to the quarter's revenue increase, particularly in Europe, where the Caterpillar, Hush Puppies, Merrell, and Sebago brands all posted revenue gains.

Dow Fiber Solutions and Calvin Klein Underwear team up

06 Oct 2006

Dow Fiber Solution's high-performance elastic fibre Dow XLA is to be used for the new Flexible Fit programme by Calvin Klein Underwear for men.

Made from 91% cotton and 9% Dow XLA lastol, it is said that the new garments will offer enhanced shape retention and stretch, even after bleaching, multiple washings and tumble drying. The are also said to be cling-free and non-snap, offering a soft, cotton feel.

Dow XLA fibre is an olefin-based stretch fibre that is inherently resistant to harsh chemicals and high heat and offers gentle, non-snap stretch and recovery to provide freedom of movement.

The North Face opens flagship store in Zermatt

06 Oct 2006

Outdoor apparel and equipment company The North Face has opened its first flagship store in Switzerland. The opening marks the company's twenty-second retail store in Europe.

Featuring The North Face Summit Series, expedition clothing and equipment from base camp to summit, the 106 m² retail space will be located in Zermatt's town centre.

Huntsman launches new silicone coating products

06 Oct 2006

The Textile Effects business segment of global manufacturer of differentiated and commodity chemicals Huntsman recently launched a new range of high-performance silicone coating products. The new coating polymers-Dicylan S, W and C-have been developed for technical textiles and other high-performance applications, including medical and sports textiles and apparel. They are said to have very high resistance to abrasion, ageing and fluctuating temperatures as well as high heat stability and excellent fastness to washing. In addition, the products also have good barrier properties and are skin-friendly.

Huntsman manufactures products for a variety of global industries including chemicals, plastics, textiles, and footwear.

Nike makes new appointments in core business sectors

06 Oct 2006

In an attempt to drive continued growth in its core business segments, Nike has appointed Larry Miller as vice president and general manager of Basketball, and Peter Ruppe as vice president and general manager of Men's Training and Fitness.

The appointments fill two of five new global category management positions announced in August.

Mr Miller joined Nike in 1997 and has been president of the Jordan brand since 1999. In his new role, he will be responsible for all aspects of Nike's global basketball business, including Jordan. Mr Ruppe has worked at Nike since 1981 and has led the company's equipment business for the past six years. He most recently helped lead the product and technology development of the Nike+ category and partnership with Apple.