Business Week
16 Oct - 22 Oct

Dow Fiber Solutions opens New York showroom

16 Oct 2006

Dow Fiber Solutions has opened its 2,500 sq. ft. New York City showroom to showcase the company's new premium stretch fibre, XLA. The company also revealed a new brand identity for the flagship fibre.

Visitors to the showroom will have access to a variety of fabrics that have been woven and knitted with and enhanced by XLA, from cashmere and velvet to linen, denim, cotton and wool.

Cat Osterman signs with Wilson Sporting Goods

16 Oct 2006

Olympic gold medallist Cat Osterman has signed a multiyear agreement with Chicago-based sports equipment manufacturer Wilson Sporting Goods Co. Ms Osterman will serve as an ambassador to the Wilson brand, representing Wilson ball gloves, DeMarini Fastpitch bats and ATEC training equipment. She will also help with the design of new Wilson and DeMarini equipment including a signature line of Cat Osterman fastpitch gear.

Pitching for the USA Softball Women's National Team, Ms Osterman was the youngest member to win gold at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games and recently led the team to victory at the 2006 World Cup of Softball and the 2006 Softball World Championship.

New board member elected at Eastman Chemical Company

16 Oct 2006

US-based chemicals, fibres and plastics manufacturer Eastman Chemical Company has elected Lewis Kling to its board of directors. He is president and CEO at fluid motion and control products and services provider Flowserve Corp.

Eastman manufactures chemicals, fibres and plastics worldwide. It is also a major supplier of cellulose acetate fibres.

Singtex opens new facility

16 Oct 2006

Taiwan-based performance and functional fabrics supplier Singtex Industrial Company Ltd. has celebrated the official opening of its new facility in the Wu-Ku Industrial Park in Taipei Hsien, Taiwan.

President of Singtex Jason Chen said, "This growth step marks our continued efforts in 'value innovation' within our industry."

The facility includes a three-stage showroom, as well as a Research & Design centre, which enables on-site apparel design and prototype production.

Singtex has contributed technological advances recently, including the new AirPass series, which offers breakthroughs for ePTFE technologies, CoCoNa Natural Technology, using activated charcoal derived from coconuts, and ultra-light high gauge knits, as both stand-alone and bonded products.

Polartec signs new performance wear contracts in Spain

16 Oct 2006

US-based technical fabric brand Polartec, known for its thermal and weather protection products, has been signing new clothing contracts in Spain including contracts with the Spanish Navy, Guardia Civil and Spanish Air Force.

The Spanish Navy has selected Polartec Power Dry to be used in the pyjama, and Polartec Power Dry with odour resistant technology to be used in the underwear requirement of its uniform. The fabric is said to offer breathability and wicking with good stretch properties. Its nylon outer surface is wind and abrasion resistant while the soft polyester inner surface provides warmth and comfort. Teamed with Malden Mills odour resistant technology, which is based on a proprietary silver ion technology integrated into the yarn, permanent odour resistance is said to be achieved.

Polartec has been awarded a contract for the Guardia Civil uniform for the fifth time. The company supplies the uniform manufacturers with Polartec Classic 200 with DWR (Durable Water Repellency).

Polartec is also to supply its Wind Pro fabric to the Spanish Air Force for use in its zip-in jacket.

New head of Nike's Bauer Hockey subsidiary

16 Oct 2006

Nike, Inc. has appointed Mark Duggan, a 25-year veteran with the company, as head of its Nike Bauer hockey subsidiary. He succeeds Chris Zimmerman who is leaving to become president/CEO of Orca Bay Sports & Entertainment.

Mr Duggan will report to Lee Bird, Nike's vice president of Subsidiaries.

Quebec's economic growth affected by Asian competition

16 Oct 2006

Quebec's economy is expected to grow by 2% in 2006 and 2.1% in 2007, according to a new report from financial group RBC.

The rise of China and India's manufacturing sectors, high energy prices, a strong Canadian currency, and a slowing US economy are all presenting challenges to Quebec's economic growth. Despite this, its manufacturing shipments are up by about 4% on a year-to-date basis.

Textiles and clothing manufacturers continue to be squeezed by low-cost competitors.

Textile and clothing prices lead to decline in Palestinian price index

17 Oct 2006

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) has reported that the consumer price index numbers reached 152.76 in September, a 0.50% decreases compared with August.

Price increases included 0.46% in miscellaneous goods and services and 0.1% in furniture, household goods and services. This was offset by decreases such as 0.41% in transport and communications and 0.22% in textiles, clothing and footwear.

Price changes appeared to be regional, with prices in the Gaza Strip rising by 0.21%, while prices in the West Bank increased by 0.07%.

Algo exits fashion fabrics business

17 Oct 2006

Canadian manufacturer and importer of fashion apparel and sportswear Algo Group Inc. has sold some assets of its fashion fabrics business unit in the United States. The proceeds from the sale are being used by the company to repay liabilities. As a result of the sale, the company's fashion fabrics business unit, comprising Hamil America Inc., as well as the Hamil Textiles division of Tangiers International Ltd., will cease its activities.

Textiles boost Bangladesh's export figures

17 Oct 2006

According to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Bangladeshi exports grew 31.28% during July and August.

A significant rise in exports of knitwear and home textiles as well as jute goods, leather, raw jute and petroleum by-products contributed to the increase in revenue.

Leather exports totalled $47.01 million during the period, a 24.56% growth and footwear exports rose 30% to $18 million.

The export-earning target for the current fiscal year has been set at $12.5 billion.

Delta Apparel completes acquisition of Fun Tees

17 Oct 2006

Casual and athletic wear specialist Delta Apparel, Inc. has completed the previously announced acquisition of Fun-Tees, Inc. for a total purchase price of $20 million in cash, subject to certain post-closing adjustments, including an adjustment based on the actual working capital purchased.

Fun-Tees designs, manufactures, markets and sells private label, custom knit t-shirts, primarily to branded sportswear companies.

Reebok and NHL launch new apparel ranges

18 Oct 2006

Reebok and the National Hockey League in North America have unveiled two NHL-licensed apparel collections for women and children.

The women's line includes t- shirts, tracksuits, outdoor jackets, headwear and jerseys, each product featuring

NHL team logos. The children's line, which will be manufactured by fashion outerwear company Outerstuff, Ltd. will feature more than 75 styles of children's wear, including replica team jerseys and locker-room apparel for infants through to 17-year-olds.

"40% of our fan base is female, more than any other professional sports league, and 24% of our fan base is between the ages of six and 17 - the second-highest among the leagues," said senior vice president, NHL Consumer Products Marketing Brian Jennings.

Nike names five VPs to national and regional roles

18 Oct 2006

Nike brand president Charlie Denson has reported five new vice president positions in Asia Pacific, Europe and global sports marketing.

The company named three new vice presidents In the Asia Pacific Region: Willem Haitink as vice president and general manager for Nike China; Jim Godbout as vice president and general manager for Nike Japan; and Davide Grasso as vice president for Asia Pacific marketing, all reporting to Roland Wolfram, vice president of the Asia Pacific region.

John Slusher has been named vice president of sports marketing for both Asia Pacific and the Americas. In the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) Region, DeeDee Wilson has been named vice president of finance and chief financial officer.

The new positions in the Asia Pacific region will work to further strengthen the company’s position in the market, led by China, the company's fastest-growing market which has seen sales double in the past two years to more than $600 million. By the fiscal year 2009, China revenues are expected to surpass the $1 billion mark, which would make it the second largest country market for Nike.

New range from Musto

18 Oct 2006

UK-based performance brand Musto has introduced a number of new products for the winter season.
Its Shelled Middle Layer provides warmth and can be combined with a non-cotton technical base layer and breathable foulies. The Shelled Middle Layer Jacket and Salopettes are made from a tightly woven 100gsm polyester rip-stop fabric with a durable water resistant (DWR) exterior finish and 100% polyester microfleece lining. This is said to provide reduced wind chill without added weight and bulk. The fleece-lined collar on the jacket and microfleece lining offers protection without restricting movement.

These products are suitable for sail racing, cruising, powerboating and RIB-driving. The company offers nine alternative middle layer garments, including options in Gore Windstopper fabric and Polartec200 fleece.

Moore Company launches Turf Tex

18 Oct 2006

US-based textiles firm Moore Company has introduced a new line of fabrics and elastics for longer lasting sports apparel. The products offer soil release—including grass, dirt, oil, paint or fluids—and wicking properties to help keep garments cleaner as well as helping athletes to feel cooler and drier.

Ecco introduces 2007 US women’s golf collection

20 Oct 2006

Danish shoemaker Ecco has launched its spring/summer 2007 US collection of classic, casual, sport and spikeless women’s golf shoes featuring six new styles.

Features incorporated in the range include: Ultra-soft, high-grade leathers with hydrophobic treatments to provide water-resistance; a direct-injection process that offers durability, comfort and shock-absorption; an internal stabiliser that reduces torque and provides a stable swing platform; a double-layer insole that provides extra cushion and absorbs heel force to reduce stress on the knees, hip and back; an internal Air-Circulation System that ensures a fresh, dry and cool foot environment; a Dynamic Energy Return System that provides a trampoline effect during foot-strike and follow-through to reduce fatigue during the course of a round; and advanced grip systems including the Eclipse cleat with Fast Twist insert system, the Stinger cleat with Q-Lok insert system and moulded traction bars.

Change of venue for Texworld

20 Oct 2006

Textile fair Texworld is to move to a new venue for its 20th edition, the Paris Le Bourget Exhibition Centre, February 19-22, 2007. The centre offers 45,000 m² of floor space in three halls and offers easy access for local and international visitors.

Adidas signs sponsorship deal with Mexican Football Association

20 Oct 2006

Adidas and the Mexican Football Federation (FMF) have

entered a long-term partnership until 2014.

Under the terms of the agreement, which comes into effect January 10, 2007, adidas will supply all national teams of the FMF including the U-17 team, the current FIFA World Champions in their category.

Adidas already has partnerships with football federations in Germany, Greece, Japan, Argentina, France, South Africa, China, Spain, Nigeria, Denmark, Venezuela and Guatemala.

LiquiCell Technologies and Xsensible sign licensing agreement

20 Oct 2006

US-based comfort materials manufacturer LiquiCell Technologies, Inc. and Netherlands-based footwear manufacturer Xsensible recently signed a licensing agreement, as a result of which Xsensible will incorporate LiquiCell comfort technology in various models this year.

Shoes featuring LiquiCell include three boot styles this winter and four pump styles in the summer 2007 line. They are made from 100% stretchable leather and are said to combine comfort, quality and style.

LiquiCell is an ultra thin, liquid interface technology designed to relieve the discomfort caused by friction. When applied to tongue pads, heel pads and other footwear components that touch 'hot spots' on the foot, this padding reduces foot discomfort and fatigue.

Opportunities for creative people at ispo winter 07

20 Oct 2006

ispo has introduced various schemes to help young companies from the sports equipment sector to establish themselves in international business.

Its new 'WarmUp' project will debut at ispo winter 07, held in Munich, February 4-7 to introduce young brands from the fitness segment. Young entrepreneurs with product innovations can apply until November 4.

The 'Greenhouse' project, which will take place for the fourth time as part of outdoor_ispo next winter, is an initiative for the promotion of new outdoor brands. The closing date for applications is November 6.

For several years, 'board_ispo seed bed' has been giving selected streetwear brands with connections to board sport the opportunity to present their collections. In addition, the 'Rider-Owned Brands' area of board_ispo will present professional snowboard brands.

The BrandNew Village set up to promote newcomers is another competition for young entrepreneurs to present new product innovations, creative ideas and marketing concepts to the international specialised trade. The closing date for entries is November 3.

Hyosung to acquire Tongkook spandex facilities

20 Oct 2006

Korean spandex producer Hyosung Corporation intends to acquire the Tongkook spandex facilities in south-east China. The company anticipates signing the final contract by the end of next month and will be adding an additional 6,000 tons of capacity to its Creora brand portfolio with this acquisition.

President of Europe and the Americas Greg Vas Nunes said, "Hyosung is continuing to explore opportunities for additional investment in spandex facilities in Europe and the Americas."

Oakley names new director of apparel merchandising

20 Oct 2006

Performance apparel, footwear and accessories company Oakley, Inc. has appointed Meredith Feldman as the company's director of apparel merchandising. Mrs Feldman brings more than 15 years experience to this newly created role and will oversee design and technical innovation in both performance and lifestyle products. She will report directly to president Colin Baden.

Olympikus inaugurates its first owned store

20 Oct 2006

Brazilian sporting goods company Olympikus has opened its first sole-owned store in Rio de Janeiro. Over two thousand products including clothing, footwear and accessories will be on sale.

R$750,000 ($350,000) has been invested in the shop, the theme of which is 'relaxed well-being' and modernity. The shop has been opened in anticipation of the 2007 Panamerican Games which will be held in the region and for which Olympikus is official sponsor.

The company holds 27% of the Brazilian sports shoe market. It produces eleven million pairs of sports shoes annually and exports to more than 25 countries in the Americas and Europe. It expects to increase production to 16 million pairs by 2008.

Management change at Martin + Osa

20 Oct 2006

Apparel, footwear and swimwear retailer American Eagle Outfitters, Inc. has revealed that president of the Martin + Osa brand Ken Pilot has resigned to pursue other opportunities. Vice chairman of American Eagle Outfitters Roger Markfield will serve as interim president, having led the creation and development of the brand from its inception.

Martin + Osa, which launched in September 2006, plans to have five stores opened by the end of this year.

Ethiopia seeks Indian industry investment

20 Oct 2006

Ethiopia has invited Indian investment in various sectors, including textiles, leather, agriculture processing and small-scale industries, having already cleared investment proposals from India worth $500 million.

According to Ethiopian Minister of Trade and Industry Girma Biru, “Trade with India has grown steadily and stood at $83 million in 2005-06, a rise of 27% compared with the previous year.”

The two countries are scheduled to sign a Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement in the near future.

Winter accessories from Musto

20 Oct 2006

UK-based performance brand Musto has launched a series of bags and accessories for the winter season. The Dry Back Sack is mesh-laminated PVC and is fully waterproof. Its capacity is 42.4 litres and has a velcro top closure, secured with a buckle, adjustable shoulder straps and a stowaway waist belt.

The Barrel Bag is made from Carbon PVC and has a large, central compartment with top opening and lockable twin zips, end pockets and a mesh pocket. A detachable and adjustable shoulder strap is included.

The company’s Wallet in Carbon or Sailcloth folds twice and secures with Velcro. It has one zipped back pocket, two large inner pockets and six compartments to hold credit cards.

Its Performance Winter Gloves offer ‘pre-curved’ construction for dexterity, ‘grip fast’ wrap-around palms and fingers, Powerstretch ripstop laminated fleece back for extra warmth with a super-stretch panel over the knuckles for extra flexibility, and a Velcro-adjustable wrist strap. The Frostbite Gloves, also pre-curved for dexterity, have a double-lined neoprene back and wrist for warmth and ‘grip-fast’ wrap-around palm and fingers.