Business Week
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SATRA safety pioneer convenes European protective clothing committee

06 Nov 2006

David McKeown, one of the pioneers of personal protective equipment testing at research and technology centre SATRA, has been appointed convenor for a key European committee that is revising standards relating to protection against chainsaws.

McKeown is responsible to the committee, which is revising standards for chainsaw protective clothing, such as jackets, trousers and gloves. He is also convenor of a committee bringing together European test houses to discuss and solve problems involving the interpretation of standards for chainsaw protective products.

Textiles Intelligence delivers report on Indian textile industry

06 Nov 2006

UK-based information provider for the global fibre, textile and apparel industries Textiles Intelligence has published a new report
entitled “India's Textile and Apparel Industry: Opportunities for Sourcing and Collaboration", available November 4th.

It provides information and data on the Indian textile and apparel industry including details of the best products to source from India and profiles of Indian companies which rank among the top suppliers to North American and European buyers.

Q1 revenue increases at Bernard Chaus

06 Nov 2006

American women’s workwear and casual sportswear designer Bernard Chaus, Inc. has reported positive financial results for the first quarter ended September 30. Revenues increased by approximately 4.7% to $39.5 million from $37.7 million in the same period last year. The company reported a net profit of $1.2 million compared with a net profit of $96,000 in the first quarter a year ago.

More than 8,000 buyers at Interstoff Asia

06 Nov 2006

Interstoff Asia Autumn completed its 20th anniversary run in Hong Kong, October 4-6. 268 exhibors from ten countries attended the event along with more than 8,000 buyers from all over the worldwide.

A full schedule of seminars, fashion shows, functional fabrics demonstrations and trend displays took place and exhibits presented in three thematic groups – creation, function and fashion.

Major labels represented at the fair included Liz Claiborne, Benetton, Donna Karan, Gap, Georgio Armani, Levi Strauss, Nike and Quiksilver.

The Korean Fashion Textile Association attended the fair with a group of 33 Korean manufacturers, including ten silk producers from the Jinju region. Taiwanese manufacturers, known for their advances in functional fabrics, presented 17 companies under the heading ‘Amazing Taiwan’.

Source It ran alongside Interstoff, providing a showcase for textile and garment producers from the ASEAN region and beyond.

The CEO Forum attracted a great deal of attention and industry expert speakers included president of Trade Negotiations and Legislative Affairs Practice of Sandler Travis and Rosenberg, Robert Sorini, chairman of AFTEX (ASEAN Federation of Textile Industries), Mr Phongsak Assakul, and executive director of Li & Fung, Mr Marc Compagnon. Over 50 attendees took part.

The next edition of Interstoff Asia will take place March 14-16, 2007.

Messe Friedrichshafen to launch US bicycle trade show

06 Nov 2006

Messe Friedrichshafen – organiser of Eurobike – is to stage its first independent trade show in Portland, Oregon, next September. The aim is to strengthen Eurobike’s presence in North America and service the biking market there.

Portland was chosen as it is America’s ‘most bicycle-friendly city’ and the venue is surrounded by bike parks.

The event will feature a fashion show, various sporting events and an industry-only celebration.

An official name and dates for the event will be announced in the near future.

New industrial-grade label applicator from Avery Dennison

06 Nov 2006

Avery Dennison Printer Systems has launched a new label applicator that can be optionally equipped to withstand direct water washdowns. The ALS 206 securely applies preprinted product ID labels in widths up to 6.4 inches (160 mm) to targeted items, including cartons and boxes. It has a die-cast, all-metal construction and a corrosion-resistant cabinet for reliable operation in demanding industrial environments, and is designed to prevent ingress of dust and withstand washdown jets from any direction.

Equipped with advanced electronics and dual precision stepper motors for label placement to an accuracy of +/- 0.5 mm, it is controlled directly or from a remote PLC via serial, parallel, wireless, Ethernet or software interfaces.

First successful autumn Mount Everest summit in four years and several world records for The North Face athletes

06 Nov 2006

The North Face athletes, Kit DesLauriers and Jimmy Chin, have successfully summited Mount Everest. This is the first successful autumn attempt in four years. The expedition, which was DesLauriers' first Everest summit and Chin's third, marked out DesLauriers as the first person to successfully ski all seven summits and the first American and woman to ski from the Everest summit.

Tycoon Holdings launches a signature Everlast work-boot line

06 Nov 2006

Tycoon Holdings International has launched a signature work-boot line by Everlast, featuring rich leathers and unique fashion details combined with high performance rugged work and safety attributes such as steel-toed options. The line was debuted at the "Pretty Boy" Floyd Mayweather and Carlos Baldomir boxing match in Las Vegas prior to release to retailers, with Tycoon Holdings along with TRU'dat' Entertainment sponsoring the fight.

The first style from the Rugged Boot line, the TRU'dat' boot, is a premium quality leather in a range of colours.

New Zealand textile design lab opens doors to industry

07 Nov 2006

Auckland University of Technology's School of Art & Design has received a commitment of NZ$1.3 million ($871,888) in funding from the government for a new design laboratory. Launched 6th November, the laboratory offers access to the latest print and knit technologies and provides regular industry training. Fashion and textiles companies will also be able to make use of the laboratory to develop samples or small runs of knitwear or printed fabrics.

The textile laboratory has already held the first of its workshops, with the knitwear and textile companies that attended given information on design training opportunities and hands-on access to some of the world's most advanced knit equipment, including whole garment knit technology from Shima Seiki. None of the attendees had used the technology before but, however, five companies said that following the training, they intended to use it in the future.

Structural changes over the past 20 years have seen the New Zealand fashion and textile sector shrinking or closing down in the face of reduced tariff protection. Whole garment technology, which is not currently widely used in the country, could provide the local market with increased efficiencies and competitiveness.

Nahar's second quarter profits up 46.65%

07 Nov 2006

India's integrated textile company Nahar Industrial Enterprises Ltd. (NIEL), has posted a profit increase of 46.65% for the second quarter and a revenue growth of 35.17 %.

In light of opportunities available to the sector, the company is undertaking capital expenditure of Rs 814 crores ($181.6 million) to increase its textile capacity and reduce power costs by 2008. It expects that the same growth rate will be maintained following the proposed expenditure.

In order to capitalise on the rapidly growing retail sector, NIEL is floating a wholly owned subsidiary, Nahar Retail Limited, which will primarily look after the NIEL garment manufacturing and retailing business. The company is further increasing its retail presence and is planning to open 250 exclusive franchise outlets by the end of March 2007, with a target of 1000 outlets across India by March 2010.

Ted Baker opens first Dubai store in partnership with RSH

07 Nov 2006

British lifestyle brand Ted Baker opened its first store in Dubai at the beginning of November, showcasing a wide selection of its menswear, and womenswear collections. The company is working with local partner RSH Limited, as is planning to open a further 19 stores in the Middle East.

The new Ted Baker store features a collection of trend-led accessories for men and women in high quality fabrics and Italian leathers, including bags, belts, hats, scarves, gloves and cufflinks.

True Religion signs licensing agreements for footwear and headwear

08 Nov 2006

True Religion Apparel, Inc. has signed its first-ever licensing agreements for True Religion Brand Jeans branded lifestyle products, including footwear, headwear, scarves and gloves.

Under an exclusive agreement, GMI Corporation has licensed the worldwide rights to manufacture and sell True Religion branded men's and women's shoes, sneakers and boots, and adult and children's sandals. Distributing throughout Europe, Asia-Pacific and the United States, GMI plans to launch the True Religion Brand Jeans footwear line at the WSA footwear and MAGIC apparel shows in Las Vegas in February 2007, and is expected to begin shipping to retailers in autumn 2007.

True Religion has also selected Paramount Apparel International, Inc., to design, develop and market the company's original branded headwear, scarves and gloves worldwide under an exclusive agreement. Paramount also plans to launch the new True Religion Brand Jeans programme at MAGIC in February 2007 and begin delivering to retailers in the second quarter of 2007.

Improved Q3 performance at Big 5 Sporting Goods

08 Nov 2006

Athletic shoes, apparel and accessories and outdoor equipment retailer Big 5 Sporting Goods Corporation has reported improved financial results for its third quarter ended October 1.

Net sales increased $16.4 million, or 7.9%, to $223.3 million compared with $206.8 million for the third quarter of fiscal 2005. Same store sales increased 3.8% for the third quarter, representing the company's 43rd consecutive quarter of positive same store sales comparisons.

Gross profit increased 5.6% to $77.7 million from $73.5 million in the third quarter of the prior year. Net income increased to $7.8 million from $7.2 million for the third quarter of 2005.

For the thirty-nine week period ended October 1, net sales increased $47.2 million, or 7.9%, to $642.3 million from $595.1 million in the same period last year. Net income was $21.2 million compared with $19.8 million in the same period last year.

Gerber Technology assumes direct distribution in Spain

08 Nov 2006

US-based manufacturer of integrated software and hardware automation systems Gerber Technology has acquired selected assets of its distributor Rapida Sistemas Integrales, enabling direct operations in Spain with the opening of a new head office in Barcelona. With additional company resources and satellite offices around the country, this move strengthens the company's ability to deliver enhanced service and support to the local market.

Vice president, global sales, Sam Simpson said, "Europe remains an important and growing market for Gerber Technology. Spain is a strategic market with strong apparel brands and a rapidly growing industrial segment."

Further decline at Rocky Brands in Q3

08 Nov 2006

Footwear and apparel company Rocky Brands, Inc. has posted a decline in net sales for its third quarter ended September 30.

Net sales decreased 17% to $78.1 million compared with $94.1 million for the corresponding period a year ago. The decrease in sales has been attributed to weaker than expected results in outdoor footwear and apparel, a slowdown in its sales of western footwear, and a decline in footwear sales to the military.

Net income was $4.2 million versus net income of $6.5 million and gross profit was $32.1 million, compared with $34.1 million for the same period last year.

New footwear range from Berghaus

08 Nov 2006

British outdoor brand Berghaus has unveiled its latest footwear collection for spring/summer 2007.

The company has developed a sports-derived last for the range which combines the traits of a running shoe with the additional support required for rugged terrain. The innovations were led by head of footwear Martin Jones, who has represented the UK in road, track, cross country and mountain running and won the World Mountain Running Championship in 1992 and 1993.

Properties of the new footwear include the EHS ergonomic holding system which allows lacing to hold the foot to the platform, reducing foot-roll and improving comfort and grip by distributing the closure tension from the laces. The pressure distribution plate is designed to mirror the strike pattern of the foot, protecting vulnerable areas such as the heel bone and metatarsal heads.

It also features new low profile protection, which has been directly moulded to the upper, protecting the shoe's upper and helping to prevent injury on the sides of the foot. It is placed only where needed so that no unnecessary weight is added. Phobic technology uses open cell foam and direct moulding to expel moisture from the shoe while maintaining breathability.

The North Face opens new store in Dublin

08 Nov 2006

Outdoor apparel and equipment supplier The North Face has opened a new store in Dublin, its first retail store in Ireland. The opening marks the company's twenty-fifth retail store in Europe.

The 124 m² store has been styled by Italian design firm Brombini & Saccardo. Product highlights combine light materials and recent technologies, such as Polartec Power Shield and Gore DryLoft technology in outerwear, HyVent materials in Prodigy, X-Static textile fibres in Tekware, BOA lacing system in footwear and E-VAP technology in backpacks.

Trading between Uzbekistan and Pakistan up 10.7%

08 Nov 2006

Bilateral trade between Uzbekistan and Pakistan increased by 10.7% during 2005, with textiles and leather amongst the main import and export items.

Odil Guraev, Uzbekistan's deputy minister of foreign economic relation investment, said that GDP growth in Uzbekistan was over 7%, with the first nine months of this year showing a GDP growth of 7.3%. This includes a 10.2% growth in industrial production and 7.1% in agricultural production.

LaCrosse launches safety apparel with precision fit features

08 Nov 2006

LaCrosse Footwear, Inc., provider of branded work and outdoor footwear, has launched its new waterproof Hi-Vis safety apparel series featuring LaCrosse's Precision Fit Technology (PFT).

PFT is overbuilt with fit features to increase the user's range of motion in specific areas, such as shoulder fit, head movement with hood and collar, elbow and knee gussets, sleeve length, pocket locations, and zip placement. The new series features 3M Scotchlite reflective material tape and heavy-duty Hi-Vis fabric.

Delta Apparel sales increase to a record $62.7 million

09 Nov 2006

Delta Apparel Inc.'s net sales for the three months ended September 2006 increased 3.5% to a fiscal first quarter record of $62.7 million compared with $60.6 million in last year's first quarter. Gross margins for the quarter fell to 27.7%, compared with 30.9% in the same period last year, and net income reached $2.2 million compared with $3.4 million.

The activewear segment, which includes the Delta Apparel business, reported sales of $30.3 million for the three months ended September - a 2.6% increase on the same quarter last year. The rise in sales was primarily due to an increase in private label volume, offset partially by lower prices across the basic tee shirt categories. More expensive raw material prices and higher transportation costs, offset partially by improved manufacturing efficiencies, drove a decrease in operating income to $0.2 million compared with $2.1 million in the corresponding 2005 quarter.

Pakistan and Vietnam call for increased bilateral trade

09 Nov 2006

Vietnam's deputy minister of trade, Do Nhu Dinh, and Pakistani businesses are calling for increased trade between their two countries. Do Nhu Dinh voiced concerns about the current low volume of bilateral trade despite good relationships, backed by the president of

Lahore chambers, Shahid Hassan Sheikh, who called for more sector-specific efforts. He said that Vietnam's market offers huge potential for a wide range of sectors in Pakistan, including cotton, raw hides and skins, knit fabrics and sports goods.

Gerber Technology offers its fashion lifecycle management solution

10 Nov 2006

Gerber Technology is making its Fashion Lifecycle Management (FLM) suite generally available. The suite provides global, real-time visibility and control throughout the entire product development and lifecycle management processes.

FLM combines the company's WebPDM product data management solution with robust, scaleable enterprise-wide workflow engine and collaboration tools. Built to meet the unique requirements of the fashion sector, it integrates design, product data management and information to provide a collaborative framework for the industry's geographically dispersed operations and vendors. Users can identify and eliminate tasks that fail to add value, immediately see what part of the process needs attention, and streamline product lifecycles to reduce costs and increase speed to market.

Rhodia to present paper on performance benefits of solventless silicone coating

10 Nov 2006

Silicone producer Rhodia Silicones' textile coating technical manager, Bertrand Bordes, will present a paper at the Textile Coating and Laminating Conference in Barcelona on November 29th. The paper will discuss how the use of solvent-free silicone coating technology leads to better performance at low coat weights due to transfer coating.

Increasing pressure for both more economical and durable products has driven development of reliable, quality coatings at low coat weights using solventless products. Rhodia Silicones has demonstrated that fabrics can be reproducibly coated at 15 to 20g/m2 with a 100% solids silicone elastomer, with very good performance characteristics, with the paper addressing the coating technique and coated fabric performance.

Reebok and Philadelphia Eagles football star launch signature apparel collection

10 Nov 2006

Reebok, exclusive on-field and sideline apparel provider for the US's National Football League (NFL), has partnered with Philadelphia Eagles All-Pro quarterback Donovan McNabb to create the Super Five apparel collection. The collection is the brand's first signature men's lifestyle apparel line created for an NFL player, and includes t-shirts, fleece tops and bottoms and knit sweaters.

NGC leads educational session at Apparel Magazine's 2006 tech conference

10 Nov 2006

US company New Generation Computing (NGC) has led an educational session at Apparel Magazine's 2006 Tech Conference. Hosted by the Fashion Institute of Technology, the two-day conference took place in New York City, November 7-9.

The session, led by NGC's vice president of sales, Fred Isenberg, focused on the challenges and opportunities faced by today's apparel and sewn products companies in design, product development, sourcing and inbound logistics. It explored how today's advanced web IT solutions can help reduce costs, eliminate costly errors, improve efficiency and improve speed to market.

The conference featured keynote speakers and a variety of educational sessions on topics including design and product development; manufacturing; information technology; sourcing, logistics and transportation; and retailing.

Textiles, garments and leather goods included in India-Italy plans for stronger commercial links

10 Nov 2006

Greater efforts to boost bilateral trade and investment were agreed at the recent session of the India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation, with both countries agreeing to focus on building stronger commercial links in sectors including textiles, garments and leather goods.

Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of Commerce and Industry, who was on an official visit to Italy from 5-8 November 2006, called on the President of Italy, Mr. Giorgio Napolitano, on Tuesday, in Rome. The Italian Minister for International Trade Mrs. Emma Bonino and the President of the Confederation of Italian Industry (Confindustria) Mr. Luca Cordeo di Montezemolo were present at the meeting. 10 CEOs of top Indian companies were also present at the meeting.

President Napolitano spoke of bilateral relations that are extremely warm. Shri Kamal Nath briefed the Italian Head of State about the positive economic scenario in India and opportunities for deepening bilateral economic

engagement between India and Italy. The scope for investments in small- and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) was specially emphasised.

Meanwhile, in a major initiative, the 17th session of the India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation, co-chaired by Shri Kamal Nath and his Italian counterpart Ms. Bonino on Monday, 6th November, agreed to focus efforts at building stronger commercial links in the textile, clothing, leather goods, auto components, gems & jewellery sectors, combining Italian strengths in design and technology with India's manufacturing competencies and human resource skills.

Improved Q2 results at Polo Ralph Lauren

10 Nov 2006

Polo Ralph Lauren Corporation reported net income of $137 million for the second quarter of fiscal 2007 compared with net income of $104 million for the second quarter of 2006, an approximate 32% increase.
Net revenues for the second quarter increased by 14% to $1.17 billion, compared with $1.03 billion in the second quarter last year. Excluding the impact of the Polo Jeans acquisition, net revenues increased 9%.

First half net revenues increased by 19% to $2.12 billion, compared with $1.78 billion last year. Excluding the impact of the Polo Jeans and footwear acquisitions, net revenues increased 13%. For the first half, net income was $217 million compared with $155 million, a 40% increase.

The company hopes that the proposed acquisition of Kellwood's New Campaign, Inc. business, for the manufacturing and distribution of men's and women's belts and other small leather goods will improve future earnings.

Berghaus technologies for spring/summer

10 Nov 2006

British outdoor brand Berghaus has unveiled a series of footwear technological advances for the spring/summer 2007 season.

Its Opti Stud provides special grip on rough terrain, helping to combat the problem of studs distorting on impact by linking high force studs to smaller force studs with support bars. This improves grip by optimising pressure through the larger volume of stud. There are three variations of Opti Stud – for trekking, running and multi-function environments.

The Alpha rubber is a new compound that provides grip, durability and ground slip resistance.
The company has also developed a new sports-derived last to combine running shoe traits with the additional support needed for rugged terrain. The design offers active toe spring, room around the toes and takes pressure away from the Achilles tendon due to improved hold around the back of the foot.

The company has used its Evabreathe matrix foam technology, as used in its award-winning rucksacks, for its new footwear range which gives added support and breathability.

New Dr Mauch medicated shoes

10 Nov 2006

Four companies, from Germany, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Pakistan and Canada recently met together in Lahore to agree a strategy for manufacturing Pakistan's first range of medicated leather shoes.

Senator Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry of K. Shoes told Leatherbiz that the Gulf Footwear Company of Dubai and Casa Everz GMBH Pakistan of Germany have signed an MoU to forge a joint venture for the production of the shoes at K Shoes' state-of-the-art facility in Lahore.

The Initial production target is 100,000 pairs and the shoes will be marketed by Bata Pakistan under the brand-name "Dr Mauch".

The two companies were represented by Manfred Everz and Bahadu Virani, while Bata Pakistan was represented by its managing director Anthony Carnecky and Senator Zafar Iqbal represented K. Shoes.

These medicated shoes are said to increase the circulation of blood in the body and could be particularly beneficial for cardiac and blood pressure patients.

Techtextil and TensiNet invite entries to ninth student competition

10 Nov 2006

The TensiNet association and trade fair for technical textiles and nonwovens, Techtextil, have launched the ninth competition for students on the subject of 'Textile Structures for New Building'. It aims to reveal innovative ideas and problem solutions relating to the use of textiles or textile-reinforced materials in buildings, which have a good chance of being implemented.

The scientific director of the competition is Professor Werner Sobek, Institute for Lightweight Structures and Conceptual Design (ILEK), University of Stuttgart.

An additional theme, 'Suitability for re-use and recycling' has also been included.
The international jury judging the competition will include

well-known representatives from the training sector, architects (textile building) and engineers.

Prize money of €8,000 has been provided by TensiNet and prizes will be awarded at Techtextil in Frankfurt am Main, June 11, 2007.