Business Week
25 Dec - 31 Dec

Greater Chinese and Indian participation expected at Motexha

27 Dec 2006

According to organisers, an increased number of Indian and Chinese manufacturers are expected to participate at the textiles, garments, leather & fashion accessories trade show Motexha 2007, to be held in Dubai, on March 19-21, 2007.

The number of Chinese traders at Motexha 2006 increased by 22% compared with the prior year and increased government funding for the Indian textile sector is likely to lead to greater participation from Indian companies.

Products on show will include children's and baby wear; international brands & franchises; ladies' & men's ready-to-wear; sportswear; textiles & fabrics; lingerie; and footwear.

More than 250 companies from 32 countries attended Motexha 2006, and the 2007 event is set to exceed this figure. Bookings are now being taken.

Garment and textiles top Vietnamese exports

27 Dec 2006

Vietnam's garment and textile sector remained the country's leading export sector in 2006, generating turnover of $5.9 billion—an increase of 22% compared with 2005. The USA remained the largest importer, followed by the EU and Japan.

Furthermore, in spite of the anti-dumping tariffs imposed by the EU on Vietnamese footwear, export turnover from Vietnam's footwear sector reached a record $39.5 billion in 2006. This equates to a 22% increase compared with 2005.

Graduates present collections at 'The Asylum' show

27 Dec 2006

London College of Fashion's MA Fashion Design and Technology graduates are to showcase their collections on the catwalk for the first time at the Royal Academy of Arts, on January 18.

The show, entitled 'The Asylum', will combine fashion, music and performance.

Eurobike Demo Day debut in Austria

28 Dec 2006

Visitors will be able to test new bicycle models, see the latest products and innovations and attend an alpine party at the first Eurobike Demo Day in Eichenburg, Austria. The event will take place August 29, one day before the Eurobike International Trade Exhibition opens (August 30 - September 2).

Dystar appoints new CEO and president

28 Dec 2006

German supplier of dyes, auxiliaries and services for the textile and leather industries Dystar has appointed Mark Bye has as president and chief executive officer (CEO), effective January 1. He will replace Phil Norment and Dr Rudolf Strobl of Platinum Equity—Dystar's parent company—who are currently DyStar's CEO and deputy CEO respectively.

Most recently Mr Bye was group vice president Gases and Equipment at US-based company Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.

SATRA presents landmark safety certificate

28 Dec 2006

UK-based testing centre SATRA has presented its 3000th EC-type safety examination certificate to Magnum—a uniform and work safety brand owned by Hi-Tec Sports. The company has already had more than 20 styles of safety and occupational footwear certificated by SATRA and received the landmark certification for three styles in its Stealth safety footwear range.

These are products aimed at the uniform market, such as for police, ambulance and military, and other sectors where comfort and performance are of equal importance.

An EC Type Examination Certificate, for Personal

Protective Equipment (PPE), is issued by a Notified Body, such as SATRA, as a statement that the products covered are considered to meet the essential health and safety requirements of European Directive 89/686/EEC (the PPE Directive).

Certification is determined through performance testing and an assessment of technical documentation associated with the product. Without a certificate no company can CE Mark its product and so cannot legally sell it in the European Union.

New deputy assistant secretary for Textiles and Apparel appointed

28 Dec 2006

Matt Priest has been named as US deputy assistant secretary for Textiles and Apparel. In his new role, Mr Priest will oversee programmes and strategies to improve the domestic and international competitiveness of the US fibre, textiles and apparel industries as well as chair the interagency Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

The deputy assistant secretary for Textiles and Apparel administers US textile quota agreements, formulates trade policy, performs research and analysis, compiles industry data, and promotes US trade events for an entire spectrum of textile and apparel goods.

Mr Priest currently serves as senior advisor to the assistant secretary for Import Administration at the Department of Commerce, where he advises on textile and trade issues.

ARS develops new technology for flame-resistant wool

29 Dec 2006

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is looking for a business partner to license a new product that can be applied to wool fabrics and wool-rich blends to make them more flame-resistant.

Adding flame and extreme heat resistance is of particular interest to the Department of Defense (DoD), which is seeking ways to have uniforms that are comfortable, washable and that will not melt and form hard beads that can drip into open wounds, exacerbating injuries the way polyester fabrics do.

Wool already has some natural resistance to burning, but the DoD would like to have even more flame retardancy in its uniforms.

Other potential uses include uniforms for people who are exposed to fire-hazardous situations, woollen underwear and sleepwear. Current technologies to add heat resistance employ metals or chemicals that are considered environmentally unfriendly.

In contrast, the new ARS technology was designed to be applied as a finish to ARS-developed enzyme-polished, machine-washable wool. The compound can be applied to yarn, fabric and finished garments, according to ARS research chemist Jeanette M. Cardamone, with the ARS Fats, Oils and Animal Coproducts Research Unit of the Eastern Regional Research Center, Wyndmoor, Penn. Cardamone developed the new technology.

ARS is the US Department of Agriculture's chief scientific research agency.

Toray Industries launches recycled nylon

29 Dec 2006

Japan-based manufacturer of synthetic fibres and textiles Toray Industries has launched a new product line of recycled fibres and fabrics called Recyclon. In addition to recycled polyester products, the company has introduced recycled nylon 6 fibres and a collection of new textiles based on these fibres.

Under this new process, Toray uses the off-spec yarn generated during its virgin nylon production to create post-industrial recycled content yarn.

“Through this recycled process, we utilise only 15% of the energy (BTUs) required during the production of virgin nylon fibres made from petroleum,” commented Kenny Gotcher of Toray. He also added that carbon dioxide emissions are reduced by 80%.

Nylon 6 is used in approximately 70% of all outerwear within the outdoor and snow sports markets. Toray’s newest development in nylon fibre manufacturing is anticipated to have a significant impact on the overall environmental footprint of apparel manufacturers around the world. Garments containing this fibre are set to be available to consumers as early as autumn 2007 and spring 2008.

In addition to material recycling, Toray is making progress in its development of a closed-loop chemical recycling process of nylon 6. The company expects to complete developments in chemical recycling in the near future.

European textile and clothing imports down 0.7% in 2005

29 Dec 2006

A report on trends in textile and clothing imports by the 15 EU member countries found that in 2005, textile and clothing imports declined by 0.7% to €66.3 billion. In

terms of volume imports amounted to 7.2 million tons, which, at 3.4% lower than in 2004, was a fall for the first time in ten years.

The report, compiled by market research and data company Research and Markets, said that competition among suppliers has intensified in recent years as trade liberalisation has progressed and import prices have dropped. Between 2000 and 2005 the average price of textile imports fell by 21%, whilst the price of clothing imports declined by 24%. In 2005, however, the price fell by only 1.2% in textiles and 0.1% in clothing.

Nonetheless, EU producers have found it difficult to match lower import prices in the domestic market, and at the same time, have found exports hampered by the continuing high value of the euro against the US dollar.

Wacker finances new silicone chemistry institute

29 Dec 2006

Germany-based manufacturer of hyperpure silicon and silicones Wacker Chemie AG is financing a new Institute of Silicon Chemistry within the faculty of chemistry at the Technical University of Munich. The new institute will come under the direction of the chair of Macromolecular Chemistry, which will in future carry the Wacker name. The chemicals group will fully finance the new institute for at least six years and has earmarked €6 million for this purpose, with the funds being used for research projects and grants, and for research and project-related purchases. Potential beneficiaries of institute grants will include some 50 doctoral candidates.

The Wacker chair and the new institute, which will open early in 2007, will be headed by Professor Bernhard Rieger, a world expert in macromolecular chemistry.

Surge in sports store sales

28 Nov 2006

The Monthly Retail Trade Survey, prepared by the US Census Bureau, has reported sales from sporting goods stores of $2.9 billion (preliminary) for September—up 22.7% from $2.37 billion in September 2005. This increase follows a 13.9% increase in August.
Sales for the first nine months reached $25.1 billion, up 14.2% on the comparable period in 2005.

Total sales for calendar year 2005 reached $31 billion, up 7.3% from 2004. The 2005 overall retail growth represented the strongest increase since the 8.4% gain of 1999.

USA finds unfair dumping of certain polyester staple fibre from China

29 Dec 2006

The US Commerce Department has announced its affirmative preliminary determination in the anti-dumping duty investigation of certain polyester staple fibre from the People's Republic of China.

Commerce determined that Chinese producers/exporters have sold polyester staple fibre in the United States at 4.39% to 44.3% less than normal value. As a result of this preliminary determination, Commerce will instruct US Customs and Border Protection to suspend liquidation of entries of subject merchandise and to collect a cash deposit or bond based on the preliminary rates.

Dak Americas LLC, Nan Ya Plastics Corporation America, and Wellman, Inc., are the petitioners in the investigation.

The merchandise subject to this proceeding is synthetic staple fibres, not carded, combed or otherwise processed for spinning, of polyesters measuring 3.3 decitex (3 denier, inclusive) or more in diameter. This merchandise is cut to lengths varying from one inch (25mm) to five inches (127mm). The subject merchandise may be coated, usually with silicon or other finishes, or not coated.