Business Week
08 Jan - 14 Jan

Improved financial results at Saks

08 Jan 2007

American retailer Saks Incorporated has reported that sales increased by 13% for the five weeks, ended December 30, compared with the five weeks ended December 31, 2005.

The best sales performances in December included women's shoes and handbags, women's apparel and classic sportswear, and men's clothing, accessories, and advanced sportswear.

Graphite Design launches new wood and iron shaft series

08 Jan 2007

California-based golf club shaft manufacturer, Graphite Design, has launched the new G-Tech combination-flex custom clubmaker series of wood and iron shafts.

The wood shafts are available in two models, regular/stiff and ladies/senior, with the clubmaker's trimming determining the specific flex. The iron shaft in the two models can be trimmed to fit any iron in the set eliminating the need to stock a different shaft for each club.

Graphite Design will officially unveil the new line during the 2007 PGA Merchandise Show, which will take place January 25-27 in Orlando, USA.

Eurozone clothing and footwear sales fall in December

08 Jan 2007

The Bloomberg Eurozone Retail Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) signalled sales increases in December in the euro retail area for the ninth consecutive month, however, the rate of increase was the weakest seen over this period.

The latest rise in month-on-month sales reflected a further strong increase in Germany and a more modest expansion in France, although sales growth eased in both countries. In Germany the index was 55.2, down from November's six-month high of 57.7, and in France it fell for the second month, to 52.4 from 53.5 in November. Growth in Germany and France contrasted with a drop in Italian sales, which fell from 48 in November to 46.9 in December—the fastest pace of decline for eight months.

The strongest growth in sales for December, compared with the same period a year ago, was in household goods, followed by food & drink. Clothing and footwear retailers saw sales fall sharply on a year earlier, which retailers attributed to unseasonably warm weather.

The monthly Bloomberg Eurozone Retail PMI report provides insights and data into the Eurozone retail sector based on input from retail executives in Germany, France and Italy.

Textiles to benefit from £3 million recycling investment

08 Jan 2007

The London Development Agency is investing £3 million in the recycling sector in London, through its 'Enhance business support programme'—a free service providing support and advice to London-based enterprises working in, or aspiring to join, the recycling, reprocessing and remanufacturing sectors.

The range of services it will offer has increased, with Enhance now supporting larger companies that are looking to expand their operations, as well as continuing to develop and assist small- and medium-sized enterprises and social enterprises working with textiles or other recyclable materials.

With 17 million tonnes of waste produced in London each year, the agency is hoping that the service will create another 20 new recycling-related businesses and 200 jobs in London over the next 18 months.

Aramark to be acquired

08 Jan 2007

US uniform and career apparel and food services company Aramark Corporation and RMK Acquisition Corporation have announced the commencement of financing transactions in connection with the anticipated acquisition of Aramark by an investor group.

The transactions include new senior secured credit facilities, comprising $3.66 billion of term loans and a $600 million revolving credit facility; and $2.270 billion of new senior and senior subordinated unsecured indebtedness, comprising senior fixed rate, senior floating rate and senior subordinated notes.

The acquisition will be effected by the merger of RMK Acquisition Corporation with Aramark.

Li Ning co-operates with CCTV

08 Jan 2007

Chinese sports brand Li Ning Company Limited has signed a cooperation agreement with CCTV National Sports TV Channel under which all of the TV channel's presenters and reporters will wear the company's Li-Ning and Agile apparel, footwear and accessories, as of January 1. This includes the presenters on all the programmes broadcast on the Olympic Channel, which will be aired during the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The agreement will run until December 31, 2008.

Reebok provides performance apparel for US Army All-American Bowl

08 Jan 2007

Reebok served as the official provider of performance apparel for the 2007 US Army All-American Bowl, held on January 6. Reebok supplied performance wear, practice wear, headwear, gloves and cleated footwear for all players and coaches taking part in the game.

The company also sponsored the US Army National Combine and provided footwear, performance and training apparel and gloves for over 500 high school athletes who were evaluated during the two-day process.

Players also wore a range of NFL equipment performance apparel both in practice and during games including the company's Triple Impact shirts and shorts and compression and Loose Glide products. Its Speed Grip Griptonite Glove, which features grip enhancing polymeric material, was also worn by players.

Since 2001, the US Army All-American Bowl has featured the nation's top 80 high school football athletes, which provides the US Army All-Americans with a platform to compete against America's best athletes. Reebok athletes who have participated in the US Army All-American Bowl and have gone on to play in the NFL include Kevin Jones, Kamerion Wimbley and Vince Young, who was selected as the game's Most Valuable Player in 2002.

P2i launches water-repellent coating for sports footwear

09 Jan 2007

New technology from UK-based development company P2i Ltd., designed to protect soldiers from chemical attack, is to be used in the production of athletic footwear for added water repellency. Known as ion mask, the process applies a thin protective layer over the surface of the shoe using an ionised gas or 'plasma'. The treatment coats both the outside and inside of the shoe and can be used for shoes containing both synthetic materials and leather.

The coating is said to allow the foot to breathe whilst preventing water from entering the shoe. Unlike conventional waterproof treatments that require additional layers to be sewn into the shoe—which add weight and can result in poor fit—the ion mask treatment is applied after the shoe has been manufactured and does not compromise the fit or weight of the shoe. It is also said to be highly abrasion resistant.

The company is currently working with testing centre SATRA to define all of the properties of ion mask enhancement on a variety of footwear and footwear fabrics to highlight the benefits of the new technology.

P2i was established in 2004 to commercialise liquid-repellent treatments developed by the UK's Ministry of Defence.

Athletic footwear prices rise in 2006

09 Jan 2007

According to preliminary data released by the US National Sporting Goods Association (NGSA), the average price point for athletic footwear rose by 3.4% in 2006. The report shows that the average price increased to $42.16 compared with $40.78 in 2005. In 2005, the average price point rose by 2.3% from $39.87 in 2004.

Males aged 18-24 paid the most for athletic footwear at $61.82. Among females of the same age, the highest average price point was $46.39. The 65+ group's average price point was $46.24.

New self-cleaning, clean-smelling fabrics

09 Jan 2007

According to reports, the US Air Force has developed a new coating technology to make fabrics water and stain repellent as well as anti-bacterial. Microwaves are used to fix microscopic nanoparticles to clothing fibres.

Chemical properties can then be added for waterproofing and anti-bacterial properties. The coating process is apparently able to kill harmful bacteria and even anthrax and, when the efficacy of the coating wears off, the fabric can be restored. UK-based company Alexium has been licensed to develop the technology for sportswear and other civilian applications.

EDANA and BCH to run further training courses in India

09 Jan 2007

Following the success of its first training courses on nonwovens and on absorbent hygiene products in India last November, EDANA (European Disposables and Nonwovens Association), in partnership with BCH, an Indian business support organisation for the nonwovens and technical textiles sector, plans to run the courses again this autumn. The courses will be held in Delhi. According to an EDANA statement, the potential for nonwoven products in India's domestic market is significant and the number of nonwoven applications is already on the rise.

The training programme marks the beginning of a series of courses that EDANA will offer in India in partnership with BCH. EDANA has also committed itself to assisting in the set up of a nonwovens platform to support local and international companies looking to develop the market in India.

Eschler unveils summer 2008 collection

09 Jan 2007

As part of its summer 2008 collection, Swiss knitwear company Christian Eschler is launching a range of light and robust knits with carbon fibres that are said to provide a permanent anti-bacterial effect. The knits, with elastane, can be used for base layer garments, and for trousers and shorts for outdoor and indoor sports.
The company is also extending its Spacerknit fabric line for summer 2008, for jackets, vests and technical sweatshirts. The fabrics are said to be permanently water-repellent, wind-protective, highly breathable and extremely robust as a result of their dense knit construction.

Polo Ralph Lauren to form new group

09 Jan 2007

Polo Ralph Lauren Corporation is creating a new group named Global Brand Concepts (GBC), which will develop new lifestyle brands for specialty and department stores.

GBC will work in partnership with stores looking for individuality and niche opportunities in the marketplace, providing design, operations, marketing, merchandising and advertising expertise.

Polymer Group to close US plants

09 Jan 2007

Polymer Group, Inc. is to consolidate its manufacturing in the USA in order to lower operating costs and improve performance. As a result of this the company will close its Rogers, Arkansas and Gainesville, Georgia plants, and transfer portions of the business to other locations in North America and Asia. Operations at the two plants are expected to be phased out by the middle of this year.

The consolidation efforts, which should be complete by the end of the third quarter of fiscal 2007, are expected to result in improved profitability and a more efficient manufacturing cost structure, with cash fixed costs expected to be reduced by approximately $4 million and $6 million on an annual basis. The company also anticipates proceeds of approximately $4.5 million to $6 million from the sale of the facilities and equipment that will be closed.

Following the closure of the two plants, the company will operate five nonwovens plants in the USA.

OTA welcomes increased organic agriculture production in the USA

09 Jan 2007

More than one million new acres were devoted to organic agriculture production in the USA in 2005, according to the latest statistics from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). The findings were welcomed by the country's Organic Trade Association (OTA); however, it said that the government still needs to do more to encourage farmers to switch to organic production.

USDA's Economic Research Service reported there were at least 8,445 certified organic farms in the United States in 2005, up from 8,035 in 2003. ERS data for 2005 reported 1,722,565 acres in organic cropland (including organic cotton production) and an additional 2.281,408 acres in pasture and rangeland.

Fire shuts down Trevira fibre spinning mill

09 Jan 2007

A fire at the end of December in the spinning mill of the fibre unit at the Bobingen plant of Trevira GmbH in Germany has resulted in the whole staple fibre section being shut down. The production of flame retardant fibres and other specialty fibres, as well as filament production, was not affected.

Trevira has advised affected customers about possible shortfalls in supply and is working to manage the situation as best possible. A reconstruction timetable in

the affected plant is already in place.

New director at Rohm and Haas

10 Jan 2007

Philadelphia-based specialty materials manufacturer Rohm and Haas Company has named Andrew Sandifer as director, Investor Relations. He succeeds Gary O'Brien, who has been appointed chief financial officer for the company's newly- formed Specialty Materials Group.

New head of Women's Fitness at Nike

10 Jan 2007

Apparel executive Heidi O'Neill has been appointed as head of Nike's new global Women's Fitness business for the footwear, apparel and equipment segments. She will report to Trevor Edwards, vice president of Global Brand and Category Management.

Ms O'Neill joined Nike in 1998 as a marketing director for apparel and her most recent role was vice president of US apparel. Prior to joining the company, she served as marketing director for the Dockers brand at Levi Strauss & Co.

In partnership with global athletes such as Maria Sharapova, the company has been focusing on women's fitness, emphasising running, walking, cardio, yoga and fitness dance.

Carvico launches new (r)evolution fabric

10 Jan 2007

Italian warp-knitted fabric manufacturer Carvico has launched a new fabric, (r)evolution, designed to be used for sports, fitness and leisurewear.

The fabric is said to offer freedom of movement and a high level of muscular compression. It is reportedly 50% thinner than standard equivalent fabrics and provides a 'second skin' fit. The fabric stretches equally in terms of width and length and gives a high piling resistance. It is also chlorine resistant thanks to the Xtra-Life Lycra used in combination with the new fabric structure.

According to Carvico, (r)evolution has undergone a series of tests such as the Sand test which evaluates the number of sand particles that remain trapped in the fabric fibres after 'intense' use of a swimsuit—in which the fabric scored five out of five—and the Curling test, which examines the extent to which the fabric curls under three different conditions, i.e. flat, in tension and hanging—in which it scored highly in all three categories.

Guess? acquires European licensee

10 Jan 2007

American designer of apparel, accessories and related products Guess?, Inc. has acquired 75% of the equity interest of Focus Europe S.r.l., including the leases and assets of four Guess by Marciano retail stores in Italy through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Guess Europe, B.V. Over the past ten years, Italy-based Focus has served as the licensee, manufacturer and distributor of the Guess by Marciano contemporary line for women and men in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. The stores included in the acquisition are located in Rome, Bologna, Cagliari and Serravalle.

The acquisition is part of the company's strategy to consolidate and expand its wholesale and retail enterprises. According to chief executive officer at Guess?, Paul Marciano, "We are confident that the combination of the manufacture and distribution of all our European apparel lines, and the increased distribution of Guess? handbags, footwear and other accessories under one umbrella, provides a powerful opportunity to expand our wholesale and retail operations in our fastest growing region. We believe these businesses combined have the potential to reach $600 million to $800 million in revenues in the next three to five years."

Dalutex looks to expand overseas business

10 Jan 2007

Brazilian garment manufacturer Dalutex aims to increase its foreign sales in 2007. Its main export destination is currently with neighbouring countries such as Argentina, which absorbs between 50% and 60% of exports from São Paulo. Other export destinations include the USA, Canada, Mexico, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and South Africa.

The company's export manager Alexandre Fischer commented, "Our prices cannot compete with the Chinese, but the finishing and the top quality raw materials are our differences." He added that the company's clients are able to choose the print and colour when they order and that the company can also supply small quantities.

The company produces 170 tonnes of fabric per month, and employs 120 staff.

Lanxess completes sale of TPC business

10 Jan 2007

German chemicals group Lanxess has completed the sale of its Textile Processing Chemicals (TPC) business. All the activities of the business unit outside of North

America have now been acquired by Dutch investor Egeria. The transfer of the key elements of the sale were completed as of January 1, and local transfer of the remaining activities outside of North America will take place during the first half of this year as planned.

Eleksen introduces computer display screens for bags and clothing

10 Jan 2007

Developer and manufacturer of smart fabric touchpads for consumer electronics, Eleksen Group plc, has launched a 'Wearable Display Module' (WDM) for Microsoft Windows SideShow—a computer auxiliary display product for integration into soft goods such as bags, backpacks and clothing.

According to the company, the WDM provides the first 'in-bag screen' for any computer electronics product. It enables the user to connect their carry cases directly to their computer and view data such as emails and appointments from the bag's exterior, without needing to open it or access the Windows Vista-based device.

Delta Apparel reduces its Q2 forecast

10 Jan 2007

US-based manufacturer and distributor of branded and private label activewear apparel, Delta Apparel, has lowered its expectations for second quarter revenues, with the new figure expected to be between $72 million and $73 million compared with the previous forecast of $74 million to $78 million. For the full fiscal year, the company is lowering its sales expectations to between $315 million and $330 million from its prior guidance of $325 million to $340 million.

According to the company, second quarter performance was impacted by slower than projected sales in its non-branded activewear business, which failed to meet projected targets by approximately $5 million.

Adidas signs agreement with Mario Ancic

10 Jan 2007

Germany-based sports brand adidas and Croatian tennis player Mario Ancic, have entered into a long-term partnership agreement. The 22-year-old, who is currently ranked ninth in the Indesit ATP ranking, will promote the new adidas Classic Polo apparel range while competing in the lightweight adidas Feather shoe.

Mr Ancic has already reached one Grand Slam semi final, and claimed three ATP singles titles and four ATP doubles titles. He also helped his country win its first ever Davis Cup title in 2005 and its first ARAG ATP World Team Championship title in 2006.

ECCO extends contract with Colin Montgomerie

10 Jan 2007

Danish shoemaker ECCO has extended its endorsement agreement with international golfer Colin Montgomerie.

Under the terms of the multi-year agreement, Mr Montgomerie will wear Ecco golf shoes during all on-course activities, appear at its functions and participate in product development. The Scottish player will also wear the company's logo on the sleeve of his golf shirt.

Currently ranked number 17 in the world golf rankings, he has registered more than 40 professional wins on five continents, most recently winning the 2006 UBS Hong Kong Open. He was also selected to play in his eighth Ryder Cup in 2006, where he helped the European team achieve its third consecutive victory.

ASTM International launches new student initiative

11 Jan 2007

Voluntary standards development organisation ASTM International is marking 2007 as the 'Year of the Student' which aims to build greater awareness and involvement in standardisation among students and educators worldwide.

The campaign includes:

• New product offerings to help professors incorporate ASTM standards into their course curricula
• The rollout of a newly-designed ASTM Campus, a focused area of the ASTM website for students and professors;
• College and university campus visits and training sessions by ASTM members and staff;
• Participation in the 2007 Washington Internships for Students of Engineering (WISE) Programme;
• The continued growth and promotion of Student Membership in ASTM International.

Avery Dennison and Vue Technology in marketing alliance

11 Jan 2007

US-based information management and brand identification products company Avery Dennison Retail Information Services (RIS) and Vue Technology are to join forces in marketing cost-efficient item-level RFID solutions to apparel, footwear and consumer goods

retailers.

Under the agreement, Avery Dennison RIS will jointly market its line of item-level RFID tags and labels, label printers and printing software with Vue Technology's RFID infrastructure, networking and software products.

The alliance will equip retailers with RFID solutions that are designed to provide both front and back room store execution benefits, including reduced out-of-stock situations, increased efficiency, and decreased labour costs.

The combined product offering is aimed to help to make RFID solutions affordable for companies that may have previously found them too expensive. Vue Technology's patented RF networking technology reduces conventional infrastructure costs by allowing standard RFID readers to network across thousands of antennae.

Brooks Sports hires two new executives

11 Jan 2007

US-based designer of performance footwear, apparel and accessories for running Brooks Sports, Inc. has named David Bohan executive vice president and COO and Sydney Johnson-Gorrell as vice president of Human Resources.

Mr Bohan first joined the company in June 2001 but left in 2005 to serve as COO/CFO at Seattle-based sports gear company C.C. Filson.

A subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway Inc., Brooks was founded in 1914 and is headquartered in Bothell, Washington.

Lightweight down from Eddie Bauer for warmer weather

11 Jan 2007

A new lightweight down suitable for warmer weather conditions has been introduced by Washington-based casual sportswear and outdoor accessories retailer Eddie Bauer.

Its lightweight down women's collection offers water-repellency, diamond quilting and 650-fill power down. The collection using ultra-light down includes a vest, shirt jacket and car coat and in form-flattering and easy-to-wear styles.

Cherokee licenses S.A.C.I. Falabella in Chile

11 Jan 2007

US-based licensor and brand management company Cherokee Inc. has entered into an international licensing agreement for its Cherokee brand with Chilean retailer and owner of Tottus Hypermarket Stores, S.A.C.I. Falabella . The multi-year agreement includes clothing, footwear and accessories.

Director of Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute receives ASTM award

11 Jan 2007

Standards agency ASTM's Committee FO8 on sports equipment and facilities has bestowed the ASTM International William F. Hulse Memorial Award on Randy Swart, director of the Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute in Virginia, USA.

The committee honoured Mr Swart for his "outstanding contributions to the development, promotion and use of voluntary full consensus standards that enhance safety in sports and recreation".

Mr Swart has been director of the Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute since 1989—a non-profit organisation that serves as a consumer advocacy programme and a technical resource for bicycle helmet information.

Tween Brands reduces Q4 forecast

11 Jan 2007

Based on net sales results for the ten-week period ending in the first week of January, Ohio-based specialty retailer of sportswear for 'tweens' (aged 7 to 14) Tween Brands Inc. is now expecting a comparable store sales increase for the fourth quarter ending beginning of February of 3%-4%, compared with the mid single digit increase previously anticipated.

The company said that it has revised its outlook due to flat December comparable store sales and lower merchandise margins at its Limited Too outlets, reflecting a higher level of markdowns made necessary to clear seasonal apparel from inventory. The company added that its Justice division—which sells sports and casual wear for girls—is expected to achieve operating results for the fourth quarter in line with its earlier estimates, including a comparable store sales increase of 20% or better.

Spentex merges with Indo Rama Textiles

12 Jan 2007

Indian textile company Spentex Industries has completed its merger with Indo Rama Textiles. This follows the acquisition of a 49.03% stake in Indo Rama Textiles by Spentex in May last year which took its total equity holding in Indo Rama Textile to 84.02%. The merger has been approved by the Delhi High Court.

Spentex has eight manufacturing plants—six in India and two in Uzbekistan. The company has a production capacity of 350,000 spindles in India and 220,000 in Uzbekistan, along with 236 airjet weaving looms. It has recently expanded the capacity of its Baramati and Sholapur plants.

Yue Yuen reports December sales

12 Jan 2007

The world's largest manufacturer of athletic and casual footwear, Hong Kong-based Yue Yuen Industrial (Holdings) Limited, has reported net revenues of $3.36 million for December. Net sales for the month totalled $1.35 million.

For the twelve months, ended December 31, net revenues reached $3.74 billion, with sales of $19.8 million.

Yue Yuen is a subsidiary of the Pou Chen Corporation.

Christmas boosts apparel sales at Marks and Spencer

12 Jan 2007

UK-based retailer Marks and Spencer has reported improved apparel sales for the thirteen weeks, ended December 30.

Clothing sales increased by 9.2% compared with the company's second quarter figures, which had increased by 9.3% compared with the previous quarter.

The company described its third quarter performance as strong, despite a slower run up in the pre-Christmas period. Its market share for clothing grew to 10.5% during the quarter.

Under Armour appoints new VP

12 Jan 2007

Branded US performance apparel, footwear and accessories company Under Armour Inc. has appointed Melissa Wallace as its vice president (VP) of Human Resources. She will be responsible for developing a Global Human Resources Department, with the newly-created position designed to enhance the company's executive management team as it continues to expand in both the domestic and international markets.

Nanophase expands its sales team

12 Jan 2007

US-based nanomaterials and nano-engineered products company Nanophase Technologies, has appointed Kevin Wenta as executive vice president, Sales and Marketing. He has more than 20 years experience in business development, sales, marketing, finance and operations, primarily in the industrial chemicals field.

The appointment reflects the company's increasing manufacturing capacity and sales, with record quarterly year-on-year revenues achieved during 2006 and anticipated continued growth in 2007.

Podium completes acquisition of Erino Clothing

12 Jan 2007

Apparel, media and publishing holding company in the lifestyle sports industry Podium Venture Group Inc., has completed a 100% acquisition of American surf apparel brand Erino Clothing. Podium initially intended to acquire only 75% of the company; however, by mutual agreement Erino has now become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Podium.

Ashworth's domestic revenues fall

12 Jan 2007

California-based designer of men and women's golf-inspired sportswear Ashworth, Inc. has announced a fall of 9.3% in consolidated net revenue for the fourth quarter, ended October 31. Sales fell to $50.2 million from the $55.3 million reported for the same quarter in 2005. Net domestic revenue decreased 13.5% to $41 million, down from $47.4 million for the equivalent previous year period, whilst net international revenue increased 15.7% to $9.2 million, up from $7.9 million. Consolidated net loss for the fourth quarter was $4.4

million, compared with $2.2 million the year before. Revenues from Ashworth branded products decreased 15.7% to $26.6 million, down from $31.5 million in the same quarter in 2005; however, revenues from Callaway Golf apparel branded products increased 2.3% to $12 million.

For the full fiscal year, consolidated net revenue increased 2.4% to $209.6 million compared with $204.8 million in 2005. Net domestic revenue remained essentially flat and net international revenue increased 12.8% to $38.5 million. Consolidated net income was $1 million compared with a consolidated net loss of $0.7 million for 2005.

Philippines' textile and garment sector remains top employer

12 Jan 2007

A new report—'Prospects for the Textile and Garment Industry in the Philippines'—released by Research and Markets, highlights the importance of the textile industry in the Philippines.

According to the report, with 320,000 employees, the textile and garment sector is the country's largest manufacturing employer and comprises 11% of the national total. An additional 700,000 people are employed as home workers and small sub-contractors. Despite China and other Asian countries capturing an increasing share of exports to the North America and Western Europe markets, in 2005 the textile and garment sector was the Philippines' second largest source of export earnings with a 6.2% share—although this still remains 10% lower than in 1997.

The report states that there is an urgent need for the industry to restructure into larger manufacturing units, and update machinery in order to secure greater economies of scale, higher productivity and an improvement in its competitiveness. And, although there has been a substantial increase in foreign investment in the past five years, much of this has come from other Asian producers who increasingly see the Philippines as an attractive location for textile and garment activities. Research and investment is also going into the development of indigenous fibres—such as abaca, banana, pineapple and silk—in order to ease the country's serious lack of locally-sourced raw materials.

Sperry Top-Sider named official footwear of NSBC

12 Jan 2007

Water-based activities footwear company Sperry Top-Sider has been named as the official footwear of the US-based National Safe Boating Council (NSBC). The company joins West Marine, Zodiac, and other boating manufacturers to help to promote recreational boating safety and education through NSBC, which encompasses over 350 US and Canadian member organisations.

Earlier this year, Sperry Top-Sider became the first shoe company to join NSBC and the organisation's instructors already wear the company's Cutter and Bluefish shoes when teaching.

Dale of Norway launches Knitshell collection with Gore technology

12 Jan 2007

Norwegian yarns and knitwear company Dale of Norway, has introduced a new Knitshell fabric in collaboration with W.L. Gore. The fabric is a combination of Dale of Norway's water-resistant yarn and a new technology that allows the traditional Windstopper membrane to be adapted to wool. The result is said to be a comfortable and breathable garment that repels water and offers complete wind protection.

The procedure involves producing large quantities of wool that has been pre-treated to repel water and dirt. This is then knitted and cut using digital technology and fused, piece by piece, to the new membrane. Icomfort is added using a flannel inner lining on the interior of the garment and stretch side panels featuring the Taifun 200 3L Windstopper membrane.

The collection includes men's and women's jackets, vests and anoraks, available in black, red or mocha. The garments feature four-way stretch panels, inner and outer pockets, and detachable adjustable hoods.

Founded 128 years ago, Dale of Norway is a well-known producer and distributor of Norwegian wool sweaters. It uses its own facilities for most of the knitwear production process, from raw wool to finished product.

Malden Mills to be sold

12 Jan 2007

The board of directors of performance textiles producer Malden Mills Industries, Inc. has unanimously voted to approve the sale of the company to Boston-based Gordon Brothers Group for $44 million. Malden Mills will continue normal manufacturing operations at both of its facilities in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and Hudson, New Hampshire.

The company has filed voluntary petitions for reorganisation under Chapter 11 of the US Bankruptcy Code. The sale is subject to higher and better offers, and completion of the sale is expected by the end of February, subject to court approval.

Commenting on the sale CEO, Michael Spillane, said,

“The sale of Malden Mills to Gordon Brothers Group transitions the company into a state of permanent ownership and financial stability. This financial transaction will significantly improve the company’s balance sheet enabling Malden Mills to continue to serve our customers in both the commercial and military markets.”