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Sugoi names new Benelux sales agency

22 Jan 2007

Canada-based Sugoi Performance Apparel has engaged Robijns B.V., based in Aalsmeer, the Netherlands, as its new sales agency for the Benelux markets.

Robijns—an importer and wholesaler in the outdoor and sports products market—will be responsible for initial sales and service to traditional sports, triathlon and running retail outlets in the Benelux region. The bicycle-oriented apparel line will be launched to dealers at the end of 2007. The company already represents other well-known brands including Suunto, Julbo, Rubytec, Primus, Recta, and Wenger in the region.

"We are excited to build on the extensive market knowledge and dealer access of

Mr Marco Robijns and his team," said Federica Calgaro, Sugoi's European sales manager.

Rottefella to launch new telemark binding at OR

22 Jan 2007

Norway-based Rottefella will debut its new NTN binding in North America at the Outdoor Retailer Winter Market and the Outdoor Retailer Backcountry Base Camp.

Developed through a cooperative project between Rottefella and boot brands Scarpa and Crispi, the binding is said to feature superior lateral stability and increased control through improved edge pressure and Rottefella's new spring technology, resulting in better telemark and alpine turns.

The front operated binding is semi step-in for easy on and off functionality. It is also releasable, although it is currently not in accordance with industry standards. It can also be moved forwards or backwards on the ski, depending on the individual skier's preference and has a free pivot mode which reduces forward flex resistance for improved stride and touring.

"After many years of development, we are extremely excited to finally introduce this new binding technology to the market," said Rottefella's president Ulf Bjerknes. "We do not only have a fantastic binding, we also have several more models under development, with a clear goal of creating a family of NTN bindings in the future."

"We believe the NTN binding helps redefine the future of telemark skiing and that it is a major step in the evolution and future of our sport," added Kim Miller, CEO of Scarpa North America.

Argentina's sports apparel network expands

22 Jan 2007

Several local and foreign sports companies have decided to expand their sales networks in Argentina. Companies that have committed to expansion in the South American country include Reebok, Nike, Merrell, Diadora, Fila, LeCoq Sportif, Puma, adidas, and domestic brand Topper.

The sports footwear and apparel business is currently thriving in Argentina. The sector produces annual revenues of approximately $1,500 million (US$484 million)—the equivalent of 15 million pairs of trainers. This amount is expected to increase 20% in 2007.

Reports indicate that 75 shops from various brands in the sector opened across the country in 2006. Diadora has revealed plans to open two own-brand shops in two of the country's main shopping centres while Reebok plans to inaugurate three shops in Buenos Aires

Argentinean brand Topper, created by Alpargatas, will be adding two new shops to its existing 27, one in Córdoba and another one in Rosario. So far the brand has two concept stores in Buenos Aires, six image and design shops and 19 discount stores.

The sports apparel business in Argentina is shared by 30 premium labels including Nike, adidas, Reebok and Puma. The other 50% of the market is divided between domestic labels and brands which produce more affordable goods in Argentina and import high-end finished products.

Improved results from Callaway Golf in 2006

22 Jan 2007

Callaway Golf Company has reported preliminary results for the year ended December 31. Net sales for the year are expected to be approximately $1.018 billion compared with $998 million in 2005.

The estimated increase in sales of approximately 2% has been attributed to a 9% increase in the Callaway Golf/Odyssey brands, which was offset by a 31% decline in the Top-Flite/Ben Hogan brands.

President and CEO George Fellows also announced that

the company is in the process of relaunching the Top-Flite brand this year with a new technology golf ball, the D2, along with several new marketing and promotional programmes.

Chinese province plans five new chemical production zones

22 Jan 2007

Jiangsu Province in eastern China plans to establish five new chemical production zones in the next ten years.

The five zones are Najing Petrochemical Industrial Zone, Zhenjiang Coastal Chemical Development Zone, Nantong Coastal Chemical Development Zone, Suzhou-Wuxi-Changzhou Coastal Chemical Industrial Group, and the Xuzhou-Lianyungang Chemical Industrial Development Zone.

Pioneer Athletics and SportCoatings team up

22 Jan 2007

Pioneer Athletics is expanding its commitment to new synthetic turf paints and coatings as well as anti-microbial protection through a new partnership with SportCoatings.

Under the agreement, Pioneer Athletics will be the exclusive provider of the SportCoatings' line of maintenance and restoration products and together they will co-develop coatings designed for synthetic turf systems. Pioneer will also become the exclusive provider of TurfD, the newest member of the TurfAide family that is said to provide six months of anti-microbial protection to synthetic turf systems with one application.

Introduced last year, the Sports Antimicrobial System of SportsAide, TurfD, TurfAide and the SportsAide fabric conditioner now protects the facilities, equipment and fields of teams across the USA including the NFL, NBA, and NHL and high schools and colleges nationwide.

New brand to launch children's apparel with Dri-release at OR

22 Jan 2007

A new brand of performance children's apparel with Optimer's Dri-release technology, designed just for infants and toddlers, will be launched at the upcoming Outdoor Retailer (OR) Winter Market. The brand, Roonwear, is the brainchild of outdoor enthusiasts Bryan and Rebecca Johnson, who have an 18-month year-old son Cameron and noticed a gap in the market for children's performance wear.

When Cameron was born the couple continued to participate in the same outdoor activities and their son 'Roon' always accompanied them whether they were jogging, cycling, hiking, and adventure travelling. At four months he made his first trip to Panama, which inspired his parents to launch Roonwear.

As Bryan Johnson said, "Here we were, both decked out in great outdoor gear with performance features to the nines that fight the heat, pull moisture away from our skin, keep us fresh and more, yet Cameron was wet and stayed that way in his all-cotton baby clothes."

Following the trip the Johnsons spent six months testing and honing the line, making sure each product worked on its own and as part of a system, while working towards the January OR show as their goal for the launch. They opted to incorporate Dri-release with FreshGuard—a patented blend of synthetic and natural fibres that accelerates the water release rate of wet fabric—into the collection. Mr Johnson stated, "There are quite a few performance fabrics out there, but most are only synthetic. We wanted a cotton feel. That's why we chose Dri-release."

Roonwear is made up of 14 styles from ActiviT shirts to 'Smiley Sox' in new Dri-release Wool, and is sized 'Adventure Infant' (up to 12 months) and 'Walkabout' for toddlers up to five. The 'Go Outside and Play' group for both infants and toddlers includes a 'Half Traveler' fleece vest and a 'Full Traveler' fleece pullover.

All Roonwear styles, except the fleece products, are tagless to eliminate any irritation.

New CEO at Nike's Exeter Brands Group

22 Jan 2007

Nike, Inc. has appointed Clare Hamill as president and CEO of the company's wholly-owned Exeter Brands Group, which designs, markets and distributes athletic footwear and apparel under the Starter, Team Starter, Asphalt, Shaq, Dunkman and Tailwind brands.

Ms Hamill joined Nike in 1981 as a technician at its Sports Research Lab. She served as vice president and general manager of Global Footwear for five years, as well as vice president of Nike Equipment, Global Women's Business and USA Commerce. Most recently, she was vice president of New Business Development.

In her new role, she will continue to report to Lee Bird, president of Nike Inc. Affiliates.

Ms Hamill succeeds Lisa Kempa, who has headed Exeter since 2005 and was previously chief financial officer of Converse. Ms Kempa will now work with Mr Bird on new business development for the affiliates group.

President of Gap steps down

22 Jan 2007

The board of directors of clothing and accessories retailer Gap Inc. has announced that president and chief executive officer of the company, Paul Pressler will step down by mutual agreement, effective immediately. He has also resigned his seat on the company's board. The company's current non-executive chairman Robert Fisher will serve as president and CEO on an interim basis. Mr Fisher joined the company as a store manager in 1980 and worked his way up through the company's merchandising ranks. He has served on the company's board of directors since 1990.

Bond wins CAT workwear contract

23 Jan 2007

Family-owned Irish company Bond Safety has won the distribution rights for CAT workwear in both Ireland and the UK. The contract was signed earlier this month and was previously held by UK-based Panworld Clothing. It is now expected that Bond Safety's workforce will double over the next two years. Based in County Monaghan in the Republic of Ireland, the company has been working with the CAT brand since 1999. There are three CAT manufacturing plants in Northern Ireland employing 3,000 people and two manufacturing facilities in England. Its global workforce is 92,000 in manufacturing and 102,000 in its dealer network.

Texworld USA changes venue

23 Jan 2007

Textile fair Texworld USA is to move to the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, New York, for the July 2007 show in order to create additional space for the event. The centre is to become the permanent home for the fair. 147 exhibitors from 13 countries will present their latest fabrics for the apparel industry at the current event, running from January 23–25, at the Penn Plaza Pavilion and the Hotel Pennsylvania.

Ladieswear and accessories set to dominate at Motexha

23 Jan 2007

According to reports, textiles, leather and fashion accessories event Motexha 2007 continues to support the region's textiles industry, currently estimated to be worth more than $12 billion. Ladieswear and fashion accessories are set to be the highlight of the event which is to be held at the Dubai International Exhibition Centre (DIEC) on March 19–21.

Exhibition director Geoffrey Booy said, "Textiles are regarded as Dubai's second biggest re-export commodity with a trade value in excess of $2 billion in 2005."

Over 250 exhibitors from over 30 countries are expected to participate, a 35% increase over 2006.

The GCC market for leather goods—including footwear—has grown significantly and is now valued at over $1 billion. The footwear market alone in the UAE is worth more than $300 million annually and leather manufacturers will feature prominently at Motexha 2007.

New 'spider silk' fibres for strength and stretch

23 Jan 2007

Scientists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have developed polymeric nanocomposites inspired by spider's silk, which could be used to produce tear-resistant fabrics and strengthen packaging materials.

Although it is already possible to create high-strength or high-stretch materials, it has been less straightforward producing materials that combine both properties. The key to this new solution is a nano-crystalline reinforcement of the silk during production.

Mechanical engineering PhD student Shawna Liff and Professor Gareth McKinley have worked together to develop a synthetic polymer emulating the reinforced structure of spider's silk by reinforcing solutions of a commercial polyurethane elastomer with nano-sized clay platelets. The final product is a 'nanocomposite' of stiff clay particles dispersed throughout a stretchy and stronger matrix.

The US military is interested in these products for applications including tear-resistant films and body-armour components and fabric companies have also expressed interest in the new materials, which can be used to make fibres similar to nylon or Lycra.

SIA audit shows strong ski apparel sales

24 Jan 2007

According to the SnowSports Industries America (SIA) Retail Audit, pre-season sales—from August to November—at specialty ski and snowboard shops in the USA rose 5% to $568.3 million compared with $539.7 million in 2005, and apparel sales contributed greatly to this growth.

Overall, equipment sales (alpine, snowboard, Nordic, Telemark and Randonee/AT) declined 3% compared with last season, with sales totalling $214.6 million. Alpine

equipment (including skis, ski systems, boots, bindings and poles) grew 2%. The Nordic ski equipment category, hit by a lack of snow in the Midwest and East, saw a 13% decrease compared with last season.

Integrated ski system sales continue to escalate totalling $38.7 million, an increase of 20% compared with the same period a year ago. Total ski sales grew 6% and totalled $71.4 million.

Total alpine boot sales remained steady with last year at $52.8 million, while approximately 20,000 more pairs off boots were sold than skis. Stand-alone binding sales fell 17%, totalling $9.5 million. Snowboard equipment sales (including snowboards, boots and bindings) were down 10% with sales reaching $68.5 million.

Alpine apparel grew 17.4% to $175.7 with strong support from insulated parka sales, which rose 24% to $60.8 million. Women's insulated parkas led the category with $28.2 million in sales, representing 60% of all insulated sales in this category. Softshell parka sales jumped 36% to $10.6, with males purchasing 63% of the units. Snowboard apparel sales increased 12% to $33.2 million. Snowboard tops and snowboard bottoms were very strong over last year, up 20% and 21%, led by the feminine side of the business. Women's snowboard tops and bottoms showed 40% and 25% increases.

Equipment accessories decreased by 3%, with a strong showing only from auto racks (up 12%). The apparel accessories category increased sales by 8% over the same period last year, reaching $80.4 million.

Bread & Butter attracts high visitor numbers

24 Jan 2007

The number of visitors at Bread & Butter held in Barcelona from January 17 to 19, exceeded expectations at 82,837.

Spanish and Portuguese visitors almost doubled from 18,086 at last year's winter event to 33,698 this year. 13,517 Italian guests registered compared with 9,126 and 6,784 German visitors registered versus 3,757 last year.

Visitors from Turkey and Eastern Europe showed large increases, with the former rising from 726 visitors in 2005 to 1,114 and the latter from just 295 to 1,082.

The improvement has been partly attributed to the new Active Guest Management scheme which provided greater communication with and service to visitors from across the globe. The next Bread & Butter Barcelona will take place July 4-6.

VF to sell intimate apparel business to Fruit of the Loom

24 Jan 2007

Branded lifestyle apparel company VF Corporation, whose brands include Wrangler, Lee, The North Face, Nautica, Vans and JanSport, has signed a definitive agreement to sell its global intimate apparel business to Fruit of the Loom, Inc., a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway, Inc. for $350 million in cash. VF's intimate apparel business includes Vanity Fair, Lily of France, Vassarette, Bestform and Curvation in the USA, and Lou, Gemma and Belcor in Europe.

The agreement is subject to government approvals and customary closing conditions and is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2007

Fruit of the Loom plans to operate these businesses as Vanity Fair Brands, a wholly-owned subsidiary, under the supervision of Curt Holtz, president of VF's Intimates coalition, from the current headquarters in Alpharetta, Georgia, and Igualada, Spain.

VF's Intimates business generated over $800 million in revenues and approximately $50 million in operating income on a global basis in 2006, representing 12% and 6% of its total 2006 revenues and operating income, respectively.

Bayer marks ten years of collaboration with Russian experts

24 Jan 2007

German chemical company Bayer MaterialScience has been collaborating with Russian research institutions and universities for over ten years to develop new materials. To mark this achievement the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) and the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) are holding a conference in Moscow from January 23 to 24, to generate new contacts and innovation potential. The agenda will include intelligent materials, catalysis and process development.

The growing Russian economy represents an important sales market for Bayer MaterialScience. The company has been supporting an R & D partnership with the RAS since 1996 and became a partner of the ISTC in 1998. Some twelve projects are currently underway and 14 projects were concluded successfully in 2006 alone. During the conference Russian nanotechnology specialists will present information on 'self-cleaning surfaces' and 'intelligent fiillers' while Bayer will present its Baytubes carbon nanotubes by developing a pilot plant with an annual capacity of 30 tons.

The company is also working with the Boreskov Institute of Catalysis in Nowosibirsk and the Institute of Applied Chemistry in St. Petersburg in relation to polymer

intermediates and the development of processes for coating and adhesive raw materials.

With sales of €10.7 billion in 2005 and a workforce of approximately 18,800, Bayer is one of the world's largest polymer manufacturers.

New president named at adidas North America

24 Jan 2007

Adidas has appointed Patrik Nilsson as president of adidas North America with immediate effect. In his new role he will be responsible for all adidas operations in the North American market and will report directly to Erich Stamminger, president and CEO of the adidas brand. He succeeds Rob Langstaff, who has decided to leave the company for personal reasons.

A Swedish national, Mr Nilsson has a long track record with adidas. He joined the company in 1991 as head of Sales and Marketing in Sweden. In 1994, he joined the Global Marketing organisation, and during his tenure as business unit manager Tennis, adidas regained global market leadership in this category. In 2000, he was appointed head of adidas' Global Sport Heritage Division where sales doubled under his leadership. Since November 2003, he has been managing director Area Nordic within adidas Region Europe. Roland Auschel, adidas' head of Region Europe, Middle East & Africa, will take on the role of managing director Area Nordic on an interim basis.

New partnership in European footwear and apparel formed

24 Jan 2007

Dutch supplier of branded shoes and apparel, Leomil Group, and importer and Belgian footwear distributor, Cortina Group, have announced a far-reaching co-operation between the two companies worth more than $200 million in sales—making it a major player in the European markets for shoes, fashion, logistics and licensed characters.

Commenting on the partnership owner of Leomil Group, Albert Milhado, said, "By joining forces with us, Cortina can expand its operation to apparel and its knowledge of product development to the booming field of licensed characters. Leomil in turn can concentrate on core competences including marketing, franchising and concept development by transferring support services for finance, logistics and administration to FLA-Europe. It will make us more flexible and enable us to react more rapidly than ever to changes in markets and consumer preferences."

Both the Cortina and Leomil names will remain unchanged in the European market, and all key personnel in design, marketing, sales and management will be retained.

Established 45 years ago Leomil Group supplies branded shoes based on licensed characters across most of Europe. In recent years, the group has developed an apparel and accessories business, Leomil Fashion.

Founded in 1950, Cortina Group imports and distributes shoes, with a strong position in private labels and with considerable production facilities in the Far East. In addition, Cortina Group includes FLA-Europe, a specialist provider of financial, logistical and administrative business services.

NanoHorizons introduces SmartSilver for wool

24 Jan 2007

US-based custom nanoscale materials engineering company NanoHorizons, Inc. has launched a new SmartSilver product to provide permanent anti-odour/anti-microbial properties to 100% wool, using typical fabric and garment dye systems.

The new product joins the company's current line of SmartSilver for polyester, nylon, polypropylene, cotton and rayon.

SmartSilver is said to be a permanent, safe technology that is fully compatible with existing manufacturing processes for fibre and fabrics. It can be used to create odour-resistant undergarments, hats, gloves, socks, T-shirts, sweaters, shoe linings, etc.

Sales rise 141% at Nitches

24 Jan 2007

US apparel designer Nitches, Inc. has posted consolidated net sales of $35.4 million for the first quarter of fiscal 2007, ended November 30— 141% higher than the $14.7 million reported for the first quarter of 2006. The increase was attributed to acquisitions and organic growth. Current period sales included full period results for Designer Intimates, which was acquired in October 2005 and included for only 37 days in the prior period.

Consolidated net income reached $1.309 million for the first quarter versus $520,000 in the prior year.

Nitches women's product lines include sleepwear and loungewear by Body Drama, women's western wear and outerwear by Adobe Rose, Saguaro and Southwest Canyon. The company's menswear offerings include Nat Nast swimwear and graphic t-shirts, Dockers swimwear and graphic t-shirts, Newport Blue casual lifestyle clothing, The Skins Game golf apparel, and ZOIC

performance cycling apparel. The company's Designer Intimates subsidiary markets sleepwear, robes, loungewear, and daywear under brands such as Gossard, Princesse tam tam, Anne Lewin, Dockers and Claire Murray.

Headquartered in San Diego, California, the company has offices in Los Angeles, New York City, Atlanta, Hong Kong and Istanbul.

New Bluetooth-enabled apparel and accessories from Quiksilver

25 Jan 2007

Outdoor apparel and accessories company Quiksilver and communications and entertainment firm Plantronics have forged a new strategic partnership to provide a selection of Bluetooth-enabled sports apparel and accessories. The two companies have also previewed a new collection of premium snow apparel and accessories providing wireless, high-performance stereo music and mobile phone communications at the SIA conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The new collection integrates outdoor sports apparel with Bluetooth equipped mobile phones, iPods and MP3 players, allowing users to access music and telephone calls without interfering with outdoor activities. The technology enables stereo sound to stream wirelessly from compatible products so that users can play and control music as well as answer incoming calls.

The inaugural collection of apparel and accessories will include The Double Daffy Snow Jacket—part of Quiksilver's Limited Edition Outerwear Collection—which is both iPod and cell phone ready; the Pulse Helmet, a lightweight helmet, constructed from injected ABS, with adjustable side vents; and the Teen Angel Snow Jacket which is iPod and mobile phone ready.

Lanxess lifts force majeure

25 Jan 2007

Germany-based chemicals group Lanxess has lifted the force majeure declaration issued last August for the production of ABS plastics by the company’s Lustran Polymers business unit at its site in Tarragona, Spain.

The declaration was issued as compounding at the Tarragona site was temporarily impaired following a cable fire.

Dilly to produce Nike shoes in Argentina

25 Jan 2007

Brazilian shoe manufacturer Dilly Group, based in Ivoti, is to invest $3 million in the reactivation of an industrial complex in the Misiones Province of Argentina. The company—which has been licensed to produce footwear and apparel for Nike since 1999—had been looking for a suitable factory location since early 2005.

The new 2,000m² unit, a former furniture factory, is located in Eldorado and is easily accessible from the company’s headquarters in Brazil.

According to Nike's general manager in Argentina Eduardo Mignaqui, the new unit is expected to start production in March, following the company’s presentation of environmental impact and relevant certificates requested by Nike. The initial investment will be $1.5 million and production will start at 35,000 pairs per month.

A further investment of $1.5 million will be invested at a later date when production capacity will be doubled, creating 300 jobs.

Until now, Alpargatas and MV Shoes have been the only manufacturers of Nike shoes in Argentina.

Founded in 1964, the company currently has eight factories in Brazil where it produces seven million pairs per year; 75% sports shoes and 25% ladies' shoes. It also manufactures products for other brands including Fila, Merrell and Puma.

Nilorn Group to decrease production in Belgium

25 Jan 2007

Swedish woven labels, hand-tags and care labels firm Nilorn Group is in the process of streamlining its European operations and, as a result, negotiations to shut down the production of woven labels at its Belgium premises are now underway. The company has met with the affected staff and local unions to discuss the closures.

The company stated that the main reason for the closures is that the majority of the company’s label-handling now takes place outside Europe.

Emerging markets lift Rohm and Haas results

26 Jan 2007

US-based chemical company Rohm and Haas Company has reported fourth quarter sales of $2,026 million, a 2% increase compared with the same period in 2005.

Earnings were $167 million in the quarter compared with $128 million in the prior year period.

Sales in the Coatings segment were $596 million, an increase of 6% over fourth quarter 2005. This was attributed to higher selling prices, higher demand from emerging markets and the impact of favourable currency levels. Monomer sales remained flat at $454 million.

Sales of $445 million for the Performance Chemicals sector were up 2% over the fourth quarter of 2005, having been positively impacted by favourable currencies and higher selling prices, which were partially offset by lower volumes.

Sales in Plastics Additives were down 5% while sales for Adhesives and Sealants were $176 million, an increase of 2% percent over the same period last year.

North American sales of $993 million were down 6% compared with the prior year period while Asia-Pacific sales of $427 million increased 10%. Latin American sales of $96 million were up 14%.

Sales for the full year were $8,230 million, a 4% increase over the prior year, while earnings were $755 million compared with $616 million.

New director elected at American Eagle Outfitters

26 Jan 2007

Outerwear, footwear and swimwear retailer American Eagle Outfitters, Inc. has appointed Alan Kane to its board of directors. Mr Kane currently serves as dean of the School of Business and Technology at the Fashion Institute of Technology, a role he has held since 2005. From 1997 to 2006, he was a professor of Retailing at the Columbia Graduate School of Business and prior to this he spent 28 years in the retail industry with companies such as Federated Department Stores, The May Company, and Grossman's Inc.

Quiksilver names new executive at Rossignol Apparel

26 Jan 2007

Outdoor equipment, apparel and accessories company Quiksilver, Inc. has appointed outdoor apparel merchandising and design executive Jose Garcia to head its Rossignol softgoods business for the Americas. He will be based at the company's new Mountain Center headquarters in Utah, USA.

Mr Garcia joins Rossignol from Columbia Sportswear Company where he most recently worked as outerwear merchandise manager. Prior to this he held a variety of posts within the company's snowboard brand 'Convert', including brand manager, merchandise and design manager and senior designer.

New moisture management yarn from Nilit

26 Jan 2007

Israel-based manufacturer of nylon 6.6 Nilit has launched a new moisture wicking yarn, Sensil Aquarius.
The 'micro-channels' in the new yarns are said to carry moisture away from the body through capillary-like structures that are formed by the bundle of filaments.

The company will officially launch the new yarn at the forthcoming ispo winter show, in Munich.

Marketing manager Oded Breier commented, "We set out to create intrinsically modified nylon 6.6 yarns (that is, in the polymer itself and not a topical treatment) with special cross-sections that improve the hydrophilic attributes of the garment/fabric that actually help move moisture away from the wearer, to give them a feeling of dryness and comfort."

New uniform system from Reebok and NHL

26 Jan 2007

The National Hockey League (NHL) and Massachusetts-based Reebok have collaborated to develop a new technologically-advanced uniform system called the Rbk Edge Uniform System.

All 30 NHL teams will wear the uniform in their respective colours and designs this autumn with the opening of the 2007-08 NHL season.

Four light fabrics have been incorporated into the jersey, pants and socks to keep players drier whilst adding increased durability to the uniform. The jersey's stretch fabric in the collar features Playdry moisture management technology to provide comfort, breathability and temperature control. Stretch mesh in areas including the underarms and back provides additional range of motion and increased ventilation. Its 4Way Stretch Pique features Bead Away water-repellent technology and freedom of movement while retaining 76% less moisture than the current NHL jersey. X-trafil is incorporated into high-abrasion areas such as the shoulders and elbows to provide increased durability. The system is also designed to integrate better with players' shoulder and elbow padding, core protectors and shin guards.

Wind tunnel testing conducted at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) confirmed a 9% reduction in drag, enabling a player to move faster on the ice whilst thermal regulation studies carried out at Central Michigan University authenticated the effectiveness of the uniform's core temperature management system.

EDANA announces academy programme

26 Jan 2007

International association serving the nonwovens and related products industries EDANA has announced a programme for the third edition of the Nonwovens Research Academy (NRA), which will be hosted by the Centre for Technical Textiles, University of Leeds, UK, from March 29-30.

The programme features 13 papers by academics, researchers and industry experts including spunbonded nonwovens made from splittable bi-component filaments; cellulose meltblown nonwovens based on the Lyocell-process; cellulosic nonwovens according to the Nanoval-process; mechanical characterisation of through-air bonded nonwoven structures; a new method for measuring friction between nonwoven materials and skin; measurement of nonwoven web uniformity using image analysis: Ecological method of manufacture of multifilament cellulose; study of polylactide properties – Applications to nonwovens; and safe, durable and easy-to-apply antimicrobial technology for nonwovens.

The academy, which was launched at Index 05, is designed to bring together an interdisciplinary group of academics, students, researchers, scientists and engineers to present and disseminate pre-competitive and post-competitive research studies relevant to the growth of the nonwoven industry in the future.

Quick estimates of index for textiles industry

26 Jan 2007

The Central Statistics Organisation of the Indian government has released its Quick Estimates of Index for Industrial Production (IIP) in November.

Industrial production registered significant growth of 14.4% compared with November 2005—the highest reported in over a decade. During the first eight months (April to November) IP increased by 10.6% compared with 8.3% in the same period last year.

11 of the 17 industry groups included showing positive growth in November compared with the corresponding month of the previous year including ‘Cotton Textiles’ (18.3%), ‘Wool, Silk and Man-made Fibre Textiles’ (18.2%), and ‘Textile Products including Wearing Apparel’ (16%).

Water sport sales rise 1,125% at Execute Sports

26 Jan 2007

California-based performance products company Execute Sports Inc. has posted a 1,125% increase in water sports sales for the fourth quarter, compared with same period in the prior year.

This significant growth has been attributed to sales of OEM vests and increased sales through Internet, pro shop and marine dealers.

The company's brands include Execute Wetsuits, Kampus Wakeskates and Kampus Shoes, Collective Development Bindings and Collective Development Bags.

Ashworth celebrates 20th anniversary at the PGA Show

26 Jan 2007

US designer of on-course golf apparel and golf-inspired sportswear Ashworth, Inc. is celebrating its 20th anniversary at the 2007 PGA Show in Orlando, Florida, USA from January 25-27.

To mark the occasion Ashworth and the Golf Digest Company is presenting ‘The Ashworth Global Partnership Event’ which will include an exclusive preview of the company’s new men’s and women’s collections, interviews with staff from Golf Digest and Ashworth.

“In 2007, the Ashworth brand celebrates 20 years of support by our account partners and generations of golf participants around the world. We are very excited to have this opportunity to thank the industry, and communicate our direction and unwavering commitment in 2007 and beyond to the quality of the Ashworth brand,” commented president, Gary Sims.

Ashworth designs men’s and women’s golf-inspired lifestyle sportswear distributed domestically and internationally in golf pro shops, resorts, department and specialty stores and to corporate customers. Its three brands include the Ashworth Collection, a range of upscale sportswear designed to be worn on and off course; Ashworth Authentics, which showcases popular items from the Ashworth line; and the Ashworth Weather Systems, a technical performance line. The company also designs and produces headwear and apparel under The Game and Kudzu brands.

Performance fibre segment offsets declines at Rayonier

26 Jan 2007

A strong performance at its performance fibres business has boosted sales at Rayonier. The US-based company, involved in the timber, real estate and performance fibre markets, posted increased sales of $329 million for the fourth quarter 2006—up from $312 million in the third

quarter and $316 million in fourth quarter 2005. Sales for the full-year year also increased to reach $1.2 billion—4% higher than in 2005.

Whilst sales fell at both its timber and real estate units, its Performance Fibers business, which produces high-value specialty cellulose, posted sales of $196 million—$33 million above the third quarter. The significant increase in sales was attributed to increased volume.