Income increases at Safety Products and NSP

26 Mar 2007

US-based personal protection products companies Safety Products Holdings, Inc. and Norcross Safety Products L.L.C., have posted improved results for the year ended December 31.

In 2006, net sales for Safety Products were $558.1 million compared with $481.1 million in 2005 and gross profit was $205.7 million compared with $169.5 million. The sales increase of $77 million, or 16%, has been attributed to increased net sales in the general safety and preparedness and electrical safety segments. In the electrical safety segment, net sales increased $18.2 million, or 30%, primarily driven by strong overall market demand, new product penetration and incremental white rubber net sales.

NSP's income from operations increased by $27.5 million, or 82.9%, to $60.7 million in 2006 from $33.2 million in 2005 and Holdings' income increased by $30.4 million, or 101.4%, to $60.3 million compared with $29.9 million.

State bank of Pakistan awards R&D grants

26 Mar 2007

The State Bank of Pakistan has awarded over PRs15.42 billion ($0.25 billion) as Research and Development (R&D) grants to exporters of garments, fabrics, leather footwear, and home textiles. Some PRs7.94 billion has been awarded to exporters in Karachi, PRs3.57 billion in Lahore and PRs3.01 billion in Faisalabad. The remaining amount was presented to exporters in other cities.

TNF launches new endurance running show

26 Mar 2007

The North Face (TNF) has launched a new endurance running shoe, the Arnuva 50 Boa, which is said to be suitable for ultra-distant runners who run on trails, dirt paths and roads.

Including a Boa lacing system for a more secure fit and adjustability, the improved dial at the heel of the shoe guides the TPU Boa Powerzone laces and an injection saddle that work together to tighten the shoe around the foot.

Air channels in the toe box increase cooling and reduce blister causing friction, whilst the lightweight EVA mid-sole, X2 cushioning and an innovative rear-foot compression cage are said to provide longer lasting cushioning. The new shoe also has a Tenacious Grip rubber outsole that is said to offer superior traction both on and off-road as well as stability and durability under a variety of weather conditions and temperatures.

Dunning Golf introduces new performance apparel collection

26 Mar 2007

Designer Ralph Dunning has introduced a new collection of luxury performance apparel from Dunning Golf for autumn 2007 including Tour Stretch outerwear featuring Schoeller's c_change technology and the Interface Stretch Line Polo.

In addition to the Tour Stretch outerwear and the Interface Stretch Line Polo, the collection also includes Interface Thermal CT sweaters and vests and Interface Microvent Base Layer undergarments designed for layering which provide increased airflow, moisture wicking, breathability and UV protection combined with fit and function.

Avery Dennison RIS launches new heat transfer bonder line

26 Mar 2007

Information and brand management solutions Avery Dennison Retail Information Services (RIS) has launched a new line of industrial grade heat transfer bonders that are said to be able to improve productivity by 50% and ensure precision placement of the heat transfers—tagless labels that can carry a combination of product identification, brand identification and care instructions on apparel and footwear components.

Supplied in roll-form or as singles, the heat transfers are available in all process and Pantone colours and Avery Dennison RIS' new line includes a high-speed roll-fed bonder and two singles bonders. All three bonders offer adjustable controls to regulate critical heat, time and pressure parameters. In addition, they are easy to use, feature rugged construction and are designed for reliable operation. It can also accurately apply over 600 of the company's ComfortTag heat transfer labels per hour to a wide range of products including T-shirts, underwear, bras, athletic tops, bottoms, socks in a range of fabrics

such as cotton, polyester, nylon and silk. It can also be used for footwear components, such as athletic shoe innersoles.

Football legends to attend Laureus World Sports Awards

26 Mar 2007

Some of the great names of football history will present awards at the eighth Laureus World Sports Awards in Barcelona, on April 2, including Franz Beckenbauer, Bobby Charlton and Johan Cruyff, who was in the Holland team which Germany beat in the final in 1974.

Broadcast to 190 countries and territories, the awards honour the greatest sportsmen and women across all sports each year, selected by a jury made up of world-leading athletes.

New Lorpen sock range with PrimaLoft

27 Mar 2007

Spain-based technical sock producer Lorpen has launched a new range called S.P.F.M., using PrimaLoft yarn in selected areas (toe, sole, heel and the front section of the leg), to combine the moisture repelling properties of PrimaLoft with the moisture wicking properties of wool, with improved flexibility and fit provided through a 10% Lycra content.

Additional properties are said to included warmth, lightweightness, breathability, quick drying time and easy care properties.

The North Face launches Stretch Venture Jacket

27 Mar 2007

Outdoor apparel, equipment and footwear company The North Face has added the Stretch Venture Jacket to its range for use in outdoor activities.

The jacket, which weighs around 300g, has HyVent DT (Dry to Touch) fabric that channels away internal moisture making it more comfortable next to the skin.

Waterproof and breathable, the jacket is seam-sealed with 13mm skinny tape for added lightweightness. It has an adjustable hood for extra protection, core vent pockets for added breathability and reflective piping for higher visibility.

High demand for technical textiles boosts Sioen's sales

27 Mar 2007

In 2006, Belgian provider of coatings for textile fabrics Sioen Industries posted net sales of €339.4 million (of which €3.7 million were from new acquisitions), up 7% from €316.2 million in 2005. Net profit was €12.1 million compared with €13.6 million in 2005.

Despite price pressure in its traditional markets (mattress protection and protective clothing) and higher raw materials prices, the transfer coating unit maintained its market position and new projects provided further sales increases.

The colour chemicals department saw what the company described as "spectacular growth" in 2006, both from traditional markets for pigment pastes and silicones, and from the acquisitions of a number of assets of Siegwerk Benelux.

In the Apparel Division, the company's new focus on professional markets led to a slight drop in sales, but provided a 6% increase in operating cash flow. The company provided water- and windproof jackets for an airport handling company, protective clothing for 7,500 employees at a deep-frozen products transportation and logistics company and high-tech flame retardant and anti-static rainwear to a large gas producer in the Netherlands. Dutch police motor cyclists will wear Sioen rain overalls in the near future and it has been awarded a tender to provide protective clothing for Belgium's fire fighting services for the next three years.

Higher revenues at Phillips-Van Heusen

27 Mar 2007

US-based apparel and footwear company Phillips-Van Heusen Corporation has reported fourth quarter net income of $26.8 million, boosted by higher sales in its Calvin Klein men's sportswear line. Total revenues for the fourth quarter increased 21% to $557 million from $460.1 million in the prior year.

For the full year, net income was $155.2 million compared with $111.7 million in 2005. Total annual revenues increased 10% to $2,090.6 million from $1,908.8 million in 2005.

Total revenues for 2007 are expected to be approximately $2.4 billion, around 15% higher than in 2006.

New technology for Newton Running shoes

27 Mar 2007

Colorado-based athletic footwear company Newton Running has introduced a new line of lightweight, technical running shoes designed to help runners run more efficiently with less muscle fatigue.

The shoes feature the company's Active Membrane Technology, which replaces the foam and plastic of traditional running shoes. The membrane is layered between four mid-sole actuators and four hollow chambers. On impact, these actuators stretch the membrane as they drive into the chambers in the sole, which absorb more shock than traditional running shoe foam creating a more cushioned feel, whilst the membrane thrusts the actuators back out of the chambers, returning the impact energy into forward propulsion during the toe-off phase of a runner's stride.

The initial line includes four models for both men and women including the Distance, a cushioned, neutral racing flat; the Distance S, a medially-posted racing flat; the Motion, a medially-posted training shoe; and the Gravity, a neutral cushioned training shoe.

Earth increases environmental commitment

27 Mar 2007

Producer of footwear and apparel Earth, Inc. is increasing its commitment to environmental responsibility through various initiatives across the company.

For spring 2007, Earth's shoebox inserts and product hangtags are now printed on Wood Free paper as are the company's seasonal catalogues, which also include post-consumer recycled paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, and are printed with wind-generated energy.

The company's apparel line for men and women now incorporates a broader assortment of naturally-available hemp and bamboo fabrics and eco-sustainable trims including Ingeo (corn), soy and organic cotton.

In its footwear products many styles, which already include recycled materials in the shank design, will now include a lower proportion of leather in their upper constructions and for spring 2007, nearly 38% its shoe line will have leather upper alternatives, compared with 25% in the same period of 2006.

Looking to the future, for autumn 2007, the company has committed to manufacturing 100% of its seasonal footwear using water-based adhesives, in a move which aims to significantly reduce the environmental impact that is generally found in the production of footwear. Insole boards used in closed shoes and boots will be made from leftover recycled milk cartons with all of the scrap re-purposed after the leftovers are cut. For spring 2008, Earth will use hemp to produce all its shoe bags and will also shift to glue-less packaging with inks printed from soy- and water-based materials throughout the footwear line.

Nilit adjusts prices of nylon 6.6 products

27 Mar 2007

Israel-based producer of nylon 6.6 and microfibre yarns Nilit has announced a price adjustment for most of its nylon 6.6 products. The increases, which are said to be due to significant challenges which have affected the company's market sector, will vary by product, application, region and currency and will be in the range of 4-6%. They will take effect during April 2007 and will not influence long-term contracts and commitments already in place.

Commenting on the decision, director of the Fiber Division, Fabio Kahn, stated that the adjustment "ensures that we can justify the investments we need to make to bring about new business opportunities for our customers without compromising quality and value," adding that Nilit will "continue to develop innovations in nylon 6.6 while working toward decreasing costs and improving synergies among our plants."

Nilit's yarns are used for both knitwear and spandex covering applications for the production of legwear, bodywear, intimate apparel and activewear.

Dystar launches new black reactive dye

27 Mar 2007

Dystar has launched a new reactive black dye, Remazol Deep Black GWF, which is said to produce exceptionally deep shades of black with unique fastness properties. Providing excellent build-up and good reproducibility, it is also said to be a cost-effective alternative to standard blacks.

The new product, which meets the demands of the Oeko-Tex Standard 100, is said to combine the highest standards of wet fastness and wash fastness with high light fastness to offer high fixation and excellent wash-off properties.
It also exhibits impressive reproducibility in exhaust, cold pad-batch and continuous processes and ensures economical right-first-time dyeings. It can also be easily combined with dyes in the Remazol RGB range to produce a broad spectrum of shades.

Textiles and clothing top Indonesia's export list

28 Mar 2007

Dublin-based research company Research and Markets has published a new report on Indonesia’s Textile and Clothing Industry.

Over the last three decades, the Indonesian garment industry has become a major contributor to the country's total industrial revenue and its Ministry of Industry has categorised textiles and clothing as a ‘strategic industrial sector’. In 2005, the sector was the country's biggest net exporter with a surplus of around $7 billion.

The report focuses on the economy, development of the industry, the man-made fibre industry, foreign trade, prominent companies, SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis and 2010 targets and prospects for the industry.

Jordan launches the Jumpman Jeter Vital

28 Mar 2007

Footwear, apparel and accessories brand Jordan Brand, a division of Nike, has launched the Jumpman Jeter Vital shoe inspired by Team Jordan athlete Derek Jeter—one of the original members of the inaugural group of Team Jordan Athletes. This will be Jeter's seventh shoe for Jordan Brand, the first having been launched in May 2001.

Categorised as a turf and field trainer, the Jumpman Jeter Vital has been engineered to increase performance, while ensuring comfort ability and optimal support. Produced in a combination of synthetic and full grain leather, with a foam backed collar lining and heel it is said to offer optimal interior comfort and protection. A symmetrical toe provides better protection against toe drag to enhance bursts of speed, whilst a lateral window cut out is said to ensure freedom of movement to assist in running while allowing the foot to breathe.

Software to assist REACH compliance launched

28 Mar 2007

Material safety data sheet (MSDS) authoring software developer The Wercs, Ltd., based in the US, has launched the REACH 1 2 3 suite of software modules to capture and analyse the critical data needed to assist manufacturers in complying with REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals) requirements.

Developed in response to the new legislation, the software allows manufacturers to capture critical data, make decisions based on an analysis of this data, and pass the data to the IUCLID 5 database—a central database, provided by the EU for the storage and retrieval of detailed hazard information of chemical substances.

The system is made up of three principal modules. The Wercs’ Substance Information Management System (WercsSIMS) provides the capability for manufacturers to manage the substance information data associated with their suppliers, allowing them to cross-reference their products to assess which chemicals will be impacted by REACH. In addition, manufacturers will be able to see the impact certain chemicals will have on their formulations. The IUCLIDSync module allows the system to be plugged into the IUCLID 5 database, eliminating the need to manually upload data and allowing the data to be controlled and transferred between databases without significant rework. Finally, the WercsDownstream is a portal that helps end-users and manufacturers to communicate effectively, enabling them to check if risk management measures included in the extended SDS are relevant to their conditions of use. It also allows end-users to communicate new uses for a product back to the supplier.

Starting in 2007, all chemical companies that manufacture or import chemicals in volumes greater than one ton in the EU will be subject to REACH legislation, which will require the affected manufacturers to gather and report comprehensive data on physical, chemical, toxicological, and eco-toxicological properties of all chemicals manufactured in or imported into the EU. Failure to register will mean that the chemicals cannot be manufactured or imported.

Puma and FIGC extend co-operation

28 Mar 2007

German sports brand Puma and the Italian Football Association (FIGC) have confirmed their continued partnership beyond the 2014 World Cup, extending previous contracts signed in 2003 and 2005.

Under the agreement Puma will be the technical sponsor of all on-field, sideline, training and representation apparel and equipment for the men’s and women’s national teams plus the futsal and beach soccer teams beyond the 2014 World Cup.

VF names new president for Asia Pacific

28 Mar 2007

US branded apparel company VF Corporation has appointed Aidan O'Meara as president - VF Asia Pacific, a newly-created position, effective May 1.

In his new Hong Kong-based role, Mr O'Meara will oversee the continued growth of VF's brands across Asia

and the Pacific, reporting to Karl Heinz Salzburger, president of Europe, Middle East, Africa (EMEA) and Asia.

VF first entered the Chinese market with its Lee brand in 1994, and introduced its Wrangler brand in 2003. In addition to continuing the growth of these brands, Mr O'Meara will also be responsible for all licensing, distributor and direct relationships for The North Face, Kipling, Napapijri, Eastpak and JanSport brands throughout Asia and the Pacific.

Having been with VF's international jeans division since joining the company in 1992, Mr O'Meara has served as president of VF's Jeanswear-International coalition since 2005.

Saurer acquisition boosts Oerlikon's results

29 Mar 2007

Switzerland-based technology company Oerlikon has reported higher sales in 2006, boosted by the acquisition of manufacturer of spinning, texturising, twisting and embroidery systems Saurer.

Sales increased 42.7% from CHF1.6 billion ($1.3 billion) to CHF 2.3 billion, including Saurer sales for November and December (excluding Saurer, sales rose 5.8% to CHF1.7 billion). Orders received were up 80.9% to CHF2.6 billion (excluding Saurer, orders were up 42.9% to CHF2.1 billion).

Saurer tripled the company's business volume and staff numbers and the group is now active at 170 sites in 35 countries.

Olympikus supplies 25 countries at the Pan American Games

29 Mar 2007

Brazilian manufacturer of sports apparel Olympikus is to supply full kits to 25 delegations at the Pan American games, including Brazil. Paulo Santana, marketing director of the brands' owner, Calçados Azaléia, said that this move was "perfectly in line with our strategy to increase international visibility of the Olympikus brand, especially in the Latin American market."

The brand, which produces 11 million pairs of sports footwear every year, became a partner of the Brazilian Olympic Committee in 1999 and is now the official supplier of sports apparel to Brazilian delegations taking part in the Olympics, the Pan American Games and similar events. It also sponsors the Brazilian volleyball and athletics confederations.

New watch collection from Body Glove

29 Mar 2007

Wetsuit, swimwear, clothing, footwear and accessories sportswear brand Body Glove has expanded its product range with a new line of functional and performance watches for men and women. In collaboration with Time Concepts, LLC, a new company established by the founder and CEO of Luminox watches, the collection has been designed specifically for water environments.

Eurozone clothing & footwear sales pick up in March

29 Mar 2007

The Bloomberg Eurozone Retail Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), covering France, Germany and Italy, shows that economic conditions rose sharply to a four-month high in March. At 53.4, up from 49.8 in February, the PMI signalled the first increase in sales for three months. France saw the strongest increase in sales (among the euro area's three largest countries), for the second month running, registering an acceleration in sales growth to the fastest since last July (the index rose from 54.7 to 56.8). Sales recovered in Germany, with the index rising sharply from 45 to a three-month high of 52.8. Sales fell slightly in Italy from 50.4 to 49.6, continuing the trend of near-stagnation seen since the start of the year.

The strongest sales compared with the same period a year ago were seen for clothing and footwear, followed by household goods, largely driven by a bounce-back in sales at German retailers for both.

RAF clothing collection launched

29 Mar 2007

An official Royal Air Force (RAF) clothing collection was launched in the UK earlier this week. The line, which is supported by England rugby veterans and pilots Rory and Tony Underwood and the world's 'fastest man on land' Wing Commander Andy Green, includes a 40-piece men's range and a ten-piece ladies' range of polo shirts, jackets and jeans.

Avery Dennison acquires Paxar

29 Mar 2007

Avery Dennison Corporation has signed an agreement to acquire all outstanding shares of Paxar for $30.50 per share in a cash transaction valued at approximately

$1.34 billion. The acquisition is expected to enhance Avery Dennison's ability to compete and grow in the expanding $15 billion-plus global retail information and brand identification market.

Avery Dennison's Retail Information Services (RIS) business represents one of its fastest-growing units, providing brand identification and supply chain management solutions primarily for manufacturers and retailers, including tag and label design and printing, inventory and shipment tracking, and data management systems.

It expects annual cost savings of approximately $90 to $100 million, with similar infrastructure enabling the elimination of redundant production costs and reductions in selling, general and administrative expenses, including corporate overhead and back office support.

The transaction is expected to close by the end of the year and is subject to Paxar shareholder and regulatory approval.

Tag-It Pacific opens new Bangalore office

29 Mar 2007

Tag-It Pacific, Inc. recently opened an office for its Talon zipper brand in Bangalore, India—the third international office opened by the company in less than six months. Located in the fourth largest and fastest growing market in India, where the textile business accounts for 35% of gross export earnings, the new office will allow Talon to remain close to its branded apparel clients whilst ensuring rapid delivery of zipper and apparel trim.

Tag-It Pacific distributes a range of apparel zippers and trim items to manufacturers of fashion apparel, specialty retailers and mass merchandisers. Founded in 1980, the company sells its products through its sales force in the United States, Asia, the Dominican Republic and Central and South America.

Talon, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the company, designs, manufactures, engineers, tests, and distributes zippers to apparel brands and manufacturers.

Gildan Activewear to close Canadian facilities

29 Mar 2007

Canada-based manufacturer of branded apparel Gildan Activewear Inc. is to close its two remaining textile facilities in Montreal, Canada, as well as cutting facility in Bombay, N.Y., in the fourth quarter of the current fiscal year. Two sewing facilities in Mexico, which are supplied with fabric from Gildan's Canadian textile operations, will be closed immediately. Subsequent to these closures, all of Gildan's vertically-integrated manufacturing for T-shirts, fleece, sport shirts and underwear will be consolidated into the company's manufacturing hubs in Central America and the Caribbean Basin.

Gildan will also relocate its corporate office, which is currently located in the same building as its Montreal knitting facility, into leased premises in the Montreal area.

Approximately 465 employees in Canada and the USA and 1,365 employees in Mexico will be affected by the restructuring.

New custom-moulded backpack from Osprey

30 Mar 2007

American backpack company Osprey has launched the Aether (men's) and Ariel (women's) pack ranges. Both offer hip belts that can be custom moulded using the Custom Moulding oven, a fitting service that is available at all the company's retail outlets.

The new ranges have been designed for backpacking and are lightweight but able to carry heavy loads. The Aether series ranges in size from the 85 [litre capacity] to 70 and 60. The Ariel 65 is the largest in the women's series, which also includes a lighter Ariel 55.

Pack features include AirScape suspension for back ventilation, a stretch woven front pocket, dual entry stretch woven side pockets, sleeping pad straps, and an internal backpanel hydration sleeve with dual exit ports.

Burton Snowboards opens new store

30 Mar 2007

Vermont-based snowboarding company Burton Snowboards will open a flagship retail store in the Gold Coast shopping district of Chicago in late autumn.

The store will feature products from all its brands including snowboards, boots, bindings, outerwear, lifestyle apparel and luggage. It will also feature Anon sunglasses and goggles, R.E.D. protective gear, Analog clothing and Gravis shoes and accessories.

Paxar offers new apparel solution

30 Mar 2007

RFID and labelling supplier Paxar is to provide an RFID solution for Portuguese clothing brand Throttleman to help to improve its retail supply chain.

The company is developing a solution for Throttleman in collaboration with Sybase and CreativeSystems and will take charge of the printing and supply of the RFID labels,

while Sybase provides the software solutions and CreativeSystems controls the support and the integration of the hardware.

The new solution called, RetailID, is a platform RFID solution adapted specifically for the retail industry. It is divided into three different areas: hardware—which comprises the physical elements of RFID platform such as tags, hand-held readers, fixed antennae and readers, portals and reading tunnels; integration—which creates the link between the hardware and the RetailID solution; and RetailID Solutions—the set of business functions related to the management, control and the tracking of products. Among other benefits this element enables control, checking and tracking of products in the stores and warehouses, inventory count in real time in warehouses and stores, and new trial channels of merchandising in the store.

Timberland names acting chief financial officer

30 Mar 2007

US footwear, apparel and accessories designer The Timberland Company has appointed its current vice president, corporate controller and chief accounting officer, John Crimmins, as acting chief financial officer. As acting CFO, he will be responsible for the full range of finance activities including accounting, financial planning and analysis, treasury, and audit, as well as legal and information technology.

Timberland markets products under the Timberland, Timberland PRO, SmartWool, Timberland Boot Company, Mion, GoLite and Howies brands.

Hanesbrands to close US plant

30 Mar 2007

US-based innerwear, outerwear and hosiery apparel company Hanesbrands Inc. is to close its Stratford Road textile manufacturing plant in Winston-Salem, USA, and move production to existing lower-cost plants in the Caribbean basin and Central America. In a statement, the company said that the closure was necessary in order to remain competitive.

Production at the Stratford Road plant, which makes underwear and panty fabric, will substantially end by June 30, with the plant's print fabric operation expected to cease production by the end of the year. The closure will affect 610 employees.

The company, which employs approximately 50,000 staff in 24 countries, produces goods under brands such as Hanes, Champion, Playtex, Bali, Just My Size, barely there and Wonderbra.

Noble Biomaterials launches new fibre system

30 Mar 2007

Noble Biomaterials, developer of X-Static, The Silver Fiber, has developed a new FRX fire resistant and anti-microbial fibre system to respond to the military's need for flame resistant clothing.

The system, which includes underwear, socks, t-shirts, jackets and combat uniforms, has been incorporated into the US Military's standard issued items.

General manager, Military Division, Shawn Connor, stated, "Current compression gear 'melts' on the body, making burns worse, while the X-Static FRX self-extinguishes."

American Eagle Outfitters expands leadership team

30 Mar 2007

US-based casual and sportswear clothing designer American Eagle Outfitters, Inc. has announced several promotions and a new appointment. On the heels of announcing record earnings and profits, the new structure is said to be designed to fuel ongoing growth at the company.

Susan McGalla has been promoted to president and chief merchandising officer, a role under which she will add Martin + OSA, the company's new sportswear concept, to her responsibilities while continuing to oversee the company's AE and aerie by American Eagle brands. Laura Dubin Wander will join the company as president of Martin + OSA in April, reporting directly to Ms McGalla, and will lead the design, merchandising, and marketing, as well as all operational functions for the new brand. Most recently, Ms Wander was president of Dana Buchman and Laundry by Shelli Segal, both divisions of Liz Claiborne Inc.

Meanwhile, Henry Stafford has been promoted to senior vice president and chief merchandising officer for the AE Brand, including the men's, women's and accessories divisions; Betsy Schumacher has been promoted to senior vice president and chief merchandising officer for aerie; and Kathy Savitt will assume the title of executive vice president and chief marketing officer for American Eagle Outfitters, Inc.