Business Week
16 July - 22 July

New Cortina store for TNF

16 July 2007

California-based outdoor apparel, footwear and equipment company The North Face has opened its first retail store in Cortina d'Ampezzo, a ski resort in Italy's Dolomite Mountains. The store is the company's 31st European outlet and covers 130 m² of retail space.

It will launch an assortment of the company's spring 2007 collections, including products from the Adventure Travel Collection. Products will include travel bags and T-shirts, apparel, footwear and equipment.

Tencel and Coolmax present joint fabrics at ispo

16 July 2007

Austrian manufacturer of man-made cellulose fibres Lenzing and European manufacturer of polyester resins, intermediates, filament and fibres Advansa presented collaborative products at ispo in Munich under the motto Tencel + Coolmax = 200% efficiency. The event took place on July 8-10.

The hydrophilic and moisture absorbing properties of Lenzing's Tencel have been combined with the wicking and drying qualities of Advansa's Coolmax for added comfort and performance during sporting activities.

Bread & Butter Barcelona attracts 91,000 visitors

16 July 2007

According to the organisers of Bread & Butter Barcelona, which took place July 4-6, the show exceeded all expectations attracting some 91,000 visitors.

There was a significant increase in the number of foreign visitors, with buyers from 99 countries attending the event. Visitors from Germany alone accounted for almost 10% of the total number of overseas attendees—an increase of 68% year-on-year—whilst the Russian presence also rose 50% compared with the July 2006 event.

Nike names new VP of Brand Management

16 July 2007

Nike has appointed Ken Dice has been as vice president of USA Brand Management.

He joins the company from Discovery Communications where, for the last three- and-a-half years, he led the marketing teams for The Discovery Channel, The Learning Channel, The Animal Planet, The Travel Channel, and eight other cable television networks. Prior to Discovery Communications, Mr Dice spent nearly five years at Sony Electronics where he was senior vice president of Consumer Marketing.

Everlast signs licensing agreement with AIBA

16 July 2007

US manufacturer of sporting goods, apparel and footwear Everlast Worldwide Inc. has signed a worldwide licence agreement with The International Boxing Association (AIBA) to be an official licensee for competition gloves and headgear. This four-year agreement will see Everlast's gloves and headgear used around the world in boxing tournaments such as the Olympics, the World Championships, and Olympic qualifying events as well as in AIBA sanctioned international boxing competitions.

StrataTek and Cocona to team up

16 July 2007

Following the introduction earlier this year of Alandale's patented stretch knit strataTek, the company has now teamed up with TrapTek to offer the strataTek technology combined with the moisture management and odour absorption properties of Cocona fabrics.

The strataTek knitting technique allows apparel designers to achieve one effect on the outside of a garment while placing another on the inside. Therefore, designers can now engineer garments using Cocona yarns against the body whilst placing different fashion or performance yarns on the outside of the apparel.

It is also said to open up more opportunities in terms of colour and prints. As Cocona yarn is inherently grey in colour through its use of activated carbon, the strataTek knitting technique now enables it to be paired with dyeable or printable yarns thus allowing for cross-dye effects and print/solid combinations.

The new fabrics will be officially unveiled at the Outdoor Retailer Summer Market in Salt Lake City on August 9-12.

CY Oriental makes new appointment

16 July 2007

CY Oriental Holdings Ltd., a Canadian incorporated, China-based apparel manufacturer, has appointed Clarence Kwong as chief financial officer.

A chartered accountant, Mr Kwong has more than 31 years experience, including roles with international accounting firms and with publicly listed companies in North America and Asia.

CY owns and operates a manufacturing facility in Shanghai, China, and is readying its newly constructed facility in the city of Tengzhou, China, for commencing production. The company's products include woven casual wear, woven formal wear, denim and knit junior sportswear.

Focus on smart textiles at CPD

17 July 2007

A number of textile and apparel producers, developers, technology suppliers and research institutes will appear at CPD in Düsseldorf, which will take place on July 22-24.

Around 1,825 exhibitors and 45,000 trade visitors will attend the event, at which products for the fashion, sports, work wear and healthcare sectors will be on show.

The smartTextiles village will feature items such as nanocoatings, integrated MP3 players, conductive yarns and self glowing textiles, and brands including Burton, O'Neill, Daniel Hechter, Bäumler and Lodenfrey will showcase fashion pieces with functional features.

Interactive Wear and Eleksen will offer technical components while textile and yarn producers such as Schoeller, Outlast, smartFiber and Greuter Jersey will present new features related to yarns and textiles. Seidel Moden is to reveal UV protective garments, WarmX will feature heatable underwear and Xybermind will present its new functional running shoe.

Eschler and T.M.F. pair up again at Eurobike

17 July 2007

Swiss fabric manufacturer Christian Eschler and Italy-based shorts pad specialist T.M.F are to present autumn/winter 2008/09 collections at this year's Eurobike in Friedrichshafen, Germany, from August 30 to September 2. The two companies have being working together on new developments for manufacturers of cycling clothing for almost 20 years and this will be their sixth joint appearance at the event.

Eschler's technology will appear in the form of a '170BPM (Beats per Minute) Soft Shell Jacket' from Italian technical sportswear company Castelli. The laminate is breathable and has advanced water vapour permeability so that sweat can escape, helping to keep the cyclist warm and dry. The material also offers protection from windy and wet weather conditions.

Eschler carbon fabrics will also be shown at the event. The weight of these fabrics, which have a 2-5% carbon content, can be reduced by 10-15%. They also have antibacterial and antistatic properties. The company offers a selection of carbon fabrics, which can be used in cycling jerseys, shorts, leggings and jackets. T.M.F. uses one of these fabrics in its padded cycling shorts and leggings range.

The two companies have submitted a transfer-printed cycling jersey and cycling jacket made from carbon fabrics for the 2007 Eurobike Award.

Lectra signs three-year agreement with CNMI

17 July 2007

France-based developer of software and CAD/CAM equipment Lectra has signed a partnership agreement with Camera Nazionale della Moda Italiana (National Chamber for Italian Fashion), the association that oversees the development of Italian fashion worldwide.

As a result of this partnership, Lectra will be involved with all the major Italian fashion events, including industry-related conferences, promotional events and fashion shows, such as Milano Moda Donna and Milano Moda Uomo. The company will also work with the CNMI on programmes to help young Italian designers through the 'Fashion Incubator Project'.

Founded in 1958, the CNMI represents 200 Italian fashion companies and works with schools in order to train and promote young fashion designers.

Oeko-Tex website turns multi-lingual

17 July 2007

Textile testing organisation the Oeko-Tex Association has made several changes to its website including design and content alterations. It has also increased the number of languages in which the site can be accessed to a total of nine: German, English, French, Chinese, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese and Turkish.

The website offers information on all aspects of the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 on an international level. This includes the philosophy and concept behind the

Oeko-Tex tests for harmful substances, a description of the association's product classes, the latest version of the criteria catalogue, the elements of the contract relating to Oeko-Tex certification, and an outline of the certification procedure. It also provides advice on the use of its label for product labelling and the licence holder's own company advertising.

There is also a search option for potential suppliers with certified raw materials, an overview of certified brand-name products, a download area and an events calendar.

New promotions at Jones Apparel

17 July 2007

US branded apparel, footwear and accessories company Jones Apparel Group, Inc. has promoted Cynthia DiPietrantonio to chief operations officer. Ms DiPietrantonio has been with the company for more than 24 years and most recently served as executive vice president, Customer Relations and Corporate Credit. She will report to Wesley Card, president and chief executive officer.

The company has also promoted Norman Veit to executive vice president, Management Information Services. Mr Veit is an experienced operations/systems manager and has been with the company for five years as senior vice president, Corporate MIS. Prior to this he was vice president of Information Technology for Ames Department Stores. Mr Veit will report to Ms DiPietrantonio.

New report on Japanese textile industry

17 July 2007

Dublin-based research company Research and Markets has released a new report entitled 'Japanese Textiles Sector: Industry Profile'.

It discusses significant developments in the industry and analyses key trends and issues. It also includes a description of the major regulatory bodies, laws and government policies in Japan as well as covering economic growth.

Company profiles are provided, major competitors are identified and the future of the industry is also discussed.

Dick's Sporting Goods launches Beckham Jersey

17 July 2007

Football fans can now buy the newly-designed MLS adidas David Beckham Replica Jerseys at all sports equipment, apparel and footwear stores belonging to Dick's Sporting Goods.

Mr Beckham will also be interviewed on the company's Halftime Show at the 2007 Sierra Mist MLS All-Star Game on July 19.

Available for men, women and children, the short-sleeved polyester jerseys feature the footballer's name and number, 23, on the back with the L.A. Galaxy emblem and adidas logo on the front.

New report on textile machinery released

17 July 2007

Dublin-based provider of market research, Research and Markets, has released a new report 'Textile Machinery - Global Strategic Business Report', analysing the worldwide markets for textile machinery in millions of US dollars.

The major product segments covered include fibre/fabric machinery (cleaning & opening machinery, carding & combing machinery, drawing & rowing frames, spinning & twisting frames, yarn winding machines, and yarn preparing machines), fabric machinery (weaving machinery and knitting machinery), and other textile machinery (bleaching, mercerising & dyeing machinery, printing machinery, finishing machinery, and drying machinery), plus parts and accessories.

The report provides separate analytics for the USA, Canada, Japan, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Middle East, and Latin America, providing annual forecasts for each region and product segment for the period of 2001 through 2010.

The report also profiles 276 companies including American Textile Machinery, Toyoda Textile Machinery, Lonati S.P.A., Rieter AG, Shima Seiki Mfg., Ltd., Toyota Industries Corporation, Tubular Textile LLC, Veejay Lakshmi Engineering Works Ltd., and Willy Grob AG.

PPR takes control of Puma

17 July 2007

Following the expiry of the additional acceptance period of its voluntary public takeover offer for Puma, French luxury goods group, and owner of brands such as Gucci, PPR has become the majority shareholder of the German sportswear brand with a 62.1% stake.

On April 10, PPR acquired a controlling stake in Puma and announced the launch of a friendly voluntary public takeover offer at a price of €330 per share. The offer started on May 14 and the additional acceptance period expired on July 11.

Darren Clarke launches new golf shoe range

18 July 2007

British golf professional Darren Clarke has designed a range of high performance shoes which will form part of UK golf shoe and outerwear company Stuburt's 2008 collection.

The DCC Classics (Darren Clarke Collection Classics) collection, which was unveiled at the Barclays Scottish Open at Loch Lomond last week, features a Goodyear shoe with a welted leather outsole, rubber traction elements, full leather lining, full grain leather uppers, a LiquiCell Plus sock liner technology and a Dri-back Plus waterproof breathable membrane system.

Adidas teams up with University of Michigan

18 July 2007

The University of Michigan has signed a multi-year agreement with adidas under which the German sports-wear brand will supply footwear and apparel for the university's 25 athletic teams. The new agreement will begin with the 2008-09 academic year and extend through to the 2016-17 season. It is valued at $7.5 million annually over the eight-year period.

Performance Fibers establishes new European headquarters

18 July 2007

US-based producer of polyester fibres and materials Performance Fibers is to establish a new European shared-services centre and executive management headquarters in Luxembourg.

The centralised location will bring together employees from the company's operations in France and Germany. Approximately 30 employees will be based at the new offices initially with plans to hire new employees in the future.

Vice president and managing director, Europe, Alex Carnevale, said, "Luxembourg is conveniently located to Germany, Belgium and France and close to many of the areas where we are seeking to expand our business. We are open to the possibility of including other functions, such as research and development, if it is economically advantageous."

30% more entries for OutDoor Industry Award

18 July 2007

There have been 30% more entries for this year's OutDoor Industry awards, totalling 202 entries from 21 countries. The entries include new products and prototypes including textiles, hiking and trekking footwear, as well as mountaineering and camping equipment.

Products will be judged on level of innovation, design quality, workmanship, selection of materials, environmental compatibility, functionality, usefulness, safety, trendsetting qualities and brand value/branding.

All products that are awarded bronze, silver and gold awards will be on display during the OutDoor trade show in Friedrichshafen, Germany.

Dunning Golf presents new styles at British Open

18 July 2007

Zach Johnson, John Senden and Spencer Levin from Canadian performance golf apparel company Dunning Golf are to showcase selections from the brand's autumn 2007 collection at this week's Open Championship in Carnoustie, Scotland.

In the event of wet conditions, Mr Senden and Mr Levin will compete in the company's Tour Stretch outerwear line featuring "c_change" technology.

Mr Johnson will wear apparel items similar to those he wore at the 2007 Masters; the brand's Interface Pro Compression Long Sleeve Mock, a technical polo and an Interface Thermal Windshield Vest. These items offer breathability, muscle support, moisture wicking, wind resistance and UV protection.

Livestrong collection launched

18 July 2007

Following on from the success of the Livestrong wristband, of which more than 70 million have been sold since its launch in 2004, Nike and world famous cyclist Lance Armstrong have unveiled a new Livestrong apparel, footwear and accessories collection for men, women and children. All profits from the collection—which is designed for training, running, and cycling—will be given to the Lance Armstrong Foundation, which supports cancer survivor programmes.

OptiTex launches new version of 3D Runway software

18 July 2007

Israeli developer of software for the fashion and textile industry OptiTex has released the latest version of its flagship 3D Runway software product including a new suite of tools designed for the textile, home furnishing, upholstery and other sewn products industries.

Aimed at enhancing workflow and collaboration, the new package is said to reduce product development time from design through to production. The fabric simulation software system allows for instant visualisation of pattern modification using 3D on-screen models with adjustable body measurements. It also enables several simulated posture positions and continuity of movement with the garments while enabling the customer to evaluate and comment on the final product before any production material is used. Moreover, it is also said to provide “the perfect tool” to fully present animated current or future collections in a 3D environment with diverse backgrounds and offers the possibility of preparing a full fashion show with more than one avatar on screen.

Chargeurs Fashion and Holfipar team up

18 July 2007

French textile producer Chargeurs has signed a partnership agreement with Moroccan holding company Holfipar under which the companies’ apparel fabrics businesses (Chargeurs Fashion and Sefita) will be merged into a single entity, Chargeurs Fashion. The two companies will hold an equal interest in the company.

Avery Dennison names new group VP

18 July 2007

US manufacturer of pressure-sensitive labelling materials, retail tag, ticketing and branding systems Avery Dennison Corporation has appointed Timothy Clyde as group vice president, Specialty Materials and Converting (SMC), effective July 16.

In his new role, Mr Clyde is responsible for the company’s Graphics and Reflective Products Division, Specialty Tape Division, Performance Polymers Division, Specialty Converting Division and Performance Films Division. In addition, he will continue to be responsible for Corporate Global Operations and Supply Chain.

Arkema and Le Coq Sportif hit the rugby pitch

19 July 2007

French sportswear brand Le Coq Sportif has launched two new high tech rugby boots incorporating chemical group Arkema’s Pebax polymer.

As a result of using Pebax, the two new models, Favorite and Puncher, are said to be up to 20% lighter than those made from traditional materials. They are also said to absorb impact and vibration whilst a thinner sole increases flexibility.

The new boots will be worn for the first time during the Rugby World Cup in September by international French player Frédéric Michalak.

Delta Apparel closes US textile facility

19 July 2007

As a part of a restructuring plan for its textile manufacturing operations, US-based activewear manufacturer Delta Apparel, Inc. is to close its production facility in Fayette, Alabama, USA, resulting in the loss of 110 jobs.

The company will maintain its two other US textile operations in Maiden and Fayetteville, North Carolina.

More European buyers to attend WSA Show

19 July 2007

A significant number of new buyers from Europe are expected to attend The WSA Show in Las Vegas on July 30 to August 1.

A German delegation led by the Sabu Buying Group will attend for the first time, as will German department store Karstadt. Buying teams from French company Printemps and UK store Harvey Nichols will also attend the event. Other newcomers will include Biella Scarpe from Italy, and Brantano, Dolcis, Jones the Bootmaker and Peacocks from the UK.

More exhibitors confirmed at BIFF&BIL

19 July 2007

The number of companies attending BIFF&BIL 2007—the Bangkok International Fashion Fair & Bangkok International Leather Fair—which will take place on August 22-26, will be 19.5% higher than at last year’s event. 540 domestic and overseas producers and service

providers will present their products at the fair, including 56 exhibitors from Vietnam, Cambodia, Burma, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, India, Hong Kong, the Philippines and the People's Republic of China. Exceeding the organisers' expectations, 382 domestic fashion goods producers and 102 leather exhibitors will also showcase their latest collections.

At least 30,000 visitors from around 60 countries are expected to attend the event.

Italian textile production increases

19 July 2007

Following a weak start to the year, the manufacturing sector in Italy appears to have picked up as reports indicate that production rose 0.4% in March, 0.5% in April and 0.9% in May.

According to ISTAT, the Italian National Institute of Statistics, the sectors recording the best performance included footwear, textiles, and clothing.

Promotion at Columbia Sportswear

19 July 2007

US-based active apparel and footwear firm Columbia Sportswear Company has promoted Pascal Bonnet to sales manager for France. Mr Bonnet will report directly to Andre-Pierre Bonamy, European sales director.

With 15 years experience in a variety of sales roles in the outdoor and sports industries Mr Bonnet has been with Columbia for over three years as a key account manager. Prior to joining Columbia, he worked at the Intersport Group for ten years.

Brandix College offers more RMIT degrees

19 July 2007

Sri Lanka-based Brandix College of Clothing Technology (BCCT) is in negotiations with the School of Fashion and Textiles of the RMIT University, Australia, to launch a second RMIT programme in Sri Lanka leading to a degree in Fashion and Merchandising.

The course is expected to commence in November this year and the college is also in negotiations to offer an MSc course of RMIT in Sri Lanka, possibly by July 2008.

BCCT currently offers a degree programme in Textile Technology from RMIT, in addition to the vocational training courses it provides to those working in the Brandix Group, Sri Lanka's largest apparel exporter. This degree course leads to a Bachelor of Applied Science degree and is a three-year full time study course. The programme comprises BCCT's two-year diploma in Clothing Technology and Management and the final year courses of the RMIT degree.

Hohenstein's Chinese office celebrates success

20 July 2007

The Chinese office of Germany-based Hohenstein Institutes in Shanghai is celebrating two successful years of business. Founded in June 2005 as an advisory and intermediary company, Hohenstein Textile Consulting Co. Ltd. now employs a number of qualified members of staff under the leadership of country manager Rachel Huang.

The office provides services covering a range of textile quality tests ranging from traditional material tests through to the evaluation of processing and fitness for purpose, as well as offering Oeko-Tex Standard 100 certification.

Rohm and Haas to build new polymer emulsions plant

20 July 2007

US-based specialty materials manufacturer Rohm and Haas has announced plans to build a new polymer emulsions manufacturing facility near Moscow to serve a number of markets including coatings materials and adhesives.

Construction of the new plant, which will have an initial capacity of 50,000 metric tons, will begin in the first half of 2008 with completion planned for early 2009. This marks the company's largest investment in Russia to date.

VF posts record Q2 results

20 July 2007

US-based branded apparel company VF Corporation has reported record results for the second quarter ended June 30.

Revenues rose 12% to reach $1,517.4 million compared with $1,351.3 million in the comparable period in the prior-year, driven by higher revenues across its Outdoor, Jeanswear, Sportswear and Imagewear businesses.

In the Outdoor segment, total revenues improved 20% to $446.8 million whilst domestic revenues grew 10%, driven by double-digit growth in its The North Face and Reef brands and strong growth at its Vans brand.

However, JanSport revenues declined in the quarter, due primarily to a shift in the timing of product shipments. Total revenues at the company's Sportswear division, which includes the Nautica, John Varvatos, and Kipling brands, rose 9%.

Revenues for the first half reached a record $3,191 million, up 14% from the $2,806.9 million reported in the first six months of 2006.

IAG signs exclusive agreement with Pony

20 July 2007

International Apparel Group, Inc. (IAG), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Total Luxury Group, Inc., has signed an exclusive licensing agreement for the Pony label for all men's and young men's apparel products, covering the USA, Canada and Puerto Rico.

Under the agreement, IAG will develop activewear and lifestyle apparel products featuring the Pony name and chevron logo, as well as a line of vintage Pony apparel products.

Gerber Technology launches GERBERspreader XLs125

20 July 2007

Gerber Technology has launched the latest addition to its new series of performance spreading products the GERBERspreader XLs125, developed and manufactured to yield an improved price to performance ratio. The second product in the new series, the XLs125 is said to offer a higher weight and roll capacity as well as additional features to fit a wider range of spreading applications.

The new product is said to assure that material rolls weighing up to 125kg (160lb) are spread without tension and that edges are perfectly aligned and can be used to spread woven or knit materials in roll or flat form for a wide variety of applications. It also provides accurate and consistent spread length and alignment of fabric edges which enables parts to be nested closer to the beginning, end, and edges of the spread, eliminating end loss and optimising material utilisation.