**Business Week**
**23 July - 29 July**

## SATRA CEO appointed to AAFA board

23 July 2007

The American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) has appointed UK technology centre SATRA's chief executive Richard Turner to the AAFA board of directors. He succeeds Dr Ron Whittaker who retired last month.

AAFA President and CEO Kevin Burke commented, "To have Richard Turner on the association's board will benefit not only the industries we represent, but I believe he will find many opportunities for himself and SATRA as well as we all work and learn together."

Through an exclusive partnership, SATRA services are available to AAFA footwear member companies.

## Tag-It Pacific changes name

23 July 2007

Adopting the name of its key brand product, US supplier of apparel fasteners, trim and interlining products Tag-It Pacific, Inc. has been renamed Talon International, Inc., effective July 23.

"Adopting the name of our key brand reflects our core marketing strategy to capitalise on the dramatic growth opportunities in the $7 billion international zipper market," said Stephen Forte, chief executive officer.

The company offers a full line of metal and synthetic zippers under the Talon brand name which it markets worldwide through the company's owned offices, agents, distributors and affiliates.

## Avery Dennison to hold RFID event

23 July 2007

US-based provider of information management and brand identification products Avery Dennison will host a forum for 40 senior executives in the apparel and footwear sectors during the RFID Journal/AAFA Apparel & Footwear Summit in New York on August 20-22.

Numerous issues relating to the apparel and footwear sectors will be discussed at the event including how to reconcile SKU numbers with the RFID code; how to deal with variable colour codes and match RFID codes with the correct tickets and labels; how to attach and apply RFID tickets and labels; how to overcome the need for carrying a large RFID base label inventory; and how to co-ordinate tagging items at several different manufacturing facilities.

## Sales rise at Oakley

23 July 2007

Performance apparel and footwear company Oakley, Inc. has posted improved financial results for its second quarter ended June 30.

Net sales totalled $263.2 million, an increase of 29.3% from $203.6 million in the same period of 2006, whilst net income reached $21.5 million from $17.9 million in the prior-year period.

## BASF raises prices for Elastollan

23 July 2007

Specialty chemicals producer BASF Corporation will raise the prices for all its Elastollan thermoplastic polyurethane elastomers (TPUs) in North America by $0.15 per pound, effective August 1.

Commenting on the increase, James Lausch, director of the Elastollan TPU business in North America, stated, "This increase reflects the ongoing strong demand for TPU and the need to address the prolonged escalation of energy costs, the continued tight supply of raw materials and the rise of transportation costs." Elastollan TPUs are used in various industries including sports and leisure, and footwear.

## Dow and Crystalsev plan to set up 'sugar cane' polyethylene JV

23 July 2007

The Dow Chemical Company and Crystalsev, one of Brazil's largest ethanol producers, have signed a memorandum of understanding for the establishment of a world-scale facility to manufacture polyethylene from sugar cane.

Under the terms of the agreement, Dow and Crystalsev will form a joint venture in Brazil to design and build what is said to be the first integrated facility of its scale in the world, which is expected to start production in 2011 with a capacity of 350,000 metric tons.

The new facility will use ethanol derived from sugar cane, an annually renewable resource, to produce ethylene—the raw material required to produce polyethylene.

"We are excited to partner with a great company like Crystalsev to build the first world-scale polyethylene facility that will use a renewable feedstock," said Andrew Liveris, chairman and CEO of Dow.

## Chile to provide Pacific links for Argentina

24 July 2007

Argentina hopes to take advantage of the geographical location and expertise of its neighbour Chile to make a greater impression on the Chinese market. Leather is one of the sectors in which Argentina hopes to increase exports to China.

The province of Buenos Aires will be at the forefront of this effort to increase Argentinian products' share of the Chinese market. The area around the capital produces more than 60% of Argentina's exports, according to regional minister Débora Giorgi. She has been working to build links to China through Chile and recently told a local online business news resource that Chile's openness and ties with markets in south-east Asia could offer Argentina a "unique outlet" for its finished and semi-finished goods, including leather and leather goods.

## Outlast promises to put phase-change finish directly onto polyester

24 July 2007

The chief executive of Outlast Technologies, Greg Roda, has told sportstextiles.com that his company is preparing to offer temperature-balancing functionality to polyester fabric and is looking for a sports brand to help it fast-track the idea into the market.

Outlast researches, develops, designs and markets phase-change materials (PCMs) for use in performance textiles. Its micro PCMs are usually applied to fabrics that brands can incorporate into their apparel, footwear and bedding offerings.

The principle of Outlast's PCMs is that they absorb excess heat to keep the wearer cool in high temperatures, and store the heat to warm wearers up when necessary. The overall effect is to increase comfort, while remaining undetectable to touch and eye.

Mr Roda says he now wants brands to re-think how they might use this technology, but, for Outlast's part, he wants to concentrate the company's efforts on a smaller number of possible applications. "We've quit working on 20 or 30 projects," he explains, "and are focused on only two or three instead. One that I am very excited about is a process we call infusion."

Infusion is something the company has been doing since last year, applying its technology to finished garments of 50% (or more) cotton or other natural fibre. It already has one manufacturing partner in the US and another in Hong Kong that have incorporated infusion into their product offering.

"It's been proven to be very good for cotton and high-percentage cotton blends," the CEO continues. "But, recently, we've found that we are also able to infuse flat fabric, even 100% polyester, without compromising its wicking properties. Garments made from polyester have been pretty comfortable up till now, with good wicking, but they have generally had no temperature performance. We now have the ability to add that."

This newer use of the infusion idea involves the Outlast application going onto rolls of fabric. Previously it was infused into fibres. Mr Roda acknowledges that, in the normal scheme of things, it could take as much as two years before any polyester garments with his company's PCM appear on the market. But he's hoping for a quicker breakthrough. "We're hoping to fast-track any brand we can convince to be interested," he says.

Legal challenges the company has faced in recent years—from Frisby Technologies—over the patents behind the technology are almost over. The chief executive says the intellectual property is Outlast's to use, and that one recent court hearing offered "a very strong opinion" in his company's favour. He knows of one further appeal, but is unsure of the exact date.

He's also pleased about progress in what he refers to as "our Asian supply chain". The partnerships Outlast has there are working well, and the companies involved have given him all the confidence he needs that they will be able to build the PCM technology into fabric in the right volume and to the most demanding customer specification. "That's why we know we'd be able to fast-track one of the big brands on the polyester application," he adds.

## Visitor number up 9% at OutDoor

24 July 2007

A total of 16,900 trade visitors from 70 countries attended OutDoor 2007, held July 19-22 in Friedrichshafen, a 9% increase compared with last year's event. A record 731 companies from 39 countries participated at the fair, 80% of whom were from overseas.

The spotlight at this year's session was on two new sports disciplines: trail running and slacklining, a balance sport which utilises nylon webbing stretched tight between two anchor points.

## Big names at London Fashion Week I

24 July 2007

A number of prominent designers will participate at London Fashion Week, held September 15-20.

UK bag and accessories designer Nadia Minkoff will present a collection of products made from Italian vegetable-tanned leather and a spring/summer 2008 collection from adidas and Stella McCartney will also be on show.

## BASF raises prices

24 July 2007

Effective immediately, German chemicals company BASF has increased prices for colorants and additives globally from between 5% and 20%, depending on the product line, and as existing contracts allow. The company attributes the change to increased energy, raw material and transportation costs.

The products that are affected are: organic, inorganic and effect pigments, pigment preparations, specialty films, dyes, thickeners and light stabilisers. These products are primarily used in the coatings, plastics and specialties industries.

## Electronics idea could boost football-shirt sponsorship – EXCLUSIVE

25 July 2007

Apparel sponsorship in football is big business, with the total value in England's premier league—by far the most lucrative in the world according to professional services firm Deloitte—reaching £70 million ($143 million) last season.

As clubs look for new ways of attracting sponsors, and helping them make the most of advertising opportunities, a new development from TITV Greiz, the textile research institute of Thuringia, central Germany, could be of interest to them.

The institute recently introduced an idea it is calling partial conductive textile structures, which offers an electronic lighting solution for textiles. It consists of a textile coating that sits on top of the electronic components, with insulation built in to protect against the force of around 15 volts. One of the first applications TITV has looked at is in automotive upholstery. The new solution could provide emergency lighting on the back of seats, for example.

However, institute spokesperson Dr Andreas Neudeck, has told sportstextiles.com that there could also be possible applications in the sports apparel sponsorship arena. "You could not apply this to the shirts players wear during a match," he said, "because there needs to be a power source. But illuminated sponsorship on padded jackets for players on the bench, or for the whole squad to wear during warm-up could be a possibility. Those jackets could easily have a foil battery built into them as the power source."

Printing names and logos clearly restricts the number of sponsors teams can chase. Electronic apparel advertising could open the way to extra sponsors and extra revenue.

## Higher visitor numbers at Intertextile Pavilion

25 July 2007

More than 6,500 buyers attended fabric and accessory fair Intertextile Pavilion in Shenzhen, July 12-14, compared with 6,400 in 2006. 230 exhibitors came from seven countries and regions to participate, many targeting international companies with factories in China.

As one of China's key apparel-producing regions, Shenzhen and the Guangdong province play a major role in the textile trade in China and the event has helped to promote the local industry.

Intertextile Pavilion, held for the third time this year, runs concurrently with the Shenzhen International Brand Clothing and Accessories Fair.

## Huntsman to acquire DuPont's global fluorochemical business

25 July 2007

Huntsman Corporation's Textiles Effects business has signed an agreement to acquire DuPont's global fluorochemical business for the nonwovens industry. The DuPont Zonyl fluorochemical product line is used on nonwoven applications as effective repellents for water-, alcohol- and oil-based fluids.

Huntsman will assume full responsibility for all commercial activities related to the business. The transaction with DuPont includes a long-term supply agreement for finished products and intermediates. The companies have also entered into a joint development agreement to bring new innovation to the nonwovens marketplace.

Financial details of the transaction were not disclosed.

Huntsman is a global manufacturer and marketer of differentiated chemicals. Its operating companies manufacture products for a variety of global industries, including textiles, footwear, chemicals, plastics and

automotive. It has 14,000 employees and over 75 operations in 24 countries.

## Double-digit overseas growth at Rohm and Haas in Q2

25 July 2007

US chemicals producer Rohm and Haas Company reported second quarter 2007 sales of $2.2 billion, a 5% increase compared with the same period in 2006. The company reported double-digit growth in all geographic regions excluding North America.

Sales for the performance materials group totalled $296 million, up 5% over the same period last year due to stronger demand in the Asia Pacific region, coupled with favourable currency effects. Earnings for the group were up 19% year-on-year to $19 million.

North American sales of $1.05 billion were down 1% compared with the prior- year period, while in Europe sales of $582 million were up 12%. Asia Pacific sales of $471 million were up 13% and Latin American sales of $90 million grew 11%. Sales in the key emerging markets of the company, such as China, India, Central and Eastern European countries, Turkey and Latin America rose 18%.

Sales for the first six months of 2007 were $4.4 billion, up 5% compared with the same period in 2006, reflecting higher sales across most businesses, and strong growth in the emerging markets. Net earnings were down 12% to $351 million, reflecting the impact of higher raw material costs, higher operating costs, investment to support the implementation of the European headquarters in Switzerland, and the cost of productivity improvement programmes in North America.

The company expects full-year sales to increase by approximately 6-7%.

## Sporting goods on show at Gaborone fair

25 July 2007

Following the success of the Botswana Consumer Fair in 2006, organisers are encouraging manufacturers to take part in the forthcoming event, which will take place in Gaborone from August 27 to September 2.

Reports indicate that approximately 400 exhibitors will attend, including members of the clothing, sporting goods, footwear and furniture sectors.

## Latin fashion revisits SIMM

25 July 2007

A Latin fashion forum will appear for the fifth time during the Madrid International Fashion Fair (SIMM). The LatinoAmérica Fashion Show will take place August 30-31. Eight designers will showcase collections for spring/summer 2008 and the forum will also present an overview of the latest fashion trends throughout the Latin American region.

Argentinean designer Vero Ivaldi and Colombian designer Olga Piedrahita will present on the first day of the fair, as will Simone Nunes, from Brazil, who will make her first appearance at the show.

On August 31, a joint fashion parade featuring Lina Cantillo (Colombia) and Trista (Mexico) will take place. In the afternoon, the latest ideas from Julia y Renata (Mexico) will be showcased, followed by Gloria Coelho (Brazil), whose collection is based on ‘fantasy and subjective reality’, and Pablo Ramírez (Argentina), winner of Centromoda Fashion Week Argentina.

More than 800 companies from over 30 countries will attend SIMM.

## Fila appoints new footwear VP

25 July 2007

Sports footwear and apparel manufacturer Fila has named Gary Wakley as vice president, footwear.

Mr Wakley joins the company from Prince Sports Inc. where he spent the past three years as senior director of footwear and apparel. With more than 36 years' experience in the footwear and apparel industry, he has held senior product and marketing positions at companies including Bata Shoe Company, Lotto and adidas.

Mr Wakley will be based in New York and will report to president of global operations, Mr Y Cho.

## Promotions and restructuring at Jones Apparel

26 July 2007

US branded apparel, footwear and accessories company Jones Apparel Group, Inc. has announced several promotions and organisational changes within its women's sportswear divisions, all of which are effective immediately.

Susan Metzger has been promoted to chief executive officer of its women's Better Sportswear division. Ms Metzger has been with the company for 11 years and

most recently served as president of sales and marketing for Better Sportswear. She will now report to Wesley Card, president and chief executive officer.

Susan Rieland has been promoted to chief merchandising officer for all women's sportswear brands, reporting to Ms Metzger. Ms Rieland has been with the company for almost 13 years.

Lynne Cote, former chief executive officer of wholesale sportswear, suits and dresses left the company on July 19, while Ronald Harrison has rejoined as executive vice president, corporate quality and production, reporting to Wesley Card. He has been with the company for 23 years.

Douglas Means has been promoted to executive vice president, production for the Better Sportswear divisions, reporting to Mr Card. Mr Means has been with the company for 15 years, most recently serving as executive vice president, corporate supply chain and logistics.

## Puma sales boost Q2 revenues at PPR

26 July 2007

French luxury goods group PPR has posted revenues of €9.2 billion for the first half of 2007, up 11.4% compared with the first half of 2006. These results include Puma revenues, which were fully consolidated from April 1.

For the second quarter, the group recorded revenues of €4.8 billion, up 18.1% compared with the prior-year period. Revenues outside France accounted for 61% of total sales, versus 57% in the second quarter of 2006.

Excluding Puma, revenues were up 5.7% in the first half and 5.9% in the second quarter.

The group's takeover offer for Puma was successfully concluded on July 11, with a 62.1% stake in the company's share. In the second quarter, Puma recorded a 3.1% increase in revenues on a comparable basis.

## Adidas loses case for kangaroo football boots

26 July 2007

A ruling from the Supreme Court of California has banned the use of kangaroo skin for football boots and other types of athletic footwear in the state. The case was brought against adidas, Sport Chalet and Offside Soccer by UK-based animal-rights group Viva! (Vegetarians International Voice for Animals), who feel the kangaroo needs to be protected.

Adidas currently sells ten styles featuring kangaroo hide, although less than 1% of its total footwear range contains the skin. A legal representative for the company said that it would continue to sell the shoes—such as the Copa Mundial and Predator styles—in the state until other issues in the case are resolved and that the case could eventually be referred to the US supreme court.

Viva's campaign director Lauren Ornelas said: "Using wildlife for shoes is not acceptable." However, adidas argues that none of its footwear is made from threatened or endangered kangaroos and that it does not condone the inhumane treatment of animals. Another line of defence is that kangaroos are extremely common in Australia and that numbers are increasing.

Reports indicate that new signing for LA Galaxy David Beckham recently decided to stop using boots made from kangaroo skin as a result of pressure from campaigners, despite claims that they are lighter, thinner and more flexible.

## Italian exports stand their ground

26 July 2007

The positive performance from Italy's export sector is continuing as a result of increased demand from both traditional and emerging markets for a range of products that includes leather, footwear, textiles and clothing.

According to prominent Italian politician Emma Bonino, the last year has been "more than positive", as progress in terms of 'Made in Italy' exports has not let up since June 2006. She added that statistics from Istat (the Italian statistics institute) back this up, reporting that exports to countries outside Europe have increased by 14.9%, almost double the rate of import growth (6.9%). In June, exports to Russia increased 33.3%, to Opec countries by 24.9%, to Mercosur by 23.1% and Asia by 18.1%.

Despite this, there are still fears that cheaper exports from Asian countries could be detrimental to the Italian export sector. However, exports from the sectors that are considered to be most at risk—the leather, footwear, textile, clothing and furniture sectors—have increased in value by approximately €300 million in the first six months of 2007.

## Higher performance fibre revenues at Rayonier

26 July 2007

US-based cellulose fibre producer Rayonier has reported second quarter net income of $33.3 million compared with $35.1 million the in first quarter of 2007 and $42.9 million in the second quarter of 2006. This includes a charge of $10.1 million related to forest fires in Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida. In the second quarter of 2006, the company received a special item gain of $6.5 million.

Sales of $300 million for the second quarter were comparable to first quarter 2007 but $12 million below second quarter 2006.

For the performance fibre sector, sales and operating income of $168 million and $31 million, respectively, were $1 million and $4 million above first quarter results, primarily due to increased prices. Compared with the second quarter of 2006, sales and operating income improved $2 million and $15 million, respectively, reflecting higher cellulose specialty prices.

Chairman, president and CEO Lee Thomas said: "The strength of our performance fibres business should more than offset the impact of the housing slowdown on timber prices."

## European spend on outdoor goods grows

26 July 2007

Industry association the European Outdoor Group (EOG) has released the results of a market research exercise it has been conducting for several years. According to secretary general Mark Held, the figures offer a picture of the state of the market at the end of 2006 for companies selling outdoor apparel, footwear and equipment.

“This hasn’t been easy,” Mr Held said. “It’s been like tracking a moving animal. We take what data the brands make available, calculate what percentage of the total market those brands have and scale up from there.”

With a total retail spend on the three categories of outdoor product of €5.49 billion, the exercise shows that, overall, the industry achieved 2.6% turnover growth in 2006, compared the previous year, in the most developed European economies. Taking into account the continuing pressure on prices, Mr Held made it clear that growth in volume was even higher.

Apparel accounts for 42.7% of the total, footwear 29.1% and equipment the remaining 28.2%. The country making the biggest contribution to the total was Germany, with €1.28 billion, compared to €1.16 billion in the UK and €704 million in France. Per capita spend was highest in Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

“The market is healthy and is still growing,” Mr Held concluded. “In Germany, I would say the market was buoyant, in spite of a recent increase in VAT.”

## Dates for Couromoda announced

27 July 2007

International footwear, sporting goods and leather goods fair Couromoda will take place on January 14-17, 2008, in São Paulo.

Approximately 1,200 exhibitors are expected to attend, representing over 3,000 brands as well as technical products and services.

The 2007 edition, held January 15-18, attracted more than 70,000 visitors.

## Peak Performance sponsors BMX championships

27 July 2007

Sweden-based ski and golf wear designer Peak Performance is the new apparel sponsor for Switzerland-based UCI (Union Cycliste Internationale). Its product range covers ski, technical sports, golf and sportswear.

The first event at which the company’s performance products will appear is the UCI BMX World Championships, currently being held in Victoria, BC Canada.

It will also sponsor the UCI BMX Supercross World Cup, the first round of which was held April 13-14 in Madrid. The forthcoming events are as follows: second round held August 20-21 in Beijing China; third round held September 21-22 in Salt Lake City, USA; and fourth round held October 13-14 in Frejus Roc d’Azur, France.

UCI is the International Federation of Cycling and represents the associations of 173 countries and their National Cycling Federations.

## Smart-textile solution for temperature control

27 July 2007

The Leitat technology centre near Barcelona is applying a new idea to an old problem. A team of technicians, using funding from the European Commission, has developed a smart-textile application for photo cells, which would allow garment manufacturers to meet consumer demand for clothes that keep them warm in winter and cool in summer.

Laurent Aubouy of the Leitat research and development team says that a summer garment incorporating the photo-cell idea could create a cooling effect of 8.3 degrees Celsius in sunny weather, and of 3.7 degrees on cloudy days. In winter, the same thermoregulatory system would be able to increase the wearer’s temperature by up to 13.5 degrees in sunshine, and by 8.3 degrees in cloudy conditions.

The idea centres on the Peltier effect, with the smart-textiles transferring heat from one side to the other using electrical energy from the photo cells. “We are talking here about an active process,” Mr Aubouy argues. “Ventilation is not an active process. With just ventilation in a garment for summer wear, you can only remove

humidity. With this system you can have real thermo-regulation."

He claims that polymers with photo-cell functionality have already begun to appear.

The Leitat centre has spun off a company called Suni-Lei to try to make the idea work commercially, with sportswear one of the possible areas of application. "We are looking for industrial partners to help us bring this to market," Mr Aubouy concludes. "For example, we want to improve the mechanical integration of Peltier cells into textiles to allow us to make easy-care garments."

## VF to acquire 7 For All Mankind and lucy brands

27 July 2007

Branded apparel company VF Corporation has signed definitive agreements to acquire two companies: Los Angeles-based denim lifestyle brand Seven For All Mankind, LLC, and Oregon-based women's active lifestyle label lucy activewear, inc. at a cost of $775 million and $110 million respectively. Transactions should be completed by the end of August.

The two companies will form the foundation for a new lifestyle brand-based coalition, VF Contemporary Brands. Mike Egeck will be appointed president of this group in addition to his current role as chief executive officer of Seven For All Mankind. He will report to Eric Wiseman, president and chief operating officer of VF Corporation.

The new coalition is expected to achieve annual revenues of over $350 million, based on anticipated combined 2007 annual revenues of the two brands and revenues are expected to increase at an annual rate of 15-20% over the next five years. It is expected to contribute approximately $125 million to total revenues in 2007, reflecting a partial year of ownership of both brands. The company now expects total 2007 revenues to rise by over 14% compared with the previously anticipated 12%.

## First half silks and textiles sales up 14% at Hermès

27 July 2007

French luxury goods house Hermès Group has reported a sales increase of 8.2% to €721m in the first half of 2007 following accelerated growth of 10% in the second quarter.

The strongest sales growth came from France (10%), the rest of Europe (12%), the Americas (9%) and Asia excluding Japan (12.5%).

Increases were seen across many of its business sectors including silks and textiles (up 14%), ready-to-wear and accessories (11%) and leather goods and saddlery (4%). Leather bag sales jumped 11% in the six-month period.

The group also opened four new branches in this period, in Osaka (Japan), Hangzhou (China), Wall Street (USA) and Shinsegae (Korea).

## Fashion and footwear at the new look Sipiel

27 July 2007

Preparations are underway for International Footwear and Leather Goods Week, Sipiel, which will take place September 27-29 in Madrid featuring a new layout. 572 companies have already confirmed their attendance and this number is expected to rise to approximately 700. The new layout will include eight different sections: Metro, Casual, Colours, Niño, Colours, Chic, Iberpiel Chic, Glamour and Iberpiel Glamour.

It will feature an exhibition entitled 'Mírame, Mírame' (Look at Me! Look at Me!); a photography collection of clothing and footwear items in different 'story' situations. Images will include a shoe with the heel in the style of an inverted Eiffel Tower and a cupboard full of clothing in the middle of a forest.

Austrian jewellery company Swarovski will be at the International Footwear Trade Fair, Modacalzado, along with its main clients from the footwear industry. 369 companies will attend, of which 89 will travel from overseas.

Visitors can also attend the International Leather Goods Trade Fair, Iberpiel Marroquinería, which has already attracted 58 exhibitors.

## 108% earnings increase at Columbia in Q2

27 July 2007

Oregon-based active outdoor apparel and footwear designer Columbia Sportswear Company has posted net sales of $218.6 million for its second quarter ended June 30, an increase of 3% compared with $211.6 million for the same period of 2006. Net income for the quarter was $10 million, a 108% increase compared with $4.8 million in the prior-year period.

While US sales fell 2% to $117.1 million and Canada sales dropped 5% to $11.9 million, Europe net sales increased 9% to $31.6 million and other international sales increased 14% to $58 million.

By sector, sportswear sales increased 11% to $124.4 million in the period, while footwear sales decreased 2% to $42.5 million, outerwear sales fell 8% to $39.8 million and accessories and equipment sales fell 8% to $11.9

million.

## Nordstrom to sell Faconnable for $210 million

27 July 2007

US fashion retailer Nordstrom is to sell apparel and accessories company Faconnable, a wholly-owned subsidiary, to Lebanon-based investment company M1 Group (M1) for $210 million.

All Faconnable's operations will transition to M1, including design, production, licensing, distribution and operations of the four US and 37 European Faconnable boutiques. It is thought that new categories such as leather goods, children's wear and home furnishings will be added to the brand's offering.

Nordstrom will continue to offer Faconnable products in its stores and the transaction is expected to close at the end of August.

US and Nice-based Faconnable employees will be offered positions by M1 when the transaction is completed.