Business Week

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Johnson Outdoors merger called off

29 March 2005

Johnson Outdoors Inc., proposed merger with JO Acquisition Corp. has been called off after the proposal failed to find support from some of the company's major shareholders. The company stated that whilst many longstanding shareholders backed the move, some institutions that recently became shareholders blocked the merger. Consequently, the company did not receive the supermajority vote of shareholders as required under law for approval.

Helen Johnson-Leipold, chairman and CEO of Johnson Outdoors, said, "While the outcome of today's vote isn't what we had hoped for, I want to thank all of our shareholders who supported this merger and reaffirm my strong commitment to Johnson Outdoors and its future."

Johnson Outdoors designs, manufactures and markets a portfolio of brands across four categories: Watercraft, Marine Electronics, Diving and Outdoor Equipment.

EU Trade Commissioner visits Morocco and Tunisia

29 March 2005

European Commissioner for Trade Peter Mandelson has undertaken a trip to Tunisia and Morocco in an attempt to emphasise the preferential trading partnership between the EU and the Maghreb countries. The visit comes at an important time for the EU-Maghreb relationship, with both sides seeking to deepen cooperation across the Euro-Mediterranean area. The EU is the largest trading partner for both Tunisia and Morocco.

During the visit Mandelson will reinforce the EU's commitment to developing a system of pan Euro-Mediterranean cooperation that will allow goods produced with inputs from more than one Mediterranean country to gain duty free access to the EU market. The introduction of this system will provide a major boost to regional economic cooperation.

It is also part of the EU's proactive policy of supporting Mediterranean partners such as Tunisia and Morocco in adjusting to the elimination of textile quotas from the start of this year.

Russell Corporation to supply CIAA

29 March 2005

America's Russell Corporation has signed an agreement to be the exclusive provider of athletic apparel, team uniforms, balls and sports equipment to all 12 member schools of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA), the oldest of the Historically Black College and University Conferences in the USA. Russell will also become an official sponsor of the CIAA basketball tournament.

With the addition of the CIAA, Russell now has partnerships with the four major Historically Black Athletic Conferences representing 46 schools. The company had signed agreements in 2004 with the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC), the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) and the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC).

Athletic programmes included in the agreement are men's and women's basketball, football, baseball, softball and volleyball.

Russell Corporation's major brands include Russell Athletic, Jerzees, Spalding and Brooks.

Cotton Incorporated and HueMetrix collaborate on dyeing technology

29 March 2005

Cotton Incorporated, an organisation that promotes the advancement of the cotton industry in the USA, is to support the commercial development of HueMetrix's "Right First Time" dyeing systems.

Under the terms of the arrangement, Cotton Incorporated will provide HueMetrix with facilities and equipment at its laboratory and pilot plant facility in Cary, North Carolina. This collaboration will enable HueMetrix to accelerate the commercialisation of its dye exhaustion monitoring and shade control systems that optimise the dyeing process, thereby increasing shade consistency and lowering operational costs associated with dyeing cotton-based goods.

“We are impressed by HueMetrix’s technology, and believe that it will help the cotton industry by enabling dyers to better control their exhaustion processes to more effectively and efficiently dye cotton products,” said Don Bailey, vice president of Textile Research and Implementation at Cotton Incorporated.

Cotton Incorporated, funded by US growers of upland cotton and importers of cotton and cotton textile products, is the research and marketing company representing upland cotton.

S. Thygesen launches bamboo fabric

29 March 2005

After more than one year of developing and refining, Danish producer of knitted fabrics, S. Thygesen.has launched a bamboo fabric on the market.

A material that is antibacterial by nature, breathable, is 100% bio-degradable and looks like viscose, the company is predicting that the product is set to be hugely successful, which doesn’t seem over ambitious as customers had already ordered samples even before the product had been launched.

”The interest for our bamboo product has been overwhelming,” said design executive Hanne Boettcher, who initiated the project after last year’s yarn exhibition, Expofil in Paris.

Bamboo looks very much like viscose, a fabric that Thygesen already produces, but the bamboo line can be produced without the usual chemical processes normally required to make a fabric antibacterial.

Because of its soft silk-like structure the bamboo fabric is being particularly aimed at lingerie and fashion manufacturers, but the structure and environmental aspects of the product mean that it is viewed as having numerous applications.

The bamboo fabric will initially be launched in five different qualities: Bamboo/Elastane, Bamboo/Cotton/Elastane 70/30, Bamboo/Cotton/Elastane 50/50, interlock and a 1-1 rib bamboo/cotton 70/30.

Lenzing rebrands Tencel

29 March 2005

Austrian textile fibre and nonwovens producer Lenzing presented its new brand at the shows Première Vision and TexWorld, held in Paris March 9-12, following Lenzing’s take-over of Tencel in May 2004. Following the acquisition, Lenzing and Tencel joined forces and the decision was made to use the Tencel brand for all of the Lyocell fibres, due to high level of recognition that the brand possesses at international level.

Meanwhile, Lenzing reported preliminary figures for 2004, recording increases across the board. Compared with 2003, profit from ordinary activities before interest and income tax increased by 16.3% to a record level of €104.3 million - the first time the company has ever exceeded the €100-million mark.

Significantly better production volumes in the fibre sector, the inclusion of the Tencel group, higher sales by Lenzing Technik, as well as an improved price level for fibres were the main factors said to have contributed to the results. The company stated that due to strong demand, it was possible to adjust prices in order to accommodate the higher raw-material costs.

Fibre capacities were enlarged at the company’s manufacturing sites, and this led to production reaching new record figures. The fibre volumes rose to 414,000 tons, compared with 379,000 tons in 2003.

Italy concerned with Chinese textile imports influx

29 March 2005

Concerns over the future of Italy’s textile industry have been expressed by the country’s government, following trade liberalisation of the textile industry that has led to the lifting of all trade barriers and allowed cheap clothes and textiles from countries such as China to freely enter the European Union market.

A recent report by Italian statistics and research group ISAE reveals Italy is particularly vulnerable to cheap imports due to its industry’s high level of specialisation. Italy is also losing business from its old partners such as Germany and France, who traditionally bought its products but have now switched to cheap imports. The report therefore suggests the changes in trade law have had a severe impact on traditionally large exporters.

Italy’s sales of veils, scarves and similar products have taken a considerable dip as have the exports of women’s clothes. Little change has been recorded with cloth and fabrics of weave gauge below 5mm, which so far have not suffered in revenue terms.

China questions legality of EU's anti-dumping tariffs on PSF

29 March 2005

China's Ministry of Commerce is considering filing a suit with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on the anti-dumping tariffs imposed on polyester staple fibre (PSF) by the European Commission (EC) on March 10, following the application of the country's Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles.

The tariffs imposed by the EC range from 4.9% to 49.6% on PSF goods made in China and were brought in to prevent a further increase of dumped goods on the EU market which are reportedly hurting the region's industry. PSF is used for padding in cushions, car seats and jackets and can be found in cotton and wool mixtures.

China believes the regulation is unfair due to the way in which the normal price of PSF has been calculated and wants to see its case settled by the WTO. Chinese polyester filament apparel fabric manufacturers are also concerned about the EC's preliminary ruling on anti-dumping duties of up to 85.3% for the fabric.

Famous track shoes recovered in Canada

29 March 2005

A pair of shoes worn by sprinter Percy Williams, in which he set the world record for the 100-metre sprint in 1930, has been recovered by the police after they were stolen from the Percy Williams Junior Public School in Scarborough, Canada.

The shoes were donated to the school when it opened in 1983, a year after Percy William's death. Two people have been arrested and charged.

Brasher launches new collections with Gore-Tex

30 March 2005

Footwear brand Brasher is to launch three new collections in September, AT:20, all:terrain, and 24:seven, all of which are to include Gore-Tex linings.

AT:20 which was originally launched in 2003, will have nine new styles added to the existing range. The new all:terrain collection has been designed as functional footwear with multi-active uses, from trail-walking to the high street. This shoe has been designed with mesh uppers, shock absorbing outsoles in contemporary styles, in an attempt to meet all of the requirements demanded of a 'multi-purpose' shoe.

Outlast launches two new 'light' fabrics

30 March 2005

Producer of phase change materials, Outlast Europe, has focused on the theme 'lightness' in its collection for spring/summer 2006. In an attempt to meet the consumer's demands for functional and lightweight fabrics, the company has developed two new fabrics which combine temperature regulation with lightness. The two new fabrics unveiled in the collection are Islamorada and Arvarda.

Islamadora is Outlast's first high performance coated net lining, which can absorb excess body heat, store it and release it when needed, thus enhancing the level of freshness in the summer weather.

"Due to a special coating process, we can keep the whole structure of the fabric. The coating on the backside doesn't show through, and the handle is pleasant and soft", said Outlast Europe's director of research and development, Volker Schuster.

Arvada is a lining that has been developed especially for summer lightweight clothing. Based on a breezy polyester non-woven, which is significantly lighter weight than traditional fabrics, this fabric acts as a mid layer, between the lining and the outer layer balancing temperature swings. The biggest advantage of this new product is that, as a mid layer, it allows designers and manufacturers freedom to choose the outer fabric and the lining, while still enabling them to offer functional thermo-regulating items.

ARC´TERYX names new European Business Coordinator

30 March 2005

Sabette Thompson, 30, has been named as the new European Business Coordinator at mountaineering equipment designer and producer, ARC´TERYX.

Having already worked at the company for three years, Thompson was previously responsible for the company's North American and international dealer service. She will assist European Brand Manager Gary Bryant in the European market, although her main office will remain in Vancouver.

Founded in Vancouver, Canada, in 1990, ARC'TERYX Equipment Inc. was set up with the idea of designing a better climbing harness. The company has since diversified, now offering a range of mountaineering and climbing equipment, including technical outerwear, backpacks and harnesses.

Intimate London Body & Beach moves venue

30 March 2005

The summer edition of the Intimate London Body & Beach Exhibition is moving to the larger venue of Earls Court 2. The new venue has double the capacity, so, according to its organisers, this July will see the biggest swimwear and Intimate Apparel event ever to take place in the UK.

"The July event has just outgrown the old venue. With continued popularity of the event and the development of the exhibition with a fashion catwalk, a larger venue is a must," commented Robert Thomas, director of the event.

Names set to appear at the event include: Gottex, Maryan Beachwear, Seaspray, DKNY Beachwear, Gideon Oberson, Huit, Fantasie, Freya, Essenze Mare, Cacharel, Christies, Aqua Clara, Pin Up Stars, Roidal, Lepel/Miss Lepel, Rosapois Mare, Magistral, Christina of Canada, Damella Beach, Verde Veronica, Verdissima, Bruno Banani, Pain du Sucre, Chantal Thomass, Aquaclara, XoXo, Mexx Body & Beach, Shirley of Hollywood, Free, Lidea, Charmline, Nicole Olivier, Felina, Parah Mare, Agatha Ruiz de la Prada, Parasol, Rygy, Ondademar, Ritratti, Storm in a D Cup, Vix, Pink Piranha, Lejaby, Rasurel, Maisie & Lilly, Slix, Casa di Stella, and Continental Textiles.

Bayer introduces new raw materials for the coating of textiles

30 March 2005

Bayer, manufacturer of the Impranil line of polyurethane dispersions - raw materials for the coating of textiles for outerwear, bags, luggage and fashion shoe uppers – is presenting new waterborne polyurethane dispersions with 60% elevated solids content at the Asia Pacific Leather Fair 2005 in Hong Kong.

One of the dispersions, Impranil LP RSC 1537, was designed for new technical applications but has properties similar to those of Impranil DLP Dispersion. The products are suitable for mechanical foaming and are characterised by high abrasion resistance, lightfastness and flexibility.

"We developed Impranil LP RSC 1537 primarily for upholstery, automobile seats, sporting goods and other technical articles," says Rolf Irnich, a specialist for textile coating and coagulation at the Business Unit Coatings, Adhesives, Sealants of Bayer MaterialScience. "One advantage of the high solids content is that high film thicknesses can be achieved with a single pass. Also noteworthy is that the coating is very environmentally friendly because only waterborne dispersions are used."

Another example is Impranil DLN Dispersion, used for the formulation of fashion coatings and the finishing of non-wovens. The company has also developed a new grade of this product having a solids content of 60%, which it markets under the name Impranil LP RSC 1380.

Bayer says polyurethane leather is becoming increasingly popular as an alternative to natural leather due partly to its economical production, durability and leather-like properties. Impranil, Impraperm and Desmoderm product lines for applications in the automotive, furniture and shoe industries are currently at the forefront of Bayer's developments formulated with raw materials.

Beijing strives to become fashion centre

30 March 2005

China is seeking to turn Beijing into a fashion centre through the combined efforts of the China National Federation of Textile Industry and the Beijing municipal government the purpose of which is to set up centres for fashion design, exhibition, public relations, garment production and brands.

The Beijing Economic and Technological Development Zone at Yizhuang of Daxing District in southern Beijing will host one such centre. Expected to launch in 2006, it will cover an eight hectare area and house 200 CAD (computer assistant design) workshops.

Beijing is also planning to build six garment production centres in nearby counties of Pinggu, Miyun, Shunyi and Yanqing and the New China International Exhibition Center will open in 2006. The work on the Beijing International Light Textile Trading Center is also expected to start soon.

Interstoff Asia welcomes more overseas visitors

30 March 2005

Interstoff Asia Spring and Source It, took place March 21–23 in Hong Kong and attracted a higher number of foreign visitors than at previous shows. A total of 9,253 trade buyers visited the events and whilst the majority came from Hong Kong, the shows saw an increase in visitors from Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Malaysia, Russia, Switzerland, Turkey, the US and Vietnam. Visitor figures from France, Greece, Korea, Portugal, Singapore and Spain remained similar to last year.

A total of 266 exhibitors from 12 countries and regions participated at Interstoff Asia and 110 companies from 11 countries and regions exhibited at Source It.

Cognis launches new Skintex Reloading

31 March 2005

German specialty chemicals and nutritional ingredients supplier, Cognis, showcased its latest innovation at Interstoff Asia Spring in Hong Kong; Skintex Reloading, which allows textiles treated with Skintex to be recharged with new microcapsules containing active ingredients.

Skintex is an encapsulation technology that allows textiles to be treated with natural actives for a range of effects. It is a system for treating fabrics with microcapsules made of chitosan, a substance made from the shells of shrimps. The normal friction between the wearer's skin and the garment serves to activate the gradual release of actives within the Skintex capsules. This means that clothing worn next to the skin (sportswear, tights, underwear etc.) can have caring, cooling or revitalising properties. This technology ensures that the active ingredients inside the capsules remain present even after several washes.

However, Cognis' new Skintex Reloading meets consumer demand for long-lasting effects by making it possible to recharge textiles with new microcapsules. Skintex Reloading is available for the slimming effect, utilising care ingredients such as Shea butter, apricot kernel oil, rose hip oil and red algae extract. The Reloading technology can also be used to refresh the cooling and moisturising properties of Skintex-treated clothing.

FiberLok appoints new sales director

31 March 2005

America's FiberLok, Inc, a manufacturer of high-performance Fibre Graphics (flocking) transfer printing technology, has appointed Kim Schneider as the company's western regional sales director.

Ms. Schneider joins FiberLok with over 12 years of apparel industry experience - originally with Instagraphics and most recently as Global Account Executive with Paxar Corporation marketing labels, tags and equipment.

Solutia to close nylon industrial fibre plant

31 March 2005

Solutia Inc., a producer of performance films, water treatment chemicals, heat transfer fluids and aviation hydraulic fluid and an integrated family of nylon products including high-performance polymers and fibres, is to close its nylon industrial fibre manufacturing unit at its plant in Pensacola, Fla., pending approval by the US Bankruptcy Court. Production will be moved to the company's Greenwood, SC, plant. This move will impact approximately 140 contractors and six Solutia employees. These employees will have opportunities to apply for positions elsewhere within the company. "A critical piece of Solutia's reorganisation strategy is re-shaping our asset portfolio so it consists of high-potential businesses that can consistently deliver returns in excess of their costs of capital," said Jeffry N. Quinn, president and CEO of Solutia Inc. "Focusing our nylon industrial fibre production at the Greenwood site is our most recent step forward in implementing this strategy." This move is subject to bankruptcy court approval, and is scheduled to be heard in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York on April 20. Solutia and 14 of its US subsidiaries filed voluntary petitions for reorganisation under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code on December 17, 2003.

Bayer MaterialScience establishes polyurethane system house in India

01 April 2005

Bayer MaterialScience AG, is currently founding its first integrated system house on the Indian subcontinent near New Delhi. Major customers for the polyurethane systems developed in the new system house will be the automotive, domestic appliance and footwear industries. The system house is scheduled to go live at the start of 2006.

Polyurethane system houses provide ready-to-use polyurethane raw material systems for use in the manufacture of heat-insulating foams, cooling unit and hot water sectors and many special applications in the automotive, footwear and sports equipment industries.

"The main aim of our system house strategy is to tap new markets," says Peter Vanacker, Head of the Polyurethanes Business Unit at Bayer MaterialScience. "Our system houses combine the strengths of our technology and raw materials with opportunities for regional production and technical service expertise. This enables us to offer our customers high-quality products and services."

In addition, Bayer Jinling Polyurethane Co., Ltd., a joint venture between Bayer AG and Sinopec Jinling Petrochemical Corp. of Nanjing, China, is set to double its annual production capacity by the end of 2005. The products manufactured there are utilised in countless applications for the Chinese automotive industry. The foam technology used and production expertise was developed in the Bayer MaterialScience Polymers R&D Centre in Shanghai.

Zara to open stores in Indonesia

01 April 2005

Following an agreement between Inditex - the owner of fashion retailer Zara - and Indonesian retailer PT Mitra Adiperkasa TBK (MAP), the first Zara store is set to open in Indonesia in 2005.

The first two stores will be opened in Jakarta at the beginning of the autumn/winter season. Both Zara stores, which will each cover over 1,500 m2., will be located in two of the best-known shopping areas of the capital, the ‘Plaza Indonesia’ and the ‘Pondok Indah Mall II’.

MAP operates over 30 different concepts, from sports and fashion outlets to department stores and coffee shops. It now has over 450 stores across the 22 territories of Indonesia.

In addition to the launching of the first stores in Indonesia, Inditex will also increase the number of outlets in other markets of the Asia-Pacific area where it’s already present. The company expects to open eight new stores in Japan in 2005; two new stores in Hong Kong, and a fourth Zara store in Singapore.

Algo Group posts results

01 April 2005

Canadian manufacturer and importer of ladies' fashion apparel, and men's, boy's and children's sportswear, Algo Group Inc. reported a drop in fourth quarter sales to $12.9 million compared with $14.9 million for the same period in 2003, however, net loss was $2.1 million compared with a net loss of $2.2 million last year. For the full year, sales were $62.0 million compared with $71.9 million last year, and net loss was $4.8 million compared with $3.8 million in 2003.

"A stronger Canadian dollar and weaker demand were the main factors affecting our sales and earnings in 2004," said Algo Group president and CEO, Dan Elituv. "Our initiatives to reduce operating costs began to yield benefits in the second half of the year leading to a reduction in loss from continuing operations for the third and fourth quarters."

Sales of sportswear decreased by $1.5 million in 2004. However, this division of the company was said to have contributed significantly to the overall performance.

Turkish presence set to boost ITCE Cairo

01 April 2005

A substantial presence of Turkish exhibitors is expected to further boost visitor turnout at ITCE Cairo 2005, the 9th international African Arabian exhibition for textile, embroidery, sewing machinery and accessories that will take place at the Cairo Fair Ground from May 12–15, 2005.

Increasing investment opportunities in the Egyptian market, particularly in the textile sector, has resulted in a surge in interest by investors to tap this market. After signing the Qualified Industrial Zone (QIZ) agreement with the USA last December, Egyptian textile exports are expected to witness a significant growth, reaching US$ 4 billion within the next five years. The country’s exports in 2003 amounted to only US$ 904 million.

“More than 30 per cent of the exhibitors this year are from Turkey and this will generate a lot of interest among participants and visitors, as Turkey is known for the quality of its cotton textiles and manufacturing techniques. Turkey, after its industrialisation efforts in late sixties, is among the pioneers to adopt latest textile manufacturing machinery and equipments,” said Ahmad Ghozzi, chairman, ACG, organisers of the event.

At present the textile industry is one of the most crucial sectors in the Turkish economy in terms of GDP, employment and exports. The share of this industry in the country's GDP is around 10% and the country produces and exports all types of yarn, fabric, clothing, home textiles and other ready-made products.
The huge growth in exports predicted in Egypt's textile exports has prompted Egypt's textile factories to invest major resources in upgrading their machinery and processes.

Jafza records 178% increase in number of textile companies

01 April 2005

Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority (Jafza), has announced that it achieved a 178% increase in the number of textile companies operating in the zone, between 1999 and 2004. During the first quarter of 2005, the total tally of textile companies in Jafza reached 177. Textile imports from the zone exceeded 100,000 tonnes, worth over $ 438 million in 2003.

Commenting on the achievement, Abdullah Lootah, chief operating officer, Jafza said, "Textiles is today one of the fastest growing sectors in the free zone and Jafza is offering all the required facilities and support services, for the growth and development of this sector. Dubai has been known to import textiles from different countries and re-export them to key markets around the world. Nearly 80 per cent of the textile companies currently operating in Jafza, are from the Indian subcontinent and countries across the Middle East."

Jafza offers a range of benefits for companies, such as 100% ownership, simple administrative procedures, 50-year tax breaks, and no restrictions on employment.

AAFA and OSHA renew alliance in battling work injuries

01 April 2005

An alliance between the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) that aims to help reduce workplace injuries and illnesses in the apparel and footwear industry has been renewed.

Over the past two years the two organisations produced an ergonomics manual for the apparel and footwear industry: Ergonomics for Supervisors, Volume 1, an industry manual for the apparel and footwear industries, and developed a corresponding training programme.

OSHA and AAFA have scheduled six ergonomics training seminars to educate AAFA members and others in the industry about ergonomic issues and the new manual. The alliance will continue to develop and disseminate information through print and electronic media. Outreach and communication goals will also be met through speeches, exhibits or appearances at conferences or other events, as well as sharing AAFA best practices information with others in the industry. Cross-training OSHA personnel and industry safety and health practitioners in AAFA ergonomics programmes are the goals of the Alliance.

AAFA is the national trade association representing apparel, footwear and other sewn products companies whose mission is to promote and enhance its members' competitiveness, productivity and profitability in the global market by minimising regulatory, commercial, political and trade restraints. OSHA's role is to assure the safety and health of US workers by setting and enforcing standards, providing training, outreach and education, establishing partnerships and encouraging continual process improvement in workplace safety and health.

Central America's textile industry hit by new trade regime

01 April 2005

Garment industry in Central America, troubled in recent years, has been further hit with the end of global textile quotas. In the first two months of this year 18 plants in Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic closed leaving 10,000 workers redundant.

In 2004 employment in the garment industry in El Salvador alone declined by 3%, first time in a decade, causing 6,000 people to loose their jobs. The government expects further job losses in 2005 as the country suffers from high transportation costs and inflexible currency, the dollar.

An estimated 500,000 people are currently employed by the industry with approximately 1,000 textile and apparel factories scattered across the region. However, since the beginning of the year the USA has been shifting its production and sourcing from Central American countries to countries such as China, where labour costs are lower.

Whilst many question the future of Central America's garment industry, politicians and manufacturers are making efforts to capitalise on the region proximity to the USA. Whilst CAFTA (Central America Free Trade Agreement) may benefit the region's industry if it goes through the US congress, many fear it will increase the region's dependency on the powerful neighbour and cause exploitation.

Perseverance Mills schedules next Clothing for Extremes Conference

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01 April 2005

Perseverance Mills Ltd, manufacturers of the Pertex range of high performance fabrics, has announced the next Clothing for Extremes Conference it sponsors will be held on September 28th at the Rheged Centre, Penrith.

Major highlights for 2005 include the unveiling of the replicas of the clothing worn by George Leigh Mallory on Everest in 1924, following two-and-a-half years intensive research, giving delegates the chance to see for the first time how good or bad this clothing really was and to assess what can be learnt from it.

The afternoon will be devoted to exploring trends for the future, including wearable technologies and the final results of work comparing the performance of natural and synthetic clothing. A wide-ranging expert panel session will provide accessible information for the outdoor industry's professionals to stimulate an open dialogue and debate on breathability and other key themes in outdoor clothing.

In addition, the Pertex Clothing for Extremes 2005 will include a display of students' work from the University of Derby, MA in Performance Sportswear Design.

The Pertex Clothing for Extremes Conferences are designed with a fresh and novel approach by showing how past and future are related by innovation and by creating a network of outdoor sports professionals, outdoor companies and academics. Last year's event attracted over 80 participants.