Business Week

1st August 05 – 7th July 05

Jacobson renews Lonsdale footwear licence

05 August 2005

UK-based Jacobson Group has announced that it has extended its footwear licence agreement with Lonsdale Sports Ltd. for a further 12 years from January 2006.

Commenting on the agreement, Tony Evans, sales director for Jacobson Group's sport division said, This long term agreement means we can really focus on the future growth of Lonsdale footwear. In order to achieve further market penetration we plan to invest significantly in the brand. Initially this will involve expanding the team in key areas such as design and account management, together with the implementation of creative marketing initiatives and most importantly developing the right product that builds on Lonsdale's rich heritage."

Jacobsen has been licensed to produce Lonsdale footwear for three years.

Counterfeit Nike shoes seized in Guangdong

05 August 2005

On August 2, Guangdong Provincial Industrial & Commerce Bureau discovered over 30,000 pairs of counterfeit Nike worth an estimated 20 million yuan ($2.5 million). This is believed to be the largest seizure of counterfeit foreign brand shoes ever made in Guangdong.

An official said that most of the footwear was destined for export to Europe with unit price of around $12.30 per pair. The shoes will now be destroyed and those involved will be sentenced in court in Guangdong.

In early July, 10,000 pairs of counterfeit Nike shoes were also discovered in Guangdong.

Unifi to close central distribution centre

05 August 2005

Producer and processor of multi-filament polyester and nylon textured yarns, Unifi, Inc. is to close its central distribution centre in Mayodan, North Carolina, USA and move its operations to its warehouse and logistics facilities in Yadkinville, North Carolina.

This move, which is expected to be completed by December 2005, will lead to 19 job losses and the relocation of another 60 employees.

"Our recent success in reducing inventories allows us to centralise and maximise the overall efficiency of our warehousing and logistics operations, which will be accomplished with little cost to the organisation," said Bill Lowe, chief officer and CFO for Unifi.

ARC Outdoors launches anti-odour fabrics and yarns

05 August 2005

Performance apparel producer, ARC Outdoors, well-known for its ArcticShield cold-weather clothing brand, has launched a new line of anti-odour fabrics and yarns to be sold under the E47 Nano Technology brand. The brand offers advanced anti-odour fibre technologies for licensing by other manufacturers.

E47 Nano Technology has been developed to be safe, permanent and to utilise the oligodynamic effects silver has on microbes. The advancements come from silver nanoparticles integrated throughout the entire fibre, not just on the surface. This

integrated technology is designed to create accelerated ion flux delivered through nanoscale particles to eliminate microbes and the odours they create.

Fibres integrated with E47 technology are said to retain all of the natural qualities of polyester and cotton fabrics, making them ideal for performance wear without complicating manufacturing processes or changing the look and feel of the fabric.

"E47's anti-odour properties are generated by nanoscale-engineered silver- bearing nanoparticles which permanently bond to specific target fibres at the molecular level," said NanoHorizons director of operations Daniel Hayes, PhD. "The antimicrobial functionality of E47 fibres is uniformly distributed throughout the fibre and specifically engineered not to flake off, rub off, or wash out - leaving all the other properties of the fibre unchanged."

J.Lindeberg launches golf shoes with Puma

05 August 2005

Lifestyle brand, J.Lindeberg has launched a new golf shoe, the J.Lindenberg Future Sports Golf Shoe, which was developed in collaboration with Puma.

Design elements of the performance shoe include a squared toe, sculptured heel, and a breathable waterproof barrier to keep the feet dry and comfortable.

The Future Sports Golf Shoe was officially launched in Europe at the Scandinavian Masters in Kungsangen, Sweden, July 28 - 31 when it was worn by

Jesper Parnevik and James Heath.

The shoe will be available to consumers in a limited edition release this summer, followed by a larger distribution in February 2006.

Established in 1996 by Johan Lindeberg in New York and Stockholm, J.Lindeberg includes J.Lindeberg Concept, Progressive Tailoring, j.lindeberg.denim and Future Sports.

ECCO introduces limited edition shoes inspired by Solheim Cup

05 August 2005

Danish footwear giant ECCO, the official footwear sponsor of the 2005 European Solheim Cup team, has introduced two specially designed, limited edition shoes inspired by The Solheim Cup.

Incorporating elements of the flags from the European Union and United States, these shoes will be worn by members of the European team and made available to members of the US team exclusively at the 2005 Solheim Cup, September 9-11 at Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, USA. For a limited time, they will also be available to the general public.

The Solheim Cup is the ideal showcase for the ECCO brand as it brings together elite players from Europe and the U.S.," says Per Aagren, general manager of ECCO's golf division. We're proud to provide ECCO comfort and style to both teams and look forward to what is certain to be an excellent event."

Himaco launches injection moulding machine

05 August 2005

Himaco Hidráulicos & Máquinas Indústria & Comércio, of Novo Hamburgo, Brazil has launched a plastic injection moulding machine that it claims will reduce power consumption by around 40-50%.

The "Híbrida 1500-740 HNG", said to be the first Brazilian 'hybrid' machine, uses a combination of hydraulic and electrical power.

The new machine employs state-of-the art technology that allows higher speed cycles and increases productivity. The electric motor, which controls the level of raw materials used in injection moulding, is

controlled by a frequency inverter which reduces power consumption to virtually zero during cooling and injection. Meanwhile, another electric motor controls the hydraulic system, independently.

Argentina restricts imports

05 August 2005

In less than a month, Argentina has applied two sets of import restrictions on footwear and other products. The most recent announcement was made on July 20 when the Argentinean government suspended a so-called "automatic licensing system" that slowed down import procedures, which can now take up one month to be processed compared with 10 days as has been the case up until now. "The new measures seek to restrict imports of Chinese footwear," Argentina's authorities said.

Another protectionist measure was implemented on June 23 when the Central Bank of Argentina began demanding instant payment on imports for 1,800 goods including footwear, textiles, electrical appliances, cars, paper, coffee and tropical fruit.

Adimar Schievelbein, international affairs consultant for the Brazilian Association of Footwear Manufacturers (Abicalçados), said that the association has a goodwill agreement with the Argentinean government to monitor Brazilian exports in 2005 so that they remain at 2004 levels, but added that this had been agreed on the premise that Argentina would not implement non-automatic import licenses as "protectionist barriers".

In the first half of 2005, Brazil exported 5.07 million pairs of shoes to Argentina, a 2.9% increase on the 4.93 million exported in 2004. However, Brazilian footwear exports to Argentina are set to fall in the next few months mainly due to the strengthening Real.

Acordis announces job cuts

04 August 2005

Acrylic fibre manufacturer, Acordis UK ltd., based in Grimsby, UK, has announced that 160 of its 458 jobs have been cut at the company which went into administration in July. A further 58 jobs will also be lost with the closure of the company’s spinning operation in Bradford, Yorkshire.

Nano-Tex strengthens business development team

04 August 2005

US-based Nano-Tex, a developer of nanotechnology-based textile treatments for the apparel market, has appointed three new members to its North American business development team. The new members of the team will focus on driving adoption of Nano-Tex treatments within high-growth market segments in the home furnishings and apparel markets, including activewear and intimate apparel.

Marilyn Werner has been appointed vice president of business development with a focus on apparel in the New York area. Before joining Nano-Tex, she was responsible for developing marketing development strategies to gain brand adoption of enhancements from DuPont Textiles and Interiors.

Nicole Nelson has joined the company as vice president of business development and will head the company's activewear and intimate apparel initiatives. Previously at Unifi, Ms Nelson led product development, with responsibilities ranging from product conception to commercialisation.

Wendy Riley will take over the role of a vice president of business development responsible for building and leading home furnishings accounts nationwide. Most recently, Riley was responsible for management of key retail accounts at Newell Rubbermaid, where her duties included national account expansion, strategic evolution and new business development.

Headquartered in Emeryville, California, with operations in Greensboro, NC; Belgium;

China; England; India; Italy; South Korea; and Turkey, the company develops and markets a family of nanotechnology-based textile treatments that are now being used in brands such as Gap, Old Navy, Lee, Nike, Champion, Levi and Simmons.

US may seek textile deal with China

04 August 2005

The Bush administration has announced a plan to conduct consultations on whether to seek a broader agreement with China on US imports of textile and apparel.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA) has decided to extend the period for making determinations on six pending textile safeguard cases in order to consult with the domestic textile and apparel industries and members of Congress about whether to pursue a broader agreement with China on imports of Chinese textile and apparel products to the United States

Today's decision will allow us time to engage in substantive discussions with our domestic textile and apparel industries and members of Congress on whether there is interest in a broader textile agreement with China," said US commerce secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez. We look forward to working with industry and Congressional leaders to get their views on the best way to ensure a level playing field."

CITA extended the period for making decisions until August 31 on whether to request consultations with China regarding imports of six textile and apparel product categories.

In addition, CITA agreed to consider requests for safeguard action limiting imports of the following product categories: cotton, wool and man-made fibre socks; women's and girls' cotton and man-made fibre woven shirts; cotton and man-made fibre skirts; cotton and man-made fibre nightwear; and cotton and man-made fibre swimwear.

Walmart establishes shoe centre in Quanzhou

04 August 2005

According to the Fujian Shoe Industry Association, supermarket giant Walmart began constructing a shoe manufacturing and distribution centre in Quanzhou, Fujian in late June.

According to the report, the company is investing 100 million yuan ($12.34 million) in the centre which is set to cover 133,400m2.

The first phase, which is said to have cost 20 million yuan ($2.47 million), will see the construction of 15,000 m2 of workshops with a production capacity of 10 million pairs of shoes a year.

Mr. Wang Jian, the secretary-general of the Fujian Shoe Industry Association, welcomed the construction of the new facility saying that the construction of the shoe centre would boost Fujian's economy and increase the competitiveness of Fujian shoe manufacturing companies on the international market.

Reports state that Walmart purchases (directly and indirectly) more than $1 billion worth of shoes from China every year.

Clariant sales increase 3% in H1

04 August 2005

Swiss specialty chemical company, Clariant International Ltd., has reported what it terms as satisfactory first half results, with momentum picking up in the second quarter. Sales rose 3% in local currency terms in the second quarter compared with the same period in 2004.

Net income rose 30% to CHF146 million ($ 115.5 million) compared with CHF 112 million in the first half of 2004. Gross profit declined to CHF1.252 billion, from CHF1.342 million a year earlier, affected by higher raw material costs.

"In the context of the prevailing market conditions, this was a satisfactory first half," said CEO, Roland Loesser. "Particularly encouraging was the stronger second quarter, which we expect to be able to sustain. The main area of uncertainty, of course, is the current volatility of raw material prices."

The businesses that were able to raise prices above group average were in the Leather & Paper Chemicals, Textile, Functional Chemicals, and Masterbatches divisions. Growth momentum was notable across all regions, with performance especially strong in Germany, Clariant's largest market.

DeFeet and Faytex develop new underwear

04 August 2005

US-based socks and apparel producers for professional cyclists, adventure racers and outdoor athletes, DeFeet International, has teamed up with Faytex Corp. to develop a new brief for men, the "DeBrief". Said to be comfortable and super-lite, the DeBrief is made of 100% Dri-Lex - an anti-odour, anti-bacterial fibre that is quick drying – with a waistband made of Dri-Elastic, a moisture management fibre.

Developed for the professional cycling world, the DeBrief is also said to be well-suited for the "everyday" athlete for running, hiking and workouts, as it keeps perspiration from collecting on skin surface and has form-fitting stretch.

Future plans include adding socks and additional tops with Dri-Lex.

Foot Locker posts 3% rise in sales

04 August 2005

Foot Locker, Inc., the New York-based specialty athletic retailer, has reported a 3% increase in sales for the 13-week period ended July 30, 2005 to reach $1,306 million, versus $1,268 million in the comparable period last year.

For this same 13-week period, comparable store sales increased 1.3%.

For the 26-week period ended July 30, 2005, sales increased 9.3% to $2,682 million, from $2,454 million in the corresponding period last year. Comparable-store sales for the company's first six months of its 2005 fiscal year increased 2.0%.

Adidas-Salomon profits rise 25%

04 August 2005

Second quarter net sales for adidas-Salomon increased 10% on a currency-neutral basis with double-digit improvements coming from all brands and regions except Europe where sales declined 1%. Second quarter operating profit increased 25% to €153 million from €123 million in 2004. The group’s net income from continuing operations was up 33% in the second quarter, reaching €94 million compared to €70 million in 2004.

During the first six months of 2005, the Group’s currency-neutral revenues increased 11%. In euro terms, sales grew 10% to €3.189 billion from €2.906 billion in 2004.

The first half of 2005 was an important six months for adidas-Salomon,” commented adidas-Salomon chairman and CEO Herbert Hainer. We have strengthened the core of our business, made it more efficient and more focused on areas where we have proven skills. And, we were able to deliver an outstanding set of financial results – exceeding both market and our own expectations.”

Adidas to buy Reebok

03 August 2005

The world’s second largest sporting brand, adidas, has announced that it is to acquire US-based brand Reebok. The boards of adidas-Salomon AG and Reebok International Ltd. stated that adidas will acquire all of the outstanding shares of Reebok for US$59.00 per share in cash, for

approximately € 3.1 billion ($3.8 billion) including the assumption of net cash of €69 million ($84 million).

The acquisition is likely to be finalised in the first half of 2006.

Survey says Wilson remains most popular racket

03 August 2005

The 21st Racket, Clothing and Footwear Census carried out by Sports Marketing Surveys at the Wimbledon Championships, showed that Wilson remained the number one racket of choice for the tenth consecutive year.

Players using Wilson rackets also received more television coverage than any other brand, with a total of fifty hours on the Centre and No.1 courts.

A league table shows Wilson as the winner followed at a distance by Head and Babolat.

Hi-Tec signs agreement with Japanese distributor

03 August 2005

Hi-Tec Sports PLC, the UK-based sports and outdoor company, has announced an agreement with MoonStar to distribute and licence its Hi-Tec brand into the Japanese market.

MoonStar has a long history in the Japanese footwear market, not only with its own brands but also distributing New Balance, K-Swiss and Kappa. It has also been the distributor and licensee for the Converse brand in Japan since 1981.

During the initial launch phase MoonStar will focus on positioning Hi-Tec into the technical outdoor market with the first products being delivered into the Japanese market for the spring 2006 season.

Hi-Tec was founded in England in 1974 and has been selling internationally since 1976. By 2005 Hi-Tec was sold in over 100 countries worldwide. Currently Hi-Tec is the world’s 13th largest athletic footwear company and is number three in the global outdoor market.

Oakley launches technical apparel line

03 August 2005

Oakley, Inc. has announced the release of its autumn 2005 apparel and accessories line which will incorporate new products including technical outerwear.

Its newest technical apparel for women includes the Profit jacket, which features a removable polyfill vest, and the new Cash pant, which helps shield the wearer from a full range of mountain weather. For men, Oakley's new line includes an environment suit called Medic with Thermoloft insulation, and a new pant called Helix 2.5 that allows athletes to maintain a comfortable temperature under varying exertion levels and weather conditions.

The outerwear is said to maintain water resistance up to 20,000 mm while retaining breathability up to 20,000 g/m2/24h. Additional technologies in the new line include Gore Airvantage inflatable insulation systems and custom venting systems that allow for precise regulation of airflow.

The company also offers a wide range of accessory items including backpacks, wallets and hats, as well as travel, computer and golf bags. Numerous products in the new line use Oakley’s Adaptable Payload (AP) system, an innovation that allows the user to reconfigure for light or bulky cargo by removing storage compartments and interconnecting with other products in the line.

LaCrosse reports increased sales

03 August 2005

Work and outdoor footwear producer, LaCrosse Footwear, Inc., has posted consolidated net sales of $19.8 million for the second quarter of 2005 ended June 25. This was a 6% increase from $18.6 million

reported in the second quarter of 2004. For the first half of 2005, consolidated net sales were $38.6 million, compared with $42.3 million in the same period of 2004.

Consolidated net income was $0.4 million, an increase from a net loss of $0.2 million in the second quarter of 2004. For the first half of 2005, consolidated net income was $0.7 million compared with $0.9 million in the same period a year earlier.

Sales to the outdoor market were $8.9 million for the second quarter of 2005, up 36% from $6.5 million in the same period of 2004. The company stated that while outdoor sales are typically stronger in the second half of the year, the year-over- year growth in the second quarter of 2005 reflects stronger penetration into various hunting markets, combined with an additional $1.0 million of sales relating to the early delivery of preseason autumn orders.

Sales to the work market were $10.8 million for the second quarter of 2005, compared with $12.1 million in the same period of 2004.

New safety footwear designed for gardening

03 August 2005

Having noticed a gap in the market for protective footwear for gardeners, US designer Russell Stark decided to design one himself. After 18 months of development he has now launched LawnGrips, which are specifically designed for traction, safety and comfort while mowing the lawn.

The key feature of LawnGrips is said to be the patented outsole that offers exceptional traction on slick, grassy terrain. The tread technology was developed for soccer shoes to support pushing, turning and stopping while easily shedding grass clippings and dirt. For safety, all LawnGrips shoes are made with a steel toe under the rugged, moulded rubber toe. Additional features include a composite insole board with polyurethane midsole for comfort and support and waterproof, stain-resistant leather uppers.

New Trespass boot with Sympatex membrane

02 August 2005

Sympatex and Trespass announced a new partnership at Outdoor preview held in Birmingham, UK July 6-8.

The Sympatex All Weather membrane has been introduced in the Trespass footwear collection in the three season Occupy suede boot.

Sympatex's membranes are waterproof, windproof and breathable.

They work with the body, increasing breathability when you need it. It is also flexible; as the non-porous structure allows the membrane to stretch up to 300% in both directions without any impact on breathability or waterproof performance.

It is also extremely thin and lightweight, said to be typically less than half the thickness of standard porous membranes.

Degussa and BASF create partnership to produce TEDA

02 August 2005

As the result of a partnership between Degussa AG in Duesseldorf and BASF AG in Ludwigshafen, Degussa's Goldschmidt Polyurethane Additives Business Line in Essen will take over the worldwide sales and technical service of triethylene diamine (TEDA).

BASF has also increased its production at a new plant built for the manufacture of TEDA at its integrated production site in Antwerp, Belgium, which began operations in April 2005.

TEDA, which is sold under the trade name Tegoamin, is a catalyst in manufacturing of many high-grade polyurethane (PUR) foams.

Zensah introduces seamless shirt with silver ions

02 August 2005

Zensah Performance Apparel has launched what it claims is the first seamless sleeveless shirt with silver ions which dissipate heat.

Zensah has combined seamless apparel technology with silver ions to create a body regulating material which wicks moisture away and dissipates heat, keeping skin temperature cool. It has also incorporated body mapping technology which provides greater airflow and breathability in areas that heat up disproportionately.

Musto launches Gore-Tex Performance country footwear collection

02 August 2005

UK-based performance brand, Musto is launching a new country footwear collection with Gore-Tex. The new collection is said to offer the same performance found in high quality mountaineering and trekking market but with quality subtle country styling and it seems to be proving popular as pre-sales orders for one of the designs, the Buckden Knee High Shooting Boot, have already exceeded sales forecasts.

The boots offer double layer leather to maintain the boot shape, a tapered and curved upper to increase comfort about the calf and shin, a Vibram outdoor sole for grip and durability, a heavy gauge side zip, a supportive heel and toe stiffener, and a removable leather-covered shock absorbing footbed.

Other designs from the new collection are the Rylstone Ankle Shooting Boot – a smart lace-up waterproof and breathable Gore-Tex boot, the lower cut version the Arncliffe Country Ankle Boot and the Stonesedale Brogue – a smart country shoe with brogue styling and a sure grip sole which is also lined with a Gore-Tex laminate.

Lubrizol reports increased earnings

02 August 2005

Specialty chemical company Lubrizol Corporation has announced that consolidated earnings for the second quarter ended June 30, 2005 were $60.1 million compared with $3.9 million in the same period in 2004 which included the acquisition of Noveon International. The company stated that earnings for the second quarter of 2005 increased over the prior-year second quarter as improved price and product mix, the acquisition, favourable currency, lower STAR (selling, testing, administrative and research) expenses, higher shipment volume and a lower tax rate more than offset higher raw material costs. Consolidated revenues for the quarter were $1,066.6 million compared with $721.5 million in the second quarter of 2004. Excluding the acquisition, revenues increased 15% compared with the prior-year second quarter.

For the first six months of 2005, consolidated revenues were $2.04 billion compared with $1.30 billion for the first six months of 2004. Consolidated earnings were $108.6 million compared with $41.5 million in the same period in 2004.

In the Performance Coatings product line, revenues increased compared with the second quarter of 2004, driven by higher selling prices. However, shipment volumes declined as weaknesses in North American and European textiles offset volume increases.

In the Specialty Materials product line, which consists of Estane thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) and TempRite engineered polymers, revenues declined slightly compared with strong results for the second quarter of 2004.

Unifi reports losses in Q4

01 August 2005

Producer and processor of multi-filament polyester and nylon textured yarns Unifi, Inc. has reported that net income for fourth quarter ended June 26, 2005 including discontinued operations, showed a net loss

of $9.0 million compared with a net loss of $6.0 million for the prior year June quarter. The company also reported a net loss of $41.2 million for the 2005 fiscal year, which nevertheless represents an improvement over a net loss of $69.8 million for the 2004 fiscal year.

Net sales for the June quarter, which include sales from the North Carolina based Invista polyester manufacturing assets acquired in September 2004, were $203.2 million, an increase of $28.4 million or 16.2% compared with $174.8 million for the prior year June quarter. Net sales of $799.4 million for the 2005 fiscal year represent an increase of $131.6 million, or 19.7%, over the 2004 fiscal year.

"We are entering our 2006 fiscal year with one of the strongest balance sheets and business models in years, which will allow us to stay focused on executing our domestic and global growth strategies," said Bill Lowe, chief operating officer and CFO for Unifi.

Unifi brands include Sorbtek, A.M.Y., Mynx UV, Reflexx, MicroVista and Satura.

High expectations for IFAI Canada

01 August 2005

IFAI Canada recently announced that the IFAI Canada Expo 2006 will be held February 24-25 at the Richmond Best Western Hotel & Convention Centre in Richmond, B.C. Expectations for the exhibition are high since last year's record-breaking event when nearly 500 attendees and 48 exhibitors participated.

IFAI Canada Expo 2006 is set to give participants the opportunity to expand their businesses in the Canadian specialty fabrics marketplace and keep up-to-date on the industry's technology, applications and materials.

As part of the event, IFAI Canada will hold its annual honours award programme, recognising the latest advances in specialty fabric design and manufacturing in the Canadian specialty fabrics industry.

IFAI Canada is a division of the Industrial Fabrics Association International (IFAI).

Beck elected VP and corporate controller of Russell Corporation

01 August 2005

The board of directors for Russell Corporation has elected Victoria W. Beck as vice president of the company effective September 1, 2005. Beck joined Russell June 30, 2005 as corporate controller, transitioning into the position to replace Larry E. Workman who will retire at the end of 2005. Beck will report to Robert D. Koney, Jr., senior vice president and chief financial officer.

Beck joined Russell after having served as executive vice president and chief accounting officer for Healthronics. A certified public accountant, she earned her B.S. degree in accounting from Georgia State University and is a member of the Georgia Society of CPAs.

Liquicell names Jones & Vining as North American agent

01 August 2005

Liquicell Technologies has appointed Jones and Vining as its exclusive sales agent to the North American footwear industry, effective July 22, 2005.

Jones & Vining, a Massachusetts firm, has over 75 years experience selling to the footwear manufacturing industry.

LiquiCell is a thin product with a liquid centre. It can be used in heel pads, metatarsal pads, heel counter pads, tongue pads and other products to help reduce foot friction, fatigue and discomfort.

Teva to support GB rafting team

01 August 2005

Watersports and lifestyle footwear brand, Teva, has announced that it will support the

men’s Great Britain Rafting team at this year’s World Championships in Ecuador. Teva will supply the team with footwear from its “Hydro” and “Originals” collection.

The GB Team will be up against the best in the world at the Championships, with men’s teams from 26 countries competing on the Quijos River. The GB Team will be competing in events over three disciplines, the Sprint, Slalom and Downriver.

Lectra reports slight improvement in activity

01 August 2005

French developer of software and hardware for industrial users of textiles, leather, and soft materials, Lectra, has reported a slight improvement in business activity in the first six months of 2005, despite feeling the continued effects from the abolition of textile quotas.

The company said that business activity in May and June improved slightly compared with the first four months of 2005, when orders were down by approximately 30%. Income from operations in the second quarter was €1.9 million and net income, €1.3 million compared with a loss of €0.9 million from operations and a net loss of €0.5 million in the first quarter of the year.

However, orders for new systems fell 8% (–€3.2 million) compared with the same period in 2004 and revenues fell by 16%.

For the first half of 2005, revenues and earnings decreased by 21% to €52.9 million for new systems, but revenues from recurring contracts actually grew by 11% (+€2.9 million).

Lectra operates in a range of major markets, including fashion and apparel; luggage and leather goods; footwear; furniture & furnishings; and the automotive, aerospace, and marine industries.