Business Week

5th July 05 – 11th September 05

Polartec mask tested at 8,000 metres

12 September 2005

Italian Sky runner Bruno Brunod has tested the Polartec Power Shield Mask" on Everest, in order to ascertain the how the garment limits the effects of dehydration and hypothermia. This first test at 8,000 metres is said to have produced excellent results that will be researched further in future tests due to take place later this year in a high-performance environment.

The mask" is the result of a collaborative research and development project between Polartec; the Federation for Sport at Altitude, and the Polytechnic of Turin through consultancy with Filippo Pavesi, Professor for the University Course of Industrial Design at the same university. It works by recovering heat generated by physical effort for re-use, allowing warm and humid air into the respiratory tract. The process is facilitated thanks to the characteristics of the technical fabric Polartec Power Shield which is lightweight, breathable, and warm.

It is hoped that with this patent-pending innovation, there is the potential to drastically limit dehydration and hypothermia that threaten personal safety during high altitude alpine adventures.

Bruno Brunod was chosen as the tester because as a Sky runner, even at 8,000 metres, he has the technical capacity to inhale 160–190 litres of air per minute. It is therefore necessary to control the possibility of dehydration and hypothermia.

LaCrosse Footwear donates over 650 pairs of boots to Katrina relief effort

12 September 2005

US work and outdoor footwear brand, LaCrosse Footwear, Inc., has donated over 650 pair of rubber boots to the Police Relief Effort in order to equip law enforcement personnel assisting in the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

In addition to the donation of materials, LaCrosse Footwear has also established a matching cash contribution programme for its employees who wish to give to the relief efforts. LaCrosse Footwear will match one hundred percent of an employees' contribution to the American Red Cross up to $200.

Praybourne introduces Teflon-coated work wear

12 September 2005

UK-based work wear company Praybourne Ltd, has introduced a range of Teflon-coated work wear garments specifically designed for the rail industry. The Teflon-coated polycotton is said to be resistant to grease, oils and dirt, providing extra protection against dirt and staining when working track-side or in any other heavy industry.

Due to the hardwearing coating, fabric and structure of the garments, the collection, which includes work trousers, jean jacket, coverall, reversible body warmer and 5-in-1 Pilot Jacket, is easily laundered and durable. In addition, the garments are said offer a high level of comfort to the wearer.

Praybourne offers specialised work wear, safety garments, footwear, PPE and accessories. Its range includes Xcelcius thermal and XcelciusFR flame retardant clothing, work wear, corporate foul weather outerwear and hi-visibility Pulsarneon garments which incorporate the Pulsarneon electro-luminescent light system.

Hohenstein Institutes relaunches website

09 September 2005

Germany-based textile research and service centre, Hohenstein Institutes, has relaunched its website. With new content and a new design, the revised website has been online at www.hohenstein.de since the beginning of September and is available in German and English. Selected material is also available in Turkish and Chinese. This is also summarised in separate websites at www.hohenstein.com.tr for Turkey and www.hohenstein.cn for China. since the beginning of September and is available in German and English. Selected material is also available in Turkish and Chinese.

As well as a new layout, additional information and functions are also available. These include the presentation of the various fields of work and overseas agencies, a comprehensive calendar of seminars and events, and an overview of current research results and new services. Brief articles on research projects, brochures, special publications, documents and much more can also be downloaded.

Performance Textiles association appoints new president

09 September 2005

David Ramus has been elected president of the Performance Textiles Association (PTA), the trade association representing the industrial textiles sector in the UK. He is managing director of Opas (Southern) Ltd, which supplies a wide range of textiles accessories.

Mr Ramus has been vice president of the PTA for the last two years and takes over the presidency from Ian Parkin, managing director of J R Parkin, who has completed his two years in office.

DSW reports 18% increase in Q2 sales Results

09 September 2005

US specialty branded footwear retailer, DSW Inc., has reported net income of $9.3 million and net sales of $276.2 million for the second quarter ended 30 July 2005, compared with net income of $8.9 million on net sales of $234.4 million in the second quarter 2004. Comparable store sales for the second quarter of 2005 increased 3.3% compared with 3.0% for the same period last year.

For the six months ended July 30, 2005, DSW had net income of $16.2 million and net sales of $558.0 million, compared with net income for the comparable period last year of $16.7 million on net sales of $467.0 million.

DSW, headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, offers a wide range of brand names and designer dress, casual and athletic footwear for women and men. It currently operates 187 stores in 32 states and also supplies 234 locations for other retailers.

Azaléia to invest $40.816 million to promote Olympikus

09 September 2005

Olympikus, a brand of Brazilian footwear company Azaléia Group, is looking to the 2007 Pan American Games to be held in Rio de Janeiro in order to increase its reputation abroad, especially in other Latin American countries, having signed an R$69 million (US$28.163 million) sponsorship agreement with the Organising Committee of Games.

The agreement signed by Olympikus - the brand, sponsor of the Brazilian Olympic Committee (COB) since 1999 - includes TV transmission of the event and a licence for Olympikus to produce a range of clothing and accessories carrying the event’s logo.

The deal represents the largest marketing event ever undertaken by the Olympikus brand that accounts for 10% of the Brazilian sports shoe market. In total, over R$100 million ($40.816 million) will be invested over the next two years in connection with the event.

"We have also signed contracts to supply the kits to the delegations of 24 countries, that is, 70% of the delegations taking part in the games," said Paulo Santana, marketing

director of Azaléia. "Through this investment we expect to consolidate Olympikus as an internationally renowned sports gear brand", he added.

The agreements with the COB and the foreign delegations plus the licence agreement will increase production of Olympikus garments and accessories three-fold by 2007.

In 2004, the Azaléia Group reported R$1 billion (US$408.163 million) revenue. Almost 40% of that revenue was achieved through the Olympikus brand. The other brands of the group are Azaléia, Dijean, Funny, Asics and Opanka.

In the last ten years, Azaléia's exports have increased 170%, hitting the 9 million pair mark last year.

Quiksilver reports increased revenues

09 September 2005

Quiksilver, Inc. has announced operating results for the third quarter ended July 31, 2005. Consolidated net revenues for the third quarter increased 11% to $373.8 million from $337.9 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2004. Consolidated net income for the third quarter of fiscal 2005 increased 26% to $24.6 million from $19.5 million the year before.

Robert B. McKnight, Jr, chairman of the board and CEO, commented, "Once again, we are reporting strong results for the third quarter, and at the same time, we effectively executed on a number of key strategic initiatives that better position us for the future. During the quarter, we closed our acquisition of Skis Rossignol S.A., completed a highly successful bond offering and put a new global management structure in place."

Quiksilver, Inc. is a leading outdoor sports lifestyle company, which designs, produces and distributes a diversified mix of branded apparel, winter sports and golf equipment, footwear, accessories and related products.

Scientists develop power-generating backpack

09 September 2005

A team of biologists at the University of Pennsylvania have developed a power-generating backpack, called the "Suspended-load Backpack" aimed at reducing the burden of soldiers and others who until now have been forced to carry heavy batteries into the field in order to power equipment. The device converts mechanical energy from walking into electricity – up to 7.4 Watts – which is more than enough energy to power a number of portable electronic devices at once.

"As efficient as batteries have gotten, they still tend to be heavy. Field researchers, for example, have to carry many replacement batteries to power their equipment, which take up a lot of weight and space in the pack," said Larry Rome, a professor in Penn's Department of Biology. "The Suspended-load Backpack could help anyone with a need for power on the go, including researchers, soldiers, disaster relief-workers or someone just looking to keep a mobile phone charged during a long trek."

The backpack is based on a rigid frame pack, much like the type familiar to hikers everywhere; however, rather than being rigidly attached to the frame, the sack carrying the load is suspended from the frame by vertically oriented springs. It is the vertical movement of the backpack contents that provides the mechanical energy to drive a small generator mounted on the frame.

"As humans walk, they vault over their extended leg, causing the hip to rise 5-7 centimetres on each step. Since the backpack is connected to the hip, it to must be lifted 5-7 centimetres," Rome said. "It is this vertical movement of the backpack that ultimately powers electricity generation."

The amount of power generated depends on how much weight is in the pack and how fast the wearer walks. The Penn researchers tested packs with loads of 40 to 80 pounds and found that the wearer could constantly generate as much as 7.4 Watts while

moving at a steady clip. Typically, cell phones – or even night vision goggles – require less than one Watt to power.

Cytec plants remain closed after Hurricane Katrina

09 September 2005

Multi-national specialty chemical company, Cytec Industries Inc., whose products are used in a broad range of industries including textiles, footwear and water treatment, is in the process of recovery operations at two manufacturing facilities in Louisiana and Alabama that were severely disrupted by hurricane Katrina. The Building Block Chemicals' Fortier plant outside of New Orleans is currently shut down and the Cytec Performance Specialties facility in Mobile, Alabama, is expected to be operational this weekend.

The Louisiana plant was damaged by Hurricane Katrina's high winds but did not experience flooding. The plant was shut down before the storm hit. It does not have electric power except from emergency generators. Operations management and a recovery team are on site assessing the damage and contacting suppliers to re-establish the customer supply chain.
The Mobile plant has assessed site damage and begun repairs. Electrical power has been fully restored and operating personnel are back on site. There continue to be manufacturing issues caused by raw material availability and transportation difficulties but the plant is expected to be restarted this weekend.
Our first concern has been the safety and security of all affected Cytec employees," said chairman, president and CEO, David Lilley. We have heard from most of our employees and they are safe for which we are tremendously grateful. We are providing them with additional support in their time of need and anxiously waiting to hear from those unaccounted for."

The company made an immediate donation of $50,000 to the American Red Cross and, in addition, will match employee donations to the American Red Cross up to a further $50,000.

Unit price of Zhejiang shoes exported to EU increases by 20%

09 September 2005

According to customs statistics released by Hangzhou city, the provincial capital of Zhejiang province, during the first six months of 2005, the unit price of footwear produced in Zhejiang that was exported to EU countries increased by 25.5% to $2.8 per pair.

The statistics showed that in the six-month period Zhejiang exported 460 million pairs of shoes worth $1.1 billion, with unit prices increasing 7.7% on average to reach $2.4 per pair.

Mr. Zhu Feng, the secretary-general of Wenzhou footwear & leather industry, said that the increase in export prices would help Zhejiang shoe producers in light of the current EU anti-dumpling investigation.

100th Prêt à Porter attracts 42,938 visitors

09 September 2005

The 100th Prêt à Porter attracted 1% more visitors than at the previous show, with 42,938 attending the women's fashion event in Paris September 2-5, where over 1,500 brands were exhibited.

Although 57 % of the visitors were French, there was a large turnout from other European countries with Italy, Spain and the UK recording the highest attendances. However, other countries also increased their presence at the show with visitors from Denmark up 46%, Russia 36%, Germany 34%, Ireland 33%, Sweden 25%, Austria up 13%, and the number of Belgian visitors increasing 6%.

The North Face launches new base layer range

08 September 2005

The North Face has launched a new range of super light base layers using its

Equilibrium fabric. Constructed from two different types of long hollow-core polypropylene yarn, Equilibrium is said to offer lightweight, close-fitting and soft garments with excellent thermal properties and rapid moisture transfer.

The long filament yarn reduces the risk of pilling and this, with added silver ions, avoids the build up of bacteria which can cause odours.

The new base layers are available in three weights and constructions: seamless - for activities where insulation and breathability are required with a high level of freedom of movement; flight series – for the multi-sport athlete who requires a lightweight base layer with thermal properties; summit series – a mid-weight base layer for the more serious athlete where extremes of weather, terrain and temperature demand a high level of performance.

Everlast to introduce sports apparel in Spain, Portugal and the Canary Islands

08 September 2005

Everlast Worldwide Inc., manufacturer, marketer and licensor of sporting goods and apparel has entered into a licensing agreement with Misterio del Mar S.L. of Vigo, Spain for the launch of Everlast-branded sports apparel and hats for men, women and children in Spain, Portugal and the Canary Islands.

Set to debut autumn 2006, the new products will be sold through sporting goods retailers and department stores.

George Q Horowitz, chairman and CEO of Everlast Worldwide Inc., said, "The Iberian peninsula is a great market for Everlast because of the area's keen interest in boxing. Therefore, the Everlast brand enjoys a very strong recognition factor in the region."

ISS recommends Saucony shareholders vote for proposed acquisition

08 September 2005

Saucony, Inc. has announced that Institutional Shareholder Services, Inc. (ISS), an independent proxy advisory firm, has recommended that Saucony shareholders vote for the proposed acquisition of Saucony by The Stride Rite Corporation at Saucony's special meeting of stockholders held on September 16, 2005.

In its report on the proposed transaction, ISS stated, "(We) believe that the merger agreement warrants shareholder support. We note that the company's decision to sell was reached following a lengthy sale process, in which a total of 46 parties were contacted."

Shanghai, China Shoes, China Shoetec announced

08 September 2005

Following the success of the Dongguan, China Shoes, China Shoetec fair, Messe Düsseldorf China Ltd and Adsale Exhibition Services Ltd. recently announced the debut of 2006 Shanghai, China Shoes, China Shoetec. The fair, aimed at the middle-to-high-end footwear market, is scheduled to be held at Shanghai Exhibition Centre, Shanghai from October 23-25, 2006.

In view of the success of the Dongguan fair, and the soaring economic growth in China, the organisers decided to launch the autumn edition in Shanghai next October. The show will be held at Shanghai Exhibition Centre, located in the heart of commercial district. Unlike the Dongguan edition, the Shanghai fair will focus on the domestic market
In terms of market growth, China manufactured 7 billion pairs of shoes in 2004, accounting for 52% of total world output. The total export value in the first half of 2005 reached $8.47 billion, representing a 24% increase over last year's figure.

Brazilian company designs footwear for the ‘mature market’

08 September 2005

DalPonte & Co. Ltd., of Veranópolis, Brazil has recently launched a range of footwear designed especially for older people. The product, a new target market for the company, is produced and sold under the Vedas brand which includes ladies' and men's styles.

The range took 18 months to develop in partnership with the Biomechanics Laboratory of the Technology Centre for the Leather, Footwear and Allied Trades (CTCCA), in Novo Hamburgo, Brazil; and doctors from the Institute of Geriatrics and Gerontology (IGG) of the Pontificia Universidade Católica of Rio Grande do Sul. Using the same technology as is employed for producing high performance sports shoes, the range includes features such as insoles with a plantar pressure distribution optimisation system, a lining that allows perspiration to escape and soles that incorporate an impact absorption system.

Leonildo Dal Ponte, director of DalPonte, explained that the decision to invest in this market was taken because it has so far been neglected by the footwear industry as a whole.

According to statistics from the World Health Organisation (WHO), 6.5% of the Brazilian population is over 65 years old. This equates to 13.3 million people and this figure is expected to grow to 58.3 million by 2050.

Kellwood elects Ben B. Blount, Jr. to board

08 September 2005

US marketer of apparel and consumer soft goods Kellwood has elected Ben B. Blount, Jr. to the company's board of directors.

Mr Blount, a seasoned executive in the apparel industry for more than 40 years, most recently served as executive vice president, finance, planning and administration, and chief financial officer; and director of Oxford Industries.

He is a member of the Dean's Advisory Board for the School of Human Sciences at Auburn University, and a past member of the Technical Advisory and Marketing Committees of the American Apparel and Footwear Association.

Rossignol Snowboards to sponsor Mathieu Crépel

07 September 2005

Rossignol has announced that it is to sponsor freestyler Mathieu Crépel after he signed a three-year deal for boards, boots and bindings. Rossignol was Crépel's first sponsor some 15 years ago and it was said he decided to return to the brand after he was impressed with the advances made by the company.

I'm back to my first sponsor. I've been blown away by the passion conveyed by the marketing team and also by the involvement of the rider in product development. We share the same opinion. This cooperation is therefore fully natural," said Crépel.

He joins Doriane Vidal, Hana Beaman, JF Pelchat, Benji Ritchie, Jeremy Jones and Jonas Emery in the Rossignol Snowboards international team.

Dow Chemical sites impacted by hurricane

07 September 2005

According to Dow Chemical Company, the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina is continuing to impact several of its sites and its wholly owned subsidiary, Union Carbide Corporation (UCC), in Louisiana. Issues such as the availability of power, utilities, raw materials and transportation pose particular challenges.

Two key factors influencing how quickly these sites return to normal operations will be access to raw materials and the ability to transport products to customers. The logistics infrastructure across the affected region remains disrupted in the aftermath of

Hurricane Katrina - causing severe problems to the transport of products.

UCC's St. Charles Operations in Hahnville, which underwent a controlled shutdown in anticipation of the hurricane, remains closed. Recovery efforts are continuing and the site appears to have suffered no structural damage. The timing of return to normal operations has not been determined, although Dow said it continues to expect that it is to be weeks before normal operations resume.

Dow's Louisiana Operations in Plaquemine were less severely impacted and most of the site's production units are operational, although some are running at reduced rates.

Dow has also announced that it will contribute $3 million to the hurricane relief funds, including an immediate $1 million cash donation to the American Red Cross.

Huntsman facilities operational after Hurricane Katrina

07 September 2005

Huntsman Corporation has announced that none of its manufacturing facilities were damaged by Hurricane Katrina and all are up and operating although the company stated that it has seen a dramatic increase in the cost of energy and many of its key feedstocks on a global basis, and it has also been negatively impacted by restrictions on the availability of certain raw materials as well as logistics and transportation limitations.

Peter R. Huntsman, president and CEO, commented, "We are pleased the storm did not damage our manufacturing infrastructure and are grateful that none of our employees was injured. However, we are experiencing significantly higher costs for, and limited availability of, some raw materials. Energy costs are also higher, and we must meet the challenges of the damage to the transportation and logistics infrastructure the hurricane left in its wake."

Mr. Huntsman has sent a letter to customers informing them that the company is increasing prices on products as soon as contracts allow, to reflect increasing raw material and energy costs.

Dorlastan launches Dorlastan Black fibre

07 September 2005

German filament yarn producer, Dorlastan Fibres GmbH, has added Dorlastan Black to its product range. This new spandex fibre is said to prevent unacceptable 'grin-through' in dark fabrics, regardless of which other fibres they contain. Separate overdyeing of the spandex fibre is therefore unnecessary where the dyes only stain the non-elastic fibres. Dorlastan Black also prevents grin-through in elastic combination yarns containing dark dope-dyed hard fibres such as polyester, polyamide or acrylics.

This new polyester-based fibre type is available in 40 and 70 denier. It is said to have excellent fastness to light, UV and NOx. And, as it also has high stability to PER and chlorine, it is suitable for use in swimwear and can be dry cleaned without problems. The black shade of the fibre is stable to cleaning with both solvents and aqueous liquors.

Dorlastan’s product range comprises filament yarns made of segmented polyester/polyurea urethane. They can be used as bare or covered yarns in virtually all textile applications and are suitable for use with all natural fibres and man-made fibres such as polyamide, polyester, acrylic and acetate.

Quiksilver to relocate operations

07 September 2005

Quiksilver, Inc. has announced that it will establish a new, state-of-the-art Mountain Centre in Park City, Utah to unify the operations of its winter sports businesses and advance the position of its lifestyle brands. The facility will house the US headquarters for Rossignol and Dynastar, which are currently located in Burlington, Vermont, as well as some operations of

Quiksilver's existing snowboard businesses in Washington State.

The new Park City facility will for the first time combine all US operations of Rossignol, Dynastar, Lange and Look. It will also house US operations for the newly-announced Roxy ski business - in collaboration with Dynastar - to make a full line of alpine ski products targeted at young women. In addition, a variety of functions for the company's Lib Technologies, Gnu and Bent Metal snowboard brands will be based at the Mountain Centre.

The company will also establish a distribution facility in the nearby Greater Salt Lake City area that will serve the American territory for mountain-related products. Many of Rossignol's administrative functions such as treasury, human resources and legal will be consolidated with Quiksilver's existing infrastructure in Huntington Beach. The company noted that it will retain some presence both in Vermont and Washington State.

Quiksilver designs, produces and distributes a diversified mix of branded apparel, winter sports and golf equipment, footwear, accessories and related products.

Lemaitre Sécurité launches Sporty S3 safety shoes

07 September 2005

French safety footwear manufacturer Lemaitre Sécurité has launched a new technical safety shoe - the Sporty S3 - that is said to offer the comfort and performance of a sports shoe whilst providing the level of protection found in standard safety footwear.

Made from water-repellent, supple black leather, it is lined with foam and Cambrelle to offer greater comfort. The foot sits on top of the injected insole and is no longer confined thus allowing breathability and safety is ensured thanks to ABG protective toe caps (200 joules, EN 345-1) and puncture-proof inserts (EN 344-1). The shoe also features a comfort-enhancing fit with anatomic insoles, coupled with a new patented anti-slip sole and its parabolic curved cross-section. The concave structure of this sole is said to give the wearer excellent grip on all kinds of surfaces. Furthermore, following the compression phase, energy is restored, thus providing a dynamic effect when walking —inducing greater comfort and reducing foot-fatigue.

Lemaitre Sécurité is based in North-Eastern France and has facilities in several countries, with a total of four polyurethane injection factories.

Invista to celebrate 60 years of the Lycra bikini

07 September 2005

Invista is to launch a year-long celebration of the iconic bikini at this year's Lyon Mode City. Using nine designers from around the globe, Invista has commissioned an exclusive bikini range to celebrate 60 years of the famous two-piece swimwear.

The original 'bikini' appeared in July 1946. Such was the stir at the time that the two-piece swimwear was named after the infamous atoll in the Pacific, because of its 'explosive' nature. Similarly, Lycra revolutionised the swimwear market in the 1950s replacing rubber which had been used up until then, and brought much needed fit, comfort and shape to swimwear for both men and women.

Pakistan's leather sports goods exports fall month-on-month

06 September 2005

Pakistan exported leather sports goods worth $26.45 million in July 2005 compared with $34.56 in June 2005. This equates to a fall of 23.4% on a month-on-month basis. However, compared with July 2004 when exports only reached $18.68 million the figures represent a 46.41% increase over same month a year ago.

According to the Federal Bureau of Statistics, of the total sports goods exports

during in July 2005, footballs accounted for $12.7 million, gloves $1.91 million and other goods $11.83 million compared with $22.15 million, $2.09 million and $10.30 million respectively in June 2005.

Taiwanese footwear producer to set up facility in India

06 September 2005

A team from Taiwanese footwear manufacturer, Apache Footwear, recently visited Chennai, India to explore the possibilities of setting up a shoe manufacturing facility on 200 acres of land on the outskirts of Chennai. According to local media reports, the company plans to construct a plant to produce 20,000 pairs of sports and brown (casual) shoes per day for adidas.

The new facility is set to cost Rs. 2,000 to 2,500 million ($44 to $55 million), but could go up to as much as Rs. 5,000 million ($111 million) if Apache decides to make it an integrated facility to include other production lines such as shoe components. The unit will initially employ about 4,000 to 5,000 people, which is expected to rise to 10,000.

Apache Footwear already has a facility in China that produces some 60,000 pairs per day. It will soon establish a new facility in Vietnam as well as the one that is planned for India.

"Khimiya" International Expo marks 40th Anniversary

06 September 2005

Khimiya-2005" – the international chemicals industry exhibition is marking its 40th anniversary at the 13th session of the event September 5-9.

More than 650 companies from 25 world countries will attend the event, which showcases innovations in raw materials, prefabs, chemicals and petrochemicals industrial suites, industrial and domestic chemicals, and chemical fibres and dyes. International exhibitors include Huntsman B.V., Bayer Material Science AG, Degussa AG, Lanxess Deutschland, Dow Europe, Rieter Textile Machines. 380 local companies will also have stands at the event.

Lenzing to increase fibre prices

06 September 2005

Man-made cellulose fibre producer, the Lenzing Group, has announced that it is to increase the prices of its fibres beginning in the fourth quarter, due to rising raw material and energy prices.

Increases of at least 5%, depending on fibre type are envisaged, taking effect on October 1, 2005. These increases apply to fibres for both textile and nonwoven applications.

The company stated that it is taking this action in order to compensate for the considerable increase in raw-material and energy prices which have been severely impacting the fibre businesses for many months and have recently become more pronounced.

Puma plans expansion

06 September 2005

Puma has announced plans to expand the brand both in terms of the product range and production capacity. It plans to move into new areas to cover sports lifestyle, performance and fashion footwear and apparel.

Puma also intends expanding on a regional basis to strengthen its position in global markets, through joint ventures and increasing business with its current partners. The first such expansion will, with its current licence partners in Japan (apparel business), China/Hong Kong and Taiwan as well as setting up fully-owned subsidiaries in India and Dubai for the Middle East region, all of which are planned to be operational as of 1st of January 2006.

IWA 2006 to focus on security with European Police Instructors' Conference

06 September 2005

According to show organisers, the authorities and security requirements sector has been attracting increasing interest at IWA & OutdoorClassics. In response to this, a European Police Instructors' Conference will be held for the first time within the framework of the Law Enforcement Practical Workshop on the eve of the fair, Thursday, March 9, 2006.

The Police Instructors' Conference is a joint project organised by the PiD – Polizeitrainer in Deutschland e. V. and NürnbergMesse. The Conference's target group is the German ministries of the interior and subordinate police authorities, customs, judiciary, the Bundeswehr (Federal Army), the Bundesamt für Wehrtechnik und Beschaffung (Federal Office of Defence Technology and Procurement) as well as representatives of comparable institutions in other European countries.

Due to the renowned reputation of the event as well as the international significance of the IWA, we expect a high participation from Germany and other European countries," said Bernd Pokojewski, press spokesman of the PiD e. V.

The conference is a continuation of the successful premiere of the Law Enforcement Practical Workshop staged for the first time on the eve of the IWA & OutdoorClassics 2005.

Saucony promotes Barbano to senior director public relations

05 September 2005

Saucony, Inc., a global supplier of performance athletic footwear, apparel and accessories, has announced that Sharon A. Barbano has been promoted to senior director of public relations for the Saucony brands, including Saucony, Saucony Originals, Hind and Spot-bilt.

Ms Barbano is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Women's Sports Foundation and recipient of the Women's Sports Foundation President's Award. She was one of a handful of women invited by President Clinton to a White House reception honouring women in the business of sport.

Softswitch appoints new sales & marketing manager

05 September 2005

Susan Dennis has been appointed sales & marketing manager at UK based designer and producer of electronic textiles and intelligent fabrics, Softswitch Ltd.

Ms Dennis was formerly finance manager with a UK subsidiary of Canesis Network Ltd, an internationally focused research and development company specialising in natural fibres, smart textiles, and keratin biopolymers. Her qualifications include an MBA and BSc (Hons) Colour Chemistry.

Her appointment as sales & marketing manager took effect on September 1, 2005.

Softswitch fabric keypads and textile connectivity solutions can be seen in the Burton Snowboards iPod Jacket and the Nike ACG CommJacket.

Price surcharge imposed by DAK Americas following disaster

05 September 2005

Following the major event on the US Gulf Coast, DAK Americas has begun notifying its polyester staple customers that all of its staple fibre products sold to apparel, fiberfill, carpet, home furnishings, and industrial markets will be subject to a $.15/lb price surcharge, effective September 5, 2005.

This surcharge is intended to capture the dramatic increase in raw material ingredient and energy cost associated with the events in the USA.

Although DAK Americas stated that it understands the pressure that the entire fibre industry is facing, it must offset ingredient increases in order to remain a quality supplier in this market.

CMAI completes 2006 world Terephthalates & Polyester analysis

05 September 2005

US-based petrochemical consulting firm Chemical Market Associates, Inc. (CMAI) has recently completed the 2006 World Terephthalates & Polyester Analysis, an annual global study covering the period 2000 to 2010 for the terephthalates and polyester markets. The major polyester products covered include terephthalic acid (TPA) and dimethyl terephthalate (DMT), polyester polycondensation, staple and filament, bottle resin, polyester film, polytrimethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate as well as other terephthalate derivatives. The study, authored and prepared from CMAI's Singapore location, offers an Asian perspective on these markets.

According to CMAI consultants, demand drivers for TPA continue to be region specific. Absolute demand and demand growth in Asia continues to be dominated by polyester fibre, which dwarfs the market size of PET resin, although the latter has grown significantly. In Europe and the Americas, PET bottle resin has significantly increased market share and now exceeds demand for polyester fibre.

Asia continues to be the focal point for the global TPA market. Within Asia, Chinese imports have taken centre stage in terms of determining the regional supply and demand dynamics. Strong growth of TPA demand from China will continuously draw more TPA imports, which will exceed 6 million metric tons in 2005 and 2006.

Northeast Asia still remains the focal point for polyester, with a total production of 21.6 million metric tons of polyester polymer in 2005, slightly more than half the total world market. In the Americas and Europe, the polyester fibre supply chain will struggle to compete with low-cost imports of finished goods, while demand in industrial fibres, technical textiles and non-wovens remains healthy.

Royal Ten Cate half-year profits rise 21%

05 September 2005

The net profit of Dutch textile producer Royal Ten Cate increased by €2.6 million (+21%) to €15.0 million for the first half of 2005. Sales rose by 16% to €351 million, with organic growth accounting for 14% of the rise.

Sales in the Advanced Textiles & Composites sector rose by 44% to €150 million, with the acquisition of Southern Mills accounting for 27%. Organic growth accounted for 17%.

Sales of multi-risk fabrics for professional wear and the outdoor market showed strong growth in both Europe and the USA. The company stated that Southern Mills contributed significantly to profits through growth in sales and the measures taken to increase synergy. Cooperation with the European activities of Ten Cate in this area developed favourably. This led to the launch of new Southern Mills products on the European market.

Chinese garments to be released

05 September 2005

After meeting in Beijing on September 5, Chinese and European Union leaders have agreed that millions of imported Chinese garments, which have been blocked at European ports due to quotas imposed by the EU, will be released.

The agreement was said to have been reached during a meeting between Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai and European Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson.

Meanwhile, Chinese President Hu Jintao met with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, European Commission President Manuel

Barroso, and EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana for the annual China-European Union summit at which Mr

Blair urged Europeans to embrace China as a trading partner rather than viewing the country as a threat.