Business Week

24th October 05 – 30th October 05

Canada's Advil Outdoor Adventure Show confirmed

28 October 2005

The Advil Outdoor Adventure Show is returning to the International Centre with a large number of exhibitors plus exciting demonstrations and show features.

The show, produced by National Event Management, will welcome over 300 exhibitors offering a large selection of outdoor gear, products, and services, featuring everything from Mountain Biking to Kayaking, Canoeing, Hiking, Camping, Scuba Diving, Clothing and Gear, and Outdoor Getaways.

The Advil Outdoor Adventure Show will take place February 24-26, 2006.

Skechers Footwear reports strong results

28 October 2005

Footwear designer Skechers USA, Inc. has announced strong financial results for the third quarter ended September 30, 2005. Net sales for the quarter rose 5.9% to $272.8 million compared with $257.7 million for the same period in 2004. Third quarter 2005 net earnings were $12.6 million versus $6 million in the third quarter of the prior year.

For the nine-month period ended September 30, 2005, net sales rose 9.7% to a record $783.0 million compared with $713.9 million in the first nine months of 2004. Net earnings for the first nine months were $38.8 million versus $21.4 million in 2004.

Skechers designs, develops and markets a range of footwear for men, women and children under 12 brand names. The company has also granted select third party licenses for Skechers-branded apparel, swimwear and hosiery.

Wolverine World Wide makes organisational changes

28 October 2005

Wolverine World Wide, Inc. has announced key promotions and organisational changes relating to its Heritage Brands Group, Wolverine Footwear Group and global support operations.

Gordon Baird has been promoted to president of the Heritage Brands Group. Mr. Baird joined the Company in 2004 as managing director of the European CAT Footwear operations. He replaces Blake Krueger, who was recently promoted to president and COO.

Ted Gedra has been promoted to president of the Wolverine Footwear Group, effective January 1, 2006. Since joining the company in 1985, Mr. Gedra has held sales and management positions of increasing responsibility and was most recently executive vice president of the Wolverine Footwear Group. Mr. Gedra will succeed Dean Estes, who recently announced his retirement after over 30 years at the company.

The company also announced that, effective January 1, 2006, Stephen L. Gulis, Jr., executive vice president and chief financial officer, will assume leadership of several global support operations, including information systems, warehousing, credit and customer service. As announced earlier, the company's Global Operations Group, which includes its sourcing, manufacturing and leather operations, will report directly to Blake Krueger, president and COO. These areas are currently under the direction of Steve Duffy, who previously announced that he will be retiring from Wolverine after 17 years.

Wolverine World Wide brands include: Bates, Hush Puppies, HYTEST, Merrell, Sebago and Wolverine.

Everlast Worldwide Inc. expands in South Korea

28 October 2005

Everlast Worldwide Inc., manufacturer and licensor of sporting goods and apparel under the Everlast brand name, has entered into a licensing agreement with South Korea's Spris Corp. The agreement, the third signed with the company, licenses Spris Corp. to produce men's, women's and children's underwear and men's loungewear and sleepwear. The new products will be distributed through Spris stores, better department stores and sporting goods retailers throughout South Korea.

Seoul-based Spris Corp. currently markets Everlast retail boxing equipment, men's, women's and children's activewear as well as sportswear and footwear in South Korea.

28 October 2005

UK-based performance knitwear brand Glenbrae Golf has announced plans to launch a range of high performance golf socks for the 2006 season.

The socks are a mix of cotton and Coolmax yarns, to offer comfort and durability and have been designed so as to work in conjunction with the natural biomechanical movements of the foot – in nine structural design features each with their own distinct benefit.

The features include a comfort toe, which eliminates uncomfortable and bulky seams inside the sock; a breathable sock bridge construction to enhance airflow; a comfort sock sole, with a right- and left-foot shaped Terry towelling construction incorporating Coolmax Active for tailored comfort; and an arch band, with increased elasticity around the arch of foot to hold the sock securely in place during activity; shaped heel with Coolmax.

Columbia Sportswear’s sales drop 1.4%

28 October 2005

Active outdoor apparel and footwear designer Columbia Sportswear Company has announced net sales of $409.8 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2005, a decrease of 1.4% compared with $415.8 million reported for the same period of 2004. Net income for the third quarter was $66.5 million, a 3.1% decrease compared with the same period in 2004.

Compared with the third quarter of 2004, European sales increased 5.6% to $62.1 million, but other International sales increased 16.5% to $50.2 million. Canadian sales increased 6.3% to $52.6 million, and US sales decreased 7.4% to $244.9.

Tim Boyle, Columbia's president and CEO, commented, "As expected from the fall sales order backlog reported last April, third quarter outerwear and footwear sales were disappointing, offset by increases in sportswear. The competitive environment in our core US outerwear business is intense, and US retail consolidation continues to impact our business. Also as expected, third quarter European sales were weak in our German and Scandinavian markets. We are making investments in these areas to strengthen the core Columbia brand and improve our performance in these key markets."

Elastogran to take over Chemtura’s polyurethane systems business

28 October 2005

Polyurethane systems and special elastomers company Elastogran GmbH has announced that it plans to acquire the polyurethane systems business of the American Chemtura Corporation, on January 1, 2006. This business is focused on supplying polyurethane systems for the footwear industry, especially for safety and working shoes (Witcothane). Included in the potential acquisition are Pesol products and Chemtura’s European polyester polyol product line (Fomrez). The acquisition does

not include nor affect Chemtura's global Adiprene and Vibrathane business or the North American-based Fomrez polyester polyol business.

The sales agreement has already been signed by both parties and the transaction will be completed subject to the approval of the competent monopolies and merger control commissions. No financial details will be disclosed.

With this strategic acquisition we are securing our position as market leaders in polyurethane systems in Europe," said Dr. Uwe Hartwig, member of the Elastogran managing board. The Crompton business ideally complements our existing polyurethane portfolio in the field of safety and working shoes, particularly in respect of our excellent customer cooperation."

Elastogran is a member of the BASF Group. In 2004 it generated net sales of €1.53 billion (consolidated) together with a staff of approximately 1,800.

Russell Corporation results impacted by hurricane

28 October 2005

Athletic and sporting goods company Russell Corporation has reported fiscal third quarter 2005 earnings of $15.8 million compared with last year's $422.7 million in revenues. Operating income was $33.9 million in the quarter, down from last year's $44.0 million, as operational issues disclosed in the second quarter were exacerbated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In addition to the previously announced impact of the elimination of the COO position in the third quarter, the company stated that it had also experienced significant economic losses attributed to the storms. The company lost more than 40 containers of product during hurricane Katrina, as the company's primary ports of entry for the export of components (fabric and cut parts) and the import of finished goods were damaged in the storm.

With aggressive actions, the estimated losses associated with the hurricanes have been reduced to a range of $0.13 to $0.16 on a per share basis. The company does expect to recover a significant portion of these extra expenses from its insurance carriers.

Sales in the Sporting Goods segment increased by 5%, or nearly $10 million, with sales from acquisitions owned for less than a year contributing approximately $33 million. Continued strength in Dri-Power performance products for the Russell Athletic Group partially offset declines due to product availability. Sales in the Spalding Group were down slightly from the prior year, while Brooks continued to perform exceptionally well, contributing nearly $32 million in revenues in the quarter and achieving its profit plan. In the Activewear segment, demand remained strong for Jerzees products.

Russell Corporation brands include Russell Athletic, Spalding, Brooks, Huffy Sports, Bike, Moving Comfort, AAI and Mossy Oak.

Timberland reports Q3 results

28 October 2005

US designer of footwear, apparel and accessories The Timberland Company has reported third quarter net income of $69.2 million compared with third quarter 2004 net income of $68.6 million. Third quarter 2005 results included previously disclosed pre-tax costs of $2.5 million related to the company's restructuring of its Caribbean manufacturing facilities.

Third quarter revenue increased 2.4% over strong prior-year results to a record $505.9 million which, according to the company, were driven by gains in international markets which offset moderate declines in the USA. International results (+14.1% or +14.2% in constant dollars) were driven by strong constant dollar sales gains in Europe and Asia in both footwear and apparel. US revenues declined 6.1%, as anticipated decreases in women's casual footwear and boot sales offset gains in Timberland Pro series and kids' footwear.

Lanxess targets further growth in China

28 October 2005

Lanxess AG has announced that it is stepping up the pace in the rapidly growing Chinese chemicals market. The announcement was made by the company's Management Board Chairman Dr. Axel Heitmann at this year's "Wirtschaftswoche" Congress entitled "China 2005 - Partner or Rival?" in Berlin.

The company's wide-ranging China offensive is having a direct influence on its human resources policy in China. At present, Lanxess employs about 590 people in China, and a further 250 are likely to be added in 2006. The number of Chinese employees is currently growing at an average of over 30% a year - with some of the recruits also destined for employment abroad. Dr. Heitmann stated, "In effect, this means that our top Chinese staff have very good future prospects with us to occupy positions anywhere in the world."

The company has just launched a management trainee programme for young Chinese people who want to study in Germany and afterwards work for Lanxess in China.

The company has also announced that in a joint venture, it will become one of the first foreign companies to produce an antioxidant for rubber in China. A new facility is being built in Tongling, Anhui Province.

With an investment of some €20 million, the company is currently building a new production plant for high-tech engineering plastics at its Wuxi site. The first part of the new expandable facilitities is due to go on stream in the spring of 2006.

Lanxess' subsidiary Rhein Chemie, based in Mannheim, will double its production capacity for polymer-bound chemicals (Rhenogran) with a new facility at the Qingdao site.

Clariant India's sales grow 10%

28 October 2005

Clariant (India) Limited, a manufacturer and supplier of dyes and speciality chemical products for the leather, textiles, and paper industry and masterbatches for plastics, textile-fibre and polymer industry, has recorded sales turnover of Rs. 92.7 crore ($20,563,442) in the second quarter of the current financial year 2005-06 against Rs 84.4 crore in the same period last year, registering a growth of 10%. Net profit after tax amounted to Rs7.2 crore, 37% higher than the Rs5.2 crore reported during the same period in the previous financial year.

For the first half of the current financial year, the company recorded a sales turnover of Rs182.8 crore against Rs161.4 crore registering, an increase of 13% and has earned net profit after tax of Rs12.9 crore as against Rs10.1 crore, which equates to 28% growth.

Dyes & Chemicals and Masterbatches recorded sales growth of 9% and 28% for the quarter and 12% and 41% respectively for the half year ended September 30, 2005.

The textile business, which occupies a dominant position in the product portfolio and sales of the company, recorded impressive growth of 24% for the second quarter and 21% for the first half of the current financial year.

During the quarter, the company also received re-certification as ISO 9001 from KPMG.

Hi-Tec launches 4:SYS technology

27 October 2005

UK-based footwear company Hi-Tec is launching 4:SYS technology, an exclusive running-specific cushioning and support system.

4:SYS technology focuses on the four phases of the gait cycle – rear foot, mid foot, forefoot and toe off. Using eight grades of EVA material, it is said to take a holistic approach to the gait cycle by optimising cushioning, support and energy return.

Traditionally made up of three phases, Hi-Tec's researchers have discovered a fourth high pressure point located in the big toe. The technology incorporates a unique energy return treatment applied to the forepart and the toe position. The placement of an energy returning material optimises toe propulsion and enhances the foot's natural energy return.

Hi-Tec has developed two variations of the 4:SYS system. 4:SYS Support has been designed for the 8/10 runners who over-pronate, offering maximum support where and when they need it. 4:SYS Cushioning utilizes complete 4:SYS technology without the additional support required by over-pronators, resulting in a lighter shoe.

Iconix Brand Group signs license agreement for Joe Boxer in Mexico

27 October 2005

Iconix Brand Group, Inc. has announced an international licensing agreement for its Joe Boxer brand with Grupo Aviara, SA De CV, an apparel company in Mexico. The long term agreement covers a wide range of categories including men's, women's and children's apparel, accessories and footwear. Grupo Aviara has plans an initial distribution of Joe Boxer products in approximately 125 retail stores to launch in March 2006.

Founded in 1984, Grupo Aviara is focused on licensing and distributing brands through various retail channels in the Mexican and Latin American markets. Its brand portfolio includes Lacoste, Cherokee, XOXO, Miss Sixty, Energie, Anne Klein, Gant.

Visitor record at Golf Europe 2005

27 October 2005

The Golf Europe 2005, held from October 2-4, 2005 counted more than 6,000 trade show visitors, a first-time record. This represented an increase of 12% for the golf trade show. 315 exhibitors from 25 countries participated at the event at the New Munich Trade Fair, Germany.

For the third time in a row the Golf Europe Legend Award was handed out during Golf Europe 2005, an award for extraordinary achievements in the world of golf. This year it was presented to Swedish caddy Fanny Sunesson, the world's most successful female caddy, who became well known during a successful 10 years of cooperation with Nick Faldo.

The next Golf Europe 2006 has been rescheduled to September 29 to October 1st, 2006, due to a scheduling conflict at the exhibition centre.

Founder of Lija golf and sportswear honoured as entrepreneur

27 October 2005

Canadian designer of women's golf and sportswear and founder of Lija, Linda Hipp, has been recognised in the seventh annual Profit 100 ranking of Canada's Top Women Entrepreneurs by Profit magazine.

Ranking Canada's top women entrepreneurs by the annual revenue of their firms, the magazine profiles the country's most successful female business owners. Lija by Linda Hipp was recognised as the number three company in terms of three-year revenue increase, with 402% growth. Earlier this year, the company was the only apparel brand named as one of Canada's 100 fastest-growing companies overall.

To be recognised among this distinguished group of female business leaders is a tremendous honour," said Ms Hipp. It's been a remarkable seven years since the company was founded and we're happy to be on track for continued growth in the future."

Lija apparel (pronounced Lee-zha) – is worn by numerous LPGA Tour players, including Jill McGill. The company has received significant recognition within and outside the golf industry, achieving organic annual sales growth of at least 50% each of the past six years. Based in North America, Lija recently began selling into the UK, Australian and Japanese markets.

Rocky Shoes & Boots reports record Q3 revenues

27 October 2005

Rocky Shoes & Boots, Inc. has reported record financial results for the third quarter and nine-month period ended September 30, 2005. For the three months ended September 30, 2005, net sales increased 88% to a record $94.1 million compared with $50.1 million for the corresponding period a year ago. Net income rose to $6.5 million versus $4.9 million.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2005, net sales increased 122.5% to $221.1 million compared with $99.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2004. Net income rose to a record $10.4 million versus $6.4 million a year ago.

On January 6, 2005, Rocky Shoe & Boots, Inc. completed the acquisition of EJ Footwear Group. The results for the three-month and nine-month period ended represent the performance of the consolidated company, while the year ago results reflect Rocky Shoes & Boots on a stand-alone basis.

Rocky Shoes & Boots designs, develops, and manufactures rugged outdoor, occupational, and casual footwear, as well as branded apparel and accessories. The company's footwear, apparel and accessories are marketed under the brands, Rocky and Gates, and as a result of the acquisition of EJ Footwear, Georgia Boot, Lehigh, Durango, and the licensed brand Dickies.

Sports shoe sales rise 50% after National Games in China

27 October 2005

According to a survey conducted in several large cities in China, such as Nanjing, Shanghai, sales of sports shoes increased by more than 50% following the 10th National Games held recently.

The statistics showed that not only are international brands such as Nike and Reebok selling better, but also domestic brands like LiNing.

It is predicted by those in the industry that sports shoe sales will continue to grow for the next 2-3 years because of the Olympic Games that will be held in Beijing in 2008.

Huntsman calls gas price surge “outrageous and unnecessary”

27 October 2005

Peter R. Huntsman, president and CEO of Huntsman Corporation, a global manufacturer and marketer of differentiated and commodity chemicals, has called further surge in natural gas prices "outrageous and unnecessary."

"Natural gas futures trading, which influences the price that all consumers must pay, remains badly out of control," said Mr. Huntsman.

"Government statistics show that demand for natural gas has fallen for five consecutive years. Production continues to outpace demand. The US has the third highest amount of gas in inventory in history for this time of year, despite two major hurricanes. And yet we continue to have the world's highest and most volatile natural gas prices….”

He continued, "Natural gas prices were shamefully and unnecessarily high even before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita blew into the Gulf. These prices are badly hurting homeowners, farmers and consumers of every kind. They have cost, and continue to cost the manufacturing sector of the US economy tens of thousands of jobs. The only ones who are profiting are NYMEX (New York Mercantile Stock Exchange) traders and, of course, the Exchange itself whose rules promote price volatility."

Rama Synthetics to build new polyester plants

26 October 2005

Indian polyester producer Indo Rama Synthetics Ltd. has signed contracts for the construction of two new polyester polycondensation manufacturing facilities in Butibori, India, with each set to produce 140,000 tonnes of polymers per year.

In addition, two staple-fibre lines, which will be connected to one of the new plants, will also be built. Costing approximately €150 million, the plants are scheduled to be commissioned in mid-2006

Germany's Zimmer AG - a designer, supplier and builder of turnkey plant and equipment for the production of polymers and synthetic fibres - has won the order to build the plants.

Fifa and Puma reach settlement over all-in-one kit

26 October 2005

Fifa and German sportswear brand, Puma, have reached an out of court settlement agreement in their legal dispute over Cameroon's one piece playing kit. The kit was banned and the Cameroon team fined after it wore it in Tunisia in 2004 during the African Nations Cup in 2004.

A judge later ruled that the Puma kit did not breach any Fifa rules and the sportswear brand subsequently began legal proceedings against Fifa, seeking $2.4 million in compensation.

However, according to the press statement released by Fifa and Puma, in the interests of international football" the two sides have reached an out of court settlement. The two parties have agreed not to disclose the details of this settlement.

NanoHorizons founder to present at EuroFutureTex 2005

26 October 2005

NanoHorizons, Inc.'s founder, chairman and chief technical officer, Dr. Stephen J. Fonash, will speak at EuroFutureTex 2005 which will be held in Padua, Italy from November 8-9, 2005. The conference will explore the array of technologies that enable the textile industry to develop new products and markets, replacing EuroNanoTex, which was the first European conference focusing on nanotechnology in the textile industry.

Dr. Fonash's presentation, "Making nanotechnology relevant to the textile industry: Creating new markets and business in the textile industry" will explore the role that nanotechnology plays in the continuous improvement of textiles. Dr. Fonash will share the observations he has made over the many years regarding the evolution of nanotechnology, his views on the opportunities for improvements in fibres and fabrics, and he will comment on prevalent abuse of the term "nanotechnology". His discussion will also include NanoHorizons' nanoscale-engineered additives for fibre and fabric-based products.

DuPont reports Q3 results

26 October 2005

DuPont has reported a 5% growth in segment sales in the third quarter to reach $6.2 billion, which was said to reflect increases in all operating segments, excluding prior year sales from divested businesses. Business interruptions from continued volume growth in Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe helped to offset lower volumes in the United States and Western Europe, although total volumes declined 1%, which the company said reflected, in part, the impact of the hurricanes on US demand. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were said to have reduced US third quarter sales by about $100 million and pre-tax operating income by about $50 million.

"We continued our positive momentum with our seventh consecutive quarter of margin expansion," said DuPont chairman and CEO Charles O. Holliday, Jr.

"However, soaring energy and ingredient costs are causing a structural shift that will create challenges for our customers, suppliers, and our own operations. We have

initiated a number of actions to ensure we achieve our sustainable growth goals despite these new challenges."

Gander Mountain results hit by economy, weather

26 October 2005

Outdoor retailer Gander Mountain Company has announced that it no longer expects to meet its previously disclosed guidance for revenue of at least $850 million, flat comparable store sales and pre-tax income of at least $16 million for the fiscal year 2005. The company stated that uncertainty about the economy - including the impact of higher energy prices - and the persistently warm weather across much of the country are contributing to weaker in sales. It now expects that comparable store sales in the third quarter will decline nine to 10 per cent versus the third quarter of fiscal 2004.

"Sales and gross margin in the third quarter have been disappointing," said Mark Baker, president and CEO. "However, we still have our most important selling period ahead of us with the peak hunting seasons and the holiday season, and we have taken steps to maximise current opportunities in response to the softer sales environment."

Gander Mountain offers outdoor equipment, technical apparel and footwear, as well as gunsmith, archery, ATV and marine services.

SATRA expands footwear test capabilities

26 October 2005

SATRA has invested £75,000 in new equipment to expand its footwear testing capabilities. According to the technology centre, these additions were necessary in order to respond to the growing demand for assessments in the technology centres core field of footwear and materials evaluation.

As a result, SATRA now has two additional Bally permeometers which have traditionally been used to assess the water resistance of heavy leathers, particularly soling, and is now required to test insoles and footbeds for the new safety footwear standard EN ISO 20344:2004.

It has also invested in an additional Bally flexometer, which assesses the flexing endurance of leathers, textiles and coated fabrics.

The Bally penetrometer measures the dynamic water resistance of leathers, textiles and coated fabrics. An additional machine has also been added to SATRA's suite of equipment. Another permeability tester has also been acquired, which determines how much water vapour transmits through footwear upper material in a given time. A further whole shoe flexer, designed with a deep trough to assess the water resistance of high-legged boots, has also been incorporated into 'test laboratories'.

"This considerable investment emphasises our commitment to meeting our members ever increasing needs by having sufficient equipment available to enable us to offer a fast response," says Lynne Brent, SATRA's head of footwear testing

These purchases are part of a £400,000 capital expenditure programme for new equipment across a wide range of test sectors at SATRA during 2005.

Yihua Unifi and Fountain Set team up to develop antimicrobial fabrics

25 October 2005

Yihua Unifi, a joint venture between Unifi, Inc. and Sinopec Yizheng Chemical Fibre Company, and Fountain Set (Holdings) Limited, one of the world's largest circular knitted fabric manufacturers, have partnered to develop a range of circular knit antimicrobial fabrics for the intimate, active wear, casual and swimwear markets.

This family of fabrics from Fountain Set all contain A.M.Y. yarn from Yihua Unifi, which provides permanent antimicrobial and odour control. The first batch of fabric samples will be showcased at the Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics Show, where the two companies will hold a technical seminar.

The bacteriostatic and odour controlling properties of A.M.Y. yarns are permanently embedded into the yarn polymer, and protect against microbes that can cause odours, discoloration, mildew formation and apparel degradation for the life of the garment.

Musicians model M&S' Coolmax eveningwear

25 October 2005

It seems that eveningwear is moving into the functional apparel sector with the launch by Marks and Spencer of a dinner suit and shirt with Coolmax as part of its winter 05/06 range.

The dinner suit is produced from an exclusive fabric manufactured by YunSA which is 30% wool, 20% polyester, and 50% Coolmax, thus offering breathability, thermoregulation and moisture management combined with comfort.

The London Philharmonic Orchestra recently put the new suit and shirts to the test, with male members of the orchestra wearing them during the summer season at Glyndebourne Festival Opera.

It gets incredibly hot in the pit," said violinist Bob St John Wright, This suit feels half the weight of the usual tails we wear." Percussionist Andy Barclay added, "Having a washable suit is great – especially as we're wearing them five nights a week in the summer."

Dystar launches new skin care finishes for textiles

25 October 2005

DyStar Auxiliaries GmbH, the textile auxiliaries company of DyStar Textilfarben GmbH, Frankfurt, Germany has launched a new skincare finish for textiles, Evo Care Vital. The new product contains a special combination of vitamin E, aloe vera and jojoba oil that are embedded in a special silicone matrix and are said to give apparel anti-ageing properties.

The finish moisturises the skin and protects it against pollution and dangerous UV radiation. It is applied as the last step in conventional pad and exhaust finishing processes, which is then followed by careful drying in mild conditions to ensure the treated textiles retain their protective properties. However, once treated, fabrics with this finish are said to be suitable for laundering at 40°C.

Overview of chemical testing of textiles book launched

25 October 2005

Irish market research company, Research and Markets has introduced a new book to its offering, 'Chemical Testing of Textiles', which is aimed at giving a full overview of chemical testing for both academics and industry.

It provides coverage of the chemical analysis procedures for a broad range of textiles. It introduces fundamental chemical concepts and rudimentary procedures and tries to balance the theoretical and practical parts of the contents. In most cases, the chemical analysis is undertaken with a test method regulated and updated by a professional organisation and has been compiled by a team of contributors including professors, material researchers and textile analysts from Canada, Britain, Germany, and the USA.

The opening chapter deals with fibre and yarn identification and is followed by nine separate chapters discussing different chemical analyses with regard to textiles. These include leather, feather/down, textile wet processes, fibre finishes, coatings, performance related tests, wastewater, and dyes and pigments.

This book will be a valuable resource for academic and industrial chemists, lecturers and students of textile chemistry and related subjects.

ECCO introduces five new styles in women's golf range

25 October 2005

Danish footwear manufacturer ECCO has introduced five new styles in its spring/summer 2006 women's collection of classic, causal and sport model golf shoes. Each model features water- and weather-resistant leather and is made using a direct-injection process.

The new introductions are: New Classic Wing Buckle, with smooth and crocodile printed high-grade leathers, colour-contrasted piping and a detailed stretchable buckle. It has moisture-wicking linings for an enhanced inner climate. The Sport Tempo, which is said to mark the convergence of off-course fashion sensibility and on-course performance, a sporty yet feminine design features multiple bands of colourful, high-grade leather wrapped around the shoe's front, middle and rear, which are colour-matched with its transparent, 3D outsole. The New Classic Saddle GTX is said to be a modern take on the traditional saddle. It has a fully waterproof Gore-Tex membrane and an advanced TPU outsole with moulded teeth to ensure optimum traction and grip during all phases of the swing. Finally, the New Classic Hydromax is stylish and lightweight. It has a slimmer mid-sole profile than previous collections which is made with direct-injected, shock-absorbing PU to provide firm yet flexible support and shapes to match the sole of the foot. New Casual Hydromax offers ECCO's water-resistant Hydromax leather, external wrap-around shank system for stability and dual flex channels in the forefoot.

US embassy, USAID hosts AGOA workshop in Ethiopia

25 October 2005

The US African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) is promoting increased trade with the US and Africa, and in order to help eligible countries maximise AGOA benefits, the US is sponsoring the East and Central Africa Regional AGOA Sectoral Workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on October 25 and 26, 2005.

The US Embassy in Ethiopia is hosting the workshop in collaboration with the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the East and Central Africa Global Competitiveness Hub based in Nairobi, and the Office of the US Trade Representative. "It is exciting that Addis has the chance to host this important event," said US Chargé d'Affaires Vicki Huddleston, and to showcase how Ethiopia, along with so many other countries in Africa, is benefiting from AGOA."

The programme is designed to help producers in AGOA-eligible sectors learn how to break into the US market. It will bring together producers of hand-loomed and hand-woven textiles, interior decorating and handicraft items, and leather goods from East and Central Africa.

The participating nations are: Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Invista adds new products to Teflon portfolio

25 October 2005

Invista, the licensed marketer of DuPont Teflon fabric protector, has added two new products to its Teflon portfolio – 'cool and dry DuPont Teflon fabric protector' and 'high performance Repel fabric protector'. They will be launched on to the commercial market in spring 2006.

Cool and dry Teflon fabric protector combines durable stain protection with moisture management benefits. New technology uses a 'nano' fluorochemical finish to draw detergent into the fibre, which then releases ground in dirt in the wash. Soil re-deposition technology also helps hold soil in the wash liquid, limiting re-deposit, so that the fabric stays looking longer for newer.

High performance Repel Teflon abric protector exhibits outstanding durability. After approximately 30 washes, tests show that the stain repellency still performs to a high level and, even after approximately 50 washes tests show that there remains a significant stain repellent benefit.

Huw Williams, a representative for DuPont Teflon, said: Consumers today demand performance benefits from nearly all the products they purchase and Teflon fabric protector is in an ideal position to deliver against the need for stain protection and true easy care apparel and interiors."

Invista has also launched its new consumer ad campaign for the apparel and interior markets, which centres around the theme – outsmart stains. A trade campaign will be launched in autumn 2005.

Rohm and Haas reports 8% increase on Q3 sales

24 October 2005

Rohm and Haas Company has reported third quarter 2005 sales of $1,953 million, an 8% increase over the same period in 2004, driven by increased selling prices necessary to recover higher raw material and energy-related costs.

According to the company, demand in the quarter was down slightly with a modestly favourable impact of currency on the revenue line. Earnings from continuing operations for the quarter were $169 million, up 23% compared with the $137 million reported in the same period last year. The quarter's results include approximately $7 million, after-tax, in costs associated with the shutdowns caused by hurricanes in the Gulf Coast region during the quarter.

Sales for the nine months ending September 30, 2005 were $5,982 million, representing a 10% increase over the comparable period in 2004.

Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics set for success

24 October 2005

Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics opens Wednesday (October 26) at the Shanghai New International Expo Centre where over 1,530 textile suppliers - a 26% increase from 2004 - will present their products.

Exhibitors include some of the world's market leaders such as 3M, Cotton Council International, Dow Fiber Solutions, the Huafu Group, Hyosung, Lenzing Fibers, Swarovski and Union Knopf.

"The response from exhibitors has really been remarkable this year," said Annie Ma, group manager of Trade Fairs for Messe Frankfurt in Hong Kong. "We are very impressed by the industry response. Many exhibitors were still on waiting list until the end of September. This really proves that apparel textile professionals recognise the show at one of the most important of its kind in China."

Close to 1,000 Chinese exhibitors will participate at the show including suppliers from key textile producing regions; Shanghai, Jiangsu and Zhejiang. Products showcased will include not only textiles for mass production but also functional textiles and high-end products. Da Fa Cloth and Luthai Textile will be some of the Chinese market leaders present.

Wolverine World Wide appoints new president

24 October 2005

US branded casual, active lifestyle, work, outdoor sport and uniform footwear company, Wolverine World Wide, Inc. has named Blake W. Krueger as president and chief operating officer.

Mr. Krueger has served as an executive vice president and officer of the company for 10 years with responsibilities for human resources, retail, business development, accessory licensing, acquisitions and legal areas. Most recently, Mr. Krueger served as president of the Heritage Brands Group, one of the company's four branded global operating units.

Wolverine brands include: Bates, Hush Puppies, HYTEST, Merrell, Sebago and Wolverine. The company is also the exclusive footwear licensee of CAT, Harley-Davidson, Patagonia and Stanley.

Reebok reports lower sales

24 October 2005

Reebok International Ltd has reported net income for the third quarter ended September 30, 2005 of $117.7 million compared with $81.8 million for the third quarter of 2004. However, net sales for the 2005 third quarter were $1.04 billion compared with 2004's third quarter net sales of $1.16 billion. For the Reebok Brand, worldwide sales in the 2005 third quarter were $912 million as compared with 2004's third quarter sales of $1 billion.

The company stated that third quarter 2005 results had been impacted by an after-tax gain of $49 million from the sale of the company's Ralph Lauren Footwear business and $2.5 million of costs pertaining to certain legal and other expenses associated with the proposed merger with adidas. In addition, the company's operating results were said to have been affected by the previously announced integration of The Hockey Company into the Reebok Brand and from the company's previously announced plans to reposition its business with Footlocker, Inc.

Paul Fireman, the company's chairman and CEO said, "This was certainly an eventful and unusual quarter for us…"