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Business Week
12th November 05 - 18th November 05

Omniflex launches new Line of Ether-Amide films

14 November 2005

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Omniflex, Inc., a manufacturer of super-thin, high-performance films from thermoplastic polyurethane and other specialty polymers, has introduced its new TX4000 line of Transport brand, ether-amide-based, waterproof-breathable films.

The physical properties of these new films make them suited for applications requiring excellent chemical resistance, low static and high temperature resistance. The high MVT (moisture-vapour transmission) rate, excellent stretch and recovery, good hand and quietness make these films well-suited for use in high-performance athletic and outdoor apparel, footwear and textile lamination applications.

Their ability to be sterilised using ETO or gamma methods prior to use, as well as provide comfort and a complete viral barrier during use, make them well-suited for producers of medical garments and drapes.

Standard Transport-brand, TX4000 Series Ether-Amide films are available in thicknesses ranging from 0.2 to 2 mm, cast on polyethylene, polyester or paper carriers, and in widths up to 68 inches. Available options include custom formulations, slip, colour or surface characteristics. Additive packages may also be specified, including flame resistance, UV resistance, antibacterial, antifungal, antistatic, lubricant and antiblock.

Sympatex to exhibit at Meet the Buyers trade show

14 November 2005

European membrane supplier, Sympatex, will have a stand at the Meet the Buyers trade fair at the Reebok Stadium, Bolton, UK, on November 29, 2005. This will provide buyers with the opportunity to learn more about the unique qualities of Sympatex membranes and the latest membrane developments.

Sympatex will showcase its variety of non-porous waterproof, windproof and breathable membranes to suit all needs, the three unique qualities of which are said to ensure wearers of products using Sympatex membrane are kept dry and comfortable.

The membrane is "intelligent", reacting to the levels of perspiration produced by the foot - the more produced the harder it works, forcing the sweat through the billions of hydrophilic (water loving) zones to the outside.
It is extremely flexible and can stretch up to 300% in all directions. Due to the non-porous structure, this unique flexibility will not affect the breathability. The membrane is so lightweight it only adds 20 grams to a garment, that's the equivalent of a postcard.

The latest developments on show will be its High2out and Reflexion membranes. High2out has 120% more breathability, quickly wicking moisture away from the body. Reflexion is an aluminised membrane that reflects 75% of the body's heat.

Oeko-Tex internal policy proves a success

14 November 2005

At their annual meeting held in Athens on November 2-4, the heads of the Oeko-Tex institutes confirmed the international company decided to continue with their internal policy on inspections, thanks to the success witnessed over the past year. Oeko-Tex general secretary Raimar Freitag said that next year certificate-holders would again be subjected to self-financing inspections of their products at a rate of at least 15% of all certificates issued worldwide.

He added that the auditing of Oeko-Tex member institutes, which is essential for maintaining uniform testing standards, will now be carried out annually. Monitoring of Oeko-Tex licence-holders by an independent inspector from the Oeko-Tex Association has also proved successful, and so from this year a second auditor will be appointed so that production companies can be inspected on site even more regularly.

According to a statement from Oeko-Tex, the production audits that have been carried out so far have generally been welcomed by the certificate-holders and have proved highly constructive. Since taking up his post last December, the Oeko-Tex inspector has visited over 210 companies at all stages of the production chain, in 14 countries worldwide, and checked the validity of 313 Oeko-Tex certificates. While there were very few complaints in Europe, at nearly 50% of all companies in the Middle and Far East the auditor recommended re-testing. As a result of the audit that was carried out and the random samples that were taken as part of normal Oeko-Tex product checking, some companies had to have their existing certificate withdrawn. The main reasons were the use of non-declared dyes and incorrect preliminary products.

According to Mr Freitag, the increase in spot checks which was decided upon last year has been particularly

worthwhile: "The increase in checks by half has meant that the failure rate for the period from July 2004 to June 2005 has fallen by 1.2% to 4.4% compared with the previous year." Last year, a total of 7,000 spot tests were carried out on certificated articles from the retail trade. That corresponds to a rate of 17.5% of all Oeko-Tex certificates that were issued worldwide and is about 61% higher than the previous year. Items from 39 production companies and 45 different product groups were inspected. The tests focused mainly on Oeko-Tex product classes I (30%) and II (69%), which reflects the general distribution of all Oeko-Tex certificates.

Benetton revises outlook

14 November 2005

The Benetton Group has reported revenues of €1,288 million for the nine months of 2005, up 2.8% compared with the €1,253 million reported in the corresponding period of 2004. Revenues for the quarter were €446 million, up 13.7% compared with the third quarter of 2004. Revenue performance benefited from the good reception by the market of products in the new collections, especially the 2005 autumn/winter collection, as well as from increased revenues in its directly-owned stores.

Net income for the period was €89 million and 6.9% of revenues, compared with €104 million in the first nine months of 2004. In the third quarter of 2005, net income was €26 million against €35 million in the third quarter of 2004.

Regarding the 2005 year-end forecast, the management has up-dated its year-end previsions, following the market's good reception of its new products and new collections, with revenues now forecast to be around €1,720 million, EBIT around 10% and net income around 6%.

Chiemsee makes personnel changes

14 November 2005

Lifestyle and active sportswear brand Chiemsee has announced three internal personnel changes. Dietmar Damith, Andreas Mittag and Tina Moser have occupied new positions within the company, effective immediately. Former marketing, royalties and trademark rights manager and executive board member Dietmar Damith has been promoted to the newly-created position of international sales, marketing, royalties and trademark rights manager and will remain executive board member.

The new position of international sales manager has been created to structure and support the quickly expanding foreign markets. Currently the lifestyle and active sports brand, which is based in Bernau, Germany, is trading in 25 different export markets, partly through sales agents, partly through importers.

Andreas Mittag will be the new communications manager and will be in charge of the company's marketing department, formerly directed by Mr Damith. Mr Mittag's former role as marketing assistant has been filled by Tina Moser.

Iconix signs licence agreement for Joe Boxer in Canada

15 November 2005

Iconix Brand Group, Inc. has announced an international licensing agreement for its Joe Boxer brand for men's and women's footwear with Marin Group International, LLC, a footwear company based in the United States and Canada.

The long term agreement covers men's and women's casual footwear including slippers, sandals and sneakers. Marin Group plans an initial distribution of Joe Boxer footwear in approximately 100 retail stores to launch in June 2006.

Iconix Brand Group, Inc. is in the business of marketing and licensing the Candie's, Bongo, Badgley Mischka, Joe Boxer and Rampage trademarks on a variety of apparel and fashion products. Marin Group, founded in 2003, was formed by a group of footwear professionals that have worked for Polo, Teva, and adidas during their careers.

Safety Products Holdings announces Q3 results

15 November 2005

US designer and manufacturer of branded products in the personal protection equipment industry Safety Products Holdings, Inc., as successor to NSP Holdings L.L.C., and Norcross Safety Products L.L.C., has announced increased sales for the third quarter ended October 1, 2005. Net sales were $119.5 million compared with $114.5 million in the third quarter of 2004. The net sales increase of $5 million, or 4.4%, was attributable to increased sales in each of its three operating segments.

Gross profit decreased by $1 million, or 2.6%, due to the impact of a $3.3 million charge related to inventory purchase accounting adjustments. Excluding these adjustments, the company's gross profit increased $2.3 million, or 5.6%.

For the first nine months of 2005, net sales of the company were $358.8 million compared with $330.6 million in the first nine months of 2004. Net sales experienced an increase of $28.2 million, or 8.5%. Gross profit increased by $10.4 million, or 8.8%.

Safety Products Holdings manufacture and market a full line of personal protection equipment for workers in the general industrial, fire service and utility/high voltage industries. It sells products under trusted, long-standing and well-recognised brand names including North,

Morning Pride, Ranger, Servus, Pro-Warrington and Salisbury. The broad product offering includes among other things, respiratory protection, protective footwear, hand protection, bunker gear and linemen equipment.

Sara Lee completes sale of European branded apparel business

15 November 2005

Sara Lee Corporation has announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement for the sale of its branded apparel business in Europe to an affiliate of Sun Capital Partners, Inc., a US private investment firm.

According to the terms of the agreement, the Sun Capital affiliate will pay Sara Lee €100 million in cash plus potential contingent payments based on the future performance of the business under the purchaser's ownership.

The transaction is expected to close by the end of January, 2006. The enterprise being sold by Sara Lee includes its branded apparel businesses in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom and throughout Eastern Europe. This business markets brands such as Dim, Playtex, Wonderbra, Abanderado, Nur Die and Unno and generated nearly $1.2 billion in sales in fiscal year 2005, which ended July 2, 2005.

Sara Lee Courtaulds, the UK-based division that manufactures private-label clothing for retailers, is not part of this sale.

Donaldson Membranes site awarded new ISO certification

15 November 2005

Donaldson Membranes, a worldwide provider of filtration systems and replacement parts, has been awarded quality standard ISO/TS16949:2002 at its Hull manufacturing plant in the UK.

The Hull plant manufactures filtration products for a wide range of applications, including Donaldson Membranes' high performance Tetratex ePTFE membranes: Tetratex Release, Tetratex, Tetratex High Efficiency and Tetratex Ultra High Efficiency. These high performance laminates supply dust cake release, low pressure drop, higher air flow, and high efficiency.

"We are proud to have achieved this standard following a 12-month period of work involving most of our staff," said Hull plant quality manager, Ian Metcalfe.

"We've had the ISO 9001:2000 certificate for 15 years, so this project involved analysing gaps in the current system and rectifying them, improving working practices and writing new procedures. Attaining this new standard will open up opportunities in new markets as customers have previously requested us to become holders of the certificate."

Delta Galil reports Q3 results

16 November 2005

Israeli manufacturer of private label ladies' intimate apparel, socks, men's underwear, baby-wear and leisurewear Delta Galil Industries has reported third quarter 2005 revenues of $172.0 million, a decrease of 3% compared with the $176.5 million in revenues reported in the third quarter of 2004. Revenues, excluding Burlen, decreased by 17% in the third quarter compared with the same period in 2004.

In the first nine months of 2005, sales increased 6% to $514.3 million, compared with $487.1 in the first nine months of 2004. Revenues, excluding Burlen, in the first nine months decreased by 12% compared to the first nine months last year.

Net loss for the third quarter of 2005 was $22.8 million compared with $5 million in the third quarter last year. The net loss in the third quarter of 2005 includes reorganisation expenses and impairment of fixed assets and goodwill in a total charge of $20.6 million.

Net loss for the first nine months of 2005 was $28.7 million compared with net income of $12.9 million for the same period last year.

Delta Galil manufactures apparel sold under brands such as Calvin Klein, Hugo Boss, Nike and Ralph Lauren. Headquartered in Israel, Delta operates manufacturing facilities in Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, Eastern Europe, North and Central America, the Caribbean and the Far East.

DHB Industries awarded $30.1 million order from US Army

16 November 2005

DHB Industries Inc., which principally operates in the field of body armour, has announced that its subsidiary, Point Blank Body Armor has received a new delivery order for $30.1 million from the United States Army for its Interceptor OTV (Outer Tactical Vests) System.

Commenting on the announcement, General (Ret.) Larry R. Ellis, DHB's president, said: "We are pleased the US Army continues to see the effectiveness and the value that our advanced body armour provides in this challenging marketplace. We look forward to working with the US Army to bring new and innovative products to our deployed soldiers. Our goal is to be the pre-eminent supplier of body armour for the military and law enforcement communities worldwide."

DHB Industries Inc.'s Armour Group is in the protective body armour industry. Its subsidiaries, Point Blank Body Armor Inc. and Protective Apparel Corporation of America (PACA), are focused on the design,

manufacture, and distribution of bullet resistant and protective body armour for military, law enforcement, and corrections in the United States and internationally.

FESI meets with EC Commissioner over anti-dumping probe

17 November 2005

The Federation of the European Sporting Goods Industry (FESI) met with European Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson this week to discuss the European Commission's investigation into allegations of China and Vietnam dumping footwear with leather uppers. FESI representatives put forward their case stating that protectionist measures would cause 'massive damage' to sporting goods companies and retailers. They also added that they have received a great amount of support during meetings held in recent weeks with officials from EU member states.

This investigation has been instigated by an overly wide-ranging complaint backed by a few countries that are seeking to distort trade in their favour," said FESI trade committee chairman, Karl Sedlmeyer. Footwear production in Asia has been a reality of the sporting shoes market for over a decade and protecting non-existent industries will not change that." He added, China and Vietnam are world leaders in the manufacture of high technology sporting footwear and cutting off these sources of supply would put a whole European industry at risk."

FESI asked Mr Mandelson to consult as widely as possible and take into account the more than 640,000 high-value jobs in the EU in design, marketing, sales and logistics in the sporting goods market that are under threat as a result of this investigation.

DyStar unveils new range of textile auxiliaries

17 November 2005

Dystar has launched a new range of textile processing auxiliaries, Sera, to facilitate the controlled pre-treatment and colouration of textiles. According to the company, Sera textile auxiliaries help textile finishers meet cost, quality and delivery targets and optimise competitiveness with the goal - must be right first time" rather than trial-and-error".

DyStar's Sera offer comprises of high-performance products for all stages in the pre-treatment and dyeing of textiles. The pre-treatment auxiliaries include desizing and scouring agents, sequestering agents, peroxide stabilisers, wetting agents and detergents. The range of dyeing auxiliaries is structured by fibre. It comprises wetting, dispersing and washing agents, lubricants, reserving and after-treatment products, padding and levelling auxiliaries, carriers, migration aids, antifoams, retarders and process control chemicals. It also includes a number of innovative products such as Sera Zyme C-AT, a new desizing agent, and Sera Fast C-RD, a new after-treatment agent for cellulosic fibres and their blends.

Lanxess plans to sell Dorlastan fibres business to Asahi Kasei Fibers

17 November 2005

Germany's Lanxess has announced that it plans to sell it Dorlastan fibres business to Asahi Kasei Fibers Corporation (AKF) of Osaka, Japan. The two companies have widely agreed on the probable text of a sale and purchase agreement and have signed a memorandum of understanding. The agreement itself is expected to be signed shortly. The parties have agreed not to disclose the purchase price. The Dorlastan Fibres business includes production facilities at Dormagen, Germany, and Bushy Park, South Carolina, United States.

As part of the agreement, to make the site at Dormagen, Germany competitive, a plan for the future has been agreed with AKF including a gradual reduction in employment. The business currently has some 280 employees, about 170 of whom will be transferred to AKF. Limited restructuring is also planned to take place at the US site in Bushy Park. AKF plans to retain 160 of the approximately 190 people currently employed there.

"The Dorlastan fibres business has suffered for many years from the migration of textile markets to Asia," said Lanxess management board chairman, Dr. Axel C. Heitmann. "Selling the business to AKF enables Lanxess to avoid closing the Dormagen site, which has been unprofitable for years. This solution offers future perspectives for a substantial proportion of the work-force. Acquiring the Dorlastan business will enable AKF to strengthen its position as a major manufacturer of synthetic elastic fibres and expand its geographical presence."

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Gerber Technology conference focuses on innovation and collaboration

17 November 2005

Gerber Technology recently held its seventh annual Users' Conference, with nearly 200 WebPDM and AccuMark customers participating in two days of product reviews, hands-on sessions and networking with fellow users. In addition, attendees were among the first to see a preview of Fashion Lifecycle Management (FLM), Gerber Technology's new enterprise-wide tool for product development.

Attendees chose from nearly 30 seminars geared to show how they can grow and succeed in today's challenging business environment. These sessions highlighted Gerber's latest product releases of WebPDM, AccuMark, V-Stitcher, and 3D Direct, and provided attendees with the opportunity to learn from the experts. Customer case studies provided insight into how leading organisations are meeting the challenges of an increasingly competitive marketplace by accelerating their time to market using Gerber's innovative technologies to suit their respective organisation's unique needs.

Gerber Technology, a business unit of Gerber Scientific, Inc., develops and manufactures integrated software and hardware automation systems for manufacturers and retailers in the sewn products and flexible materials industries.

TaylorMade Golf introduces new Miscela

17 November 2005

TaylorMade-adidas Golf Company has introduced an updated version of its Miscela golf clubs, specially engineered for women golfers. The 10-club set consists of a 380cc titanium driver, stainless steel 3-wood, three hybrids 4, 5 and 6) and five irons (7-, 8-, 9-, pitching wedge and sand wedge).

The new Miscela features a large 380cc titanium model compared with the original's smaller, stainless steel model. The new driver features a larger, confidence-building footprint at address and incorporates a lower centre of gravity that is said to make it easier to launch the ball on a higher and longer flight.

The Miscela hybrids, which take the place of the long and middle irons, feature a broad smooth sole and exceptionally low centre of gravity and high moment of inertia, making them easy to launch the ball into the air.

Zensah launches seamless mock turtleneck for winter sports

17 November 2005

Seamless performance apparel designer and manufacturer Zensah Performance Apparel has announced that it has developed what is said to be the first seamless mock turtleneck designed specifically for winter sports.

According to the company, athletes need a base layer which allows for optimal performance no matter how low the temperature drops. Silver ions embedded in Zensah fabric provide thermal retention thereby preserving body warmth.

CTC Germany expands CTC Groupe's European network

18 November 2005

CTC Groupe, based in Lyon, France, has announced the opening of its new European agency in Frankfurt, Germany. CTC Germany will correspond directly with the major German companies that market footwear, leather goods, Personal Protection Equipment and fashion accessories.

CTC Germany works in co-ordination with other CTC Groupe structures around the world, fostering the rapid communication and delivery of CTC Groupe's global services, including: physico-mechanical testing of shoes, leather goods, luggage and gloves; chemical analysis of the same articles or their components; CE marking of Personal Protective Equipment for footwear and gloves; inspections of goods during manufacturing and of finished goods before shipping; and factory and social audits in the production zones.

The CTC Groupe is the worldwide leader in consultancy, inspection and quality control for footwear and leather goods. The company's international development has grown throughout 2005 with the opening of new operations in Asia, United States and Europe.

Avery Dennison RIS enters obtains new Heat Transfer Technology

18 November 2005

Advanced heat transfer technology that yields superior images, text, bar codes and security characters in apparel and footwear tag-free labeling applications has been obtained by Avery Dennison Retail Information Services (RIS) through an agreement with Subli Impresos, Murr S.A., Durango, Mexico (SIMSA).

According to Kevin Young, vice president and general manager, Avery Dennison RIS, the agreement comes at a time when apparel manufacturers that market goods carrying heat transfer applications are seeking a competitive advantage. "Our agreement with SIMSA will benefit quality conscious apparel and footwear manufacturers worldwide. The SIMSA technology delivers brilliant imaging and lends itself to the creation of fresh new designs. Avery Dennison RIS' network of manufacturing facilities makes this technology available to customers on a global basis."

Avery Dennison's Retail Information Services Division brings to industry a global offering of information management, brand identification and solution-enabling products.

Paxar helps apparel industry combat counterfeiting

18 November 2005

Paxar Corporation, a global leader providing merchandising systems including bar code, RFID and identification technologies for leading apparel manufacturers and the retail supply chain, has developed a wide range of products and services designed to help combat counterfeiting in the apparel industry.

Our products play a significant role in helping brands deal with the problem of counterfeiting in the apparel industry," explained Paul Chamandy, vice president of new business development for Paxar's apparel systems. By producing labels and the accompanying identification technology, as well as software systems, we are able to provide customers with an integrated approach to monitoring and protecting their brands."

Paxar utilises overt and covert technologies, such as holograms and other devices embedded into the labels, which provide a subtle approach to brand authentication. In addition, they have developed a comprehensive software system, known as SpecStar, which effectively controls data going to a subcontractor's printer and reports back all print activity that the subcontractor engages in. The SpecStar program also facilitates adding unique batch identifiers into labels so products can be traced.

Paxar also offers brand managers a tool that monitors their products throughout the distribution channels. Designated track and trace," the low cost system ensures that each product that carries a Paxar security label device is unique.

Source It moved it autumn time-slot

18 November 2005

Source It, an ASEAN event in Hong Kong, will be moved to an autumn time-slot for 2006. The specialist garment, fabric and accessories show that highlights suppliers from the ASEAN region will run in parallel to Interstoff Asia Autumn at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre from 4 – 6 October 2006.

Mr. Phongsak Assakul, chairman of the ASEAN Federation of Textile Industries (AFTEX), co-organiser of the fair with Messe Frankfurt. "For 2006 we want to give our exhibitors a chance to showcase their winter collections, and an autumnal time-slot is more appropriate for this. We are confident that the trading atmosphere in October will be every bit as dynamic as we have experienced in spring."

So far, the impact of quota abolition on the textile and apparel industries in the ASEAN region has not been as severe as was feared. According to the US Department of Commerce, ASEAN's total exports of textile and apparel to the USA fell by just over 1% in the first four months of 2005 compared to the same period in 2004.

Source It provides an opportunity for ASEAN manufacturers to promote ASEAN's economic integration as an alternative sourcing destination to other better known sourcing countries.

Geox launches flagship Madison Avenue store

18 November 2005

Italian footwear brand known for its "shoes that breathe", Geox has opened its flagship store on the corner of Madison Avenue and 57th Street in New York City. The new store will carry a complete assortment of Geox footwear for men, women and children.

"New York City is known for its high-end, innovative fashion and shopping, and we are pleased to join the ranks as one of the featured retail shoe destinations in Manhattan," said Mario Moretti Polegato, founder and chairman of Geox. "We look forward to expanding Geox's presence in the U.S."

Geox's technology provides comfort and benefits for both rubber and leather soles, making them waterproof and breathable, creating a microclimate inside shoes to keep feet cool and dry. The shoes boast a patented technology which allows sweat and heat to exit through these microholes, whilst keeping water out and the feet dry.

Zumiez announces results

18 November 2005

US retailer of action sports-related apparel, footwear, equipment and accessories Zumiez Inc. has reported record results for the third quarter and nine months ended October 29, 2005.

Total net sales for the third quarter ended October 29, 2005 increased by 27.2% to $57.4 million from $45.1 million reported in the third quarter of the prior year. The

company posted net income for the quarter of $5.3 million versus net income of $3.5 million in the comparable period of 2004.

Total net sales for the first nine months of fiscal 2005 increased by 29.4% to $130.2 million from $100.6 million reported in the first nine months of the prior year. Net income reached $6.1 million versus $3 million in the prior year.

Zumiez focuses on skateboarding, surfing, snowboarding, motocross and BMX.