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Creora to exhibit at ispo

03 January 2006

Elastane brand Creora has announced that it will sponsor the BrandNew Style Award and will exhibit for the first time at ispo Winter 2006.

Creora will showcase a number of its products at ispo including creora H350, a heat resistant elastane which can be blended with polyester and microfibres. The product is said to deliver superior wash fastness in fabrics that are silky soft, lightweight, comfortable, and quick drying. It also offers the ability to re-dye without loss of power and recovery; and creora C400/H450, a low heat settable elastane, which is ideal for heat-sensitive fabrics such as polypropylene; and produces excellent results for seamless lingerie and activewear.

Creora is produced by Hyosung Corporation, the second largest elastane producer in the world, with over 50kt of capacity and is used in various applications including activewear, intimate apparel, swimwear and hosiery/socks.

Avery Dennison supports RFID research centre

03 January 2006

RFID technologies from Avery Dennison Printer Systems, including Gen 2-capable Avery Dennison 6400 Series RFID systems, were recently provided to academic researchers at the University of Arkansas' RFID Research Centre in Fayetteville. The 7,800-square-foot centre studies the application of RFID (radiofrequency ID) and other wireless technologies throughout the retail supply chain.

Avery Dennison Printer Systems is an official laboratory sponsor. The systems it has provided will find application in the centre's supply chain in a box," a fully operational supply chain test rig designed for academic study and analysis.

Ortholite launches SloMo technology

03 January 2006

In response to the growing demand for customised fitting in footwear, insole and performance linings producer, OrthoLite is to launch SloMo - a memory foam that moulds to the unique structure of the foot and rebounds to its original shape each time the foot is removed.

Designed by a team of OrthoLite chemists, the foam produces a contouring effect in the shoe that allows the foot to sink in" to the insole for maximum support and comfort. The foam rebounds to its original shape in approximately 30 seconds, ensuring consistency in the fit.

SloMo foam conforms to the foot, creating a custom fit inside the shoe," said Pam Gelsomini, OrthoLite president and partner. OrthoLite offers the ultimate in customisation and comfort to meet the needs of footwear designers and retailers who will be able to display the cushioning and recovery features of SloMo in-store."

SloMo can also be combined with other OrthoLite products in varying densities, colours and moulds to create a custom-fit" insole. It will be available to designers and manufacturers in January 2006.

Ortholite supplies open cell foam insoles to major brands such as Asics, Nike, adidas, New Balance, Timberland and Rockport.
pigments.

Russell Coutts opts for Slam with Sensitive

03 January 2006

Russell Coutts, winner of the America's Cup, has teamed up with Slam clothing and will wear the Italian brand of clothing made with Sensitive fabric during regattas.

Slam and the world sailing champion established a partnership some time ago under which Mr Coutts has tested the clothing and supplied feedback to the company. He said, It is of crucial importance that sailing apparel meets all the requirements in highly variable conditions and circumstances. The clothes must be comfortable and warm, and at the same time shouldn't be too heavy, allowing you to move around freely on board."

The Slam clothing worn by Mr Coutts is made of Sensitive, a mix of Meryl microfibre with a high percentage of Lycra elastic fibre.

The aim of the partnership with Slam is to continue to develop a clothing range with high performance levels, to be tested and implemented together," said Russell Coutts.

Four million Bush jackets with Sympatex dispatched

03 January 2006

Waterproof, windproof and breathable membrane producer Sympatex Technologies celebrated the success of its 14 year partnership with brand partner Bush at a special ceremony in December, to mark the dispatch of the four millionth Sympatex jacket by Bush.

Sympatex Clothing Product Manager, Roland Güthoff presented a trophy marking the occasion to Frank Skalicky, head of Menswear at Bush to congratulate the company.

Wearers of the four million Sympatex jackets include James Cracknell and Steve Williams, from the gold medal winning coxless four and the Great British Rowing Squad. For the past two seasons the rowers have chosen the Bush jackets with the Sympatex Reflexion membrane as their official jacket. Rower Phil Simmons commented, We were impressed by the top quality of the Bush Sympatex jacket which will keep us dry and protected, but is also lightweight and easy to look after."

Sino-US textile agreement takes effect

04 January 2006

The Sino-US textile agreement took effect on January 1, 2006, imposing quotas on a total of 21 types of clothing and textiles from China by 2008.

After seven rounds of talks, the United States and China signed a three-year agreement on textile trade in November, imposing quotas on Chinese textile products but clearing a major obstacle to bilateral trade.

A total of 21 types of clothing and textiles have been placed under the import restrictions, including cotton trousers. The agreement provides for a progressive increase in imports of major textiles and apparel products from China - by 10% to 15% in 2006, 12.5% to 16% in 2007, and 15% to 17% in 2008.

Meanwhile 10 types of Chinese textile and apparel products exported to the European Union have also been put under quota restrictions, according to an agreement reached by the two sides in June 2005.

"The two textile agreements eliminate most uncertainties faced by Chinese clothing enterprises when exporting goods to two of the most important overseas markets," said Mei Xinyu, a research fellow with the Chinese Ministry of Commerce.

Asahi Kasei Chemicals licenses cyclohexanol synthesis technology

04 January 2006

Japan-based Asahi Kasei Chemicals has announced that it has concluded a licensing agreement with the Chinese company Shijiazhuang Coking & Chemical Group (SCCG) regarding its synthesising cyclohexanol technology.

Cyclohexanol is a feedstock for the production of adipic acid and caprolactam, intermediates for synthetic fibres nylon 66, polyurethane and nylon 6. Under the agreement terms, Asahi Kasei Chemicals will license the technology to SCCG.

The technology uses benzene to synthesise cyclohexanol while reducing the amount of hydrogen required for the process as well as wastes generated through the process.

In line with this move, SCCG will construct a plant for manufacturing cyclohexanol with an annual capacity of 100,000 tons in a chemical industrial park in Shijiazhuang City, Hebei Province. The construction of plant is set to be completed by autumn 2007.

Skechers promotes CFO to COO

04 January 2006

Skechers USA, Inc. has promoted its chief financial officer (CFO) David Weinberg to the position of chief operating officer (COO) and appointed Fred Schneider, who has been a member of the company's board of directors and chairman of its Audit Committee, as CFO. In addition, Morton D. Erlich has been elected to replace Mr. Schneider on the board of directors and as chairman of the Audit Committee.

As the COO, Mr. Weinberg will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the company - including the planning and directing of all aspects of the company's operational policies, objectives and initiatives, and the attainment of short- and long-term financial and operational goals to ensure future growth. He will also focus on growing the company's international and e-commerce divisions as well as building its infrastructure and distribution capabilities.

Skechers USA designs, develops and markets footwear for men, women and children under 12 brand names.

Everlast to launch footwear in Europe

04 January 2006

Everlast Worldwide Inc., manufacturer, marketer and licensor of sporting goods and apparel has expanded its licensing relationship with Globus Trading Group GmbH, based in Nuremberg, Germany. As a result of the new agreement, Globus will serve as Everlast's licensee for footwear in Continental Europe (excluding the UK and Republic of Ireland). The new products, which will include athletic and casual footwear, will be sold through sporting goods retailers, department and athletic footwear stores.

Last year Globus became Everlast's licensee for a variety of products including boxing equipment, apparel, underwear and socks in various European countries. Seth Horowitz, chairman, CEO and president of Everlast, said, "The expansion of our relationship with Globus is indicative of the success they've enjoyed with the brand since the onset of our relationship with them last year. In addition, our expanded relationship with Globus complements our recent agreement with Wilson Imports Ltd., which serves as a footwear licensee in the UK and Republic of Ireland."

Lectra implements new PLM solution at Mango

04 January 2006

Lectra has signed a major contract for the deployment of its latest, comprehensive product lifecycle management (PLM) solution with international designer, manufacturer and retailer of women's clothing Mango.

Intended to manage all collection development processes and optimise the collaborative work of all participants in the value chain on an enterprise level, it is hoped Lectra's PLM solution will enable Mango to better develop, manage and control its collections. The solution will be implemented in close collaboration with Mango's specialised teams to ensure its adaptation to the specific needs of the brand.

Lectra's new PLM solution will initially be used by more than 800 Mango employees and suppliers dedicated to the design and development of 70 million garments and accessories the company produces each year.

Created in 1984, Mango is number two in Spanish exports for the textile and fashion sector. The company has 866 stores in 81 countries and employs more than 5,500 people, including 1,500 at its headquarters near Barcelona, Spain.

Motorola and Oakley launch 'O ROKR' eyewear

04 January 2006

Motorola, Inc. and Oakley, Inc. have unveiled O ROKR, the latest eyewear product in the companies' wireless products.

O ROKR enables hands-free mobile communications for compatible Bluetooth-enabled mobile handsets plus wireless music streaming via Bluetooth from a compatible music-optimised mobile handset or portable music player equipped with a separately available, add-on Bluetooth adapter.

AF&Y to expand plant capacity

05 January 2006

Citing substantial growth in demand for its fibres and yarns, supplier of solution dyed filament yarns American Fibers and Yarns Company (AF&Y) has announced plans to increase its fibre extrusion capacity by 30% and its texturing capacity by 25%. The company will also employ an additional 25-30 staff. Most of the expansion will occur at the company's Bainbridge, GA, manufacturing plant.

According to the company, domestic US market demand for AF&Y's Marquesa and Innova high-performance yarns has doubled in the past two years. The yarns are replacing cotton, acrylic and polyester in apparel applications, mattress fabrics, upholstery and other home and contract textile markets. Additionally, the company's export business has doubled each year for the past three years.

India reports positive trend in textiles

05 January 2006

According to a year-end report released by the Indian government on the textile industry, growth in the textile sector has been inspiring". Production of fabrics increased from 39844 million sq. metres in 2001-2002 to 43498 million sq. metres in 2004-2005.

According to figures for April-August, 2005, although exports of man-made textiles fell 16.4% in the year 2004-2005, all other sectors reported positive growth. Readymade garments rose 12.3%, cotton textiles rose 0.3%, wool exports increased by 30.5%, silk by 2.1%, coir & coir products by 16% and jute goods by 13.7%.

However, despite this growth, the government stated that other countries such as China, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka had seen higher increases in textile exports.

LaCrosse Footwear elects new board member

05 January 2006

Branded work and outdoor footwear producer LaCrosse Footwear, Inc. has elected William H. Williams to its board of directors, effective January 3, 2006.

Mr. Williams is president and CEO of Harry & David Holdings, Inc., a multi-channel specialty retailer and producer of branded, gift-quality fruit, gourmet food products and other premium gifts marketed under the Harry and David brand. Prior to joining Harry & David, he held several senior executive positions at Neiman Marcus, where he was responsible for its mail-order, advertising, visual presentation and public relations divisions. Mr. Williams has served on the Oregon Economic Development Commission, the Oregon International Trade Commission and the Oregon Board of Higher Education.

US government terminates military contract with Rocky Shoes & Boots

05 January 2006

Rocky Shoes & Boots, Inc. has announced that an order for combat boots for the US Military has been terminated by the US government for convenience. Termination for convenience is the government's right to cancel a contract without cause.

The company announced that it had received a contract to produce approximately $30 million of "Hot Weather" boots for the US Military in October through a third party, Atlantic Diving Supply, which had the prime contract to supply the combat boots to the US military under a General Services Administration schedule contract. Shipment of the boots began in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2005 with an estimated completion date of December 2006. The company is currently calculating the financial consequences of the termination and the recovery of costs incurred in the performance of the contract prior to termination.

Mike Brooks, chairman and CEO, stated, "While we are clearly disappointed with the government's termination of this order, we know this decision was not based on Rocky's ability to produce high quality boots and successfully fulfil this contract. Instead, the contract with ADS was terminated by the government, for the convenience of the government, as permitted under applicable government contract laws and regulations and not due to any problem or default by ADS or Rocky, thus entitling ADS, and indirectly Rocky, under the same government laws and regulations to be compensated by the government for its work to date, including finished boots and work-in-process, plus various other costs incurred, including any costs incurred in the cancellation of
materials contracts. Furthermore, we believe Rocky remains well positioned to source additional footwear orders for the U.S. Military going forward."

Rocky Shoes & Boots, Inc. designs and manufactures outdoor, work, duty and western footwear, as well as branded apparel and accessories.

Burlington Coat Factory reports positive results

05 January 2006

Burlington Coat Factory Warehouse Corporation has reported positive results for the second quarter ended November 26, 2005 and for the five weeks ended December 31, 2005.

For the three months ended November 26, 2005, income from continuing operations was $45.4 million. This compares with income from continuing operations of $41.5 million for the corresponding period ended November 27, 2004.

Sales for three months ended November 26, 2005 were $945.4 million compared with sales of $872 million during the corresponding period in 2004. Comparative store sales for the quarter increased 5.3%. Total sales for the quarter increased 8.4% over the comparative quarter of the prior fiscal year.

Sales for the six months ended November 26, 2005 were $1.60 billion compared with sales of $1.45 billion during the corresponding period ended November 27, 2004. Comparative store sales for the six months increased 6.8%. Total sales for the comparative six months increased 10.4% over the comparative six months of the prior fiscal year.

Burlington Coat Factory operates 367 stores in 42 US states.

Chinese footwear imports to Brazil rise 101%

06 January 2006

According to the Brazilian Association of Footwear Manufacturers (Abicalçados), from January to October 2005, imports of Chinese footwear to Brazil rose 67.8% in value terms to $64,1 million (70% of the country's total footwear imports), and 101.2% in terms of volume to 11.6 million pairs, compared with the same period in 2004.

Professor Ênio Klein, a consultant to Abicalçados, explained that the main reason for the increase was that Chinese shoes are sold at prices that are 50% lower than their Brazilian equivalents. However, according to Professor Klein, other factors that favour imports are the low US dollar exchange rate and the fact that importers into Brazil and exporters in China use fraudulent methods such as under-invoicing, in order to reduce the amount of tax paid including the 35% import duty.

Hibbett Sporting Goods reports buoyant sales

06 January 2006

Sporting goods retailer Hibbett Sporting Goods, Inc. has reported an 11.9% increase in net sales for the nine-week period ended December 31, 2005, to reach $90.6 million compared with $81 million for the comparable nine-week period ended January 1, 2005. Comparable store sales increased 1.7% for the nine-week period ended December 31, 2005.

Textile imports from China to India rise nearly 600%

06 January 2006

According to a report released by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) on Post ATC Competitiveness & Protectionism, China has emerged as the leading source of India’s textiles imports in the last five years as its textiles exports to India rose by 597.26% from $ 78.71

million in 2000-01 to $548.81 million in 2004-05. The study further highlights that out of India's total global textiles imports, which stood at $597.74 million in 2000-01, the Chinese share was $78.71 million. The same however, increased to $ 548.81 million in 2004-05 against India's total global textiles imports of $1502.50 million. This works out to be an increase of 597.26% in value terms.

In percentage terms, however, India's textile imports from China in the year 2000-01 was 13.17% against its total global textile imports which almost tripled to 36.53% in 2004-05 against India's total global textile imports.

ASSOCHAM president Mr. Anil K. Agarwal stated that Chinese textiles exports to India rose because their prices internationally witnessed a downtrend in the period, which ushered cut throat competition among all leading economies of textile products and China happened to survive it so well because of its higher production of textile products with lower prices.

New Balance turns 100

06 January 2006

Manufacturer of performance footwear and athletic apparel for women, men, and children New Balance reaches its centennial year this week.

From its establishment in 1906 as New Balance Arch, the company has developed numerous innovative products including the Trackster (the world's first performance running shoe in multiple widths) in the 1960s.

"Our mission has never been to be the biggest, but to be the best, and that will not change as we enter our second century of business," said Jim Davis, chairman and CEO. "We are most proud that the core values New Balance was founded on remain relevant today through our focus on integrity, teamwork and total customer satisfaction."

The company grew in the early 1980's through new manufacturing facilities in New England and international distributors, and in 1982 reached the $60 million mark and debuted the well-received 990 running shoe, the first athletic shoe priced at $100.

Chinese textile exports rise 20% in 2005

06 January 2006

Following the end of trade quotas as of January 2005, China's textile industry has seen a large increase in the volume of textiles exported.

According to estimates from the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles, exports increased 20% year-on-year to reach $116 billion in 2005.

The largest increases were seen in the number of exports to the USA and Europe, with exports rising 62.7% in the first 10 months alone.

Jeantex and Sanatex terminate merger agreement

06 January 2006

Jeantex Group, Inc, a designer and manufacturer of consumer products for apparel markets, has mutually agreed with Sanatex to terminate the Letter of Intent previously entered into on November 25, 2005.

According to the Letter of Intent, Jeantex was to acquire all of the issued and outstanding stock of Sanatex in exchange for newly-issued shares of Class A common stock of Jeantex. The number of shares would have been equal to 51% of all the issued and outstanding shares of Class A common stock of Jeantex.

Henry Fahman, chairman of Jeantex Group, Inc., said, "We determined that operating Sanatex under the Jeantex Group was not the best platform to expand our business. We plan to continue to build our private label and branded business by increasing our distribution of existing brands and by adding additional lines to our portfolio. Jeantex remains committed to its growth strategy and will continue to seek new opportunities that create value for our shareholders."

Invista appoints three new members to its board of directors

06 January 2006

Following the decision of three Koch company executives to accept roles at Georgia-Pacific Corporation and depart the Invista board of directors, three new Invista board members have been appointed, effective immediately.

Jeff Gentry, president of Koch Mineral Services and Koch Industries, Inc. board member, will now serve as chairman of Invista's board. Mr Gentry joined Koch Carbon, Inc. in 1983. In 1994, he was promoted to president of Koch Carbon; that business later broadened in scope as the Koch Minerals group.

Jim Mahoney, KII vice president - operations excellence and compliance, and Mark Humphrey, KII vice president - tax services, have also joined the Invista board of directors. Mr Mahoney began his career at Koch in 1988 and previously served as executive vice president of operations for Flint Hills Resources. Mr Humphrey joined Koch in 1995, before which he held positions at the Treasury Department, Price Waterhouse and Hallmark Cards.

American Eagle Outfitters reports record December sales increase at American Eagle Outfitters

06 January 2006

American Eagle Outfitters, Inc. has reported that total sales for the month ended December 31, 2005 increased 15.5% to a record $433.2 million, compared with $375 million for the month ended January 1, 2005. Comparable store sales increased 9.8% for the December period.

Total sales for the year-to-date 48-week period ended December 31, 2005 increased 23.1% to $2.181 billion, compared with $1.772 billion for the 48-week period ended January 1, 2005. Comparable store sales increased 15.8% for the year-to-date period.

American Eagle Outfitters is a lifestyle retailer that designs, markets, and sells its own brand of relaxed, casual clothing for 15 to 25 year olds.