**Business Week**
**23rd January 06 - 29th January 06**

## Omniflex expands into Asia

27 January 2006

US manufacturer of super-thin, high-performance, waterproof-breathable barrier films Omniflex, LLC, has established new sales offices in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Taipei.

According to the company, opening sales offices in the region will allow the company to provide increased service to existing customers, as well as a more familiar contact and service point for potential new customers. This move will also help assure the most efficient inte raction between Omniflex and Asian film/textile laminators, converters, fabricators and OEMs, resulting in the best performing apparel, footwear and medical products possible, whether the customer is a Pacific-rim firm or a US company that manufactures in the Far East.

Omniflex already has significant business in Asia for its polyurethane, copolyester and ether-amide waterproof-breathable barrier films. The company markets them to the worldwide apparel, footwear and medical products markets under the Transport and Vacuflex brand names. It is also the global sales agent for DuPont Active Layer technology.

## Schoeller goes back to nature for summer 2007

27 January 2006

Swiss textile producer Schoeller is forecasting a trend for wellness for body, soul and mind in its new fabric collection for summer 2007. Bamboo fibres, functional linen and soft surfaces are said to combine the natural and simple on a highly sophisticated and technical level.

Metallics, representing new energy and light, still play an important role in fashion and lifestyle markets and are shown in numerous novelties in the spirit-collection. Other trends include airy and fluid fabrics, graphical and stripe-designs, very light and, simultaneously, voluminous soft-shells, indigo looks and jacquard stylish adornments.

As a counterculture to fast cities, there is a trend to slow down towards a holistic way of life, considering man's body, soul and mind as well as his environment. Reflecting this Schoeller offers functional linen in polyamide synthetic and cotton stretch blends and some equipped with 3XDRY 'feel good' technology for shirts, pants and jackets which match the trend to achieve a work-life-balance". Other examples of the trend include fabrics that incorporate bamboo which is processed into viscose fibres - a renewable raw material known for its antibacterial features, high absorption levels and mois-ture release.

## SIA.06 focuses on fashion

27 January 2006

The 35th Annual SIA (SnowSports Industries America) Trade Show took place January 23-26, attracting an estimated 18,000 visitors, including manufacturers, retailers, representatives, resorts, and athletes.

According to organisers, one of the hottest topics discussed was how far the industry has come in terms of style and fashion. Be it snowboard, skiing, hardgoods or softgoods – bold fashion statements, colours, embellishments and patterns were seen down every aisle.

While fashion-forward outerwear created a stir around, there were also plenty of new innovations on show in terms of equipment and new technology, with women-specific equipment proving to be a popular area of growth and development.

More and more women are buying technical hardgoods, and they want to know:  what performance, features and enhancements will advance my skiing potential? 99% of women want women's skis and boards," said Dennis Lovick, general manager at the Viking Ski Shop in Mount Prospect, IL.

Another area that also showed continued expansion was wearable technology, with new accessories such as Reusch's new Sonic Control glove, developed for the ipod which has rubber buttons to allow the wearer to control volume, pause, play, and more back and forth between tracks.

## Warnaco announces new structure

27 January 2006

The Warnaco Group, Inc. has announced a new organisational structure designed to support its expanded international businesses.

Following the closing of the acquisition of Calvin Klein jeans and accessories businesses in Europe and Asia and the CK "bridge" sportswear and accessories business in Europe, Frank Tworecke, group president, Sportswear, will assume responsibility for all of the acquired businesses, as a result of which he will oversee the Calvin Klein jeans brand worldwide. Mr Tworecke will continue to have responsibility for the Chaps brand.

Helen McCluskey, group president Intimate Apparel, will add to the Calvin Klein Underwear brand to her responsibilities. Ms. McCluskey will continue to have responsibility for all of Warnaco's other intimate apparel brands.

Roger Williams will continue to head the Warnaco Swimwear Group, including Speedo, Ocean Pacific and Designer swimwear.

Stanley Silverstein has been appointed executive vice president, International Strategy and Business Development. In this new role, he will focus on implementing the optimal business and organisational structure for all of Warnaco's interests outside of the United States and for identifying additional opportunities for growth globally.

## Timberland launches

27 January 2006

The Timberland Company has launched a footwear packaging initiative to increase the level of transparency for consumers. As part of the initiative, which will be introduced in stores in 2006, Timberland will place a "nutritional label" on each box that will inform consumers about the product they are purchasing, including where it was manufactured, how it was produced, and the effect on the environment.

Furthermore, the footwear boxes will be made of 100% recycled post-consumer waste fibre, will use no chemical glues and will use only soy-based inks to print labels. Messaging inside the box will also asks consumers "what kind of footprint will you leave?" and will provide a call to action for them after purchase.

The "nutritional label" has three sections: The "Manufactured" section gives the name and location of the factory where the product was made. The Environmental Impact" section reports how much energy is needed to produce Timberland footwear and how much of Timberland's energy is generated from renewable resources such as the sun, wind or water. The "Community Impact" section details what percentage of factories are assessed by the company against Code of Conduct standards, the percentage of the workforce that are children and the total number of hours volunteered in the community by Timberland employees.

## Columbia Sportswear acquires Montrail footwear brand

27 January 2006

Columbia Sportswear Company has acquired substantially all of the assets of footwear brand Montrail, Inc. for cash consideration of $15 million plus the assumption of certain liabilities. Montrail is a technical, high performance trail running, hiking, and climbing outdoor brand.

## Yue Yuen optimistic over possible duties on Chinese shoes

27 January 2006

Mr Lee Yi Nan, executive director of Yue Yuen Holding Limited, the largest branded athletic and casual footwear manufacturer in the world, has said that Yue Yuen has improved its performance and that the number of orders it is receiving continues to grow. He said that overall business is forecast to grow 10-15% in the second quarter and by 30-40% in greater China.

Mr Lee said that the situation is improving, although in 2005 the gross profit rate fell 0.82% to 23.05%, and that in future Yue Yuen would increase production efficiency and cut costs. It also plans to seek more cooperation with other companies.

He said so far the gross profit rate of its retail and wholesale businesses was around 35-40% whilst that the manufacturing business reported a 23% gross profit rate.

Concerning the proposed import duties currently being discussed by the EU on Chinese-made shoes, he said that Yue Yuen may shift some orders to their facility in Indonesia and Vietnam if necessary. He added that the export price of shoes made in Yue Yuen was relatively high and the likelihood of being investigated was very small. Mr .Lee stated that he felt optimistic over this issue because he believed China would negotiate with EU to seek a solution to current concerns.

Yue Yuen has about 600 shops in China and is adding approximately 150 shops every year. It is estimated that by the end of 2008 the number of shops will reach 1,000.

## LaCrosse Footwear opens sourcing office in China

27 January 2006

US producer of branded work and outdoor footwear LaCrosse Footwear, Inc. has opened its first sourcing office, located in Zhong Shan, China, in the Pearl River Delta manufacturing district.

The new location is said to offer a number of key benefits including: reducing LaCrosse's product development timelines; increasing the company's ability to diversify its sourcing and improve the delivery of footwear; and allowing for closer monitoring of the production process to comply with the company's quality standards.

Approximately 20% of LaCrosse Footwear's manufacturing takes place in its US facility and 80% in China.

## Nylatex to establish new textile plant in China

27 January 2006

Supplier of innovative fabrics for the lingerie and sportswear sectors, Nylatex Ltd, based in Long Eaton, Nottingham, UK, has announced that it will establish Nylatex China, a warp and weft knitting and fabric dyeing and finishing facility in Guangdong, Southern China. It is expected that the new facility will come on stream early 2007.

This is an extremely exciting time for our business and represents a significant investment. This will not only help secure the ongoing future of our UK business, but create exceptional growth opportunity for the new plant in Asia," said managing director, Steve Wright.

The new facility will allow Nylatex to capitalise on its strong technical and design heritage, allowing a truly global product offer. The new factory combined with our strong textile heritage, experience and knowledge means we can seize opportunities previously closed to us," he added.

Nylatex was previously part of the Courtaulds Textile Group of companies.

## LaCrosse Footwear introduces EXO platform for Danner Boots

26 January 2006

Branded work and outdoor footwear manufacturer LaCrosse Footwear, Inc. has introduced a new patent-pending EXO platform under its Danner brand.

EXO offers a new technology that combines Danner's durability with the performance of an athletic shoe. Its design replaces the conventional shank system with an ultra-light exoskeleton chassis. The result is said to be a superior boot platform that provides more support, comfort and heel-to-toe flexibility, while reducing weight and foot fatigue.

Danner's EXO platform is currently featured in the uniform category on the Telson GTX and will be introduced into the hunting category in July 2006 in the Kestrel GTX Series.

## Dri-release licenses new spinners in Asia and Germany

17 January 2006

Seeking to increase access to its Dri-release with FreshGuard moisture release technology for apparel and accessory customers worldwide, Optimer Performance Fibers has licensed three new spinners: Elan Textile Co., Ltd in Taipei, Taiwan, Sunshell Group in Qingdao, China and Zwickhauer Kammgarn GmbH in Zwickhau, south-east Germany.

The new partners take the total number of Dri-Release licensees to 11 throughout Europe and Asia.

Taipei-based Elan was established in 1971 and is known for its Siro and ring spun yarns for both knits and wovens in addition to its technical innovations. It will concentrate on manufacturing Dri-release Wool, a new Optimer product that marries the performance of Dri-release with the added warmth of itchless wool.

Specialising in long staple, worsted yarns, Zwickauer will also focus, initially, on Dri-release Wool. Established in 1830, along with its main facility in Germany, which includes an automated dye house, Zwickauer also has a second facility in the Czech Republic. Technical yarns for both the apparel and transportation interiors are key markets for the company.

With branches in both Beijing and Shanghai China, Sunshell is based in Qingdao.  Established in 1956 it is known for its Vortex, Siro and ring spun yarns.

## Concept III launches on-line 'Fabric Library'

26 January 2006

Developed with the help of TEXbase, a software development company that specialises in product data and information management and resources planning specifically for the textile and apparel industries, Concept III Textiles, a New Jersey-based textile resource and garment production service has unveiled a new 'Fabric Library' database on its revised website. The library will catalogue both current autumn 2006 fabrics - now in production - and new spring 2007 prototypes as they are developed.

Fabrics that go forward from a season will remain in the library, while new ones will be added as they are created and sampled.

The new Fabric Library will allow companies' customers - brand manufacturers and private label retailers who create their own textile-based products - to search the database by construction, fibre, weight and technical or visual features.

## Hexion to acquire Rohm and Haas' wax compounds business

26 January 2006

US producer of thermoset resins, Hexion Specialty Chemicals, Inc., has signed a definitive agreement to purchase the global wax compounds business of Rohm and Haas Company. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Under the agreement, Hexion will purchase Rohm and Haas' wax compounds technology and product lines, manufacturing equipment and other business assets. The products include wax compounds for sheet-fed and heat-set printing processes, as well as solvent-based compounds and water-based wax emulsions, with applications in the printing inks and coatings industries.

Rohm and Haas Company currently produce these materials in Semoy, France, but Hexion will transfer production to its manufacturing locations.

Hexion Specialty Chemicals combines the former Borden Chemical, Bakelite, Resolution Performance Products and Resolution Specialty Materials companies.

## DuPont commits to PFOA Emissions Reduction Programme

26 January 2006

DuPont has pledged its commitment to the 2010/15 PFOA Stewardship Programme announced by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson said, DuPont and other proactive companies have been working with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to better understand the sources and pathways of exposure to perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and related chemicals. Considerable progress has been made by putting in place a comprehensive testing and research programme that will fill in many of the critical information gaps that exist around our understanding of potential exposure and risks. The data from the research and testing programs will allow the Agency and others to make informed decisions about any related risk management actions that are warranted."

Key elements of the DuPont commitment to EPA include reducing global emissions from manufacturing facilities by 98% by 2007; establishing emission caps for US facilities to limit the absolute number of pounds emitted; implementing product caps for PFOA in fluoropolymer dispersions; and reducing PFOA content and any residual impurities in fluorotelomer products that could break down to PFOA.

Fluorotelomer derivatives are a family of compounds used as ingredients in making foams and coatings. They also are intermediates, or building blocks, used to manufacture stain-, oil- and water-resistant additives for some textiles, paper, coatings and other surfaces.

## CFO at Deckers Outdoor Corporation to leave

26 January 2006

Deckers Outdoor Corporation has announced that the company's chief financial officer, Scott Ash, will leave the company in early March to pursue other interests. The company is now seeking a replacement.

Deckers Outdoor products are offered under the Teva, Simple and UGG brands.

## Bangladesh's exports increase

26 January 2006

According to statistics released by Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), the country's total exports reached $4.010 billion in the first five months of the current fiscal year (July to November 2005-06), a 12.73% increase. The improved figures were mainly attributed to better performance in knitwear, leather and textile fabric exports.

## Reebok shareholders approve adidas transaction

26 January 2006

Reebok International Ltd shareholders have approved the company's merger agreement with adidas-Salomon AG. More than 98% of the votes cast were in favour of the transaction.

Under the terms of the agreement announced on August 3, 2005, Reebok shareholders will receive $59 per share in cash upon close of the transaction for an approximate transaction value of €3.1 billion ($3.8 billion).

"We are extremely pleased with the outcome of today's vote and appreciate the support of our shareholders," said Paul Fireman, chairman and CEO of Reebok. "The combination of Reebok and adidas is truly compelling. All of us at Reebok look forward to working with the adidas team to fully realise the opportunities that lie ahead."

## Rhodia increases polyamide fibre production

25 January 2006

Rhodia has invested €1 million to increase its production of industrial polyamide fibres in Brazil. The fibres are used to produce sewing threads for the footwear, automotive, and furniture upholstery industries. Part of the funds has been used to upgrade the industrial process so that all polyamide fibre output is used to produce high tenacity sewing threads.

According to Renato Boaventura, director of Rhodia Industrial Yarns & Fibers South America, the company has expanded production in response to market demand for quality components that add value to final products."At the same time," said Mr Boaventura, "it consolidates Rhodia's position as the main Brazilian supplier of polyamide industrial filaments for sewing thread."

The Brazilian market for sewing thread stands at 5,000 tons of industrial filament per year of which 90% is produced by local manufacturers and 10% is imported. Besides ensuring supply to its local clients, Rhodia also intends to expand exports to other countries in Latin America.

Sold under the Rhodianyl HT (High Tenacity) brand, high tenacity industrial filaments offer a range of benefits such as higher resistance, excellent sewing capacity and easy dyeing.

The technology used in the production of these technical fibres was developed with manufacturers of sewing threads and is backed by the company's technology centres in Brazil and Europe. Investment in R&D continues and the introduction of a new generation of Rhodia threads is scheduled for the first quarter of 2006," said Thomas Canova, R&D manager.

## Natureworks appoints new CEO and president

25 January 2006

Dennis McGrew has been named the new president and chief executive officer of NatureWorks LLC, effective January 20, 2006. Mr McGrew replaces Kathleen Bader, president, CEO and chairman of the business unit from 2004 to 2006, who has announced her retirement as part of a planned management transition.

NatureWorks is a stand-alone company wholly-owned by Cargill. The company offers a family of commercially available polymers, marketed under the NatureWorks PLA and Ingeo fibres brands, which are derived from 100% annually renewable resources.

## Skellmax acquires Gulf Rubber

25 January 2006

New Zealand-based manufacturer, distributor and exporter of rubber and foam products, and footwear Skellmax Industries Limited has agreed to purchase the Australian and New Zealand businesses of Gulf Rubber effective February 1, 2006.

Based in Sydney, Gulf Rubber designs and manufactures highly technical rubber and associated polymer products. Gulf has sales, research and development and some manufacturing operations in Australia and New Zealand with most manufacturing being carried out in Asia under contract.

## Indo Rama reports Q3 results

25 January 2006

Indian polyester producer Indo Rama Textiles has reported a 5.35% increase in its net profit to Rs3.35 crore ($758,432) for the third quarter ended December 31, 2005 compared with Rs3.18 crore recorded in the same period a year earlier. However, gross sales for the quarter declined by 11.37% to Rs96.35 crore against Rs108.72 crore in 2004. The company's net profit rose as the interest charges for the quarter fell to Rs44 lakh from Rs1.6 crore.

## Huntsman, BASF and Chinese companies consider new MDI plant

25 January 2006

According to a statement made by the Huntsman Corporation, Huntsman, BASF and a group of Chinese companies - Shanghai Hua Yi (Group Company), Sinopec Shanghai Gao Qiao Petrochemical Corporation and Shanghai Chloro-Alkali Chemical Co. Ltd - are considering the construction of a new MDI (diphenylmethane diisocyanate) plant in China to meet growing demand for this product. Several sites for the plant are being evaluated. The start-up is planned from 2010 onward, and the plant is expected to have a capacity of 400,000 metric tons per year of crude MDI, to be sold and marketed separately by Huntsman and BASF.

"The market for polyurethanes in China is growing at double-digit rates and this is expected to continue well into the next decade," said Tony Hankins, president of Huntsman's Polyurethanes division.

MDI is an important precursor in the manufacture of polyurethanes - versatile polymers that are used for footwear.

As part of Huntsman's investment strategy for the Chinese market, an integrated isocyanates complex is currently under construction at the Shanghai Chemical Industry Park in Caojing. This project is expected to begin commercial production by mid-2006 and is also a joint venture between Huntsman, BASF and the same group of Chinese companies. It will have a capacity of 240,000 metric tons per year of crude MDI. The total cost for the complex is about $1 billion.

## European Commission clears acquisition of Reebok by adidas

25 January 2006

The European Commission has cleared the proposed € 3.1 billion acquisition of US-based Reebok International Ltd by adidas-Salomon AG. The Commission concluded that the transaction would not significantly impede effective competition or any substantial part of it.

The Commission’s investigation into the proposed merger focused on the market for athletic footwear in Europe, where both adidas and Reebok are strong players. The investigation showed that there are horizontal overlaps between the activities of adidas and Reebok, however, the market investigation revealed that the two companies have slightly different brand and pricing positions.

The report concluded that adidas is perceived as a professional, technically-oriented brand with strong European roots whilst Reebok predominantly targets young people and women, is more of a leisure” brand, and has a stronger presence in American sports that are not excessively popular in Europe.

## Lion Apparel names new CEO

24 January 2006

US-based uniform and personal protective equipment (PPE) producer Lion Apparel Inc. has named Steve Schwartz CEO of the company. Mr Schwartz, who is the great grandson of William Lapedes, founder of Lion, will replace his uncle, Richard Lapedes, who will retain his position as chairman of the board after having held both the chairmanship and the CEO position for the last 14 years.

Meanwhile, the company also named Brian Tuttle as chief financial officer of the company. Mr Tuttle was formerly vice president and treasurer of Griffith Laboratories, a privately held food ingredient manufacturer.

Through offices in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy and Australia, Lion supplies uniform, PPE and logistics to police and fire departments, civilian government agencies, emergency services and military organisations around the world.

## Eurozone industrial new orders increase

24 January 2006

According to estimates released by Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, the euro-zone industrial new orders index increased by 4.9% in November 2005 compared with October 2005. The index fell by 0.6% in October and rose by 1.7% in September. EU25 new orders increased by 3.4% after having remained stable in October and rising by 0.6% in September. New orders for chemicals and chemical products gained 2.5% in the euro-zone and 1.2% in the EU25; textiles and textile products grew by 1.7% in the euro-zone and by 1.2% in the EU25; and manufacturing of machinery and equipment fell by 0.6% and 0.8% respectively compared with a month earlier.

In November 2005 compared with November 2004, industrial new orders increased by 9.2% in the euro-zone and by 9.3% in the EU25. New orders for manufacturing of textiles and textile products fell by 1.4% and 1.2% respectively; machinery and equipment increased by 11% in the euro-zone and by 11.2% in the EU25; manufacturing of chemicals and chemical products gained 6.7% and 5.1% respectively.

## Mountain Hardwear restructures its philanthropic programme

24 January 2006

US mountaineering and outdoor clothing and gear brand Mountain Hardwear Inc. has restructured its philanthropic programme and has launched a new project called Mountain Hardwear Gives Back. The new programme has five arms designated to reflect the company's priorities, which are Environmental Partners; Outdoor Community Partners; Recreation Partners; Industry Partners; and Employee Partners.

Under the programme, Mountain Hardwear offers grants to organisations that work towards protecting the environment and open spaces.
Protecting the wild spaces of our earth and helping more individuals to get out recreating and playing in those spaces have been priorities of the management and employees of Mountain Hardwear since the company started 12 years ago," said Paige Boucher, spokesperson for the new programme and an original employee of the company. For 2006 we have restructured the programme so that it has a more directed focus, clearer guidelines and a board of directors to oversee it," Ms Boucher continued.

## Couromoda attracts over 64,000 visitors

24 January 2006

The 33rd Couromoda, footwear and fashion accessory fair, attracted over 64,000 visitors.

Results from the domestic market were extremely positive and exceeded the expectations of the exhibitors; however, international business was disappointing despite the large number of importers that visited the show. This has highlighted the fact that the sector will have to concentrate all its efforts on the export markets in order to maintain 2005 levels when foreign exports reached 190 million pairs worth $1,800 million. However, exports have now begun to fall, as a result of the low US dollar exchange rate that, according to those in the industry, is making Brazilian goods non-competitive in the global market.

Makin his closing speech at the end of the fair, Francisco Santos, president of Couromoda, said that the fair worked well as a forum to update strategies for the Brazilian footwear industry after a very difficult year. "The message that the fair leaves with all of us is that 2006 will be a year for the sector to reposition itself and be alert to the changes and the evolution of the market. We must also double our efforts to diversify our export markets … and seek to expand higher value product niches in the global market."

## Jones Apparel Group agrees to sell Polo Jeans company

24 January 2006

Jones Apparel Group, Inc. has entered into a definitive stock purchase agreement to sell its Polo Jeans Company business to Polo Ralph Lauren Corporation. The company and Polo Ralph Lauren Corporation have also entered into a settlement and release agreement to settle the pending litigation between the respective parties, including a former Jones executive, upon closing of the stock purchase agreement.

Jones Apparel Group, Inc. will receive an aggregate $355 million in cash at closing, which is expected in early February 2006. Jones will also retain the distribution and product development facilities located in El Paso, Texas, along with certain working capital items, including accounts receivable and accounts payable. Polo Ralph Lauren Corporation will acquire the stock of a Jones wholly-owned subsidiary whose primary assets include the Polo Jeans licence, inventory, a New York operating lease for administrative/showroom space and certain other assets.

Jones Apparel Group designs and markets branded apparel, footwear and accessories. Its brands include Jones New York, Evan-Picone, Norton McNaughton, Gloria Vanderbilt, Erika, I.e.i., Energie, Nine West, Easy Spirit, Enzo Angiolini, Bandolino, Joan & David, Mootsies Tootsies, Sam & Libby, Napier, Judith Jack, Kasper, and Anne Klein.

## Rohm and Haas names new global director for process chemicals

24 January 2006

Mahmoud Mahmoudian, Ph.D, FRSC, has joined Rohm and Haas Company as the Process Chemicals' global director of Research and Development. In this role, Mahmoudian is responsible for leading the business unit's entire R&D effort on a global basis.

His career spans some 20 years in the biotech, pharmaceutical, and chemical sectors. Prior to joining Rohm and Haas, he was employed by Eastman Chemical Company USA, as programme manager and Head of Biotechnology, responsible for R&D, strategic alliances, and managing the growth and development of Eastman's biotechnology programmes.

## Adidas Golf to launch new outerwear line

23 January 2006

TaylorMade-adidas Golf will launch a new range of outerwear at the 2006 PGA Merchandise Show. The range features garments that fall into five different levels of protection categories. Categories include ClimaProof Wind in three levels, ClimaProof Rain, ClimaProof Storm, ClimaWarm, and ClimaCompression, available in a light-weight and thermal version. Just as ClimaCool is designed to keep a player comfortable in the heat, adidas outerwear is designed to protect the golfer from the elements, whether it is a light wind or driving rain, keeping the golfer dry and warm.

## Bayer MaterialScience reorganises Coatings, Adhesives, Sealants Unit

23 January 2006

German-based Bayer MaterialScience AG has restructured the marketing organisation of its Coatings, Adhesives, Sealants (CAS) Business Unit effective January 1, 2006. Changes have been made in the Europe, Middle East, Africa and Latin America (EMEA/LA) regions aimed at further improving cooperation with customers in the industry. The changes are intended to strengthen the business development sections which are responsible for developing products and applications for and with customers.

In the Industrial Coatings section, coating raw materials for automotive, plastic and UV-curing coatings, industrial coatings in general, and can and coil coatings have been grouped together. Dr. Volker Mirgel has been succeeded as head of marketing by Mark Rübenstrunk, who is responsible for strategic and commercial policy, and Dr. Martin Vollmer, who is in charge of the business development section.

The marketing activities of the Specialties section, which incorporates the Corrosion Protection, Construction and Textile Coatings sections and a number of newly formed units, remain under the leadership of Dr. Ulrich Meier-Westhues.

In the Adhesives section, the newly defined marketing unit is headed by Ralf Gehring, while Dr. Heinz-Werner Lucas is in charge of the business development section.

## Sevysa Sport acquires Rossignol's Hammer and Hot snowboard brands

23 January 2006

The Rossignol Group has reached an agreement to transfer its Hammer and Hot snowboards brands to Swiss company Sevysa Sport SA.

According to a statement, the decision follows Rossignol's strategy to focus its snowboard activities on the Rossignol, Roxy, Quiksilver, Gnu and Libetch brand names.

Rossignol intends to remain a production subcontractor for Sevysa Sport for the two transferred brands, and will also continue sales and distribution in the French market until March 31, 2006.

## Nike CEO resigns

23 January 2006

The board of directors of Nike, Inc. has appointed Mark Parker, as the company's new president and chief executive officer following the resignation of William D. Perez. Mr Parker who was co-president of Nike brand will also succeed Mr Perez on the company's board of directors.

The board and Mr Perez mutually agreed to end his relationship with the company without cause, citing differences regarding leadership between Mr Perez and Mr Philip Knight, Nike's founder and board chairman.

Mr Parker is a seasoned Nike veteran with 27 years experience at the company.

## Quanzhou footwear production set to reach $100 billion

23 January 2006

At a recent meeting, the Chamber of Commerce of China's Quanzhou Shoe Industry stated that it expects shoe production in the province to reach $100 billion by the end of 2010.

Quanzhou is one of the largest shoe production areas in China and many well-known sports shoe brands are manufactured there.

Secretary-general of the Quanzhou Shoe Industry's Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Zheng Tian, said that although Quanzhou has a complete supply chain for shoe materials which attracts shoe manufacturers from overseas, especially Taiwan, the facilities are still lagging behind in terms of developing new materials and designs and should make improvement in this field in the future.

Representatives from a Taiwanese shoe-making consortium also attended the meeting. The director, Mr. Lin Zhao Jie, said that Taiwanese companies would continue to cooperate with Quanzhou Shoe Industry Chamber and plans to organise a series of activities. He also called on the shoe companies in Quanzhou to work closely with Taiwanese enterprises to form an industry federation so as to compete in the international market.

Mr. Lin Zhao Jie said that Quanzhou is an attractive area for Taiwanese footwear producers as the unit export price of sports shoe made in Taiwan was above $13 whilst for those made in Quanzhou the average export price was only around $4.

## IBTec develops Thermograph

23 January 2006

The Biomechanics Department of IBTec – the Brazilian Institute for Leather, Footwear and Leathergoods Technology (formerly known as CTCCA), of Novo Hamburgo, has developed the Thermograph, a device that produces images of the temperature changes undergone by the feet while a person walks.

Thermography is one of the new tests offered by IBTec. The objective of the test is to record temperature changes at several points on the feet as the walking speed increases. To meet industry standards the temperature of the foot may increase by no more than 6°C when a person is walking in shoes. If the temperature rises above this level the shoes are considered unsuitable from the point of view of comfort and health. If temperature changes exceed 6°C, changes in the materials, components and processes in the manufacture of that style are recommended. Using the thermograph will help in conducting research into the materials and structural and dimensional aspects of shoes leading to a higher level of comfort and healthier feet.