Business Week
20th February - 26th February 06

Lanxess to showcase flame retardants at UTECH

20 February 2006

German chemicals group Lanxess will showcase its range of flame retardants based on phosphoric esters at UTECH Europe 2006 in Maastricht, the Netherlands on March 28-30.

Amongst the products exhibited will be: Levagard products, which are particularly adept at imparting flame retardance to rigid polyurethane foam; halogen-free flame retardants in the Disflamoll range, which have proven their worth both in rigid and flexible PU foam and in CASE applications; and for the first time, Lanxess will also present a product that is especially suitable for use in flexible foam for automotive applications.

Pakistan's sports goods exports increase

20 February 2006

Pakistan exported sports goods worth $25.114 million in December, compared with $19.713 million in November, equating to a 27.55% increase month-on-month and a 23.7% rise compared with December 2004 ($20.326 million). According to the figures released by Federal Bureau of Statistics, football exports rose 32.73% to reach $16.248 million, gloves exports increased 4.4% to $1.470 million, whilst other sports goods exports grew 22.46% to reach $7.426 million, compared with $12.241 million, $1.408 million and $6.064 million respectively in the previous month.

Total exports of sports goods during the July-December 2005 period increased 0.97% and stood to $136.38 million compared with $135.072 million in the corresponding period of the prior year.

The July-December 2005 breakdown showed that Pakistan exported footballs worth $85.565 million, gloves worth $9.451 million and other goods worth $41.364 million compared with $79.869 million, $15.804 million and $39.399 million in July-November 2004.

EU may impose duties on footwear

20 February 2006

According to press reports, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson plans to impose duties on footwear with leather uppers produced in China and Vietnam. However most sport footwear – namely that falling under the category of Special Technology Athletic Footwear – will be excluded from the measures. Special Technology Athletic Footwear is footwear designed for use in sporting activities with a single or multi layered sole and special technical features, such as cushioning systems, midsoles etc. The reported decision follows the results of research carried out over a 12-month period following the end of WTO quotas on January 1, 2005, which unearthed evidence that China and Vietnam are subsidising their footwear industries, allowing them to sell shoes at prices below production costs, at an average import price of €8.50 per pair.

The antidumping duties should come into effect as early as April.

Huntsman to acquire Ciba Textile Effects business

20 February 2006

Global manufacturer of differentiated and commodity chemicals Huntsman Corporation has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire the global Textile Effects business of Ciba Specialty Chemicals Inc. for CHF332 million ($253 million).

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, the Textile Effects business manufactures a broad range of chemical and dye products that enhance the performance properties and colour of finished textiles and materials. It serves over 10,000 customers located in 80 countries and is the leading global supplier of comprehensive solutions for the textile industry. The business has approximately 4,200 employees and operates 11 primary manufacturing facilities located in eight countries.

CEO of Huntsman, Peter Huntsman commented, "The Textile Effects acquisition will compliment our existing formulation businesses and provide our Performance Products segment with new downstream technology and marketing platforms. It is consistent with our corporate strategy to continue to expand our differentiated segments through high return growth projects."

This is Huntsman's second acquisition of a Ciba Specialty Chemicals business. In 2003, Huntsman acquired Vantico Group S.A. which was formerly Ciba's Performance Polymers division. This is now Huntsman's Advanced Materials division, which will operate shared sites with Textile Effects in Basel, Switzerland and in Panyu, China.

Easton named official baseball shoe of Little League World Series

20 February 2006

Privately owned developer and manufacturer of sports equipment Easton Sports has agreed to a three-year

deal with the Little League World Series (LLWS) that makes Easton the official shoe of the event through 2009. The partnership will begin on June 1, 2006.

Our footwear line has grown tremendously over the last several years, and we've been looking for ways to increase our awareness even further and introduce even more people to our products," said Mike Zlaket, vice president of Easton's baseball/softball division.

As part of the agreement, Easton will provide Little League Baseball with cleats for players and coaches during the LLWS as well as for Little League Baseball's Urban Initiative.

BASF to present at Utech Europe 2006

20 February 2006

BASF is to present its range of chemical intermediates for the manufacture of polyurethane components at Utech Europe on March 28-30 in Maastricht, the Netherlands. This trade show, which first took place 20 years ago, is said to be the world's most important PUR forum for polyurethane material, equipment and processing technology.

BASF manufactures PUR catalysts at its sites in Ludwigshafen (Germany), Antwerpen (Belgium) and Geismar (USA).

Sympatex and Outlast launch new system for footwear

20 February 2006

Sympatex Technologies, Wuppertal, recently launched a new system for more temperature wear comfort in footwear in cooperation with Outlast Europe, Heidenheim: Scout (Sympatex Climacomfort with Outlast Adaptive Comfort). Developed by Sympatex Technologies, Outlast Europe and Ploucquet it is said to unite the watertightness and breathability of the Sympatex membrane with the temperature-regulating effect of the Outlast phase change materials (PCM). The reason for this development is that shoe manufacturers were interested in using Outlast Adaptive Comfort materials in their products but did not wish to do so without the Sympatex membrane.

Many shoes are waterproof, but few have breathing activity, i.e. moisture vapour permeability. This usually leads to increased perspiration during increased wearing time and heightened activity. An ideal climate develops inside the shoe for the growth of bacteria providing an ideal breeding ground for fungal infections and other diseases of the feet. Shoes with a Sympatex membrane breathe actively and improve the climate in the shoe.

The new system combines waterproofing, breathability and temperature regulation. In this way the feet will neither be too cold nor too hot in periods of

Scout is a multi-layered system and is processed as a shoe lining: nearest to the foot is a textile-layer. This is followed by an acrylate layer with integrated PCM capsules, a stabilising foam, and then the Sympatex membrane laminated onto the backing material.

Russell Corporation reports increased sales

20 February 2006

Branded athletic and sporting goods company Russell Corporation has reported fourth quarter sales of $354.6 million for fiscal 2005, an increase of 6.2% over the $334 million reported in the same period a year ago.

Sales for the quarter ended December 31, 2005 included $27 million in incremental sales from Brooks, the only acquisition owned for less than a year. Beyond Brooks, sales gains were strongest in the Artwear business, which experienced growth in the quarter in the mid-teens.

Gross profit for the fourth quarter of 2005 was $99.9 million versus $97.1 million, or a 29.1%, in the prior year. The positive impact of increased unit volumes in Artwear and higher margins associated with Brooks was generally offset by a shift in product mix and increased year-over-year costs for polyester, transportation and energy. Losses at Huffy Sports also negatively affected results.

For the full year ended December 31, 2005, net sales increased $136.4 million to $1.435 billion, a 10.5% increase over the prior year's sales of $1.298 billion. Excluding the sales from acquisitions owned for less than a year, sales were $1.271 billion.

Radici unveils bacteriostatic PET fibre at Expofil

20 February 2006

Italy's Radici Fibres will present Starlight Colours, a new bacteriostatic PET fibre with silver ions at Expofil in Paris next week.

The yarn is said to offer unique, long-lasting performance. It has a hypoallergenic effect, as the product is anchored to the fibre, and thanks to the natural qualities of silver, it does not migrate onto skin and does not irritate. This characteristic ensures that the bacterial flora on the skin maintains healthy, natural levels, and therefore prevents the development of allergies

It also offers a long-lasting antibacterial effect as the inclusion of silver ions occurs directly in the fibre during the production process. This ensures that the product is firmly anchored to the fibre itself, and therefore has a long-lasting effect without being dispersed into the surrounding environment. The yarn works by eliminating only surplus bacteria. The process on which it is based inhibits the growth of harmful bacteria in excess of

normal, healthy levels but also preserves the bacterial flora normally present on the skin surface. This is a gentle process, unlike other disinfection methods that completely eliminate the bacterial flora in a harsh and invasive manner and which can cause allergies.

The hypoallergenic combination of properties results in a tangible improvement in skin wellbeing thanks to a reduction in allergies and unpleasant odours, whilst also increasing the level of hygiene of the clothes.

RadiciGroup, a multinational group, is present in 15 countries around the globe. Its activities range from the chemicals sector to plastics, from the synthetic fibres chain to textiles and energy. RadiciGroup has 45 production units and 5,000 employees worldwide.

Nike Board adopts majority vote standard for election of directors

21 February 2006

The Board of Directors of Nike, Inc. has adopted a majority voting standard for election of directors, beginning with the next election in September 2006. Nike, Inc.'s directors were previously elected using a plurality system whereby a candidate with the most votes could win regardless of the number of votes withheld.

The new corporate governance guideline requires that any nominee for director in an uncontested election who receives a greater number of votes "withheld" from his or her election than votes "for" such election would tender his or her resignation for consideration by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The Committee would then recommend to the Board the action to be taken with respect to the resignation. The Board must publicly disclose its decision within 90 days of the certification of the election results.

Congress awards Malden Mills major military contracts for 2006

21 February 2006

Malden Mills Industries Inc., developers and manufacturers of Polartec performance textiles, announced that the U.S. Congress and President Bush has approved over $15 million for Polartec garments for the U.S. Military in the 2006 Defense Spending Bill. Included in this funding is $1.1 million to complete a third year of research and development of electronic textiles for the Army's Combat Casualty Care program, which provides remote physiological monitoring of soldiers in combat.

In addition to electronic textiles, three Polartec programs continue to receive funding in the 2006 Defense Spending Bill.

Warfighters want and need only the best gear available," said Malden Mills CEO Michael Spillane. We are honoured to have this business and to have the support of our elected officials. They have worked tirelessly to ensure that our deployed soldiers have the gear necessary to successfully execute their mission."

Polartec fabrics are used extensively in all branches of the United States military including the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Special Operations Forces.

The announcement of $15 million for Malden Mills to continue their research and development is great news for the state of New Hampshire and our armed forces," stated Congressman Jeb Bradley (NH-01). New Hampshire citizens have long played a vital role in our nation's defense as members of the armed services and as civilians working at the many businesses that produce high quality products for the military."

Based in Lawrence, Massachusetts and Hudson, New Hampshire, Malden Mills is the worldwide producer of high-quality Polartec branded fabrics used in products that require extreme performance.

The North Face helps VF Corporation growth

21 February 2006

VF Corporation's Outdoor - International coalition, which includes The North Face, Eastpak, JanSport, Kipling, Napapijri, Nautica Europe, Reef and Vans brands, continues to experience strong growth, with European sales of US$526.8 million in 2005, a 38% increase over 2004. This positive performance is due both to internal growth and acquisitions.

Recent acquisitions have added to the Coalition's strong growth, with the Napapijri, Kipling and Vans brands all reporting double digit growth in Europe in 2005.

Momentum continues to be particularly strong for The North Face brand in Europe, as the brand reported European sales of US$168.1 million in 2005, a 20% over 2004 with consistent growth across all European markets. In Euro currency, sales grew by 19% in Europe, with positive performance across all product categories.

Commented Karl Heinz Salzburger, President of VF's International – Outdoor Coalition: This positive performance continues thanks to the The North Face brand's constant attention to developing and introducing innovative technologies and products which in turn reinforces the brand's reputation as a leading supplier of outdoor apparel and equipment."

AirBoss receives UL certification for world's first CBRN firefighter boot

21 February 2006

AirBoss-Defense, a division of AirBoss of America Corp., has just been awarded UL certification for the world's first

NFPA compliant rubber firefighter boot that also provides CBRN protection.

The firefighter boot is the first NFPA 1971 compliant firefighter footwear to offer full protection against CBRN threats. Other features of this innovative footwear include extreme lightweight, reflective surfaces and a new Last (foot) design to assure optimum fit and comfort.
AirBoss-Defense is a North American manufacturer of personal protective equipment, and has recently signed two major contracts with the US Department of Defense Joint Services procurement initiative to provide the US military forces with CBRN protective hand wear and footwear.

Earl Laurie, President of AirBoss-Defense, stated: "We are very pleased to receive UL Certification to NFPA 1971 on this unique CBRN fire product. We have integrated our world leading CBRN technologies into this new Fire boot, thereby bringing the same level of protection to fire fighters and first responders as we provide to defence forces."
AirBoss of America Corp. develops, manufactures, and sells high quality, proprietary rubber-based products offering enhanced performance and productivity to transportation, military and industrial markets.

Roaches International appoints Global Resources Management Group

21 February 2006

Roaches International Ltd., the UK based manufacturer of Laboratory, Textile Dyeing, Finishing and Quality Control equipment, has appointed Global Resources Management (GRMG), based in Chennai, India, to look after all sales, service and calibration for all Roaches International customers in India.

India is a large textiles and apparel producer, ranked second after China. The textile, apparels and made-ups sector is one of the most important sectors, accounting for 15% of India's exports, 4% of India's GDP, and 14% of India's industrial production.

Many indicators point to a big growth in India's requirements for high quality textile preparation and testing equipments, making India an ideal growth market for Roaches products and services.

Ian Smith, Roaches International sales manager, commented: Global Resources Management Group has just completed a decade of service to the Indian market. We are extremely happy to associate the Roaches International brand with this dynamic company."

Lanxess increases price for Durethan

21 February 2006

Effective March 1, 2006, the Semi-Crystalline Products (SCP) Business Unit at Lanxess will increase its prices for Durethan (PA 6 and PA 6.6) base resin and film extrusion grades by 0.12 €/kg. This price increase is said to be necessary due to drastic increases in raw material and energy costs.

Areas of application for Durethan engineering plastics include the injection moulding and films sector.

Puma launches trainers made of fish skin

22 February 2006

German sports apparel brand Puma has developed a range of trainers made of Patagonia carpio fish skin. It is the brand's second range of trainers made of fish skin.

Carpio fish inhabit Patagonian and Pampean rivers that flow out into the South Atlantic. One of the characteristics of carpio fish skins is their smoothness similar to that of suede and it has a tridimensional aspect which imparts an exotic character with a texture that is totally different from that of other fish skins.

Puma's new range is the result of a long development process jointly carried out by Puma and Pel Patagonia Leather S.A., a company that specialises in the production and trade of exotic skins.

Puma assures those concerned with the environment that use of such skins, which up till now were disposed of as waste, does not affect environmental balance as they are obtained from controlled fishing for meat destined for human consumption. On the other hand, manufacturing is careful and totally done by hand and carried out by a group of selected, experienced shoemakers. Production is in short runs and each edition is limited and exclusive.

BETA International reported as a success

22 February 2006

BETA International 2006, the equestrian and country trade exhibition, saw an increase in visitor numbers of approximately eight percent.

Held at the NEC, Birmingham, on 19-21st February, the trade fair was organised by Equestrian Management Consultants (EMC), the commercial subsidiary of the British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA). More than 380 companies from 22 different countries exhibited.

Main sponsor easibed's stand hosted around 500 visitors per day over the first two days. It's been a fantastic show," said the company's Ian McColville. We have had non-stop interest in our new product easibed plus and were delighted that it won a BETA International Innovation Award."

Leverkusen to become centre for material protection business

22 February 2006

The material protection products business unit of the chemicals group LANXESS plans in future to control its worldwide business activities from Leverkusen and is realigning its organisational structure accordingly. In doing so, the management is responding to a worldwide process of consolidation in the industry, a process that is marked by increasing competitive pressure.

The business unit will be in future divided into three independent segments, each of which will be closely aligned to the markets concerned. This will increase flexibility and make synergies possible, at the same time streamlining and simplifying work routines. It is planned to move 50 jobs from Krefeld-Uerdingen to Leverkusen.

I am convinced that the rigorous implementation of our plans will increase the competitive edge of the Material Protection business unit," said Peter Weinmar, business unit head.

The material protection products business unit is part of the performance chemicals segment, which posted total sales of EUR 1.91 billion in 2004. The business unit is a supplier of industrial biocides and material protection products.

Source It to have Integration Booth

22 February 2006

Source It - the specialist fabric and apparel trade fair that highlights and promotes products from the ASEAN region - will take place from 4 - 6 October 2006 at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre. In addition to the booth displays showing fabrics, garments and accessories from ASEAN suppliers, there will be a special "ASEAN Integration Booth" giving information on how the textile industries of member countries are working together on joint promotion, a Buyer-Supplier Forum, and fashion shows; all designed to educate and inform buyers about ASEAN textiles and garments.

The concept of the fair is aligned with that of the "ASEAN Integration Cluster Programme", which allows each country to highlight its individual strength, as well as enhancing complementarity between the members.

Source It is held alongside Interstoff Asia Autumn, Hong Kong's premiere international textile show. It is organised jointly by the ASEAN Federation of Textile Industries (AFTEX) and Messe Frankfurt.

Smart textiles for emergency workers

22 February 2006

A team of EU-backed researchers is keen to develop smart textiles for a range of next-generation protective clothing, monitoring internal functions and external forces for potential health risks. With the help of wearable systems, developed by EU-supported researchers, emergency workers, disaster crews and maybe even extreme sports fans could one day receive timely, life-saving instructions from their clothes.

The European integrated project ProeTEX (Protection e-Textiles: Micro-Nano-Structured Fibre Systems for Emergency-Disaster Wear) was launched earlier this month, and aims to develop a set of integrated garments for emergency disaster personnel. The clothing will be capable of monitoring physiological and environmental parameters, while improving worker safety, coordination and efficiency, they say.

Wearable systems developed by ProeTEX will monitor the users' health – i.e. vital signs, biochemical parameters, activity and posture – and even generate and store power. Outer layers of the garments, for example, could measure what the team call environmental insults", such as high temperatures and toxic gases. The smart textiles will also be capable of communicating data to the central control unit of a rescue operation.

Led by the Italian National Research Centre (through its S3 nanoStructures and bioSystems at Surfaces), the four-year, €12-million project has assembled 23 European partners from universities, research institutions, and the textiles and healthcare sectors. This Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) funded consortium will also include three partners representing the end users who will test and validate the applications.

Helmet use reduces skiers and snowboarders risk of head injury

22 February 2006

Alpine skiers and snowboarders who wear a helmet have a reduced risk of head injury, according to a study in the February 22 issue of JAMA.

The injury risk is high, and head injuries are common in alpine skiers and snowboarders, according to background information in the article. Head injury is the most frequent reason for hospital admission and the most common cause of death among skiers and snowboarders with an eight per cent fatality rate among those admitted to hospital with head injuries. Helmet use is typically not mandatory and usage is generally low among recreational skiers and snowboarders. Although using a helmet is assumed to reduce the risk of head injuries in alpine sports, this effect is not certain.

Steinar Sulheim, M.D., of the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, Oslo, Norway, and colleagues examined the association between helmet use and risk of head injury among skiers and snowboarders. The study was conducted at eight major Norwegian alpine resorts during the 2002 winter season, and involved 3,277 injured skiers and snowboarders and 2,992 non-injured case

controls. The participants were interviewed at times most skiers used the main ski lift. The researchers obtained information regarding helmet use, injuries and other risk factors.

Of the 3,277 individuals with injuries, 578 (17.6 per cent) had head injuries. The researchers found that "using a helmet was associated with a 60 per cent reduction in the risk for head injury" when comparing skiers with head injuries with uninjured controls. Use of a helmet was also associated with a 57 per cent reduced risk for a potentially severe head injury. The risk for head injury was 53 per cent higher among snowboarders than for alpine skiers. There also was a trend toward a lower risk for neck injuries with helmet wear.

Maier Sports' "Solar" jacket means extra energy for skiers

22 February 2006

Maier Sports are working in conjunction with partners from the "Solartex" energy project in the state of Baden-Württemberg, to find a solution that suits alpine skiers and other winter sports fans alike. Electronic gadgets, such as iPods and mobile phones, have become a mainstay of modern- day living. The only problem they pose is their energy supply, especially when you are out for long stretches and there are no mains plugs about.

A prototype ski jacket has already been developed, whereby flexible solar cells can generate up to 2.5 watts of power in optimum sun conditions. The photovoltaic elements are positioned in exposed areas, which are also ergonomically sound, such as the shoulders and the back. Ultra-thin, washable micro-cables are sewn into the material and direct the electrical current to a universal point, where a variety of devices or batteries can then be charged.

Reebok to sell uniforms

22 February 2006

Reebok has joined forces with Royal Park Uniforms, Inc. of Prospect Hill, North Carolina to unveil a new collection of Reebok branded youth, high school, college and adult team uniforms. The uniform line, including uniforms for football, baseball, softball, basketball and several other sports, will be sold by Winning Edge Sales Group, Reebok's team sales representatives.

Puma start using new Hyperion software

23 February 2006

Puma, the multi-category sport lifestyle company, is using Hyperion to help drive its organisation towards increased flexibility and efficiency as it enters its new development phase with the focus on category expansion, regional expansion and non-Puma brand expansion.

For the past five years, Puma has used Hyperion software to manage reporting and consolidation for its steadily increasing number of subsidiaries, leveraging the solution's flexibility and adaptability to meet the company's aggressive goals during that time. Puma now faces another phase of significant growth within its existing subsidiaries and through acquisitions, and needs even greater flexibility and agility to accommodate increased reporting requirements.

To manage its expanded reporting requirements, Puma has selected Hyperion System 9, the industry's most comprehensive performance management solution and the first to integrate financial management applications with a BI platform into a modular system that will adapt to any business need.

Sports marketing conference series C-Zone to be held parallel to ispo china

23 February 2006

Following its first two successful editions, C-Zone, China's first-class sports marketing conference series is to be held, and will this time be parallel to ispo China 06. The event, which is held on March 16th and 17th, is a get-together for the top decision makers from Chinese as well as international brands, all pursuing the same goal: to further strengthen their position in the Chinese sporting goods industry.

Consisting of expert presentations, case studies, and workshops focusing specifically in the Chinese market, C-Zone Shanghai is the next step in the continuation of a series of conferences focusing on the development of the sporting goods industry in China. This event will concentrate on sports sponsorship in particular.

High-tech sports shoes excluded in Mandelson's proposed progressive duty on leather shoes

23 February 2006

European Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson has today confirmed that the European Commission's investigation into complaints of dumping of leather shoes from China and Vietnam has found compelling evidence of state intervention, dumping and injury. The Commissioner has recommended a progressive duty is imposed over five months which will ensure that retailers with goods in transit are not suddenly faced with an unexpected full tariff at the border.

He will recommend that children's shoes and high-tech sports shoes be excluded from provisional measures because its investigation suggests that there is not sufficient European production of these shoes for injury to have been caused.

The Trade Commissioner has recommended provisional

duties of 19.4% for China and 16.8% for Vietnam. He will recommend the duty be phased in over the five month period, beginning at about 4%. It nevertheless means that after five months a full duty will be in place and the damaging effects of dumping will be counteracted. There would be no quantative limit on import of leather shoes from Vietnam and China.

This case concerns about nine pairs of shoes from every 100 pairs bought by Europeans. There is clear evidence that although leather footwear import prices to the EU over the last five years have fallen by more than 20% consumer prices have remained stable and even risen slightly. A duty would add just over 1.5 euro on average wholesale prices of 8.5 euro for leather shoes that retail between 30-100 euros. There is margin within the supply chain to absorb a small duty on import costs by spreading it across product ranges and the distribution chain.

Since 2001, closely tracking the rise in dumped imports, European footwear production has contracted by about 30% and domestic prices have fallen by 30%. Some 40,000 jobs in the sector have been lost, and while this is not related solely to dumped goods, state-intervention and dumping in China and Vietnam have exacerbated intense competition.

Vietnam has, however, said its shoe industry is working under market economy rules and has denied any dumping in the European market. Vietnam's foreign ministry spokesman Le Dung, said: "We believe that Vietnamese enterprises do not sell their leather footwear to European market at dumping prices. Those enterprises are operating under the rules of a market economy and equal competition."

LaCrosse Footwear signs agreement with Portland Development Commission

23 February 2006

LaCrosse Footwear, Inc., a provider of branded work and outdoor footwear for expert users, today announced an agreement with the Portland Development Commission (PDC) for a $750,000 loan and grant package to assist in bringing LaCrosse's Corporate Headquarters and the Danner Distribution Center to the City of Portland. PDC is the city's agency for economic development, housing, and urban renewal.

The loan and grant are designed to bring quality jobs to the City of Portland and help defray the capital investment costs of LaCrosse's long-term operating lease for its new 145,000 square foot building.

"Our business has expanded in recent years, and we have outgrown our current facilities," said Joseph P. Schneider, President and CEO.

Polartec and Black Hole form partnership

23 February 2006

US-based technical fabric brand Polartec and Italy-based Black Hole, which manufactures snowboards and snowboard garments, have become partners. The two brands are embarking on a new adventure that sees a strong team of athletes taking part in the most important national and international FreeStyle and FreeCarve races.

The Polartec – Black Hole Snowboard Team will be attending all the prestigious events in the international race calendar including the Winter Olympics in Turin.

Dow and SAP extend long-standing partnership

24 February 2006

The Dow Chemical Company announced today it has entered into an agreement with long-standing strategic partner SAP AG to provide next-generation technology that will enable Dow to meet current and future strategic business objectives.

Dow is taking a multi-year approach to the deployment of the SAP technology. The company will be an early large-scale global adopter of mySAP Business Suite and the SAP NetWeaver platform, positioning the company to exploit evolving business models and increase integration with its customers and suppliers.

AATCC textile technician certification program launched in India

24 February 2006

With the successful launch of its various Education programmes in India, AATCC is now launching its Textile Technician Certification programs.” The courses are designed to test and certify the competence of the participants to conduct certain AATCC test methods and evaluation procedures.

The certification program is divided into 3 modules, with each module covering a different set of AATCC test methods.

AATCC education co-ordinator Jayakumar Gopalakrishnan, who trained to teach these courses at the University of Rhode Island, will present. Amy Hammonds, laboratory manager of AATCC, will visit to India to assist in establishing and running the courses.

The first course will be held from April 20 - 22, 2006 in Gurgoan, near New Delhi, India.

Ispo China 06 announces major brands are showing

24 February 2006

ispo china 06 at the Shanghai New International Expo Center, to be held from March 13th through 16th, 2006, is set to welcome some of the largest brands from within

the Outdoor Community. Merrell, Garmont, and Vasque in the footwear sector, as well as W.L. Gore, The North Face, Salewa and Lowe Alpine are some of the names that have booked their stands.

In addition to the participation of international brands, more national companies have decided to attend, such as leading Asian Outdoor manufacturers Ozark or Black Yak, and the largest Chinese ski apparel manufacturer Ttiss. The newly developed section fabrics and fibres will enjoy particular success with exhibitors such as DuPont, Sympatex, 3M, and Toray, as well as the snow sports section with Halti, Bergans, Leki, or Reusch, and the board sports sections including brands like Burton, Quiksilver, DC, and Dakine. The German trade show pavilion will host companies such as Iguana, Joy/Tao, Leki, Nici, Sympatex, and Uvex.

Fifty-one killed in Bangladesh textile factory blaze

24 February 2006

According to international press reports, a total of 51 people have been killed and more than 100 hurt after a fire swept through KTS Composite Textile Factory in southern Bangladesh, which was crowded with night-shift workers. Forty-five of the workers were believed to be women.

The fire broke out on Thursday night at the factory in the southern city of Chittagong. Local fire chief Rashedul Islam said firefighters had found the main entrance to the factory locked and had to force entry to rescue the workers.

It was believed the fire was started by a short circuit, and it spread through the building rapidly due to the stacks of yarn that was lying on the floors.