Business Week
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BASF to build new specialty amines plant in USA

06 March 2006

BASF is building an alkylethanolamine (AEOA) plant at its US Verbund site in Geismar, Louisiana. The new plant, scheduled to come on line in 2007, complements existing amine production facilities at Geismar. The new plant will increase the company's worldwide production capacities for these intermediates by about 40%. BASF also operates AEOA plants at its Verbund site in Ludwigshafen, Germany.

This line of chemical intermediates is utilised in manufacturing pharmaceuticals and cosmetics as well as cleaning and crop protection agents. Intermediates are additionally employed in producing various plastics and coating resins. Amines are also part of process chemical formulations applied, for instance, in water treatment as well as paper, textile and leather manufacturing.

IBTeC to hold annual symposium

06 March 2006

The Brazilian Institute for Leather, Footwear and Leathergoods Technology (IBTeC) will hold its annual symposium on footwear biomechanics in Novo Hamburgo, April 4-6. Geared towards entrepreneurs and professionals operating in product development, footwear engineering, marketing and quality control, the event will highlight the latest development sand projects in the field of foot health and comfort.

Lecturers will include Dr. Thomas Milani, Technische Universität Chemitz, Germany; Dr. Ewald M. Hennig, Universität Essen, Germany; Dr. Stefan Grau, Universität Tübingen, Germany; Dr. Mário A. Lafortune – Nike Sport Research Laboratory, USA; Dr. Milton Antônio Zaro – IBTeC; Dr. Aluísio Otávio Vargas Ávila – IBTeC; Dr. Alberto Carlos Amadio, University of Sao Paulo; Dr. Mário Cesar Andrade, University of the State of Santa Catarina – UDESC; designer Ângela Jacobus, IBTeC; and stylists Carlos Raymundo, director of the Estúdio Carray, and Mauro Sarmento, director of Proggetti Design.

The symposium will be based on two roundtable sessions. The subject of the first will be Footwear Evaluation, which will illustrate how to evaluate shoes in terms of comfort, performance, safety and health. The second roundtable will deal with Footwear Design and the designers participating will introduce modern design concepts and the new technologies.

Bayer reports strong growth

06 March 2006

The Bayer Group has reported significant gains in sales, earnings and cash flow for 2005. Sales rose by 17.6% year-on-year to €27.383 million compared with €23.278 million in 2004.

The expansion in sales was attributed in part to the consumer health products acquired from Roche and to business with Lanxess.

Bayer MaterialScience achieved the highest growth rates for both sales and earnings. Sales rose by 24.4% to €10,695 million (2004: €8,597 million), largely as a result of selling price increases that were necessary in light of the sharp rise in raw material costs.

More than half of the increase in business was achieved in Europe, where sales rose by 22% to €11,930 million. Sales in Germany grew even more strongly, advancing by 37.4% to €4,176 million.

Eastman, West Tech set up facility in China

06 March 2006

Eastman Chemical Company, through its Chinese subsidiary, Eastman (Shanghai) Chemical Commercial Co., Ltd., has entered into a long-term agreement with West Tech Chemical Ltd. under which West Tech will build and operate a manufacturing facility in YunFu, in China's GuangDong province, to produce rosin derivatives and resin dispersions to support Eastman's current and future customer needs in the Asia Pacific region.

Construction of West Tech's new plant is scheduled to be completed during the first quarter of 2006, with commercial production to begin immediately thereafter. When fully operational, the plant's annual capacity will be 5,000 metric tons for rosin derivatives and 5,000 metric tons for resin dispersions.

Products to be produced for Eastman at the new facility will include a range of rosin derivatives, including specialty esters based on polymerised rosins. The resin dispersions product line will include products targeted for use in pressure sensitive label applications and general pressure sensitive adhesives. The applications and markets for the rosin ester products include hot melt adhesives for bookbinding and packaging, and nonwoven construction adhesives.

West Tech was established in 2005 by Shengda Rosin

Chemical Co., Ltd. of Guangzhou, China and Easefine Ltd., of Hong Kong, to produce polymerised rosin derivatives and resin dispersions. Eastman Chemical Company manufactures and markets chemicals, fibres and plastics worldwide.

Space suit technology to be used against heatstroke

06 March 2006

The technology used in space suits to protect astronauts carrying out space walks in direct sunlight is now being used to develop protective clothing to safeguard fire fighters and steel workers who often work in extremely hot and dangerous conditions.

In Europe alone, the inability to shed excess heat and moisture through clothing results in over 1,500 cases of heatstroke per year which can be fatal. Heat stress, which is less serious but nonetheless a problem, affects an estimated 50,000 workers each year and increases the risk of injury at work due to loss of concentration.

The project, named Safe&Cool, is looking at using a special protective material with a built-in cooling system—based on the technology developed for the space suits used on the International Space Station to prevent overheating when exposed to direct sunlight during space walks—as a possible solution to the problems faced by workers.

Conceived within the European Space Agency's (ESA) Technology Transfer Programme, the Safe&Cool system is being developed by a consortium of six small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from Italy, Belgium and Poland.

The cooling apparatus used in the project has been developed by Grado Zero Espace and has already been used successfully in clothing for Formula-1 McLaren mechanics and the Spanish Moto-GP driver, Sete Gibernau.

DHB Industries receives $54 million military order

06 March 2006

DHB Industries Inc. has announced that its subsidiary, Point Blank Body Armor, has received purchase order from the United States Army for its Interceptor OTV (Outer Tactical Vest) to the value of approximately $54 million.

The Interceptor OTV is a technologically advanced protective system which provides protection to the torso and can be integrated with other compatible products to add additional protection. On February 22, the company announced a $14 million delivery order for its Deltoid Axillary Protection System (D.A.P.S) product which provides additional protection by shielding the under arm, shoulder and upper arm areas not currently covered by Interceptor.

Hind makes new appointments

07 March 2006

Technical apparel designer and manufacturer for athletes Hind has appointed Todd Dalhausser as general manager, effective March 13. He will report to Richie Woodworth, president, Tommy Hilfiger Footwear, another subsidiary of The Stride Rite Corporation. Other appointments include the promotion of Patty Kelly to director of product and the appointment of Thom Gridley as senior designer.

As Hind's general manager, Mr Dalhausser will oversee all major functions including operations, product development, marketing and sales. Prior to joining Hind, he served as director of Eastpak North America, and before that as global product manager of apparel and accessories for Reebok International.

Asics signs sponsorship deal with Netball NZ

07 March 2006

Global footwear and apparel brand, Asics, has signed an agreement to becomre the official apparel and footwear supplier to Netball New Zealand.

The official clothing and footwear partnership contract was announced at a function in Auckland launching the new Silver Ferns team uniform for this month's Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

Under the three-year agreement Asics will supply match and training gear to the Silver Ferns as well as apparel and footwear to Netball New Zealand. This extends to New Zealand A, NZ Under 21, NZ Secondary Schools, NZ Umpire squads and all eight National Bank Cup franchise teams.

Stride Rite names new Saucony leadership team

07 March 2006

The Stride Rite Corporation has announced the promotions of Michael Metcalfe to general manager of Saucony, and Shawn Neville to group president, Keds and Saucony, effective immediately.

Mr Metcalfe has been involved in the athletic footwear industry for over two decades, with his most recent role as senior vice president of Sales for Saucony since the technical running brand's acquisition by Stride Rite in September 2005. He joined Stride Rite as senior vice president of Sales for Keds in 2004. Previously, he spent 13 years with Reebok International, in various sales and product marketing roles, the last as vice president of US Footwear Sales and Merchandising.

Shawn Neville, president of Keds since 2004, brings a general management, sales and marketing experience to Saucony. His career consists of executive leadership roles in the worldwide athletic footwear business, including president and CEO of Footstar's athletic division and the management of Footaction, USA. He has held senior general management roles domestically and internationally at Reebok and senior marketing and sales positions at Reebok, Visa USA and Procter & Gamble.

Saucony supplies performance athletic footwear and apparel under the brands Saucony, Saucony Originals, and Spot-bilt.

Sun Capital affiliate acquires Consoltex

07 March 2006

Private investment firm Sun Capital Partners, Inc. has announced that one of its affiliates has acquired the stock of Consoltex Inc. from American Industrial Partners. Consoltex is a vertically integrated North American manufacturer, importer, and distributor of woven, man-made technical fabrics, and is the largest textile manufacturer in Canada.

Lanxess increases prices for Polychloroprene rubber

07 March 2006

Lanxess' Technical Rubber Products Business Unit (TRP) has again raised its prices for Baypren rubber (polychloroprene) by up to €0.50 or $0.60 per kg with effect from January and February 2006 respectively. Prices for Nitrile rubber (NBR) powdered specialties have also been increased by up to €0.50 or $0.55 per kg depending on the quality.

Pakistan's sports goods exports fall month-on-month

07 March 2006

During January, Pakistan exported sports goods worth $24.702 million compared with $25.144 million in December 2005—a decline of 1.76% month-on-month. However, compared with January 2005, exports increased 13.09% when Pakistan exported $21.842 worth of goods.

According to data released by Federal Bureau of Stastistics, Pakistan exported $17.671 million worth of footballs, $0.983 million worth of gloves, and other sports goods worth $6.048 million compared with $16.248 million, $1.470 million and $7.426 million respectively in December 2005. This equates to an increase of 8.76% in football exports but a decline of 33.13% for gloves and 18.56% for other sports goods.

For the period July 2005 to January 2006 exports stood at $161.082 million compared with $156.915 million in the comparable period a year earlier—an increase of 2.66%. The country exported footballs worth $103.236 million, gloves worth $10.434 million and other goods worth $47.412 million compared with $90.727 million, $23.730 million and $42.458 million in July 2004 to January 2005.

Skechers to launch skate footwear with Zoo York

08 March 2006

Footwear designer Skechers USA, Inc. has signed a licensing agreement to design, develop and market men's footwear worldwide for the action sport brand Zoo York, a daughter company of Mark Ecko.

Designed to reflect and appear alongside its apparel lines, Zoo York footwear for men will launch in the United States and selected countries around the globe. Skechers also has the rights to Zoo York footwear for women and children.

Higher attendance at Texworld

08 March 2006

Texworld, held in Paris in February, attracted 17,099 visitors, an increase of 1.7% over March 2005. The majority of buyers came from Europe and there was a strong increase in the number of visitors from Northern European countries such as Norway (+16 %) and Denmark (+20 %) as well as EU newcomers and candidate states Lithuania, Latvia, Ukraine, Serbia and Bulgaria. There was also growth in the number of buyers from Germany and Italy (+3 % each). In contrast, there was a significant drop in visitor numbers from Poland, the Czech Republic and Portugal. Visitors from South America, particularly Brazil, grew overall by 20%.

Avery Dennison introduces new RFID Starter Kit

08 March 2006

Avery Dennison Printer Systems has introduced a new multi-component starter package that supports the production of Generation 2 RFID labels. The package, the Avery Dennison Basic Gen 2 Starter Kit, supplies companies facing current or approaching RFID compliance labeling requirements with the necessary components to initiate RFID Gen 2 labelling operations. The system is recommended for use in the apparel, footwear, retail, packaging, distribution and a broad range of industrial markets.

The Basic Gen 2 Starter Kit is an economical solution for companies that must meet Gen 2 compliance mandates and have medium-duty label production requirements," said Dan Williams, marketing manager. With the Gen 2 starter kit, even companies having little or no RFID labelling experience can quickly get up to speed and

initiate RFID Gen 2 labeling activities."

Levi Strauss to close distribution facility

08 March 2006

Levi Strauss & Co. has announced its intent to close its distribution centre in Little Rock, Ark., before the end of 2006. The closure would eliminate the jobs of approximately 340 workers, more than a quarter of whom may be eligible for early retirement under company policy.

"Our distribution network is over capacity and has been for some time," said Phil Marineau, chief executive officer. "We believe it is imperative that we close the Little Rock facility and consolidate the work in our remaining distribution centres .

The company hopes to begin negotiations with the relevant union soon so that separation packages, transition support services and other benefits can be determined.

Crest Teamwear to produce women specific kits

08 March 2006

As the number of girls and women playing soccer has increased significantly in recent years and the growth rate is the greatest in sport participation in England, UK-based sportswear manufacturer Crest Teamwear has partnered with femaleSOCCER to bring out a range of sportswear products especially designed to fit the female body. The kit will be available in sizes to fit girls from the age of 10 through to adulthood.

Established 4 years ago, femaleSOCCERR is said to be the world's biggest online community for girls' and women's football.

Ashworth Weather Systems launch successfully

08 March 2006

Designer of golf-inspired sportswear Ashworth, Inc. has reported strong initial sales of its spring/summer 2006 AWS (Ashworth Weather Systems) collection. The first spring delivery arrived in December and early indications point to a successful launch.

AWS is a three-layer system that utilises advanced technology to create a balance between fashion and function in varied climatic conditions. Offered as a comprehensive collection for both men and women, AWS features a next-to-skin layer that removes moisture from the skin, a thermal layer to provide warmth and an outer layer to protect the golfer from the elements.

Vietnam's garment and footwear exports increase over 45%

09 March 2006

Vietnam's garment export turnover reached nearly $867 million in the first two months of 2006, a year-on-year increase of 45.5%, according to the Ministry of Industry.

Meanwhile, footwear exports reached $581 million, a 30.8% increase over the same period last year. However, the Ministry is forecasting that the footwear sector will face difficulties due to competition and the European Commission's ongoing anti-dumping lawsuit. However, several larger companies still have future orders which have been guaranteed through their foreign parent firms.

Adidas reports full year results

09 March 2006

The adidas Group has reported positive full year results for 2005.

The company reported growth in the adidas segment with a 12% increase in revenues. Drivers of this performance were strong double-digit growth in the Sport Heritage division as well as increases in nearly all of its Sport Performance categories. Currency-neutral revenues in the TaylorMade-adidas Golf segment increased 11%, driven by growth in all major categories. Adidas sales in euro terms were up 13% to €5.861 billion in 2005 from €5.174 billion in 2004. TaylorMade-adidas Golf sales grew 12% to €709 million in 2005 from €633 million in 2004.

Fourth quarter net sales for the group increased 21% on a currency-neutral basis with double-digit improvements coming from all regions. In euro terms, sales grew 27% to €1.521 billion in 2005 from €1.196 billion in the fourth quarter of 2004. The group's gross profit increased 26% to €716 million in 2005 from €569 million in the prior year.

Reebok's fourth quarter net earnings were in line with management guidance. In the fourth quarter, currency-neutral sales for the Reebok Group declined 3%. In US dollars, Reebok sales decreased 5% to $930 million from $975 million in the prior year. Excluding Ralph Lauren Footwear revenues following the sale of this business, Reebok sales in the fourth quarter increased 1% in currency-neutral terms (-1% in US dollars).

Hush Puppies adds Hygienilac to BodyMoc range

09 March 2006

Footwear manufacturer Hush Puppies has integrated antibacterial Hygienilac impregnated foot bed insoles in its BodyMoc range of men's shoes.

Hygienilac, made by Premier Finishes, prevents the

bacteria's access to nutrients, so they starve and die. Its kill rate is said to be 99.9% over a 24 hour period and this has been certified by the Birmingham microbiological laboratory, Bodycote Law Laboratories. The antibacterial properties are said to be effective for the lifetime of the shoes.

Stephen Bonnell, a polymer engineer and founder of BNL Polymer Engineering said, "Over several months we've been working with Hush Puppies to develop a foot bed insole that will really make a difference to wearers. By killing the bacteria produced by warm, sweaty feet, Hygienilac removes the breeding conditions for the fungus, which means feet are more comfortable and less likely to smell."

Hygienilac technology is not only applicable in footwear. It is said to protect virtually any form of plastic from cross infection including furniture, toys, and medical products.

FESI: No winners from anti-dumping duties on footwear

09 March 2006

Following discussions held on March 9 by the Member States of the European Union on the European Commission's proposal to implement provisional anti-dumping duties on leather footwear imports from China and Vietnam, the Federation of the European Sporting Goods Industry (FESI) released a statement reiterating the organisation's opposition to anti-dumping measures on footwear, which it says would inflict serious harm on the European footwear industry and European consumers.

The alleged 'benefits' to a number of uncompetitive Italian shoe manufacturers are miniscule compared to the massive damage duties would cause," said FESI president Horst Widmann. No single job will come back to Europe as a result of the measures but damage will be done to high-value sectors of the European footwear industry like design, advertising, marketing, sales and logistics."

A week ago, the Danish Economics Ministry presented new evidence that duties on footwear would inflict annual losses of €295 million on Europe's consumers and on European footwear companies producing in China and Vietnam. Those manufacturers calling for duties would gain about €37 million.

The Italian footwear association's demand that high-technology athletic footwear should also be subject to import duties makes no sense whatsoever," said Widmann. It is not a newly invented loophole, as a few Italian manufacturers like to claim, but a clearly defined and longstanding product category of the EU customs code which has been excluded from trade defence measures for over a decade."

FESI also questioned the compelling evidence" of dumping that the Commission claims to have found.

Gore tops The Sunday Times "100 Best UK Companies to Work For" poll

09 March 2006

W L Gore & Associates (UK) Ltd, based in Livingston and Dundee has been voted number one in The Sunday Times '100 Best Companies to Work For' - the first company to stay top of the list three years in succession.

The Sunday Times list is mainly based on the attitudes of over 5,000 employees from more than 600 UK companies and assesses a wide range of factors from employee satisfaction and well being to company policy on a wide range of benefits.

As well as heading the overall list, Gore also topped five of the eight sub-categories including, employee attitudes towards Leadership, My Manager, My Team, My Company and Personal growth.

Vaude acquires Edelrid

09 March 2006

German outdoor brand Vaude has recently acquired climbing equipment manufacturer Edelrid (Edelmann + Ridder GmbH & Co. KG).

Edelrid specialises in climbing equipment, specifically manufacturing ropes and climbing harnesses, which further expands Vaude's product pallet, which comprises performance clothing, tents, backpacks, climbing hardware, and cooking and hydration systems.

New president named at Icebreaker USA

09 March 2006

New Zealand-based manufacturer of pure merino clothing Icebreaker has announced that Troy Ballard, US market manager for the brand, has been promoted to president of Icebreaker USA.

Icebreaker is currently distributed to over 1,000 stores in 15 countries throughout Europe, Asia, Australasia, and North America. After only two years of independent US distribution, Icebreaker saw sales growth of 300% in 2005.

Maglificio Ripa launches Light Dryskin+ with polypropylene

09 March 2006

Italian circular knit fabric producer for swimwear, underwear, outerwear, fashion and sportswear Maglificio Ripa recently added a new product to its portfolio, Light Dryskin+ with polypropylene. Produced using 90% Dryarn, by the Aquafil division of Bulgari Filati, and 10% Dow XLA Chlorine Proof, it is available in two weights, a

100g fabric for sports underwear in white and black, and a 200g version for extreme sports such as skiing, cycling and technical swimwear, which is available in black, white, classic blue, electric blue, red, grey and yellow.

Light Dryskin+ is the latest addition to Maglificio Ripa's Light brand high performance fabrics that it launched two years ago and include Light with Supplex, Light with Coolmax, Light with Cordura, Light with Lycra Power, Light Sunscreen and Light Power Sport.

Denim Apparel Group acquires Moonlight Graham

09 March 2006

Denim Apparel Group has completed its acquisition of Moonlight Graham, Inc., a manufacturer of sportswear featuring Major League Baseball, General Motors, Anheuser-Busch, Universal Studios and Cadbury-Schweppes.

The Denim Apparel Group is currently acquiring apparel companies that are doing sales in the $2-5 million range with the potential to grow in excess of $10 million in sales. It is the goal of the Denim Apparel Group to grow to greater than $50 million in sales within a three year period.

Indian footwear sector second largest producer in 2005

10 March 2006

According to Peter Kern, consultant, GDS, speaking at the recent India International Leather Fair (IILF), the Indian shoe industry has great export potential to expand in the European and Eastern European markets.

Although China was the largest global footwear producer in 2004, manufacturing 6,900 millions of pairs (mprs) of leather/other shoes, India was the second largest producing 690 mprs. Brazil manufactured 642 mprs, Indonesia 509 mprs, Italy 335 mprs, Vietnam 360 mprs, Thailand 270 mprs, Pakistan 245 mprs, Turkey 215 mprs and Mexico 194 mprs.

The USA remained the main importer of footwear with 1,896 mprs followed by Hong Kong at 772 mprs, Japan at 471 mprs, Gemany at 343 mprs, UK at 315 mprs, France at 290 mprs, Italy at 225 mprs, Russia at 144 mprs, the Netherlands at 122 mprs and Poland at 95 mprs.

China was also the largest exporter at 4,300 mprs.

Speaking at IILF, Mr Kern said,"In the coming years, China and Vietnam are going to dominate the low and middle price segments. Lifestyle and complete outfit concept are going to play a major role in future". He pointed out number of European factories are going to be decreased further and traders & big and medium sized retailers will increase their global orientation and sourcing.

Regarding the Indian shoe and leather goods industry today, he said, "India has developed into one of the most important leather shoe and leathergoods industries world-wide. It has an excellent strategic position within Asia for fashion items. It has an excellent industry infra-structure supported by component industries, the availability of raw material and a skilled workforce."

He urged Indian shoe manufacturers to pay attention to the country's distribution policy, improve its quality and delivery period and to focus on chain stores.

QCI opens new sales office in China

10 March 2006

Third party logistics provider of footwear, apparel and hard goods repair, rework and audit/inspection services Quality Corrections & Inspections (QCI) has recently opened a new sales office in DongGuan, GuangDong, China. Through the opening of this new office, QCI intends to provide direct knowledge of it's US apparel and footwear repair and inspection services to Chinese factories so that they may benefit from the resources available in the USA.

We are extremely excited to work directly with our Chinese clients through our local DongGuan sales office," noted Doug Easly, QCI's global sales & marketing manager. We will be personally calling on our existing and prospective clients advising them of all the services we offer here in the US. We realise that many Chinese factories deal directly with their US clients now and may need footwear or apparel merchandise repaired or inspected once it is in the US. On the factory's behalf, we will work with their US wholesale or retail clients and their foreign trading and sourcing agents to fix or correct the merchandise problems."

QCI has hired two sales representatives, Ging Feng Shu and Yundi (Shirley) Wang, to staff their DongGuan office. Both are familiar with the footwear and apparel industry as Ging Feng has been working with footwear factories since 2000 with experience in quality control and purchasing and Yundi has been working with apparel factories as a compliance inspector.

QCI has facilities on both the US West Coast and East Coast. It has over 20 years of experience with major US wholesale and retail businesses as well as overseas factories. It is also a member of both the American Chinese Apparel & Footwear Association (ACAFA) and the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA).

K2 reports financial results

10 March 2006

US branded consumer products company K2 Inc. has reported net sales for the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2005 of $353.5 million compared with $338.9 million in the prior year, an increase of 4.3%. Net

sales for the year ended December 31, 2005 were $1.3 billion versus $1.2 billion in the prior year, an increase of 9.4%.

K2's net sales were $1,014 million and $1,069 million for the 2004 and 2005 fiscal years, respectively, reflecting sales growth of 5.5% for 2005, excluding sales of 2004 material acquisitions including Volkl, Marker and Marmot, which were acquired in the third quarter of 2004. K2's net sales were $907 million and $987 million for the 2004 and 2005 fiscal years, respectively, reflecting sales growth of 8.8%, excluding sales from these 2004 material acquisitions and paintball products, which declined in 2005. K2's net sales were $306 million and $325 million for the 2004 and 2005 fourth quarters, respectively, reflecting sales growth of 6.2%, excluding sales from paintball products which declined in the 2005 fourth quarter.

K2 Inc. has a portfolio of brands including Shakespeare, Pflueger and Stearns in the Marine and Outdoor segment; Rawlings, Worth and K2 Licensed Products in the Team Sports segment; K2, Volkl, Marker, Ride and Brass Eagle in the Action Sports segment; and, Adio, Marmot and Ex Officio in the Apparel and Footwear segment.

Tefron posts strong growth

10 March 2006

Israeli manufacturer of seamless intimate apparel, activewear and swimwear Tefron has posted strong growth in revenues and profitability for the fourth quarter and full year 2005.

Revenues reached $205.6 million during 2005, up 12.5% over 2004. Gross margins reached 19.1% and operating margins reached 6.5% in 2005.

For the fourth quarter revenues reached $55.1 million, up 23.4% over the same period in 2004. Gross margins reached 23.3% and operating margins reached 3.4%.

Tefron manufactures seamless intimate apparel, activewear and swimwear sold throughout the world by such brands including Nike, The Gap, Banana Republic, Target, Warnaco/Calvin Klein, Patagonia, and Reebok.

Vaude acquires Edelrid

10 March 2006

German outdoor brand Vaude has recently acquired climbing equipment manufacturer Edelrid (Edelmann + Ridder GmbH & Co. KG).

Edelrid specialises in climbing equipment, specifically manufacturing ropes and climbing harnesses, which further expands Vaude’s product pallet, which comprises performance clothing, tents, backpacks, climbing hardware, and cooking and hydration systems.