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Edana elects new chairman, vice chairman and board

26 June 2006

At the AGM of Edana, held in Vienna, Austria, on June 7, Luc Maes, chairman of British Vita Nonwovens Division (Libeltex BVBA), Belgium, was unanimously elected as chairman of Edana for a one-year term of office. He replaces Knud Waede Hansen who will retire as managing director of Fibertex A/S later this year.

Gunnar Preifors, director R&D Personal Care, SCA Hygiene Products AB, Sweden, was elected as vice-chairman and Paul Eevers, director Beverages, Supply Management, Unilever Europe Foods, Belgium, was re-elected as treasurer.

Departing board members were Rolf Altdorf, Ingemar Bengtson, Aldo Ghira, Patrick Jeambar, Marko Rajamaa and Knud Waede Hansen.

Cargo Connection Logistics targets Vietnam

26 June 2006

Representatives of a subsidiary of US-based logistics company Cargo Connection Logistics Holding, Cargo Connection Logistics - International, Inc., have visited Vietnam to explore opportunities on behalf of the company.

Statistics from the US Department of Transportation show that 40% of goods from Vietnam are related to the apparel industry, 23% of which are non-knit articles and 17% are knit articles. Just under 11% of Vietnamese exports are footwear-related.

President of Connection Logistics – International David Quach is confident that the company will be signing new agreements with manufacturers and forwarders in the coming weeks.

Zumiez completes acquisition of Fast Forward

26 June 2006

Sports-related apparel, footwear, equipment and accessories retailer Zumiez Inc. has completed its previously announced acquisition of action sports retailer Fast Forward, with its 19 stores and web store.

The Fast Forward stores will be converted to the Zumiez nameplate over the next 18 months and will be incremental to the company's planned additional 42 stores in 2006.

New US textile and clothing report published

26 June 2006

Dublin-based research company Research and Markets has published a report on 'Trends in US Textile and Clothing Imports, 2006 Update'.

The report indicates that US imports of textiles and clothing covered by the former Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) grew in 2005, rising by 8.3% to the equivalent of 50.8 billion square metres. Within this total, imports of apparel and made-up textiles rose by 10.3% and their shares of all imports increased to 43.3% and 30.8% respectively, reflecting strong US demand for cheap clothing. Cotton increased its dominance of apparel imports in 2005 with a share of 58.1%, while the share of man-made fibres fell from 56.2% to 55.8%.

China has strengthened its lead as the biggest supplier, in both value and volume. Imports from the country have surged since it joined the World Trade Organisation in late 2001. In 2002 they rose by 124.5% in volume, in 2003 by 67.0%, in 2004 by 40.7% and in 2005 by 43.8%.

US imports from Mexico, the second biggest supplier, fell by 5.3% in volume and by 7% in value. Imports from Indonesia grew by over 17.6% in value and by 6.2% in volume—implying a rise in added value—while imports from the Asian 'Big Three', Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan, fell by 17.2% in value and by 14.2% in volume.

BASF and Stork launch pigment ink solution

26 June 2006

German chemical company BASF and supplier of printing solutions for the textile and graphic industries Stork Digital Imaging have developed an easy-to-use, high performance pigment ink solution for the digital textile printer. The new product will make its début at ITM 2006 in Istanbul (June 26-July 2).

Stork's research in areas of workflow and ink bulk feed systems combined with BASF's inkjet ink formulation

knowledge enabled the development of a pigment ink with a larger colour gamut and higher speed performance. Furthermore, the external ink system guarantees a smooth, uninterrupted and stable ink supply, so nozzle performance is optimised even throughout long production runs.

The pigment ink solution has Stork U See accreditation which will ensure exact reproductions at any place or time world-wide. The new pigment ink is calibrated for the Stork PrinterServer software.

China International Trade Fair for Fibres and Yarns

27 June 2006

The China International Trade Fair for Fibres and Yarns will be held at the Shanghai New International Expo Centre from October 25-28 and will run concurrently with Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics.

China's textile and garment manufacturing industry continues to grow, and in 2005 China's total international trade in this sector exceeded $120 billion. This import and export demand is placing a huge burden on the nation's fibre and yarn producers, and textile manufacturers are increasingly looking to import raw materials.

In the first four months of 2006, China's yarn imports reached $1.5 billion, up 15% compared with the same period in 2005, whilst fibre imports reached $3.3 billion, an increase of 86%.

Satra accredits 750th lab technician

27 June 2006

UK-based research and technology centre Satra has accredited its 750th laboratory technician under its global scheme of accreditation.

Deng Hong Mei, laboratory supervisor at Shing Tak Dongguan in China, was the recipient of the accreditation. She oversees testing and maintains the laboratory control system which has already earned her company Satra laboratory accreditation.

She has 15 years experience in sports footwear factories and has also worked in stitching rooms, technical departments and laboratories.

Rocky Brands to develop Michelin Footwear

27 June 2006

Footwear and apparel company Rocky Brands, Inc. has been appointed by Michelin Footwear to produce, market and distribute a line of footwear in North America under the Michelin brand name.

Michelin Footwear, a division of Gear Six, LLC, has been distributing a line of safety footwear in the US since 2004.

Rocky Brands plans to introduce an adventure-performance category under the Michelin name in order to provide entry into the outdoor recreational footwear market, which includes hiking, camping and mountaineering among other activities.

Ico elects new board members

27 June 2006

Producer of custom polymer powders for textiles, metal coatings and masterbatch Ico, Inc. has elected Warren Wilder and Daniel Gaubert to its board of directors, with effect from July 1.

Mr Wilder currently serves as senior vice president - Olefins for Westlake Chemical Corporation.

Mr Gaubert has over 30 years of experience in operational and corporate accounting, tax, finance and audit functions.

Textile industry to boost Syrian economy

27 June 2006

According to a new report released by market research company Research and Markets entitled ‘Profile of the Textile and Clothing Industry in Syria’, Syria’s economy is expected to grow by only 1.5% during 2006-07. The government has targeted the textile and apparel industry, which accounts for 30% of Syria's industrial employment, as a vehicle for growth and enterprise.

It has invested heavily in new production facilities in recent years, while maintaining a protectionist approach to imported goods. There is an almost total ban on imports of raw cotton, cotton yarns and fabrics made mostly or wholly from cotton.

The report reveals that between 1990 and 2004 cotton yarn output rose from 39,000 tons to 107,610 tons. Ready-made garment production increased from 35.1 million pieces in 2000 to 54.7 million pieces in 2003.

However, government intervention has dissuaded

overseas investors from entering the marketplace, and, by placing heavy taxes on Syria's vast private textile sector, the state has slowed technological development. It is estimated that 4,000 of Syria's 15,000 looms are still powered by shuttles.

Quiksilver enters into Russian joint venture

28 June 2006

Outdoor sports lifestyle company Quiksilver, Inc. has created a joint venture with Russian Sports footwear and apparel company Sprandi International Ltd., with the exclusive rights to design, manufacture, market and distribute Quiksilver and Roxy branded products in Russia.

The joint venture will be responsible for establishing a Russian distribution network of company-owned retail stores as well as a sizeable wholesale business that will include licensed retail stores, large key accounts and small independent retail chains.

The company will hold a majority stake in the joint venture.

Huntsman completes sale of butadiene business

28 June 2006

Manufacturer of differentiated and commodity chemicals including chemicals, plastics, textiles and footwear industries, Huntsman Corporation has completed the sale of its US butadiene and MTBE with Texas Petrochemicals, LP.

The total sales price was approximately $262 million, of which $192 million has been paid, while an additional $70 million will be payable to Huntsman following the restart of the company's Port Arthur olefins unit and the related resumption of crude butadiene supply to Texas Petrochemicals, LP.

Huntsman has owned the butadiene/MTBE business since its 1994 acquisition of Texaco Chemical Company. The manufacturing facility produces approximately 900 million pounds of butadiene per year and approximately 11,000 barrels of MTBE per day. The business had 2005 revenues of approximately $645 million.

Iconix launches of Rampage Girls sportswear

28 June 2006

Owner, licensor and marketer of a range of brands Iconix Brand Group has entered into a licence agreement with children’s apparel company Mamiye Brothers to manufacture and produce Rampage Girls sportswear.

The Rampage Girls Collection will debut for spring 2007.

Rampage women's brand includes sportswear, footwear, swimwear, intimates, fragrance and accessories.

Texhong and Dow sign letter of intent

28 June 2006

Chinese cotton textile manufacturer Texhong Textile Group Limited has entered into a strategic Letter of Intent with Dow Chemical (China) Investment Co. Ltd. to cooperate in the areas of R&D in order to develop a new generation of elastic fibre XLA technology and product. This will boost the development of new textile fibre and products. Elastic fibre XLA is mainly applied in mid- to high- end yarn dyed/worsted fabrics, as well as casual wear fabric products.

In the near future, Dow will continue to develop new XLA series products and provide them to Texhong for trial spinning and twinning with appropriate staff training.

Lanxess increases prices for technical rubber grades

28 June 2006

With effect from July 1, German chemical company Lanxess's Technical Rubber Products business unit is to increase its prices for the product groups BayprenR (CR), BunaR EP (EPDM), KrynacR/PerbunanR/ BaymodR N (NBR), LevaprenR/BaymodR L/LevameltR (EVM) and KryleneR/KrynolR (E-SBR). The price rise will be between €70 and 300 per metric ton, depending on the product group.

The price increases, which affect Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, are said to be caused by the continued high cost of raw materials and rising energy costs.

Lanxess's technical rubber products are mainly used in the footwear, automotive, mechanical engineering, and electrical industries.

Trevira begins production in Poland and appoints new staff

29 June 2006

Polyester fibre manufacturer Trevira began production of texturised yarns in Zielona Gora, Poland, on June 12. 13 of the 45 staff that will be employed at the new facility have already been recruited including new works manager Andrzej Majewski who will take over on July 1.

As announced at the start of the year, Trevira has transferred some production from its plant in Silkeborg, Denmark.

Wal-Mart holds talks on textile supply chain

29 June 2006

Storeholder Wal-Mart hosted a two-day meeting on issues and opportunities related to the sustainable production and use of textiles June 27-28.

The meeting brought together specialists from the textile supply chain from both inside and outside the company, as well as environmental consultants and representatives of non-profit organisations. Topics of discussion included standards, metrics, certifications, key trends, definitions of sustainability in the textile supply chain, and the environmental, social and economic impact of different business choices.

Wal-Mart's objective is to gather information and gain an insight into the perspectives of the numerous constituents involved in the debate on natural fibres and other key textile issues.

Adidas named official sponsor of Euro 2008

29 June 2006

UEFA and adidas have signed a long-term partnership granting adidas the global sponsorship rights for the UEFA Euro 2008 in Austria and Switzerland. Adidas will supply the official match ball the equipment for the officials, referees, volunteers and ball boys.

In addition, UEFA and adidas have extended their UEFA Champions League partnership by becoming the official ball supplier for the UEFA Champions League until 2009. In this new agreement, adidas will supply the balls for all 32 clubs taking part in the UEFA Champions League starting from the 2006/07 season.

Nike revenue increases 9%

29 June 2006

Nike, Inc. has reported its financial results for the 2006 fiscal year, ended May 31. For the fiscal year, revenues grew 9% to $15 billion, compared with $13.7 billion the previous year and net income increased 15% to $1.4 billion, compared with $1.2 billion last year.

For the fourth quarter, revenues increased 8% to $4 billion, compared with $3.7 billion in the same period last year. Fourth quarter net income declined 5% to $332.8 million, compared with $349.5 million in the prior year.

Revenues in the US for the fourth quarter grew 10% to $1.5 billion versus $1.3 billion for the same period last year. Footwear revenues increased 10% to $993.7 million. Apparel revenues increased 18% to $395.7 million. Equipment revenues declined 12% to $74.3 million.

Fourth quarter revenues for the European region grew 2% to $1.2 billion from $1.1 billion for the same period last year. Footwear revenues were $672.2 million, down 3% from $689.6 million last year. Apparel revenues grew by 8% to $397.1 million and equipment revenues increased 13% to $82.3 million.

Fourth quarter revenues for the Asia Pacific region grew 4% to $558.6 million compared with $535 million a year ago. Footwear revenues were up 3% to $277.2 million, apparel revenues increased 7% to $225.5 million and equipment revenues grew 2% to $55.9 million.

Fourth quarter revenues in the Americas region increased 17% to $236 million compared with $201.1 million last year. Footwear revenues were up 17% to $156.6 million, apparel revenues increased 15% to $61.3 million and equipment jumped 34% to $18.1 million.

American Eagle completes purchase of new HQ

29 June 2006

Outerwear, footwear and swimwear retailer American Eagle Outfitters, Inc. has completed the purchase of an existing building and adjacent land in Pittsburgh's SouthSide Works urban redevelopment district, which will become the company's new corporate headquarters.

The interior of the 186,000 square foot building will be redesigned, with occupancy expected to begin in Spring 2007. American Eagle's existing offices in Warrendale will be maintained and expanded for use as a data, distribution and logistics centre.

Lectra sells 100th Vector MP

29 June 2006

France-based developer of software, CAD/CAM equipment and related services dedicated to large-scale users of textiles, leather and industrial fabrics Lectra has sold its 100th Vector MP automated cutting solution. The system was launched in 2003 for the fashion, automotive and furniture markets.

The Vector MP range is said to be the result of the Lectra R&D policy of pooling expertise acquired across the various markets it serves to develop complete, coherent solutions for each of them.

In the fashion market, the VectorFashion MP adapts to each customer's strategic challenges (reducing material

consumption, improving productivity and flexibility, ensuring higher quality, etc.) to satisfy the needs of apparel manufacturers in major subcontracting regions (China, India, Southeast Asia, Turkey, North Africa and Central America) as well as prime contractors in Europe or North America.

For the global automotive sector, in which production flexibility is increasingly a strategic necessity, Lectra's VectorAuto MP9 offers a solution for high-volume cutting, and is an alternative to die cutting.

"The Vector MP is one of the pillars of our offering," said Lectra CEO, Daniel Harari. "It enables our customers to overcome the major challenges they face today, and thereby ensures that Lectra is their partner in success. This is why the sale of the 100th Vector MP is extremely satisfying, for me and for all Lectra collaborators."

New NBA basketball makes its debut

30 June 2006

The US National Basketball Association (NBA) has introduced a new official game ball for the 2006-2007 season. The new ball, manufactured by Spalding, features a new material and design that is said to offer better grip, feel, and consistency than the traditional leather ball. This is first change to the ball in over 35 years and only the second in 60 seasons.

The new ball features Spalding's Cross Traxxion technology which comprises two interlocking, cross-shaped panels rather than the eight oblong panels found on traditional basketballs. As a result, there is more material coverage. The ball is made of a microfibre composite with moisture management properties that are said to provide better grip and feel throughout the course of a game. The new composite material eliminates the need for a break-in period, which has always been required with a leather ball, and achieves consistency from ball to ball.

Eschler unveils new products

30 June 2006

Swiss knit fabrics specialist Christian Eschler AG has released new specialised products in its collections for summer 2007 and winter.

These include two differently dyeable polyester yarns that have been used in a series of new Atmos jacquard materials, enabling the creation of two-tone combinations. Atmos circular-knit fabrics treated with 3xDRY (a finishing process developed by Schoeller of Switzerland) remain popular and the range has been expanded to include a functional polyamide/elastane spacer fabric.

A number of heavier versions of its abrasion and snag resistant ceramic printing have been developed from the ‘Husky Loop’ and ‘Husky Heavy’ product lines. The popular ‘Husky’ shirt fabric has been iproved further with a range of attractive and trendy print designs that give the Husky Fleece its seasonal and fashionable look.

Softshell laminates remain one of the most important product groups at Eschler and the range has now been expanded with the addition of new textured fabrics for two-layer special laminates (E-Star H2 and E-Star 2000) – either textured outer surfaces or textured backings are used here for the laminates. The ‘Isowind’ product group has also been enhanced with textured outer surfaces or backing being used to create waterproof, windproof and ultra-breathable three-layer laminates.

Craghoppers launches new rejuvenated brand

30 June 2006

Having spent 40 years creating performance travel wear, adventure clothing and kit company Craghoppers has introduced new creative developments to the brand. These will be showcased at the launch of its spring/summer 2007 collection which will take place at this year’s Outdoor Preview held in Harrogate, UK, on July 4-6.

Craghoppers has introduced new hi-tech developments to key designs in the range, including the ‘Kiwi’ walking trouser and the mosquito repellent ‘Nosquito Lite’ range.

A new lightweight travel collection has been also designed to provide comfort and performance and includes lighter and more versatile clothing with advances in the base layer and soft shell designs. Epic water resistant cotton is a key addition to the new collection, providing improved handle and feel in cargo trousers and shirts. Epic cotton is filled with silicone so that liquid rolls off.

The company will also celebrate the sale of the millionth pair of Kiwi trousers at Outdoor Preview.

Adidas takes control of Reebok’s distribution rights in China

30 June 2006

Under a mutual agreement with New Point Industrial Limited, the adidas Group has taken control of the distribution and licence rights for the Reebok brand in China. This means that adidas will hold the exclusive distribution rights for Reebok products in China as of January 1, 2007.

According to adidas, buying out Reebok distributors and joint ventures is one of the key components of the

strategy to integrate Reebok into the adidas Group and will provide the company with revenue synergies totalling at least €200 million by 2009.

Suape Textil expands range of bamboo yarn fabrics

30 June 2006

Brazilian Suape Têxtil, owner of the Corduroy brand, is expanding its range of products with added bamboo yarn. Having launched a version of its corduroy fabric with bamboo last year, the company now plans to introduce flat fabrics such as indigos and twill.

The fabrics are a mixture of cotton and bamboo which, according to Carlos Kanadani, commercial director, offer superior comfort, with a pleasant hand, a smooth feel and a differentiated gloss.

In the last two years, Suape has invested $1.2 million in product development in order to expand its offer of products with added function and performance.

The company, which has been operating since 1959, has two factories in the state of São Paulo and another in the state of Pernambuco.

Johnson Outdoors plant closed due to flooding

30 June 2006

Outdoor recreation company Johnson Outdoors Inc. has been force to temporarily close its Binghamton, New York, plant and administrative offices due to flooding from heavy rains.

Binghamton is home to Johnson Outdoors' Outdoor Equipment Group business, which produces consumer, commercial and military tents and camping equipment.

The company's finished goods warehouse has been unaffected by the flooding and remains open, with shipments expected to resume once local roads have reopened next week.

According to the company, neither the full extent of damage nor the financial impact due to the flooding is known at present.

Acquisition of Ciba’s Textile Effects business approved

30 June 2006

The European Commission has cleared the proposed acquisition of Swiss chemical company Ciba’s Textile Effects Business by US chemical company Huntsman International under the EU Merger Regulation.

The Commission concluded that the proposed transaction would not significantly impede effective competition in the European Economic Area or in any substantial part of it.

Ciba’s Textile Effects Business, a subsidiary of Ciba Speciality Chemicals Holding, supplies dyes and chemicals, services and integrated solutions to the textile industry on a world-wide basis. Huntsman International is active in the development, production and distribution of a wide variety of chemical products world-wide.