

sportswear (elastic/bioactive), safety, technical textiles, nonwovens and EU research projects.

Filippo Bona of RadiciGroup-Radyarn research and development spoke at the recent Dornbirn Man-Made Fibres Congress in Austria and detailed recent developments at the Radici Group. These included UV protective skin-core polyester yarn (SunShield), nanotechnology-based bacteriostatic synthetic fibre (Nanofeel), two-component polyester/polyamide yarn (Micalon) and solution-dyed polyester yarn (Starlight Colours). ●

Investors move on Sympatex

Morgan Stanley and Annex Capital have taken over another 25% of breathable, waterproof membrane technology provider Sympatex Technologies GmbH, and the remaining 6% of shares in Plouquet Textiles Zittau GmbH.

Morgan Stanley and Annex Capital now hold 100% of the shares in Sympatex and Plouquet Textiles. Morgan Stanley and Annex Capital acquired the Plouquet Group, which also owns Sympatex, in 2006. ●

Delegation demonstrates textile production from bananas

A 10-member delegation from Japan travelled to Rwanda in mid-October to conduct a seminar and workshop on producing textiles from banana fibre.

Professors and students from Tama Art University in Tokyo, and officers from UNIDO-Japan presented the seminar at the Kigali Institute of Science, Technology and Management, before conducting a training workshop with around 40 weavers from different parts of Rwanda.

The banana plant has long been a source of fibre for high-quality textiles. In Japan, the cultivation of banana for clothing and household use dates back to at least the thirteenth century. ●

OutDry patent upheld (and strengthened)

Nextec Srl, the Italian company behind the OutDry laminated waterproofing technology, has announced that it has won a legal victory over its bigger rival W.L. Gore.

Gore went to the European Patent Office's Board of Opposition some time ago to challenge OutDry's right to carry patent EPI139805, which covers the whole of the laminating process it uses to apply membrane technology to finished footwear, gloves or apparel.

This year, the patent authority decided that Gore's opposition was unfounded and that the patent should stay in place. Nextec waited until the timeframe allowed for the rival company to consider an appeal to lapse before going public with the news.

"This patent is wide-reaching," Nextec's



Invista sponsors Female Swimmer of the Year

Lyra brand owner Invista sponsored the Female Swimmer of the Year award at the Splash Awards held in Manchester, UK, on October 24.

The award was given to Olympic gold medalist Rebecca Adlington, who won gold in the 400 metre and 800 metre freestyle events at this year's Beijing Olympics.

The Splash Awards were created four years ago by freestyle medalist Karen Pickering MBE in support of the Swimming Trust and British Olympic Foundation to honour athletes who excel in the sport and, with the British Olympic Swimming Team collecting a total of six medals at this summer's Olympics, there was a lot to celebrate. ●

research and development director, Matteo Morlacchi, told sportstextiles.com. "It covers any application in which you can take a piece of leather and bond a membrane to it. That's why Gore fought it so hard, investing heavily in research, consultancy and lawyers. But the problem for them is that, as a result of this whole, long process, the patent is stronger than it would have been if they had just left us alone."

He explained that over the four years the process has taken, the original patent has undergone detailed analysis on the part of experts in the field. Their confirmation that OutDry deserves protection under the patent will discourage future challenges, he said. ●

Optimer reaches trademark infringement settlement

Optimer Performance Fibers has announced that it has settled with 180's, a performance apparel and accessories company for patent and trademark infringement upon its Dri-release with FreshGuard product.

The original complaint identified work wear shirts sold online by 180's under its

Gorgonz label as far back as 2005 that though marked with the Dri-release with FreshGuard patent number, did not contain Dri-release yarn. It also identified 180's warmers not made of Dri-release that sold bearing the Dri-release with FreshGuard logo. ●

Information on 'wrinkle-free' intermediate

BAASF has released details of the chemical intermediate glyoxal on a dedicated website and has published a leaflet with the heading, 'Glyoxal: The Sustainable Solution for Your Business'.

The information covers the properties of glyoxal in various applications, including textile manufacture. It is available as a download from www.glyoxal-solutions.com.

Glyoxal is an intermediate that is readily biodegradable, is used as a biocide, a polymer cross-linking agent and a sulphur scavenger (a chemical substance added to remove or inactivate sulphur). Perhaps one of the most attractive aspects of it for the textile industry is that it allows the production of wrinkle-free textiles. ●

Web seminar on material development

Specialist software provider TEXbase hosted a web seminar on October 21 on the subject of material development in the textile industry.

Guest speaker Craig Lindemann, material development manager at Under Armour, presented a case study on how to approach the subject as part of a collaborative supply chain strategy. He said this can help apparel manufacturers and brands maintain better quality assurance of their material performance standards. ●

Smart clothes from Argentina

A start-up clothing company in Argentina has brought its first collection of smart apparel to market and is hoping for a successful launch.

Buenos Aires-based Indarra.dtx is the creation of designer Julieta Gayoso, who wanted to combine her passion for technology and ecological design in a single collection.

The list of products includes an outdoor jacket with a 100% cotton exterior and silky vegetable fibre lining and a solar power source and eight connection ports for different devices, lycell T-shirts with a pocket for a phone or iPod, and a handy hook at the collar for headphones and even a pair of trousers with a built-in joy-stick for operating iPods. ●

India positive on cotton

World cotton output is set to decline by 6% to 24.7 million tonnes following lower output, mainly in the US (because of land constraints) and to a lesser extent in Turkey, Brazil and Egypt, according to the