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VISION News Consumer Products e-Report

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Welcome to Volume 5, No. 2 of the VISION News Consumer Products Report.

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The VISION News Consumer Products Report is written and distributed every other month for executives within the consumer products and nonwovens industries. VISION reviews the news and events of each month in the disposable diaper, adult incontinence, feminine hygiene, household wipes/cleaning products and filtration markets, among other end uses that utilize nonwoven fabrics.

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IDEA07 DRAWS STRONG GLOBAL ATTENDANCE

IDEA07, held April 24, 26 in Miami Beach, Fla., was one of the largest and most well-attended nonwovens industry trade shows.

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IDEA07 was certainly the most international IDEA show in history. A total of 44% of the almost 400 exhibitors were from outside the United States. In addition, early registration numbers indicate that almost half of attendees are from overseas, giving IDEA07 a definite international flavor.

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Of the almost 400 companies on the show floor, 121 were first-time exhibitors.

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This issue of the Vision e, News takes a look at some of the disposables and related news and products from the three-day show.

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KIMBERLY CLARK WINS SHORT-LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The prestigious IDEA07 Achievement Awards, which recognize the best new nonwoven and engineered fabric products introduced in the past three years, were presented in six categories during a special ceremony on the opening day of IDEA07.

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DuPont was the big winner of the Achievement Awards, being recognized in two categories, while other winners included Kimberly, Clark, Filtration Group, Dienes and Teknoweb. The Achievement Awards are sponsored by INDA, Association of the Nonwovens Fabrics Industry, and Nonwovens Industry magazine.

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In addition to the company and product awards, Lee Sullivan, a 30-year veteran of the nonwovens industry with Kendall/Freudenberg and former chairman of INDA, and long-time industry educator Dr. Edward Vaughn, professor emeritus at Clemson University, were presented with the coveted IDEA Lifetime Achievement Award.

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The IDEA07 Achievement Awards are presented at each IDEA to recognize the best products introduced since the previous IDEA.

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This year's recipients:

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- ✓ **Short-Life End-Product: Huggies Pull-ups with Cool Alert, Kimberly Clark.** Other finalists: Swiffer Deep Ridges, Procter & Gamble; Love'N1 Sanitary Napkin/Panty Liner, Baby/Feminine Care Wipes, WIP srl

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- ✓ **Long-Life End-Product: GeoPleat Air Filter, Filtration Group.** Other finalists: HEPA Membrane Filters made with DuPont Teflon, APC Filtration; Eco, Logix Carpet Cushioning System, Shaw Innovation Flooring Systems.

✓ **Roll Goods: Hybrid Membrane Technology, DuPont.** Other finalists: SpectraMax, CEREX Advanced Fabrics; Coated glass fiber, based nonwoven, Owens Corning

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✓ **Raw Materials: Sorona Polymer, DuPont.** Other finalists: Dur, O, Set Elite Ultra binder technology, Celanese Corp.; Fortrel Wellcare ADM, Wellman

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✓ **Machinery/Equipment: QuikSet Automatic Positioning Systems, Dienes.** Other finalists: Twin Crown Needle, Foster Needle; Cheetah Folders, S&S Specialty Systems Inc.

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✓ **Entrepreneur: Teknoweb Srl**

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For more on IDEA07: www.inda.org

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HAGEN JOINS PGI AS CEO

IDEA07 served as sort of a coming-out party for new Polymer Group, Inc. (PGI) CEO Veronica "Ronee" Hagen, whose position with the company takes effect that week. Hagen brings more than 25 years of extensive operations and global industrial market experience with large, international public companies to PGI.

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Since 2004, Hagen has held the position of president and CEO of Sappi Fine Paper North America, a \$1.4 billion division of the South African, based Sappi Limited.

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"I am pleased to be joining a company with as much potential for growth as PGI," says Hagen. "PGI has established itself as an industry leader and I look forward to leading the company in its pursuit of higher levels of growth and profitability. I believe a critical component of the company's success will be its continued commitment to its customers and innovation." 111

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Hagen holds a Bachelor of Science in International Relations from the University of Southern California and has participated in an Executive Education program in Finance from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania and an Executive Leadership program at Harvard University. She is relocating from Boston to the Charlotte, NC area, the site of PGI's global headquarters.

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IBIS SCORES ZERO

Ibis International highlighted its Zero Waste System for reclaiming fiber, pure superabsorbent polymer and clean plastic/nonwovens for densifying and pelletizing. The engineered combination of centrifugal force and air classification allows this system to take reject soft disposable products such as baby diapers and sanitary napkins.

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KANSAN FOLKS TURKEY

Turkish machinery supplier Kansan shipped its Cross Fold Converting Machine from Kansan, Izmir, Turkey. The machine is designed to be "time intense, easily accessible, and easy to change." The bottom line on this apparatus is that it maximizes up time while it produces a high, quality, high, volume product with minimal downtime. The price tag is 175,000,230,000 Euros, depending on specifications. There's a three, month lead time.

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FAMECCANICA UNVEILS LASER CUTTING

Fameccanica's patent pending laser cutting technology was being introduced at IDEA071 as a ready, to, go solution for cutting and shaping disposable hygienic products. The system provides high flexibility during operation, lower overall costs, easier management of size changes and elimination of cutting unit, ops and spare parts handling.

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TICONA HAS THE RITE STUFF

Riteflex thermoplastic polyester elastomer from Ticona Engineering Polymers provides advantages when used in multifilaments along with polyethylene terephthalate. The company focused on the multifilament, which can be made in deniers of 150 to 1000 and can be dyed, withstands laundering and drying heat, and offers resistance to bleach for fabrics use in apparel, upholstery and decorative products.

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FITESA BUYS REICOFIL LINE

The Brazilian nonwovens producer recently acquired a second Reicofil 14 line, which it expects to be on stream in Spring 2008. With a capacity of 15,000 metric tons of spunmelt nonwovens a year, the multi, beam 14.2 meter wide line will help Fitesa focus on its core disposables hygiene, durable goods and medical products segments.

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BIAX FIBERFILM ON AUTOPILOT

Biax, Fiberfilm was running a 15.5, inch compact meltblown pilot line throughout IDEA071 that employs its patented technology. Biax is producing fibers from several different polymer chemistries ideally suited for the barrier, filtration, and sorbent industries. The line is being fed with a 12, inch 130, 1 extruder. IDEA071 also marked the debut of its ultra, strength meltblown. This one, layer meltblown bag does what it takes a conventional SMS product to achieve. Properties such as tensile strength, hydro, head, and filtration efficiencies are equivalent to that of SMS products.

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SIZE MATTERS FOR NEUMAG

An enlarged spunbond production width of up to seven meters for highly efficient production of polypropylene hygiene nonwovens was highlighted by Neumag. Neumag was also exhibiting its nonwoven technology portfolio, which includes Neumag spunbond technology, J&M meltblown technology (formerly Nordson Fiber Systems),

M&J1 airlaid1 technology,1 FOR1 carding1 technology,1 Fehrer1 needlepunching1 and1 aerodynamic carding1 technology,1 Autefa crosslapping1 technology and1 Kortec1 festooning1 technology.11

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Besides1 the1 traditional1 machine1 supply1 of1 these1 brands,1 Neumag1 offers1 turnkey1 lines1 for1 airlaid,1 spunbond1 and1 carding1 as1 well1 as1 customized1 solutions1 consisting1 of1 different1 production1 processes1 (cross1 technologies).1

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STAYING DRY AT LIBELTEX

At1 Libeltex1 the1 company1 was1 focusing1 on1 its1 Dry1 Web1 range1 of1 high1 loft1 nonwovens1 used1 in1 the1 absorbent1 hygiene1 market.1 The1 acquisition1 layers1 of1 Dry1 Web1 boost1 the1 liquid1 uptake1 time1 and1 allow1 better1 spreading1 of1 the1 fluid1 over1 the1 area1 of1 the1 core.1 This1 results1 in1 a1 lower1 rewet1 and1 higher1 surface1 dryness.1 Another1 product1 on1 display1 was1 its1 Soft1 Coverstock1–1 two1 in1 one1–1 range,1 monolayer1 structures1 created1 to1 function1 as1 a1 soft1 coverstock1 in1 femcare1 applications.1 Dual1 layer1 structures1 give1 the1 material1 the1 function1 of1 a1 topsheet1 with1 that1 of1 an1 acquisition1 layer.1

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KOLON SAP KEEPS EXPANDING

Kolon1 Chemical1 introduced1 absorption/retention1 capacity1 and1 AUL1 improved1 SAP,1 which1 is1 designed1 specifically1 for1 great1 performance1 in1 high, density1 cores,1 and1 in1 the1 near1 future1 it1 is1 going1 to1 introduce1 odor1 control1 SAP1 with1 state-of-the-art1 odor1 control1 performance.1 The1 production1 capacity1 of1 Kolon's1 SAP1 is1 currently1 being1 increased1 by1 completing1 its1 new1 facility1 in1 Kimcheon,1 Korea.1

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PGI UNVEILS SPINLACE

Polymer1 Group,1 Inc.1 debuted1 its1 new1 family1 of1 Spinlace1 fabrics1 at1 IDEA07.1 Initially1 targeting1 the1 consumer1 and1 industrial1 wipes1 markets,1 the1 materials1 are1 not1 yet1 available,1 but1 will1 be1 available1 sometime1 later1 in1 2007.1 By1 combining1 several1 technologies1 and1 processes,1 including1 the1 company's1 proprietary1 Apex1 process,1 PGI1 has1 developed1 a1 new1 type1 of1 nonwoven1 material1 that1 is1 stronger,1 more1 absorbent1 and1 can1 incorporate1 three, dimensional1 images1 at1 lower1 weights1 and1 with1 a1 better1 value1 proposition1 than1 traditional1 manufacturing1 methods.1 PGI1 is1 investing1 in1 new1 capabilities1 combined1 with1 initiatives1 to1 convert1 existing1 equipment1 at1 its1 Benson,1 INC1 plant1 to1 manufacture1 the1 high, quality1 Spinlace1 materials.1 PGI1 is1 also1 upgrading1 its1 pilot1 line1 for1 wipes1 to1 further1 enhance1 its1 research1 and1 development1 efforts1 in1 this1 area1 to1 better1 serve1 customers.1

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JACOB HOLM AND NORAFIN TOGETHER

Two1 companies1–1 Jacob1 Holm1 Industries1 and1 Norafin1–1 were1 together1 to1 discuss1 their1 latest1 technology,1 solutions1 and1 products.1 Norafin1 featured1 spunlaced,1 needlepunched1 and1 composite1 product1 innovations,1 including1 a1 range1 of1 technical1 spunlace1 materials1 targeted1 at1 HVAC1 end, uses.1 Jacob1 Holm1 Industries1 combines1 cost, effectiveness1 with1 quality1 performance1 in1 the1 hygiene1 and1 homecare1 markets.1 Fabric1 features1 such1 as1

enhanced homogeneity and embossing clarity, along with the company's ability to use cotton and other renewable resource raw materials, is on display.

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TREDEGAR COMES OUT ON TOP

A global topsheet provider, Tredegar Film Products had several new designs for its full range of topsheets on display. Among them was ComfortQuilt, a 3-D, apertured nonwoven topsheet. This technology offers a cottony soft feel with faster strikethrough and reduced rewet. It is now available as a zoned perforated topsheet and can be used on baby diapers, femcare and AI products. The zoned material can help to avoid SAP leakage near the leg cuff area of a baby diaper. Also new was ComfortAire, a high loft and flexible nonwoven laminate that combines the softness of a nonwoven with the fluid performance of a film, allowing consumers to enjoy protection with comfort. ComfortAire is now available in a new design.

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That's all for this month. Feel free to contact editor Michael Jacobsen at 201,612,6601 or email at mjacobsen@inda.org.

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