

Knitting/Apparel

■ Jennifer Dennard, Assistant Editor

Gildan Expands Offshore Operations

Montreal-based Gildan Active-wear Inc. is expanding its offshore manufacturing operations with the recent purchase in the Dominican Republic of 18 million square feet of land, on which it plans to erect a knitting, bleaching and cutting facility.

The state-of-the-art operation, which will cost \$60 million, will be completed by the end of this year and is expected to reach full production capacity within the next few years. The company anticipates future expansion on the site.

Fabric produced at the site will be sewn both in the Dominican Republic and in Haiti, where a Gildan integrated sewing plant is located.

Gildan also plans this year to

invest \$15 million in the expansion of its manufacturing facility in Honduras and the establishment of a sewing plant in Nicaragua.

With this growth, Gildan hopes to increase its annual sales by more than 50 percent over the next five years.

Haggar Womenswear Unit Moves, Changes Name

Dallas-based Haggar Clothing Co. has relocated its womenswear subsidiary to: Two Colinas Crossing, 11511 Luda Road, Dallas, Texas, 75234; (214) 352-8481. In conjunction with the relocation, which consolidates Haggar's menswear and womenswear operations into one facility, Haggar has changed the name



of its womenswear unit from Jerrell Ltd. to Haggar Women's Wear Ltd.

Under Armour® To Provide Terrapins Uniforms

Under Armour®, Baltimore, has signed a five-year contract to supply the University of Maryland at College Park's Terrapins football team with uniforms, as well as fan apparel and accessories that include jerseys, hats and jackets. The contract commences with the 2004-05 football season and includes two one-year renewable options.

The company will provide lightweight uniforms that feature Under Armour's compression factor and stretch properties that offer flexibility and maneuverability.

Haggar's womenswear line includes a comfort-fit waist pant featuring two-way stretch for extra comfort.

INVISTA™ Introduces Knitwear Trends For Spring 2005

Sheila-Mary Carruthers, Wilmington, Del.-based INVISTA™ Inc.'s global knitwear consultant, has created a collection of more than 100 sweater knit concepts using Invista brands from worldwide yarn resources. The focus of her presentation is on Lycra® elastane and Teflon® fabric protector. Other Invista fibers including Tactel® nylon, Cordura® nylon, T-400™ and Coolmax®, also are shown, sometimes blended with various natural and man-made fibers. Fabrics show novelty in construction, pattern and composition. Care and performance are stressed.

Carruthers has divided her presentation into four segments: Contemporary Luxury, Modern Performance, Natural Heritage and Delightfully Decorative.

In the Contemporary Luxury category, fabrics from Todd & Duncan are knitted using cashmere/Lycra. Cotton from Lora & Festa is treated with Teflon.

Modern Performance fabrics have been designed for sports-influenced apparel. "Here we're featuring new yarns with Coolmax from Joinfair, which we've plated with invisible Lycra from Wykes for added recovery," Carruthers said. She demonstrated how Teflon-treated pima cotton fabrics from Lora & Festa repel and release liquids and stains. For menswear, there is a smooth knit in Tactel from Texwell Italiana S.r.l. plated with Lycra from Wykes.

In the Natural Heritage category, there are traditional structures with new twists, such as contemporary high-performance yarns. A ripple-structure single jersey is knitted in a composite yarn of acrylic/cotton/Lycra from St. Lieven. A soft, brushed fabric uses yarns of wool/acrylic/viscose/Lycra from Pinori Filati S.p.A. A new cable knit is made using a com-

posite yarn of acrylic/Lycra from Charming Textile Co. Ltd.

There is a lot of luster, sheen and embellishment in the Delightfully Decorative range. A fabric made with Unifi Inc.'s Tactel diabolito plated with invisible Lycra from Wykes offers a sleek surface for space-dyed embroidery. Two-colored Tactel Prisma from Lurex Co. Ltd. gives sparkle to a simple structure. Viscose/T-400 from Drescafil is another base fabric embellished with embroidery.

The Invista knitwear seminars have been presented to knitters, garment manufacturers and retailers in key markets around the country. The presentation is available on CD-ROM. It shows each trend, photographs of all fabrics with construction details, and concept garments. 

— By Virginia S. Borland,
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