



C O M M U N I Q U É

JUVENILE

Cosco
Safety 1st
Maxi-Cosi
Quinny
Baby Relax
Babidéal
MonBébé
Bébé Confort

HOME FURNISHINGS

Ameriwood
Ridgewood
Charleswood
Dorel Home Products
Cosco Home & Office
Dorel Asia
Carina Furniture

RECREATIONAL / LEISURE

Pacific Cycle
Schwinn
GT
Mongoose
InSTEP

EXCHANGES

CANADA

TSX:
DII.A, DII.B

U.S.A.

NASDAQ:
DIIB

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DOREL INTRODUCES CANADIAN FIRST IN MATTRESS PRODUCTION

Technology to double futon production at Montreal facility

Montreal, May 5, 2004 – Dorel Industries Inc. (TSX: DII.A, DII.B; NASDAQ: DIIB) today launched a new technology for the production of its futon mattress pads which utilizes natural, recyclable cotton fibres and can double current capacity at its Dorel Home Products facility in Montreal North. The new Cdn\$5.5 million Airlaid system is a first in Canada and was developed in-house in cooperation with Laroche, a French equipment manufacturer.

“This added investment in Montreal is a clear commitment to maintaining our facility here. The efficiency of the Montreal plant has allowed Dorel to become North America’s largest futon producer,” commented Dorel President and CEO, Martin Schwartz.

The state-of-the-art equipment replaces a more costly and labour intensive process which produced futon mattresses with both cotton fibres and polyurethane foam. Several labour intensive manufacturing steps have been eliminated and will enable Dorel to increase production from 700,000 to 1.4 million units per year. Previously, futon mattress pads were made ‘sandwich style’, a process that required combining separate layers of material. The new technology allows for the pads to be thermo-bonded and produced as a single piece, up to eight inches in thickness. The system also features a continuous manufacturing process.

“This creates a number of opportunities,” explained Dorel’s Chief Operating Officer, Pierre Dupuis. “The installation of the new machinery will help us become even more competitive in the global economy. It also permits us to meet the highest environmental standards used in the production of futon mattresses. The new process will also result in Dorel Home Products meeting and exceeding the new standard for open flame testing that takes effect next year.

“Dorel has made a name for itself in the futon business. The doubling of capacity will allow us to seek additional market share and further expand our strong customer base. Additionally, the new process will enable us to develop new, related products and widen our product offering.”

Mr. Dupuis said personnel at the Montreal plant can take full credit for the new operation. “Michel Sabourin and his staff took the initiative to research the project and identified equipment manufacturers in Europe. Together they developed a superior, custom-designed system which is vertically integrated and 100% environmentally friendly.

“With this greatly advanced technology, Dorel Home Products is poised to further our world scale futon business from our Montreal facility. This is one more example of Dorel’s ability to be the low-cost producer,” concluded Mr. Dupuis.

Profile

Dorel Industries Inc. is a global consumer products company which designs, manufactures or sources, markets and distributes a diverse portfolio of powerful product brands, marketed through its Juvenile, Home Furnishings, and Recreational/Leisure segments. US operations include the Dorel Juvenile Group USA, which incorporates the Cosco and Safety 1st brands; Ameriwood Industries, Cosco Home & Office; and Pacific Cycle, which includes the Schwinn, Mongoose, GT, InSTEP and Roadmaster brands. In Canada, Dorel operates Dorel Juvenile Group Canada, Ridgewood Industries and Dorel Home Products. The Dorel Juvenile Group Europe carries out activities throughout Europe, under the Maxi-Cosi, Quinny, Safety 1st, Béb  Confort, Babid al, MonB b  and Baby Relax brands. Dorel Asia sources and imports home furnishings. Dorel employs approximately 5,000 people in fourteen countries. 2003 sales were US\$1.2 billion. 2004 sales are expected to be between US\$1.6 – US\$1.8 billion.

Forward-Looking Statements

Except for historical information provided herein, this press release may contain information and statements of a forward-looking nature concerning the future performance of the Company. These statements are based on suppositions and uncertainties as well as on management's best possible evaluation of future events. Such factors may include, without excluding other considerations, fluctuations in quarterly results, evolution in customer demand for the Company's products and services, the impact of price pressures exerted by competitors, and general market trends or economic changes. As a result, readers are advised that actual results may differ from expected results.

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