



NEWS RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Carey Kerns
Public Relations
503/239-3758
careykerns@comcast.net

CTC GROUPE® AND BIOMECHANICA FORGE INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Portland, Ore. (July 13, 2005) – CTC Groupe®, a recognized leader providing technical services to the footwear industry worldwide, has formed a global collaboration with U.S.-based BioMechanica, LLC, a consulting firm specializing in athletic footwear research and development.

“This agreement brings together two major providers of technical services, both dedicated to the shoe business but with different kinds of expertise,” said CTC Groupe CEO Marc Folachier. “Both companies’ clients will benefit from access to leading specialists in the United States and Europe.”

CTC Groupe and BioMechanica will share technology and resources, collaborate on the development of new materials and product concepts, and jointly market their services worldwide.

“We are thrilled by this partnership,” added Martyn Shorten, Ph.D., BioMechanica’s founder and a former director of the NIKE Sports Research Laboratory. “It leverages our companies’ successes and opens new opportunities for creativity. By combining our unique assets we can offer world-class skills and capabilities for our clients.”

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CTC Groupe® Partners with BioMechanica® – 2

Through the agreement, BioMechanica will add state-of-the-art testing facilities in Europe and Asia to its resource pool, and provide clients with a seamless transition from research and development in the United States to production in Asia. At the same time, CTC Groupe's clients will have access to expertise in athletic footwear, biomechanics, and product innovation.

CTC Groupe was founded in 1899 and is a leading global resource for consulting services, training, and quality assurance. Headquartered in Lyons, France, the company has a team of 150 footwear and leather goods products experts working in offices and test laboratories throughout Europe and Asia.

Portland, Oregon-based BioMechanica supports numerous high-profile U.S. athletic footwear brands with independent/confidential advanced research, product development and testing services. Founded in 1993 by leading biomechanist and inventor Martyn Shorten, Ph.D., the company has an international reputation for outstanding research and innovation in athletic footwear.

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