

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information please contact:

Karen Strong
Strong Communications
(541) 607-5654
karen@strongpr.com

Milliken StainSmart Fabrics Are the Smart Choice for School Uniforms

Fabian Couture Group chooses StainSmart due to its easy-care and durable stain repel-and-release capabilities

SPARTANBURG, South Carolina - (December xx, 2004) – Milliken & Company®, one of the world's largest privately-held textile and chemical manufacturers, today announced that Fabian Couture Group International, a leader within the formal wear industry in both the United States and Canada, has chosen Milliken's StainSmart® fabrics for their polyester tuxedo line, First Nighter Formal Wear Collection. This specific tuxedo line is designed for school and formal band and choir uniforms, due to its easy-care and superior stain repel-and-release capabilities.

StainSmart is a major break through for the school uniform market because it provides the option of machine washing the uniforms rather than dry cleaning, which tends to be expensive.

“School uniforms tend to be a costly and high-maintenance investment for schools and parents alike, due to the amount of wear and stains that occur during use,” said Daniel Cohen, of Fabian Couture Group. “Students are very hard on their uniforms, and a stain repel-and-release feature is a natural fit for school and formal band and choir uniforms. StainSmart provides an easy-care solution that both parents and school personnel will greatly appreciate.”

Independent testing verifies that StainSmart currently outperforms other stain-protection methods available today.

“In a head-to-head comparison of stain repellent products in the apparel market, Clothes Care Research Center (CCRC), an alliance of leading manufacturers and research laboratories, dedicated to improving home clothing care, found that StainSmart outperformed leading repellent technologies for water and oil repellency,” said Dr. Elizabeth P. Easter, board member of CCRC and director of the University of Kentucky's Textile Testing Laboratory. “StainSmart also delivered unsurpassed soil release performance on tough stains, such as oil, and its color retention performance was significantly better than fabrics of comparable fiber types.”

“Milliken understands that easy-care is a top priority for the school uniform market,” said Brenda Burris Drake, merchandising director of woven fabrics for Milliken. “We're

thrilled that Fabian Couture Group recognizes StainSmart's promise for durable easy-to-care-for professional fabrics that withstand stains."

Milliken's StainSmart provides the "best of both worlds" in a patent-pending stain-protection technology. The "repel" function allows for most liquid-based spills to bead up and be wiped off, thereby preventing them from staining the fabric. The "release" function works on tough, ground-in stains that penetrate fabric, such as corn oil or cola, by allowing these stains to wash out during normal laundering or cleaning.

Availability

New StainSmart school and formal wear uniforms are available now and can be found in the 2005 Fabian Couture Group International catalog, and will be available at retailers in early 2005.

StainSmart is now available in a wide range of high-quality, durable fabric types from leading fabric converters and manufacturers for the high-performance active apparel; casual menswear and womenswear; workwear; military, medical and school uniforms; hospitality; and healthcare and military lodging markets. StainSmart technology is also available for custom fabric development from Milliken in a variety of uses and markets.

For more information on Milliken's innovative fabrics, including StainSmart, please visit Milliken's company Web site at www.milliken.com or www.stainsmart.com. For StainSmart sales information, call (864) 503-1655.

About Milliken & Company®

Founded in 1865, Milliken & Company® is a privately held textile and chemical company that employs more than 12,500 associates worldwide. Milliken operates over 60 manufacturing facilities in 12 countries, and produces over 48,000 high performance products. To learn more about Milliken, please visit the Company's Web site at www.milliken.com.

###