



Comunicato Stampa
RCS MediaGroup – GFT USA

RCS MediaGroup – Closing cessione delle attività di Joseph Abboud al fondo di private equity statunitense J.W. Childs Associates.

RCS MediaGroup comunica che, intervenuta l'autorizzazione dell'antitrust USA, è stata data esecuzione all'accordo, raggiunto lo scorso 10 febbraio, per la cessione delle società JA Apparel Corp., Riverside Manufacturing Corp. e Nashawena Mills Corp., appartenenti al gruppo Joseph Abboud, al fondo statunitense di private equity JW Childs Associates, L.P., per un corrispettivo di USD 73 milioni al netto del debito finanziario.

Il Gruppo Joseph Abboud è proprietario del marchio Joseph Abboud ed è attivo nello sviluppo, produzione e commercializzazione di abbigliamento soprattutto maschile; Riverside Manufacturing è la società proprietaria dello stabilimento di produzione; Nashawena Mills possiede il terreno su cui sorge lo stabilimento.

Nell'operazione, che rappresenta la definitiva conclusione del processo di uscita del Gruppo dal settore moda – abbigliamento, RCS MediaGroup è stata assistita da Goldman Sachs e dallo studio legale Giliberti, Pappalettera e Triscornia e Associati.

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RCS MediaGroup
Direttore Comunicazione
Simone Perotti
02 25845413
simone.perotti@rcs.it

RCS MediaGroup
Investor Relations
Federica de Medici
02.25845508
federica.demedici@rcs.it

Nota: J.W. Childs Associates, L.P. è un importante fondo di private equity, con sede a Boston (Massachusetts), attivo nei settori dei beni di consumo, farmaceutico e della vendita al dettaglio. J.W. Childs gestisce attualmente un capitale di 3,4 miliardi di dollari per conto di importanti istituzioni finanziarie e universitarie, fondi pensione e compagnie d'assicurazione in tutto il mondo.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***RCS MediaGroup announces completion of the sale of
Joseph Abboud business to j.w. childs associates***

NEW YORK, N.Y.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--March 30, 2004 – RCS MediaGroup announced today that it has completed the sale of JA Apparel Corp., Riverside Manufacturing Corp., and Nashawena Mills Corp. (together the Joseph Abboud Group), to JA Holding, Inc., an entity formed by J.W. Childs Associates, L.P. Robert J. Wichser has stepped down as President and Chief Executive Officer of JA Apparel Corp., and Marty Staff has assumed the position of President and Chief Executive Officer.

On February 11, 2004, RCS MediaGroup announced the signing of a definitive agreement to sell the businesses comprising the Joseph Abboud Group to JA Holding, Inc., for \$73 million, less any financial indebtedness. The Joseph Abboud Group owns the Joseph Abboud brand and trademarks, and is active in the development, production and marketing of men's tailored clothing and sportswear, furnishings and accessories. The Riverside factory manufactures Joseph Abboud suits, sportcoats, trousers and overcoats.

Said Maurizio Romiti, Chief Executive Officer of RCS MediaGroup, *"We are extremely pleased to be concluding the sale of the Joseph Abboud Group to J. W. Childs Associates, and I am confident that they will continue the success that the business has experienced under the outstanding management of Bob Wichser. Since he joined the company in 1993, Bob Wichser has been the individual most responsible for the dynamic growth and achievement that Joseph Abboud has experienced. Under Bob's leadership, annual sales increased from \$40 million to more than \$125 million, and the company was transformed from a money losing operation into a highly profitable business, having just achieved the best annual financial results since its inception. Bob significantly increased brand equity, as well as the brand's positioning in the marketplace, and enabled RCS MediaGroup to effect the sale of the business at an optimal valuation. It was a privilege to work with Bob, and I wish him great success in his future professional endeavors."*

"My association with JA Apparel Corp., has been extremely gratifying and rewarding. While I am truly saddened to be leaving, I am extremely proud of and thankful for the unwavering commitment, the steadfast dedication, and the unbounded passion of our design teams, our employees, our licensees and our retail partners, without whom the outstanding success we have achieved would not have been possible," said Robert J. Wichser. Continued Mr. Wichser, *"I am also extremely grateful for the resolute confidence and support of Maurizio Romiti and the senior management of RCS MediaGroup. I leave the Joseph*



Abboud brand in the very experienced and capable hands of Marty Staff, who has a dynamic reputation for developing successful businesses. I am confident that Marty will help the business realize its ultimate potential, and I hope that he will be given the same commitment, dedication and support that I have been privileged to receive.”

Said Marty Staff, “It is exciting for me to become a principal in, and to take the reigns of, one of the world’s premiere fashion brands. The Joseph Abboud business has thrived under the exceptional leadership of Bob Wichser, who is an admired and respected executive in the apparel industry. Under Bob’s leadership, Joseph Abboud has demonstrated consistent top line and profit growth, while successfully building strong partnerships with America’s finest retailers.” Continued Mr. Staff, “Joseph Abboud is a global lifestyle brand with significant growth potential in virtually every area of consumer packaged goods. I intend to focus on the particular opportunity Joseph Abboud has to successfully compete in men’s better sportswear. Our suit and sportcoat business will continue to be our volume base, and we will utilize our Riverside manufacturing facility to maintain our competitive advantage in this category. We also intend to aggressively pursue company owned and licensed retail and wholesale brand extensions both in America and on a global basis. The fashion industry is in the midst of great change, and Joseph Abboud will quickly adapt to the new modern male consumer. I see this as an opportunity which will permit us to maximize value creation in the years to come.”

About J.W. Childs Associates, L.P.

J.W. Childs Associates, L.P. is a leading private equity firm based in Boston, Massachusetts. Since 1995, the firm has invested in 25 companies with a total transaction value in excess \$5.1 billion. J.W. Childs presently manages \$3.4 billion of equity capital from leading financial institutions, pension funds, insurance companies and university endowments around the world.

About the Joseph Abboud Brand

The Joseph Abboud brand defines American style and sophistication. From its signature textured fabrics to its classically modern silhouettes, Joseph Abboud is not merely a designer brand but a lifestyle. Since 1993, the Joseph Abboud brand has grown from \$40 million into more than a \$125 million annual business, with licensees in such product categories as eyewear, hosiery, fragrance, scarves, jewelry, sleepwear & rainwear, as well as a home collection including bath & bedding, dinnerware & flatware, and a broad range of home accessories. Joseph Abboud branded tailored clothing and sportswear, furnishings and accessories, as well as home furnishings, are available at more than 450 better specialty retailers and department stores throughout the United States, including the Joseph Abboud flagship store at The Shops at Columbus Circle in New York City.

Media Inquiries Please Contact:

for RCS MediaGroup:

Simone Perotti

Director of Communications

Phone: 011.39.02.2584.5413

Email: simone.perotti@RCS.it

for JA Apparel Corp.

Mathew Evins

Evins Communications, Ltd.

Phone: 212.688.8200 ext. 17

Email: MEvins@Evins.com