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Huntsman Helps Joe Nimble Create High-Performance Running Shoe

The Ultreya contains nmbIFOAM® based on Huntsman's PU elastomers

THE WOODLANDS, Texas, March 22, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- Polyurethane experts from [Huntsman](#) (NYSE: HUN) have collaborated with running shoe specialist [Joe Nimble](#) and Footwear Innovation Lab GmbH on an innovation project – a revolutionary, high-performance running shoe. Joe Nimble's Ultreya, which launched this week with a limited edition drop, offer extra comfort to marathon and long-distance runners, and can help minimize the risk of pain and injury.

Designed by Joe Nimble founder, Sebastian Bär, alongside acclaimed biomechanics expert Lee Saxby, Ultreya shoes have a unique design that helps protect the feet of serious runners, who can typically cover around 40 miles per week. While conventional running shoes restrict the toes and prevent their natural anchoring and stabilizing function, Ultreya utilizes Joe Nimble's toefreedom® technology into the shoe-last design to increase stability of the foot in motion. With a wider, anatomically correct toe box that provides a natural stabilizing function during the ground contact phase of running, muscles are protected from overuse.

Adding extra comfort and performance-enhancing potential, Ultreya running shoes feature a high energy return polyurethane midsole. Based on a special dual density DALTOPED® polyurethane system from Huntsman – named nmbIFOAM® by Joe Nimble – this technology delivers a running shoe with physiologically balanced cushioning and zero heel elevation. The DALTOPED® system has also enabled Joe Nimble to radically simplify the manufacture of the shoes – eliminating key production steps.

Explaining more, Johan Van Dyck, Global Application Development Manager at Huntsman, said: "It's always a pleasure to work with Sebastian and his team, and our colleagues at Footwear Innovation Lab; and it is very exciting to be part of a project where the science of running and the biometrics of the feet are translated so closely into the design and construction of a shoe and its sole. The unique, dynamic performance that our DALTOPED® polyurethane system delivers to Ultreya shoes will have a huge impact on runners worldwide and is further evidence of the incomparable opportunities that polyurethanes can enable in footwear – going far beyond what other soling materials can offer."

Lee Saxby said: "Mother Nature provided humans with a well-padded and well-rounded heel bone for a reason; to maximize shock absorption and ensure a smooth rolling transition to the foot-flat phase of the gait. The geometry of Ultreya shoes supports this and the polyurethane midsole – made using Huntsman's technology – provides extra cushioning to propel the wearer into the propulsive phase of running. It's a powerful combination that

enables Joe Nimble to deliver on its mission of creating running shoes that can help facilitate pain-free running, for life."

Continuing, Sebastian Bär, Head of Joe Nimble, said: "The idea for our Ultreya shoes arose while watching runners compete in the Badwater® Ultra Marathon – which claims to be the world's toughest footrace. I was the crew captain for top ten runners twice at the race and noticed how many elite athletes cut open the front of their running shoes to give their toes more freedom. This led me to introduce our toefreedom® technology into a pair of trainers for the first time."

"When it came to making first samples of the Ultreya, I knew Huntsman and Footwear Innovation Lab would deliver again from a materials and manufacturing perspective, and they did. Huntsman's foam is key to the comfort and performance of the shoe, which I can personally testify to having run the 2021 Berlin Marathon in a prototype pair. Using Huntsman's polyurethane system and the latest automated manufacturing techniques provided by Footwear Innovation Lab, we've created a shoe, locally in Europe, that uses less energy, less water, less solvents and less labor and has smaller transportation footprint. This exciting collaboration and product launch proves that with the right approach, the correct materials and methods, and the best team, it is possible to create shoes that can avoid the running related pain and injuries associated with repetitive impact and shock absorption."

Jens Schmidt of Footwear Innovation Lab, said: "Our aim was to define a new perspective in running shoes - combining extraordinary material characteristics, bio mechanical expertise and a unique design with modern production methods. This goal has been achieved by the team, using the newest production methods and cutting-edge materials."

The first drop of Ultreya shoes was manufactured in Portugal; with Joe Nimble planning to produce wider runs of the trainers in Pirmasens, Germany from Autumn 2022. Pirmasens is located around 300 miles (500kms) from Deggendorf, where Huntsman produces its DALTOPED® footwear systems; and less than 100 miles from Ludwigsburg, where Joe Nimble is headquartered.

To support the launch of Ultreya, Joe Nimble is sponsoring the 2022 Badwater® 135 in California. Eighty runners competing in the event have been given a pair of Ultreya Shoes. The 2022 Badwater® 135 will take place over three days from July 11-13 with participants running 135 miles non-stop (217km) from Death Valley to Mt. Whitney. Joe Nimble was the official shoe of the Badwater® 2021 Badwater race and gave all participants a pair of recoverToes sandals, which are [made using Huntsman's polyurethanes systems](#).

The name Ultreya is an old Spanish word, from the original Latin, meaning "Onward", "Forward" or "Go beyond", which all summarize Joe Nimble's positioning perfectly.

For more information about Ultreya go to: <https://runabovereason.com/en/home-en/> or email: amelie@joe-nimble.com. For more information about Huntsman's DALTOPED® polyurethane footwear technology system please email paola_palma_faoro@huntsman.com.

About Huntsman:

Huntsman Corporation is a publicly traded global manufacturer and marketer of

differentiated and specialty chemicals with 2021 revenues of approximately \$8 billion. Our chemical products number in the thousands and are sold worldwide to manufacturers serving a broad and diverse range of consumer and industrial end markets. We operate more than 70 manufacturing, R&D and operations facilities in approximately 30 countries and employ approximately 9,000 associates within our four distinct business divisions. For more information about Huntsman, please visit the company's website at www.huntsman.com.

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About Joe Nimble: Joe Nimble is a pioneer in the field of running shoes with toefreedom®. The brand's mission is to enable a pain-free running experience by restoring and maintaining natural foot function. Together with Lee Saxby and other globally recognized experts in running technique and biomechanics, the second-generation company owner Sebastian Bär has developed a revolutionary shoe design for natural toefreedom® and maximum stability. The product range currently includes the areas of Running (road and trail), hiking, Gym and recovery. Joe Nimble, among others, has been awarded with the Red Dot Award, the German Design Award Special Mention and as a Top Innovator for his commitment to foot health. Behind Joe Nimble is the traditional company BÄR GmbH, one of the world's leading manufacturers of shoes that support healthy and comfortable walking for 40 years. The family business relies on high-quality materials, innovative design, top quality craftsmanship and sustainability. Under the management of the two founding siblings Christof and Sebastian Bär as well as Werner Ruf, BÄR GmbH / Joe Nimble employs over 500 people at locations in Bietigheim-Bissingen and Ludwigsburg, Germany as well as in India. For more information about Joe Nimble, go to: <https://www.joe-nimble.com/int/>

Social Media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/joenimbleDE

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Blog: <https://www.joe-nimble.com/int/explore/the-science/scientific-article/>

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About Footwear Innovation Lab GmbH:

Footwear Innovation Lab is an expert design and development company, providing 360° of service for all aspects of footwear design and realisation. Committed to innovation, Footwear Innovation Lab consequently pursues its journey towards sustainability and automation in production by also offering production with bio-based materials and Local4Local production in Germany. For more information about FIL go to:

<https://de.linkedin.com/company/footwear-innovation-lab-gmbh> or www.fil-lab.com (under construction).

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