General Retail News

Victoria’s Secret the US lingerie retailer has opened its first standalone UK airport store at Stansted, following the launch of its first shop in the UK last year.

Swatch the world’s largest watchmaker is optimistic about growth prospects for this year after reporting a 26% rise in 2012 profit and said a healthy growth in January has justified an optimistic outlook for 2013.

Hugo Boss the German fashion house has said they are confident of posting stronger growth than the luxury market in 2013 as it reported annual results at the top end of expectations.

SuperGroup’s like-for-like retail sales rose 10.6% over the Christmas period as outwear and knitwear delivered strong performances.

Phase Eight the fashion brand will open its first stores in the United Arab Emirates this month, as it focuses on overseas growth and ramps up its multichannel offer.

Gap the American retailer is preparing to enter the Indian market in 2014.

Gloria Jean’s Coffee the Australian owned global franchise is making a second attempt at entering the Czech Republic.

Twenty One the fashion store has written to its landlords asking for an immediate cut in rent, warning that without help it faces liquidation.

Marks and Spencer is planning to open standalone food stores across France after customers in the two Paris flagship stores snapped up its British biscuits, jams and ready meals. They have also opened their first store in Morocco this week in Casablanca.

APC the hip French label has opened a store at 15 Redchurch Street, London.

H&M the Swedish fast-fashion giant has asked leading mall developers to reserve space for its initial stores in India. Topshop is another retailer finalising plans to enter the country.

JD Sports fashion is understood to have acquired young fashion brand Gio Gio, saving the business from administrators.

TK Maxx is to open a new store in The Mall in Camberely, Surrey, taking on units left by three other retailers including now-defunct Clintons and fashion store Script.

Paris pop-up mall the first pop-up mall will open for six weeks in June and July on the esplanade of La Defense Seine Arche in Paris this summer. The center will consist of retail pods between 450 sq ft and 1,000 sq ft.

HMV’s administrators have announced they will close 66 of its 220 stores this week. Offers around £6m-£9m are going to be considered today on the 50,000 sq ft flagship store at 130 Oxford Street, London. The flagship is said to be Europe’s largest music shop.

Sainsbury’s Local – North East London

Knight Frank Retail’s client Sainsbury’s Local opened their latest store in North East London on Wednesday 6th February. The store is located at the eastern end of West Green Road, N15 near to Seven Sisters Station.
Retailer Optimism

MAC

The cosmetics brand is opening a new store in Africa this week as it strengthens its presence in the continent. The newest store will be in Lagos, Nigeria, in the Ikeja City Mall. The second store is planned for Palms Mall in Lagos and is to be opened later this year. Up to five MAC stores could be opened in Nigeria over the next three years.

Karl Lagerfeld

The European fashion brand is scouring central London for their debut UK store, as the capital remains a key market for international retailers. The fashion label wants to open a 2,000 sq ft flagship store in the West End, with particular focus on Knightsbridge and Mayfair.

Swarovski

Austrian-based crystal retailer Swarovski is preparing to launch a new jewellery concept, Cadenza, and is on the hunt for stores of around 1,000 sq ft.

Topps Tiles

The UK tile and flooring firm bucks the retail trend as it expects to open eight stores this financial year to add to the 322 it currently operates. It is relocating and refurbishing existing stores, and believes it could expand to between 350 and 400 in the longer term.

Tesco

The supermarket has secured planning permission to install the branch of independent-style coffee shop chain in their London 'concept store' near London Bridge Station. Tesco is preparing to open the first of its 'artisan' Harris and Hoole coffee shops inside one of its flagship stores.

Did You Know?

The oldest shopping arcade in London is the Royal Opera Arcade behind Her Majesties Theatre Haymarket.

Market Sentiment

Retail sales grew at their fastest pace for 13 months in January, providing a much-needed respite for the high street following the collapse of HMV, Jessops and Blockbuster. According to the latest British Consortium and KPMG Retail Sales Monitor, like-for-like retail sales rose by 1.9% in January compared with the same month last year. However clothing sales delivered their worst performance for 14 months in January, with the exception of Easter. Prices fell 7.7% compared to the year before as snowy conditions hampered footfall on the high street.

The government is hoping a national network of retail and property business leaders can speed up change on Britain’s high streets. The Future High Streets Forum will advise the 27 towns piloting ideas suggested by TV retail Guru Mary Portas, in a 2011 report for the government.