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PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

Tadashi Shoji to headline the 2011 RadiciSpandex "Stretch to the Future" Design competition

This year marks the 11th edition of the annual "Stretch to the Future" design competition sponsored by **RadiciSpandex Corp**, maker of **RadElast®** spandex. Headlining the event program as the honoree designer judge will be Tadashi Shoji, designer to A-list celebrities and socialites across the country. RadiciSpandex will once again partner with the Fashion School at Kent State University where judging will take place April 21 at the School's New York City satellite studio.

Leading the judging process, Tadashi will be joined by textile executives, fashion journalists from trade and consumer publications and members from The Underfashion Club, which returns as sponsor of the competition's lingerie award. Kent State Fashion School's junior class will submit their designs in the swimwear, activewear, lingerie and eveningwear categories. A winner from each category will be announced along with a Grand Prize winner culled from all categories. Tadashi Shoji will be the recipient of this year's RadiciSpandex "Stretch to the Future" Honoree Designer Award. "I'm very honored to accept RadiciSpandex's invitation to be this year's "Stretch to the Future" celebrity judge," said Tadashi. "Seeing what inspires today's young designers continues to enlighten me."

"We are truly honored that Tadashi Shoji has accepted the key role as celebrity judge on this our eleventh year for the 'Stretch to the Future' competition," states **Kim Hall**, *Marketing Manager at RadiciSpandex Corp*. "Mr. Shoji is acclaimed for elegant and singular designs that have earned him accolades from fashion influencers and journalists alike. We are very excited to have a designer of his stature lead the judging process." Created in 1999, the "Stretch to the Future" Design Scholarship Competition inspires the creative development of design students while educating them about the technical aspects of garment construction using fashion fabrics containing a highly technical fiber such as RadElast elastane manufactured by RadiciSpandex Corp. Each year, RadiciSpandex invites a well-known designer to head up the "Stretch to the Future" judging panel of apparel industry experts. Previous recipients of this honor include Betsey Johnson, John Varvatos, Nicole Miller, Dana Buchman, Nanette Lepore, Marc Bouwer and former CFDA President Stan Herman.

About Tadashi Shoji

Tadashi Shoji is the founder and chief designer of Los Angeles-based Tadashi Shoji. Tadashi Shoji has been widely recognized for his original designs and innovative collections. The Tadashi label is carried in more than 4,000 major department and specialty stores world-wide including Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom, Saks Fifth Avenue, Bloomingdales and Macy's. Internationally, the brand is available at high end retailers such as Isetan, Epoca the Shops, and Anniversaire Omotesaando. The Tadashi Shoji brand also maintains its own retail operations with two signature boutiques in the United States— one in South Coast Plaza, CA and the other in Forum Shops at Caesars in Las Vegas.



About Kent State University

Since its founding as a teacher-training school in 1910, Kent State has become an engine for economic, cultural and workforce development in the region and beyond as one of the premiere Ohio colleges. The university also has earned acclaim for applying new knowledge to address the needs of the communities it serves and society as a whole through a vast array of continuing education courses and much more. In addition to its campus in Kent, OH, Kent State University's fashion school, which was founded in 1983, has two outpost studios --- one in Florence, Italy, and the recently opened New York City garment district location. Fashion students have the opportunity to study abroad or in New York City for one semester in either studio.

About The Underfashion Club

A not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, the Underfashion Club was established in 1958 to provide intimate apparel industry leaders with a forum to exchange information and ideas, a platform to discuss industry needs and problems, and a way of establishing the intimate apparel market as a vital aspect of the fashion industry.

About RadiciSpandex Corp. and RadiciGroup

Based in Gastonia, NC, RadiciSpandex Corp., maker of RadElast® spandex fiber, is a U.S. subsidiary of RadiciGroup, one of Italy's leading chemicals multinationals, a diversified group specializing in chemicals, plastics and synthetic fibres. Among the Group's key strengths is the synergistic vertical integration of its nylon production. RadiciGroup has total control over its production, from chemical intermediates, such as adipic acid, to polyamides 6 and 66, engineering plastics and synthetic yarn. The Group's production and sales units are located in Italy and the rest of Europe, as well as across the globe in Asia, North America and South America. 2010 consolidated sales revenue was EUR 1,162 million. RadiciGroup products are exported worldwide and are used in the apparel, sports, furnishings, automotive, electrical/electronics and household appliances sectors.

For more information on **RadiciSpandex and RadElast®**: www.radelast.com

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