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EuCIA publishes first Activities Report 2008

Earlier this month, EuCIA made public its first Activities Report for 2008. The report which underlines the main activities carried out by EuCIA is intended to show developments in the European composites sector for all interested stakeholders.

The publication gives information about events which took place in 2008 at European level in which EuCIA participated or co-organized and which are becoming increasingly popular. It also highlights the involvement of the Association to two collaborative projects funded by the European Commission 7th Framework Programme. Both EU projects will be running for the next 4 years.

The report illustrates advocacy and communication activities which were undertaken at EuCIA level. The objective of EuCIA, as underlined in the report is to show, grow and know the world of composites. This objective is achieved by protecting the interests of EuCIA Members, efficient communication and promotional activities of the strategic impact of the composites.

The Activities Report 2008 can be downloaded from EuCIA website www.eucia.org



Airseal sealant tape series launched by Airtech Europe



Earlier this month, Airtech Europe launched the Airseal sealant tape series, resistant to up to 150 °C. The sealant tape is available in two versions: Airseal 1 - standard product for applications outside the autoclave and Airseal 2 - higher tack version for more immediate surface adhesion.

This launch comes after an initial launch in January 2009 of an online multilingual catalogue of vacuum bagging materials. The English online catalogue which contains over 300 products was recently translated into French, German, Italian, Spanish and Russian.

For more information about Airseal sealant tape series and the online product catalogue please visit www.airtech.lu.



Bringing education in the composites sector at the European level

EuCIA started 2009 with an initiative to raise awareness about the composites sector and the need to attract resources and skills. As it is the case with other industry fields all over Europe, the composites sector is aware about current challenges and the importance to take action.

On the 22th January EuCIA (Ab Kasper, Alisa De Backer) met with Members representatives of the German Nat. Assoc. (AVK) - Elmar Witten, Dutch Nat. Assoc. (VKCN) - Albert ten Busschen, Jacqueline de Waal and Norwegian Nat. Assoc. (NKF) - Paal Paal Fischenich, to discuss how to upgrade current national composites educational initiatives at European level. The objective for EuCIA is to support existing initiatives at national level and offer the opportunity of a European programme with additional knowledge.

Developing a new European programme for the composites sector is in itself a challenge but in the context of current global market there is a demand for new talent with appropriate professional and training programmes.





EuCIA provides first deliverable in NATEX Project

On the 11-12 February 2009, EuCIA will host NATEX Work Packages (WPs) Leaders and Executive Board meetings in Brussels. The partners in the project will discuss the next steps with the aim of achieving project's milestones and objectives.



EuCIA is involved in this project as WP Leader 9, whose tasks are targeted towards dissemination of information and training of project's outcomes. During these two days meetings EuCIA will present its first deliverables in the project - the NATEX online portal.

The portal is based on two parts - a public website accessible to any interested stakeholder and a private part - the intranet- accessible only to the partners in the consortium. The website can be accessed following this link. <http://www.natex.eu/>

The aim of the online portal is to provide a platform for the partners in the project to share information, work together and ultimately, be able to spread the main conclusions and innovations of the project across the composites chain.

VOC Directive under revision

The European Directive on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds in certain activities and installations 1999/13/EC has always caused a lot of confusion in the polyester processing industry. In several EU countries the Directive was used to set restrictions on the emission of styrene from polyester processing companies.

EuCIA together with UP Resin Group of Plastics Europe developed a position paper which explained that this direction was not relevant for our industry. The position paper can be found here <http://www.euCIA.org/publications/publications>.

Currently, the VOC Directive is under revision. It will be merged with six similar EU directives that regulate the emissions from other processes. EuCIA is following the progress of the revision closely and will work on the best possible solutions for the composites industry.

Sustainability of composites on the AVK agenda

The impact of composites on the environment and the risks and opportunities associated are some of the issues which are being tackled down by the German Nat. Association - AVK. On the 30 March 2009 AVK invited its members to the kick off meeting of "Sustainability" - a new Task Force. The meeting will take place in Frankfurt at the AVK offices.

Items on the agenda include: sharing of experiences from different end-user segments and their environmental impacts, available information about sustainable materials, technologies and products, life cycle assessments, etc. The Task Force also plans to discuss how to best communicate about sustainability of composites and other tools such as training and dissemination.

For more information: <http://avk-tv.de/>



AVK Conference - Call for papers 2009

The German Nat. Assoc (AVK) has opened the call for papers in the context of the "International AVK Conference for Reinforced Plastics and Thermosets".

The conference will take place in the period 26 - 27 October 2009 and it will be held at the ICS International Congress Center in Stuttgart. Also, the conference is organised in conjunction with the COMPOSITES EUROPE Trade Fair (27 - 29 October 2009).

Elmar Witten (Managing Director AVK) noted: "we are looking to receive papers which are highlighting subjects as market development, applications, construction, testing, calculation, processes, sustainability and raw materials".

AVK is also interested in receiving papers highlighting the following topics: automotive, transport, building and aerospace industries, mechanical engineering, electrical / electronics, medical technology, boat and shipbuilding, power production and technique, sports and recreation and environment engineering.

For more information <http://www.avk-frankfurt.de/article.php?id=443>

From the General Manager

Dear Members,

In spite of all attention to the current effects of the financial crisis, EuCIA will continue to work on a bright future for the European composites industry. We have to look forward because there are a lot of activities in the coming months, which are very important for setting the path for the composites industry.

Composites are “hot” as they are the material of choice for a more sustainable society. The use of composites reduces energy consumption in the transport sector, makes innovative solutions possible for the generation of green energy and reduces maintenance costs due to their corrosion resistant nature.

EuCIA is now fully involved in three European R&D projects, all focussing on the use of renewable resources for the production of composites. In NATEX, BioStruct and Woody, as they are called, universities and several industry sectors all over Europe combine their creativity to develop a new generation of composite materials.

Have a look at the first website we have developed for NATEX at www.natex.eu and see what it is all about.

Together with JEC we are working on the program for a high level strategic conference about the future of the European composites industry. The program for the conference will be launched at the JEC exhibition in Paris next month.

As always serving you and the composites industry.

Ab Kasper
General Manager



4th European Trade Fair & Forum
for Composites, Technology and Applications

Neue Messe Stuttgart, Germany
27-29 October 2009



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11-12 February 2009	NATEX Project Meeting	EuPC Offices, Brussels
23 March	EuCIA Board Meeting	Paris, France
24-25-26 March 2009	JEC Composites	Paris, France
7 April 2009	BioStruct WP 9 Meeting	Wels, Austria
8 April 2009	BioStruct GA Meeting	Wels, Austria
June 2009	The European Composites Forum	TBC
27-28-29 October 2009	Composites Europe	Stuttgart, Germany

©EuCIA, European Composites Industry Association - Av.
De Cortenbergh 66 - 1000, Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 (2) 739 63 89 . Fax: +32 (2) 732 41 24

For any enquiries please contact: Alisa De Backer
alisa.de.backer@eucia.org

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