



# Newsletter

## European Composites Industry Association Newsletter Activities and Issues Overview

### • News from the Board

Dear Colleague,

After the show ..is before the show.....

You might have visited the COMPOSITE EUROPE show in Stuttgart and you probably felt the same as I did: "What a success". Most of the exhibitors and visitors were very happy with the contacts and delighted with the deep and thorough discussions. Still some were suffering from the lack of experience of the Messe Stuttgart. But at the end, more than 4200 Visitors appreciated the show. The show was one of the last highlights EuCIA has seen in 2007. EuCIA has made essential advancement in 2007 We have a professional working platform, sufficient resources, a new director, and a fantastic board spirit that we can rely on. This is a great foundation to do long term professional work for our industry. Furthermore, we have sharpened the profile in 2007, the industry sees us, and the industry watches us. And after all of this, the industry starts appreciating our work.

I would like to thank all of you, the persons who participated and contributed time and work, thanks also to the member organization, and working groups, who delegated and their staff to our organization and of course to all our sponsors and partners. Without you, we could not have performed so well.

### • News from Europe

#### Standardisation of composites

An initiative of the Norwegian Composite Industry Association NKF

Material and engineering standards play an important role in the use of construction materials for design and engineering purposes.

Well known construction materials like steel, aluminium and concrete have been standardised already

long time ago. Engineers working with these materials know the materials properties and performances exactly. Therefore they trust these materials and feel safe when they use them in design and engineering. Material standards guarantee the performance of a material regardless the producer of it. This simplifies the choice for a particular material.

Composite materials are not standardised. These has partly to do with the fact that composites are a relatively young material. The main reason however for a lack of composite material standards is the fact that composites are (for the outside world) far more complicated materials than e.g. steel and aluminium. They consist of different raw materials (resins, fibres, fillers, core materials, etc) and are anisotropic in nature.

Lack of standardisation may lead to the following problems:

- Designers/engineers lack references to general and basic properties of materials
  - Complicates the work of purchasing departments
  - Creates unwanted state of dependence on certain suppliers of materials
  - Difficult to qualify materials and production methods
  - Problems may arise when suppliers modify their materials
  - Switching from one supplier / maker to another may create problems
  - Lack of compatibility may be experienced between "identical" materials
  - May create quality problems
- May complicate survey and quality control

So, standardisation is necessary.

- It simplifies engineering procedures
- It simplifies specification processes and procurement
- It simplifies purchasing procedures
- It improves efficiency and reduces production costs
- It minimizes flaws and defects

It establishes the basis for increased market acceptance of composites in infrastructures, offshore structures, transport, etc

Standardisation of composites will positively influence upon the market's acceptance. It can have a positive impact on the expansion of the market for composites.

Our colleagues of the Norwegian Composite Industry Association NKF have taken up the challenge to start a standardisation project on composites.

In 2006 an outline for an initial project was worked out. The scope of this project was to

- Consider and specify needs
- Consider impact of standardisation
- Consider extent of standardisation (materials, processes, procedures)
- Consider National, European or International standards
- Consider working alliances and contributors
- Consider information dissemination

Establish proposal for structure - "families of standards"

European standardisation is organised in the CEN Technical Committees and working groups. CEN TC 249 is the TC for plastic materials. There is however no specific working group for composites in TC 249. Therefore a proposal for a new composite working group will be launched in the plenary meeting of CEN TC 249 November 27 and 28 in Brussels.

EuCIA will support this initiative and be present in the meeting to give information about the importance of composites for today's modern society.

The presentation of the NKF to the CEN TC 249 meeting can be found shortly on our website.

• **From the General Manager**



So, the show is over. Composites Europe proved to be a success for the second time. The show attracted more visitors than the year before. EuCIA has presented itself in the new style, based on three simple keywords: Know – Show – Grow. A number of interesting contacts in potential new member countries have been established. We will keep them involved in the progress of EuCIA and hopefully we may welcome some new member countries in the coming time.

We have also learned where we can improve. We are already looking forward to the next show in Essen 2008.

Ab Kasper  
General Manager EUCIA

• **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

|                         |                                |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>14 February 2008</b> | Innovative Polymers Conference | Brussels, EuPC Center    |
| 1-3 April 2008          | JEC                            | Paris, France            |
| <b>5-7 May 2008</b>     | The Athens Summit              | Athens, Greece           |
| <b>21-23 May 2008</b>   | EuPC Annual Meeting            | Athens, Greece           |
| 24-26 June 2008         | euroLITE                       | Austria                  |
| 29-31 October 2008      | Computec                       | Marina di Carrara, Italy |

