

European Composites Industry Association Newsletter Activities and Issues Overview

- **EuCIA present on JEC show**



The JEC in Paris took place from 1 till 3 April. It again proved to be the biggest composites show in Europe. It drew more than 27000 visitors from 96 countries. The composites industry showed that it is a vital and growing industry. Lots of new developments were shown. Quite remarkable was the attention on automated production processes. The use of robots for all kinds of activities in the composites industry is rapidly growing. It shows the intensity of technological developments in this sector.

EuCIA was again present on the JEC with a nice stand, combined with our French member GPIC. More than last year we could show that composite profiles can play an important role in the construction of the booth. The French pultrusion company GDP supplied the overhead construction in which the already well-known yellow balloons of EuCIA were visible throughout the exhibition area.

The EuCIA booth proves to become a meeting point for many people in the industry.

EuCIA presented itself not only with the booth but also with a Powerpoint presentation on the Sales area and as a moderator of the "Environment and Recycling Forum", organised by JEC.

- **Exel Xtel System™ wins the red dot design award 2008**



The Exel Xtel System™ telescope series have been awarded the internationally acknowledged "red dot: best of the best" design award 2008.

The Exel Xtel System™ was awarded in competition with more than three thousand products from 51 countries. The international jury said the award highlights the company's creative and innovative force as well as the product's high quality.

The Exel Xtel System™ is a composite telescope series

made to span applications from demanding measurement and testing equipment to high reaching cleaning and maintenance. The Xtel series is part of a product family ranging from two-part telescopic poles to 20m long mast constructions. The customers are manufacturers who utilise the telescopic poles in their equipment to create maximum benefit to their end user applications. The Exel Xtel System™ is built up from custom made optimized composite profiles, using glass fibre reinforcement for electrical insulation or carbon fibre reinforcement for ultimate performance, and a series of ergonomically designed locking clamps.

In the design of the product special attention has been focused on the ease of use and the outstanding functionality.

- **New Applications, market trends and needs in innovative polymers Conference**

The European Plastics Converters (EuPC) will hold a conference on 'New Applications, market trends and needs in innovative polymers', on **24 June 2008** at its Conference Centre in Brussels (Belgium).

The seminar aims to bring resin producers, compounders, converters and end users together in order to monitor new market trends in plastics manufacturing, compounding and processing. Furthermore, the conference wants to foster innovation and market development through the creation of a wide "innovative polymer network".

The conference will provide a detailed assessment of the status of the market; end users needs, and will provide detailed case studies on new developments in applications.

Experts from the plastics industry will give delegates the practical tools required to better understand the new ways or new raw materials for developing new and old applications.

The following programme highlights are not to be missed:

Jan Verhaeghe, Compositrailer, automotive applications
Julien Damen, DOW, INFUSE, Olefin Block Copolymers
Hartmut Fischer, TNO, self-healing materials
Daniël Vlasveld, Promolding, Polycond, nanocompounding new applications

The conference is the first in a series of conferences to develop an innovation network for the plastics industry.

This seminar is a must for all end user industries, plastics converters, compounders and resin manufacturers.

For more information, please contact: Bianka Nagy (bianka.nagy@eupc.org)

- **REACH update**

In the newsletter of February we announced a regular update on REACH related issues in the composites industry. The first paper gave a general overview of the REACH process and the most important implications for the composites industry. In the meantime we have written two other updates, one about pre-registration and one more in detail about substances, preparations and article. These two updates are placed on the EuCIA website under the following link:

<http://www.eucia.org/publications/publications>

We will continue to feed you with REACH updates in the coming months.

The start of the pre-registration period is approaching rapidly now. Between 1st of June and 1st of December of this year all manufacturers and/or importers of substances have to report to the ECHA, the European Chemical Agency, which substances they intend to register in a later phase. It is important to make sure that the substances you use in the composites industry will be registered in the coming period. Therefore *you must take contact with your suppliers* and ask them if they are planning to pre-register substances that are relevant for you. If the suppliers do not intend to pre-register a substance, there is a chance that they will refrain from registration completely in a later stage. No registration means that a substance will disappear from the market. Knowing that in an early stage enables you to source the substance from another supplier. If you need more detailed information about REACH for your company, please let us know.

- **Airtech has celebrated its 35th anniversary on the JEC show 2008!**

Airtech has celebrated its 35th anniversary this year on the JEC show with its visitors.

The show was a great opportunity for Airtech to thank its customers.

Airtech was founded on January 1, **1973** by William R. Dahlgren with a facility of about 1000m² manufactured sewn gold insulation linings for the NASA space shuttle bay door and distributed vacuum bagging products in the aircraft/aerospace industry worldwide.

In **1977**, Airtech took a giant step and commenced manufacture of vacuum bagging materials in a new facility in Carson, California.

1991, Airtech realizing the importance of the European market selected Luxembourg for its location in the centre of Europe. Land was purchased and a 3300m² production factory was established.

In **1996**, Airtech purchased Tygavac in the United Kingdom (Rochdale) to support UK and Northern European customers with local service and stocks. This acquisition established Airtech as the dominate manufacturer in Europe for these products.

1998, Airtech built a new corporate headquarters in Huntington Beach, California with more manufacturing capabilities and warehousing. The building grew to 15000m² with exten-

ded customer service department, laboratories and customer training facilities.

- **European Alliance for SMC / BMC now under the umbrella of the EuCIA**

The European Alliance for SMC-/BMC, has decided to align its organisation more international from now on.

According to their Chairman Peter Schmidt (Polynt GmbH), the Alliance intends to strengthen their position as an European Group, the members of the Alliance are currently operating in about 15 European countries.

During many years, the Alliance was acting successfully as a Working Group of AVK, the German Federation of Reinforced Plastics, which is located in Frankfurt.

The Alliance will be organised as a sector group directly under the umbrella of EuCIA, of which AVK is a member too.

According to Peter Schmidt and Dr. Elmar Witten, managing director of the AVK, the Alliance will, due to the successful cooperation within the last years, also in the future continue using some of the individual services offered by the competent AVK team.

- **From the General Manager**

So, JEC is over! I saw quite a few people from our member countries and had a number of interesting meetings with people from the industry, with the management of JEC and with our member associations. It is clear that EuCIA becomes more and more visible in the composites world. That is very good news, but I can see also that there is still a long way to go before we are as well known in the world of trade associations as the big competitors from the steel and the aluminium industry.

Working on new developments, expanding the market for composites, and organising the composites industry as efficient as possible, those are key elements in the work EuCIA is doing.

A very good sign of the positive change of EuCIA is the joining of the European Alliance for SMC. It strengthens our ambitions to become the European voice for all parts in the composites industry. We wish the SMC Alliance a very good time in EuCIA and are looking forward to a very good cooperation.

Ab Kasper
General Manager EuCIA

- **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

21-22 May 2008	II Seminar on Polymeric Composites in Construction	Valencia, Spain
21-23 May 2008	EuPC Annual Meeting	Athens, Greece
24-26 June 2008	euroLITE	Austria
24 June 2008	Innovative Polymers Conference	Brussels, Belgium
23-25 September 2008	Composites Europe Show	Essen, Germany
29-31 October 2008	Compotec	Marina di Carrara, Italy

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