

## European Composites Industry Association Newsletter Activities and Issues Overview

### • News from the Board

Twice a year, like pilgrims the COMPOSITE community is on its way to two main events. The COMPOSITE Europe show in Germany and the JEC show in France. Both shows target the same audience and both shows are good platforms for our community to be present.

Do we make business there? Well, that is not so clear to me. If this is not clear, why should we be present? Well, I would say we prepare business. It's the contacts we meet and the communications we have. We use our contacts and we communicate. We talk to our suppliers and to our customers as well. And business will come, maybe directly or through a short meeting. Not necessarily immediately, but eventually business will come.

So, is it worth going there? Yes. Because we use these platforms to nurture and care for our contacts and we will make business, eventually.

### • Safe handling of unsaturated polyester resins.

A lot of people remember the UP Resin Handling Guide that was made in the past in cooperation with the UP Resin Group of PlasticsEurope. It was a nice and very informative booklet which was used very much by the polyester processing industry all over Europe. The first issue was written in English. Gradually we got it translated and distributed into French, German, Italian, Spanish, Polish and even in Russian! At the moment more or less all copies have been distributed throughout the continent. Regularly we get requests to supply new ones. The original text however is outdated. Therefore we have – in cooperation with the UP Resin Group- decided to make a completely new UP Resin Handling Guide. This time the guide will be separated into several independent subjects. Each of them will be issued as a separate pdf file and placed on the website of PlasticsEurope and EuCIA.

The series now consists of 13 different subjects.

On the PlasticsEurope website we keep the original versions and the translations into French, German, Italian, Spanish and Polish. On the EuCIA we will – for the time being- only place the English versions. Go and have a look at <http://www.eucia.org/publications/publications> for the first three of the series. The others will follow as soon as possible.

### • Composites go into space

Last year December Burt Rutan, the founder and CEO of Scaled Composites US was in Brussels to give a lecture at the Brussels Free University on the development of commercial space ships in his company.

Rutan is a very inspiring person who has shown in the past that he is able to design and built very unconventional aircraft and space ships. In 2004 Rutan proved already that flying in space was possible with an all-composite spaceship. Now he has launched the second version, called SpaceShipTwo.



SpaceShipTwo is designed to carry passengers to space, the maximum capacity will be eight people: six paying passengers and two pilots. The apogee of the new craft will be approximately 110 km. SpaceShipTwo will reach a speed of roughly 4200 km/h, using a single hybrid rocket motor. It will launch in midair at 15,200m from its mother ship, WhiteKnightTwo. SpaceShipTwo is designed to reenter the atmosphere at any angle. "This vehicle is designed to go into the atmosphere in the worst case straight in or upside down and it'll correct.", says Burt Rutan. As for safety, he states "This is designed to be at least as safe as the early airliners in the 1920s. (...) Don't believe anyone that tells you that the safety will be the same as a modern airliner, which has been around for 70 years." SpaceShipTwo will have 43 cm and 33 cm diameter windows for the passengers' viewing pleasure. (With thanks to Scaled Composites).

### • Ask the Expert

Our media partner, Reinforced Plastics, has started a new feature on their website [www.reinforcedplastics.com](http://www.reinforcedplastics.com), called "Ask the Expert". The Ask the Experts section provides a forum for sponsors to review reader inquiries and provide answers based on their respective areas of expertise.

Although *Reinforced Plastics* assumes no responsibility or liability regarding the accuracy or effectiveness of the advice or recommendations offered in this section, the platform gives us an opportunity to answer any questions from readers of Reinforced Plastics on important issues like environmental and occupational exposure in the composites industry. Although Ab Kasper is mentioned as the expert in the section, he will of course also –when necessary- rely on expertise inside EuCIA to give proper answers.

- **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 next update you will find a more in-depth feature about the action that comes first in REACH, i.e. the pre-registration process. Have a look at our website ([www.eucia.org](http://www.eucia.org)) to find the latest REACH update.

- **Succession of the General Manager**

In June last year Ab Kasper has been appointed as General Manager of EuCIA. With his experience in the composites industry Ab could start his work very quickly without going through a long training period and he will do so in the coming period. However, sooner or later we have to face the fact that Ab is coming to the end of his career. We therefore want to start the search for a young and eager successor in an early stage. Finding the right candidate and training him (or her) in the job of General Manager takes a lot of time. If you know candidates in your surroundings of which you think they have the right attitude to work in a Brussels environment, please bring our search under his or her attention. The application for candidates s open until the 1<sup>st</sup> of May.

- **Airtech**

Airtech Europe in close cooperation with Assocompositi demonstrated the hull and deck construction of a boat



using the resin infusion process, live during the Seatec boat show in Carrara, Italy . The presentation of the resin infusion and the seminars focusing on techniques for rational production in the nautical industry enabled professionals to realize how efficient and cost effective the resin infusion process using Airtech materials is. Airtech Europe also exhibited on the Composite Expo in Moscow, Russia. Airtech wanted to support this first edition of the show as a proof of its commitment to the growing composite market in Russia. The attendance of Airtech's demonstrations and technical papers was its reward.

- **From the General Manager**

Another big event for the composites industry is coming up, the JEC show in Paris. EuCIA will be there representing your interests with a nice stand, based on the same image we have created in Stuttgart last year. Of course, Composites Europe is our show, but we can not and will not neglect an opportunity to be at a major event such as the JEC exhibition. If you are in Paris, drop by at our stand to meet and greet.

In this newsletter you will also find an announcement that we are going to search for a successor to the General manager. Don't worry; I will not leave very soon! But it takes time to find a young and eager person that can carry EuCIA into the future. Educating him (or her, why not!) into the specific features of a European Association takes time. Therefore we have started the search very early, so we will be able to get the right person at the right place and fit for the future.

Ab Kasper  
General Manager EUCIA

- **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<b>31 March 2008</b>	EuCIA Board Meeting	Paris, France
<b>1-3 April 2008</b>	JEC	Paris, France
<b>21-22 May 2008</b>	II Seminar on Polymeric Composites in Construction	Valencia, Spain
<b>21-23 May 2008</b>	EuPC Annual Meeting	Athens, Greece
<b>24-26 June 2008</b>	euroLITE	Austria
<b>23-25 September 2008</b>	Composites Europe Show	Essen, Germany
<b>29-31 October 2008</b>	Compotec	Marina di Carrara, Italy

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**CompositesEurope**

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