



European Composites Industry Association

An EuPC Sector Group

# Newsletter

## European Composites Industry Association Newsletter Activities and Issues Overview

### • News from the Board

Where do Leaders meet? Well, the board is very proud to continue the Composite Leadership Forum for the second year in a row. With this forum, EuCIA provides a platform where Leaders from the COMPOSITE Industry can meet without the day to day stress, in a friendly and private atmosphere.

After the successful start last year in Essen during the COMPOSITE Europe show, EuCIA has decided to offer the concept to take place at the JEC show in Paris on April 4th, 2007. JEC partners at this event with EuCIA and both have invited leaders around the globe from all different industrial composite segments. Participants will very likely meet colleagues from the marine, aeronautic, automotive, construction, electrical and many more industries. Access to the forum is by invitation only.

### • News from the member states: Road workshop for training and demonstration of Plastics Industry : an original concept !



It is on April 23 in Paris which will be officially launched the « tour de France » 2007 of plastics and composites. Concretely, a semi-trailer truck (built with composite panels) will cross France during July and August to

show young people and people at large what plastics and composites industry is. The truck, easily recognizable by its design, contains a class-room with a videoprojector and a computer with educational software and multimedia simulation tools. A good opportunity to discover plastics and composites industry !

### • News from the members

“ECRC” the European COMPOSITE Recycling company has decided to join EuCIA as a new member. Another milestone in unifying the

COMPOSITE Industry in Europe. EuCIA and ECRC have been working together since many years, EuCIA is even a founding member of the ECRC. During this collaboration, EuCIA has been awarded with the “Lobbying” budget of ECRC in 2006 (Waste Form Directive –WFD and the End of Life Vehicle ELV). Both issues are hot topics in ECRC as well as a business concept to organize a Pan European recycling concept.

### • JEC 2007

The world's leading composite event for the composite industry will take place in Paris from Tuesday April 3 to Thursday April 5.

900 exhibitors and more than 25.000 visitors will attend from 95 different countries. Don't miss this event ! We look forward to seeing you on the EuCIA stand (n° AA36).

### • UK group takes over motorsport supplier Racing Technology

The UK's Express Composites Group has acquired Racing Technology Norfolk (RTN) from the Audi Group for an undisclosed sum. Both companies are based near Norwich, Norfolk, and the expanded group will move into a new facility near Express' current site when it has finished construction. RTN specialises in composites design, engineering and rapid prototyping in the motorsport sector, and it built the Le Mans winning Bentley in 2004. Its expertise will be added to the composites work of Express, which supplies automotive clients such as Aston Martin, Lotus Cars, Scania Bussars, DAF Trucks and Unipart, and also has aerospace clients including Airbus, BAe Systems, EADS and Rolls Royce. It is also planning to expand its composites services into the defence, marine and telecommunications sectors. The merged group will employ more than 150 staff and expects sales of £10m in the current year.

## • News from EuPC

EuPC will organise on 18 April 2007 a cocktail 'Plastics & Transport'. The benefits of plastics in today's complex transportation needs will be presented. Several representatives of the European Union will join this event. For more information please contact [bianka.nagy@eupc.org](mailto:bianka.nagy@eupc.org).

## • Number of the Month

### ... 52

The aerospace industry has Plans on table for 52% of the A350 airliner to be made from composites. The next Airbus commercial airliner to be built after the A380 superjumbo will involve a step change in the amount of composites used in its design. The European aerospace company says that 52% of the structural weight of the A350 aircraft will be made from composites, mainly carbon fibre reinforced plastics (CFRPs). Aluminium and aluminium alloys will account for 20%, titanium 14% and steel 7%. This is a large increase from the A380, of which 25% is made from composites. Prior to the A380, Airbus designed its aircraft with around 10% made from composites. Greater use of composites is due to airline customers demanding lighter weight aircraft. The benefits to airlines of using CFRPs include lower fuel consumption, reduced maintenance costs and longer aircraft life. These factors have already led Airbus to change its original plan for the A350's fuselage from aluminium construction to a CFRP-aluminium hybrid. The A350, which will be developed over

the next few years, will also use composites in the vertical tail plane, the wings and the belly fairing

## • Did you know?

...that the corrugated sheet market grow by 10.3 % in 2006?

... that AVK our German Member state has initiated a closer collaboration with the German Plastic Foam Association in Frankfurt?

... that the Masterbatch demand in Europe is predicted to grow annually by 3% to 2010, according to a report by Applied Market Information (AMI). AMI said the market for European masterbatch has experienced solid growth in recent years, with an average annual increase in demand of 3% since 2001. The main drivers for growth have been: the penetration of masterbatch into the engineering polymer markets as a replacement for compounds, a growing usage by polymer manufacturers in their own compounding operations, the greater use of colour and performance enhancing features, such as UV stabilisation and flame retardancy. AMI said the European masterbatch market is the world's largest and that Europe is a net exporter. Total manufacturing output was 960,000 tonnes in 2006, with market demand being 800,000 tonnes. The Benelux countries form the largest producing gion (23% of total output), primarily due to the presence of Ampacet, A. Schulman, Cabot and PolyOne.

... You can download manuals on composites from UPR Group ([www.plasticseurope.org](http://www.plasticseurope.org)).

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<b>3 - 5 April 2007</b>	JEC Composites Show	Paris, France
<b>18 April 2007</b>	EuPC Cocktail	Brussels, EuPC Centre
<b>27 April 2007</b>	REACH Workshop for Recyclers	Dublin
<b>3 May 2007</b>	REACH Workshop for Calendering & Coating	Brussels, EuPC Centre
<b>6-9 June 2007</b>	EuPC Annual Meeting	Noordwijk aan Zee, the Netherlands
<b>19 June 2007</b>	REACH Workshop for Injection & Blow Moulding	Brussels, EuPC Center
<b>4 July 2007</b>	<b>EuCIA Board Meeting</b>	<b>Brussels, EuPC</b>
<b>23 -26 September 2007</b>	Baekeland 2007: Thermosets: 100 years after Bakelite	Ghent University
<b>16 October 2007</b>	REACH Workshop for Extrusion	Brussels, EuPC Center
<b>24-31 October 2007</b>	K2007	Düsseldorf
<b>5-6 November 2007</b>	AVK Conference	Stuttgart
<b>6-8 November 2007</b>	COMPOSITE Europe	Stuttgart