

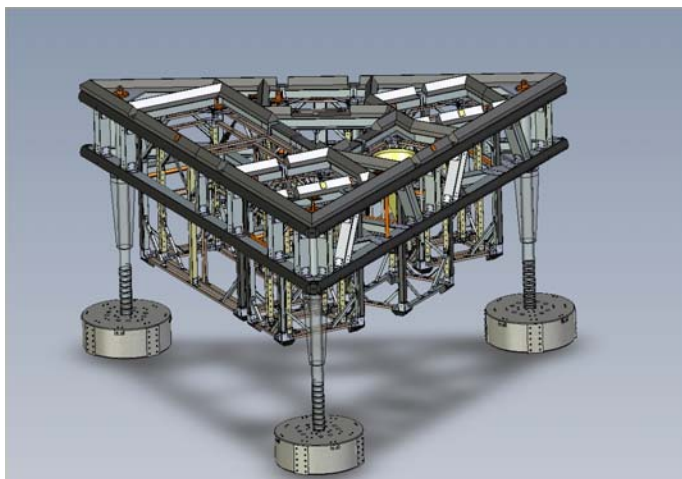
## European Composites Industry Association Newsletter Activities and Issues Overview

### • EPTA world pultrusion congress

Our sector Group EPTA, the European Pultrusion Technology Association, held its yearly world pultrusion congress in Rome in March this year.

In two days the congress participants got a wealth of information about new developments in pultrusion technology, the market development and a demonstration of very interesting new applications.

Pultrusion technology is finding more and more application areas. At the congress splendid examples of the use of pultruded composites were presented. William Hayden of Atlas Hovercraft USA showed how a hovercraft can be constructed with an all-pultruded main structure; John Hartley of Exel Composites showed how pultruded profiles are used for the construction of a very large deep ocean observatory plat-



form.

**Figure 1: Deep Ocean Observatory Platform (Exel Composites UK)**

In a number of presentations on market development, the latest information was given on the use of pultrusion in high performance areas (aviation, wind energy, off shore), bridge building and the transport sector.

If you want to be informed about the latest news on pultrusion technology and markets, have a visit at their website [www.pultruders.com](http://www.pultruders.com). Interested in the full story? Order the conference proceedings by sending a mail to [info@pultruders.com](mailto:info@pultruders.com).

### • Symposium Valencia

AESICOM, our Spanish composites Association organised together with AIMPLAS, the Spanish plastics technology institute, a symposium on the use of composites in building and construction. In two days eight-

een presentations were given on new developments in the use of composites in the building and construction industry. Nice examples of the use of pultrusions in bridge building and in the construction of a helicopter platform were shown. Other presentations were about design and engineering, new materials and standardisation of composites.

EuCIA was present also with a presentation on "Tendencies in construction with polymeric composites in Europe". This presentation is also placed on the website of EuCIA under the following link: <http://www.eucia.org/publications/publications>

### • New Applications, market trends and needs in innovative polymers Conference

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 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
- Eusebiu Grivei, Conductive Additives for polymers
- John Colbert, FlowFree: Super Critical CO<sub>2</sub> : an overview of why and whereof of super critical carbon dioxide and alternative process systems

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.

The programme and registration form can be found on: <http://www.plasticsconverters.eu/events>

- **EuPC Annual Meeting**

Bernhard Borgardt has been unanimously elected as President of European Plastics Converters (EuPC) for two-year term beginning June 2008. He succeeds David A. Williams as EuPC President, who served for the past 6 years. Prior to his election, Bernhard Borgardt was chairman of the EuPC Packaging Division, a position he held since 2002. Borgardt was elected at, EuPC's, General Assembly, which was held on 23 May 2008 in Athens Greece. The event was organised in collaboration with the Association of Hellenic Plastics Industries and over 180 participants from all over Europe active in different markets of the plastics converting industry took part in this yearly event. Claude Thibaut de Maisières (INERGY) has been unanimously relected as EuPC Treasurer for two-year term (2008-2010). Philip Law (BPF) and Heinz-Gunther Sauerhoff (TERHELL) were unanimously elected as Budget Committee Members for 2008 -2010. The new EuPC Steering Committee is composed as following, David A. Williams (BPF) has been elected as Packaging Division Chairman, Alain Requillart (Fédération de la Plasturgie), has been elected as Building and Construction Division Chairman and Claude Thibaut de Maisières (Federplast.be). has been elected as Automotive & Transport Division Chairman Furthermore, Inigo Duque (CURVER) will represent ANAIP at the EuPC Steering Committee. The next EuPC Annual Meeting will take place in Caiscais, Portugal on 3 -5 June 2009. EuPC will be celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009.

- **General Assembly**

The General Assembly of EuCIA will be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June in Brussels.

Since the new start of EuCIA we have been moving in the right direction. We get more attention from the media, we are presenting ourselves wherever we can, recently the SMC Alliance has joined EuCIA, we are starting the preparation of the Composites Europe show in Essen, so lots of activity.

Nevertheless, the members of EuCIA have a lot to say about the future of EuCIA. Therefore the coming General Assembly will be an important event for the members of EuCIA. Of course, we want to know what is going on in our member countries, but we also want to know where

EuCIA can improve its services to its members. The members are therefore asked to prepare a short summary of activities in their country and a list of wishes where EuCIA has to focus on in the future. Particular attention will be paid to education of composite workers in Europe. Together we can develop the necessary strength of EuCIA.

We are looking forward to welcoming all members in Brussels!

- **From the General Manager**

This newsletter is packed with information about recent activities in the composites industry. We have seen a successful JEC show in Paris just a month ago and now we report on two important congresses and symposia that have been held in the composites industry, one in Rome and one in Valencia. It shows that the composites industry is very alive. Lots of new developments are demonstrated, the market for composites is growing and new application area's are spotted.

Good signs for the composites industry!

The term "composites" is rapidly becoming the standard denomination for the type of products that are produced by our industry. Although we still very often call them GRP (Glass Reinforced Plastics) or FRP (Fibre Reinforced Plastics), I believe that the term "composites" much better reflects the special high performance character of our products.

The best advertiser for the composites industry at the moment is the aircraft industry. Companies like Boeing and Airbus are generating a lot of free promotion for composites by telling the world that their new planes, the Boeing Dreamliner and the Airbus 380, could not have been made without an extensive use of composite materials for very demanding structural applications.

I am just reading the free magazine High Performance Composites. The last issue of May is largely devoted to the growing use of composites in the aircraft industry. The predictions for the growth of the use of composites in structural parts in the aviation industry are very positive. A definite choice for composites in favour of aluminium is now spotted. A fantastic achievement for the composites industry! A better promotion for composites can hardly be found.

Ab Kasper

General Manager EuCIA

- **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<b>24-26 June 2008</b>	euroLITE	Austria
<b>24 June 2008</b>	Innovative Polymers Conference	Brussels, Belgium
<b>25 June 2008</b>	EuCIA General Assembly	Brussels, Belgium
<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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©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: Bianka Nagy: [bianka.nagy@eupc.org](mailto:bianka.nagy@eupc.org)