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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Reaction to new framework conditions: Composites United declares membership in Composites Germany**

Society and the economy are facing existential challenges. In addition to the consequences of climate change, these include the realisation that energy and many resources are no longer available in the usual quantities, so that their efficiency must be significantly increased in the short term. Lightweight construction, especially with fibre composite materials, can and will make an important contribution here, e.g. in wind power plants or hydrogen storage systems. As an umbrella organisation, Composites Germany represents the capabilities and interests of the German fibre composite industry. With the re-entry of Composites United, Composites Germany will combine the forces of the two leading composites networks in Germany and its position will be significantly strengthened. Changed framework conditions make the re-entry possible and necessary.

VDMA and Leichtbau BW will continue to support the work of Composites Germany as associate members and contribute the know-how of their members. "Together, the organisations will promote sustainable lightweight construction as a key technology for Germany, focusing on composites materials," says Prof. Klaus Drechsler of Composites United, one of the two board members of Composites Germany. "As a network and mouthpiece of the composites industry, Composites Germany bundles the interests of its members. The aim is to continuously expand activities, promote innovations and technologies, develop new markets and new value chains, and anchor training and further education," adds his board colleague Dr Michael Effing of AVK. The agreement was concluded on 29 November 2022 during the JEC Forum DACH in Augsburg, where both associations were cooperation partners of the event.

**About Composites Germany**

Composites Germany is the network and mouthpiece of the German composites industry. The founding members of the Composites Germany trade association in 2013 were AVK - Industrievereinigung Verstärkte Kunststoffe, VDMA-Arbeitsgemeinschaft Hybride Leichtbau Technologien as well as CFK Valley e. V. and Carbon Composites e. V., which merged to form Composites United e. V. in 2019.

**About AVK - Industrievereinigung Verstärkte Kunststoffe e. V. (AVK)**

Based in Frankfurt am Main, AVK is the oldest plastics industry association in Germany and the leading network for its approximately 230 member companies. In addition to its more than 20 working groups, it offers them a wide range of services such as the established AVK Innovation Award, seminars and specialist conferences.

**About Composites United e. V. (CU)**

Composites United e. V. (CU) is one of the world's largest networks for fibre-based multi-material lightweight construction. Around 350 members have joined forces to form this high-performance industry and research association. Several regional and specialist departments support the association's activities throughout the DACH region, as well as international representatives in Japan, South Korea, China, India and Egypt. Composites United e.V. was created with effect from 1 January 2019 from the merger of the two existing associations Carbon Composites e.V. and CFK Valley e.V. The headquarters of Composites United e.V. are in Berlin, while Augsburg and Stade remain as established locations.

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