



Composites Germany

PRESS RELEASE

Düsseldorf, November 29, 2016

Composites Germany: advancements on the way to establishing composites as a key industry

Further to Composites Germany's strategy and aim defined for 2016, the umbrella association focusses on four cross-sectional topics, which are „Lobbying“, „Standards and standardisation“, „Education and training“ as well as „Sustainability and recycling“.

Dr. Michael Effing, Chairman of the board of Composites Germany, announces first results and gives an outlook on the next steps: „I am very proud of Composites Germany's concrete advancements in these fields and happy to work within this structure, representing over 750 companies, setting the entire composites industry's foundation for the future.“

The working group „Lobbying“, under the lead of Dr. Reinhard Janta, Member of the board of Carbon Composites (CCeV), aims to educate politicians about composites as key technology and Germany being the leading supplier country, supporting the country's economic growth. With their performance and innovation potential, automated mass-production can be achieved. The development in automotive towards electric mobility, energy and resource efficiency of composites overall compared to traditional material, as well as competitiveness and sustainable jobs are further compelling arguments. The lobbying group started meeting with German ministries and the next objective is to convince further German politicians.

Under the lead of Dr. Elmar Witten, Managing Director of AVK, the working group „Standards and standardisation“ promotes the use of standardisation in the composites industry to ensure quality assurance and improvement. Reputed for lengthy processes, being expensive, unnecessary and complicated, standards are not yet disseminated in the industry. The working group creates awareness and opportunities for their use, showing advantages and how to use them for professional exchange or competitive advantages at a reasonable price. The group teamed up with Germany’s DIN Institute and offers a support to companies through every step in the procedure. The ultimate goal is to establish and implement standardisation processes throughout the entire industry.

Professor Stefan Schlichter, VDMA Working Group Hybrid Lightweight Technologies, leads the working group „Sustainability and Recycling“, aiming to increase the acceptance of using composites through recycling options, as well as in implementing standards and standardisation for the further use of recycled material. A needs assessment of recycled fibers for the use in new parts has been developed and evaluated. Based on this outcome, next steps will be defined to bring these materials to market and to set the basis for the acceptance of using more recycling fibers.

„Education and training“, presided by Dr. Gunnar Merz, CEO & Chair of the board of CFK Valley aims to position Composites Germany nationwide as „the“ leading contact for these topics. Another goal is to establish and maintain high-quality work places in Germany in identifying gaps in composites-related courses and in developing options to close them. The group also provides an overview of all available degree programs. Queries have shown the importance of introducing a new qualified trade profession in a combined study program which does not exist so far, a so-called „lightweight mechanic“. Further clarifications for the establishment of the new profession will be carried out with social partners, employer’s associations and trade unions as well as with the German government for funding and dissemination.

Dr. Elmar Witten, Spokesman for the Management of Composites Germany adds: „Thanks to our 750 member companies which we are honored to represent, we could bundle our power and engagement in this year’s program full of action and steps

towards our common goal – to position composites as a key industry for Germany. We have brought important processes in motion and are looking forward to the contribution of each member company in the future.“

Press enquiries: Composites Germany, Dr. Elmar Witten, Spokesman for the Management

Tel. +49 (0)69/27 10 77-0, E-Mail: elmar.witten@composites-germany.org;
www.composites-germany.org

About Composites Germany

Through the trade association “Composites Germany”, the four major organisations in the fibre composites sector aim to strengthen the German composites industry, particularly in the field of research, determine common positions and take account of overlapping interests.

AVK - Federation of Reinforced Plastics e.V. (AVK), Carbon Composites e.V. (CCeV), CFK Valley e.V. and VDMA use Composites Germany as a forum to bundle their abilities and promote the future-oriented themes of high performance composites and automated production technology which are particularly relevant in Germany.

Further information available at: <http://www.composites-germany.org>