



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW STUDY – UK COMPOSITES 2013: STATUS, OPPORTUNITIES AND DIRECTION

The Composites Leadership Forum today announced that a study is being carried out to provide an improved understanding of the potential for growth in UK industries through the increased use of composites. The study, entitled "UK Composites 2013: Status, Opportunities and Direction", is funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and has been commissioned through the National Composites Centre. The study will cover the current status and indicative future needs of the UK composites industry to support future cross sector strategy development. The Composites Leadership Forum anticipates completion by early summer 2013.

"There is real opportunity for growth driven by new uses and applications of Composites. This study will identify the opportunities and inhibitors to achieving that growth across many Sectors," said Alison Starr, chair of the Composites Leadership Forum. "This analysis can then be used as the basis for further work to model our supply chains, map the technology, manufacturing and skills required to secure growth for UK companies."

Market opportunities and the strategic direction of the UK Composites Industry will be reviewed in a global context, together with commentary on the nature and uptake of governmental support for composites capability development internationally. The report will update previously reported information from established user sectors and acquire further data from industry sectors with emerging interest in the use of composites.

The data and findings will support members of the Composites Leadership Forum in their development of industry action plans and provide access to the information for UK industry now actively engaged in, or investigating the use of composites materials. The timing and context of this work will enable and support subsequent work to be carried out to model composites supply chains and to carry out technology roadmapping. The study will be carried out by Shakespeare Services Ltd and Avalon Consultancy Services Ltd working with the National Composites Centre.

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Notes for Editors

Note 1

The **Composites Leadership Forum** was identified as a key milestone in the UK Composites Strategy. It comprises representatives from industrial sectors using, or who are moving toward the use of, composites in their sector and other stakeholders to ensure growth and industrial success in the UK.

Initial Sector Engagement with:

- Aerospace Growth Partnership
- Automotive Council
- Chemical Industries Association
- Renewables UK
- Composites in Construction
- Materials Suppliers
- Oil & Gas Industry
- Motorsport Industries Association
- People, Skills and Learning Group (ESG)
- Railway Industry Association

Stakeholders represented by:

- Government - Dept. of Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS)
- Funding bodies - Technology Strategy Board (TSB), Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
- Industry Trade Association - Composites UK
- Skills - Composite Skills Alliance (CSA)
- Technology - National Composites Centre (NCC), EPSRC Centre for Innovative Manufacturing in Composites
- Knowledge Transfer Networks for Materials and Aerospace, Aviation and Defence

Note 2: Study Scope

Polymer Matrix Composites Materials Defined by:

Polymer Matrix Composites (PMCs) are also known as Fibre Reinforced Polymers (FRPs) and consist of a matrix material, which is a polymer-based resin, surrounding and supporting a reinforcement of some kind (typically fibres, particles or flakes). The resultant PMC has properties that are advantageous compared to those of either the matrix or the reinforcement when used on their own.

Note 3: The National Composites Centre (NCC).

The NCC's mission is 'To be an independent, open-access national centre that delivers world-class innovation in the design and rapid manufacture of composites and facilitates their widespread industrial exploitation.' The development of the NCC was a key part of the UK Composites Strategy which was launched by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in 2009. The NCC brings together dynamic companies and enterprising academics to develop new technologies for the design and rapid manufacture of high-quality composite products. The NCC is part of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult. The NCC is a £25m investment supported by: the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (£12m); the South West RDA (Regional Development Agency) (£4m); and £9m from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). It is owned and hosted by the University of Bristol. Website: www.nccuk.com

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