

# Advanced Composites Monthly

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Global composites industry visibility for aerospace and defense

## SAMPE 2008 Long Beach

The **Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering** (SAMPE) held their **SAMPE '08** annual conference and exhibition May 18-22, 2008, at the Long Beach Convention Center in Long Beach, CA. The conference, sponsored by both the organization's Utah and Japan chapters, was brimming with optimism despite the rough general economic times. The growing globalization of the composites industry was very evident in the international

character of the event. Not only did representatives from nearly 40 countries attend the show, much of the program was focused on international activities – with major contributions from Japanese industry and research institutions. The growing market for composites and other advanced materials helped attendance at the show to total 4,750 regular attendees in addition to 282 exhibiting companies (80 more than last year). The exhibit floor, as a result, was much larger than in previous years and was consistently full of people – a notable improvement from the last time COMR covered this event in our newsletters.

development programs for civil aviation being conducted in Japan. His presentation was followed by "The Changing Times in Globalization" by Peter Huntsman, President and CEO of **Huntsman Companies**. Huntsman's presentation dealt with lessons learned from his company's evolution from being a regional giant in the supply of "community chemicals" to becoming a top tier provider of specialty chemicals.

While Huntsman's remarks and comments about future strategies for dealing with growing energy challenges were interesting, however, Ishikawa's remarks provided more composites related food-for-thought. Ishikawa began his presentation with a description of JAXA and its activities. In addition to providing an overview of the agency's organization, achievements and some of the organizations future projects, he provided detailed discussion of two current development projects – the Mitsubishi Regional Jet (MRJ) and their Phase II Supersonic Silent Technology Demonstrator (S<sup>3</sup>TD).

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### JAXA KEYNOTE ADDRESS

This year's program included keynote speakers. The first was presented by Takashi Ishikawa, Aviation Program Director for the **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency** (JAXA). His presentation titled "*Introduction of Japan's Civil Aviation Research and Development Programs and the Role of Advanced Composites Research*" focused on several research and devel-