

Advanced Composites Monthly

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COMPOSITESWORLD Expo 2008

CompositesWorld Conferences, sister company to *High-Performance Composites* and *Composites Technology* magazines, held its first annual **COMPOSITESWORLD Expo 2008 Technical Conference and Exhibition** in Schaumburg, IL, September 2-5, 2008. Despite mounting negative global financial news, the composites industry continues to prosper. Despite a number of composites-related events occurring at roughly the same time, the event was able to draw in more than 1,550 attendees and more than 80 exhibitors. COMPOSITESWORLD publisher Ryan Delahanty said,

"I heard time and time again from our exhibitors that we attracted an extremely qualified group of composites decision-makers to our exhibition. In some cases, our exhibitors were able to make connections and build new business relationships that they have been trying to create for several years."

The first two days of the event focused largely on technical conferences which was divided into "Introductory" and "Advanced" tracks. The latter was designed to cater to attendees who were less well acquainted with composite materials and technologies. Many of these sessions were focused on the properties of fiber reinforced composites, principles of designing and fabricating with thermoset prepregs, thermoplastic prepregs and infusion molding materials. The Advanced track covered topics such as production and maintenance optimization through the use of automated equipment for layup, trimming, drilling, ply nesting and inspection equipment. Both tracks were very useful and informative.

BOEING'S COMPOSITES KEYNOTE

Highlighting the event were three keynote addresses, scheduled on successive days. The first address came from Dr. Linda Cadwell Stancin, manager of material and process technology for product development at **Boeing Commercial Airplane**, who presented "Composites Technology: One of the Key Elements for Performance-Driven Commercial Aircraft." The following day, Jadge Juechter, **General Motor's** Corvette and Cadillac XLR chief engineer, gave "Corvette ZR1: Composites, Performance and Automotive Passion." Chris Red, CMR's editor, presented "Outlook for Composite Wind Turbine Blade Manufacturing" to a standing-room only crowd during the "lunchtime lesson" on the final day of the show. This presentation will be made available on CMR's website to subscribers. Juechter's will be covered in this month's issue of *Composites Industry Monthly*.

Armed with Boeing's latest update to its annual market outlook for commercial transport aircraft, Dr. Stancin set the

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