

Composites Industry Monthly

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Global composites market visibility for industrial and consumer markets

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, albeit a little slower in some markets. 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 200 exhibitors.



At the 2008 CompositesWorld Expo, GM's George Jurkiewicz indicated that the additional emphasis on CFRP in the new Corvette ZR-1 signals the company's intent to use more composites in its high-end products and alternative fuel hybrid and electric vehicles. Photo credit: CompositesWorld Reports.

CompositesWorld's 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." Delahanty's comments have an obvious bias. After talking with most of the event's exhibitors, however, Delahanty's remarks accurately represent the impressions of many exhibitors.

The first two days of the event focused largely on the technical sessions which were divided into "Introductory" and "Advanced" tracks. The former was designed to acquaint attendees who were relatively new to 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 mainte-

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