

Composites Industry Monthly

Issue 230

Global composites market visibility for industrial and consumer markets

CompositesWorld Conferences Industry Investment Forum 2009

Coming out of the **CompositesWorld Conferences' Investment Forum 2009**, it became apparent that the impacts on the composites industry stemming from the global economic crisis are beginning to be better understood. The event, held at The Roosevelt Hotel in New York, NY, hosted about 100 attendees including leading composite industry suppliers, industry analysts, investment bankers and "end-users." Speakers at the event discussed many opportunities for composite materials in high-growth markets. The overall mood of the show, however, was somber.

Despite this, many of the investment professionals present at the event continue to express their optimism regarding new investment opportunities within the composites industry. In some ways the current downturn in the economy has curbed private equity firms from pursuing "large-cap" deals. While money lending is tight, it has not come to a complete standstill. In this respect, investors are now gravitating towards smaller "cap" and "small-cap" deals in line with the bulk of composite fabricators at the Tier II and Tier III supplier levels.

representatives on the "Outlook and M & A Prospects for the Composites Industry" panel were representatives from:

- Lindsay Aspegren, Co-founder, **North Coast Technology Investors LP**
- Elizabeth Burgess, Partner, **Altus Capital Partners**
- Jay Ferguson, Managing Partner, **Vantage Capital Partners**
- Ted H. Kramer, Partner, **Hammond Kennedy Whitney & Co. Inc.**
- Michael Toporek, Managing General Partner, **Brookstone Partners**

While a considerable portion of the conference program favored the aerospace and defense industries, the event highlighted opportunities in materials, technologies and applications that are equally relevant to companies pursuing alternative energy and industrial markets. In addition to the general presentations, the conference organizers included an investment capitalist panel discussion into the program. Among the distinguished

The general sentiment coming from the panelists was that, while the past 18 months have been rough on businesses, the global market has not yet hit bottom. Responding to audience questions pertaining to when the economy would improve, most of the panelists expressed confidence that positive news would start to surface by the end of 2010. Most expect to see worldwide prosperity begin to reassert itself during the 2011-12

In This Issue
CompositesWorld Conferences Industry Investment Forum 2009
1
UMECO Continues Growth...2
Opportunities in Prepreg Manufacturing...4
Recycling Composites - Opportunity & Challenges...5
Composites in Renewable Energy...7
Quick Takes
9