



E-news

Nov 05

National Composites Network

growing a successful UK composites industry

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Please **[forward](#)** this e-newsletter to your colleagues and contacts - anyone you think could benefit from NCN services and activities.

If you think they would like to receive NCN E-news regularly, please **[tell us](#)**

Newsflash . . . Wanted urgently: 3k tow 2x2 twill prepreg material

There is a shortage of 3k tow 2x2 twill prepreg material across the industry at the moment. If any company has spare material they would be interested in selling please let the NCN Helpdesk know as we have a number of companies who are looking to buy small quantities: tel 01223 894 662 email info@ncn-uk.co.uk

NCN joins the Materials Knowledge Transfer Network

Lord Sainsbury, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Science and Innovation, has announced formation of the Materials Knowledge Transfer Network (Materials KTN), in which NCN is now the *Composites Node*.

NCN is joining forces with a number of previously supported Faraday Partnerships (packaging, plastics, advanced and technical textiles) which will also represent specific nodes of the overall advanced materials cluster. Since these partnerships already have an active community it is anticipated that a dynamic network supporting a broad section of the advanced materials community will be up and running within 3 months of the formal project start date of 1 November 2005.

The DTI's Dr Robert Quarshie is Director of the Materials KTN, supporting the overall management of this KTN by the Institute of Metals, Materials and Mining (IoM³).

more . . .

IoM³ is already playing a key role in managing the active web-based portal www.materialsktn.net which will form the hub for information and communication within the Materials KTN. The portal is already being used by NCN members as the primary source of web-based technical information on composites. Once registered, which can be done via the NCN website as well as the portal itself, users can access best practice information, databases, materials properties information, glossaries and more. In addition to composites, registered users of the Materials KTN portal can also view information about other materials covered by the KTN and make contact with their associated networks.

A formal launch of the Materials KTN is planned for 19 January 2006 at the Science Museum Imax in London. Further information on registration for this event will be posted on the NCN website in due course.

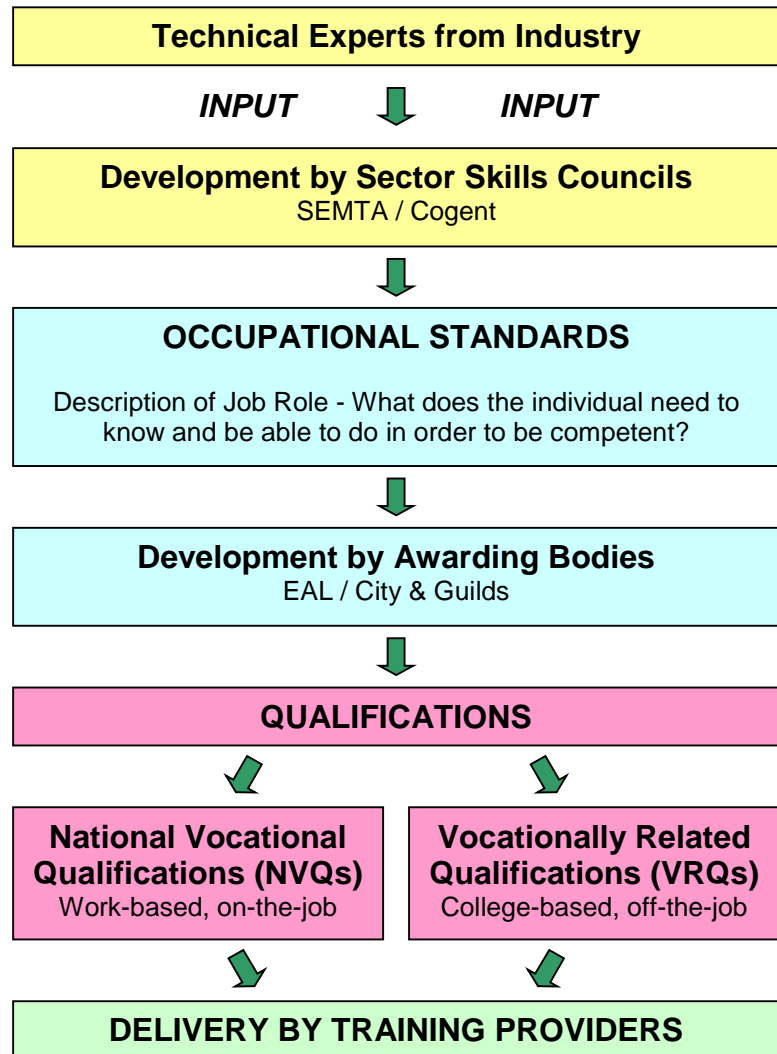
NCN Skills and Education working group - update

The NCN Skills & Education working group, led by Chris Little, chair of the Training Committee at the Composites Processing Association (CPA), held its first meeting at TWI in June 2005. It was agreed that greater representation from industry was needed, and that the group needs to develop influence with those responsible for the standards used for qualifications in the UK.

With this in mind, the group has asked the relevant Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) to review industry needs (with assistance from the CPA and other industry bodies) and define standards for the composites industry.

This is the first step in a process that will lead to delivery of training courses that meet the needs of organisations across a range of sectors, which employ workers in the composites industry. The overall process is outlined in the flowchart.

If you wish to be involved in this process, or be kept aware of the activities of the working group, please email Chris Little: chrislittl@gmail.com



NCN activities in the construction sector

Over the last nine months the NCN has been increasingly active in initiating technology transfer in the construction sector - the largest user of composite materials, equating to global materials sales of over £2billion in 2004.

more . . .

The Network Group for Composites in Construction (NGCC) has been active for over 5 years, and NCN acknowledges this as the primary portal for composites activities in the sector. Information on the NGCC and benefits of membership are on its website at www.ngcc.org.uk

As well as the one-to-one consultations underway through NCN's outreach programme, a number of jointly sponsored workshops are planned for the next year. The first of these was held on 10 November at the Institute of Structural Engineers and focused on the status of composites research in the primary universities supporting the construction sector.

Through the nine presentations from leading academics in the field, a number of key topics were highlighted. These included use of pultruded structures in a number of applications, and strengthening of concrete and metallic structures using FRP wraps and plates. In particular, the completion of *CompClass* was reported by Prof Allan Hutchinson of Oxford Brookes University. This DTI funded programme has developed and published acceptance and quality control procedures for on-site applications of composites in the civil infrastructure. The ultimate aim is to develop a performance-based qualification scheme and component material classification scheme for the industry. More information can be found on the CompClass website at www.compclass.org.

Further information on all presentations given at this workshop will be posted on the NGCC website in due course.

A reciprocal workshop is planned in the new year, when leading industrialists will present a view of future needs and challenges.

November 2005 DTI Advanced Materials Call - £63M

£63M is available to UK industry from the next call for research proposals for the DTI Advanced Materials Programme. Six priority areas for this call are:

- regenerative medicine technologies
- energy
- design of electrical and electronic control
- materials modelling
- technologies for data and content storage
- waste minimisation/resource efficiency

Preliminary information on the DTI website at www.dti.gov.uk

News of upcoming events

Bonding of composite materials

8 December 2005; London

This seminar is organised by the Society for Adhesion and Adhesives (UK). Further information in the seminar [programme and registration document](#).

Textiles in aerospace

9 December 2005; Nottinghamshire International Clothing Centre, Hucknall

This breakfast workshop will explore the applications of textiles in the aerospace industry and the experiences of companies that supply the sector. Jointly organised by the East Midlands Technical Textiles Forum, the Midlands Aerospace Alliance, and the East Midlands Development Agency.

To book your place on this free workshop email [Ann Palmer](mailto:Ann.Palmer@emda.gov.uk) or telephone 01159 888 345

more . . .

Modelling of manufacturing processes May 2006; IMechE HQ, London

The Structural Technology & Materials Group of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers is holding this seminar, which will cover recent research on the development of material behaviour models and their practical application. ImechE website: <http://www.imeche.org.uk>

More events information on the NCN website: <http://www.ncn-uk.co.uk> (click *News & Events*)

Register for detailed technical information on NCN website

Visit the NCN [website](#) for information about how the programme can benefit your company. Registration with NCN gives you web access to technical information on composites (such as FAQs and Best Practice Guides) contributed by the programme partners, training and expertise directories and updates on latest news and events. You can register with NCN [here](#)

. . . plus composites portal for even more information!

For an even wider selection of technical information on composite materials, visit the composites portal of the [Materials Knowledge Transfer Network](#) (formerly the Advanced Materials Forum). Registration is free and gives you access to information about composite materials, processes and applications as well as online databases for materials selection, standards and other topics. You can register for Materials Knowledge Transfer Network [here](#).

Free composites information, tech support & consultancy starts with a call to the NCN Helpdesk

As well as providing information, the Helpdesk sets up one-to-one consultations with experts and organises direct practical assistance through NCN's *Information, Diagnostics* and *Solutions* range of in-depth tech support services (summarised in a [printable leaflet](#) on the NCN website).

ALL THIS IS PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE!

Visit the NCN website at www.ncn-uk.co.uk

more . . .

COMPOSITE MATERIALS design, manufacture & use

*Direct access to
technologies, facilities & expertise -*

- **FREE information/helpline**
- **FREE technology workshops**
- **FREE one-to-one consultancy**
- **FREE problem-solving services**

Contact the
NCN Helpdesk
Tel: 01223 894 662
Email: info@ncn-uk.co.uk
Website: www.ncn-uk.co.uk
NCN is managed by TWI Ltd


ncn
National Composites Network

 Part of the Materials Knowledge Transfer Network

NCN tech support for sportscar championship team

Helping *Team Jota*, a leading British Sportscar Championship team, is a recent example of free NCN tech support.

Team Jota is looking for a durable, low mass, low volume means of preventing heat from the car's exhaust system damaging the car's composite honeycomb floor. Through the NCN, flame spraying an aluminium-based powder directly onto the structural floor to produce a heat reflecting surface is being investigated. Around 100µm thick, the coating has good adhesion and can be polished to enhance its reflectivity.



Team Jota's tech support was organised through the NCN Helpdesk. If you require help or information call 01223 894 662 or email info@ncn-uk.co.uk

Please note

To change the email address on our list, please 'reply' to this message, entering 'Change to [new email address]' in the subject line.

If you do not wish to receive further information from the NCN, please 'reply' to this message, entering 'Remove' in the subject line.

Further information

For more information on any aspect of the National Composites Network, please contact -

NCN Helpdesk: 01223 894 662
Email: info@ncn-uk.co.uk
Fax: 01223 891 284
Website: www.ncn-uk.co.uk



ncn
National Composites Network

The logo for the Department of Trade and Industry (dti), featuring the lowercase letters 'dti' in a bold, serif font.

NCN is a node of the
Materials Knowledge Transfer Network