

## **Composites Division**

### **Report, 2006**

The Composite Division has been active on a number of fronts this year. The main thrust has been to interact with the national composites Network (NCN) and to support the Materials IGT, whilst also developing its activities on meetings and conferences.

#### **NCN and IGT support**

The Composites Division runs the fore sighting working party on behalf of the national composite Network. This working group has met a number of times over the past year and has been tasked with providing input to the NCN to assist in the development of future strategy for the composite sector. An initial task was to review the 2001 Competitiveness Study commissioned by the DTI and delivered by Netcomposites/NPL on behalf of a steering committee that included the IoM3, BPF, CPA.

This review indicated a number of areas where developments had occurred that had not been foreseen and other developments that had taken place as expected. Rather than commission a full new study, the working group prepared a companion document to augment the earlier study and this has now been delivered to the NCN for mounting on the NCN web site to be read alongside the earlier study. This will also be made available to the IoM3 composite division web site shortly.

The next stage of this process is to target specific industry sector areas important for the composite industry and to identify a number of key foresighting issues looking at emerging new technologies, areas where research is needed and any complementary non technical long term concerns for the sectors. These will then be cross referenced to identify common themes of importance to all sectors and this will be used by the NCN as a guide to developing new initiatives, road maps and targeted working groups. This deliverable will be completed by the end of July.

The Division also provided input to the materials IGT via this working party.

#### **Meetings and Workshops.**

A new Meetings and Workshops Committee has been established by the division. This has now met on a number of occasions and is actively developing a new programme for the coming year. Some workshops are the first deliverables with subjects identified including composites for the marine industry, composites for wind energy (to be run in association with the Energy Materials Group of the IoM3). A number of major conference ideas are in the planning stage.

The Division will also be extremely active in running the large international ICCM conference which will be run alongside Euromat in Edinburgh in 2009. This combined event is expected to attract over 1500 delegates.

**Website.**

The Division has been developing a new web site which will allow rapid updating by the members of the divisional Board. A full dummy site has been created and is awaiting action by the Insitute in rode to link up fully with the main IoM3 site.

**Membership**

The membership of the Divisional is under review. An influx of new blood into the Divisional committees has been achieved with the launch of the meetings and workshop group and it is hoped to continue this by adding new members to the divisional board over the next year.

PJH  
9/05/06