

SAMPE UK & IRELAND 2009 EVENTS

24th February 2009

**SAMPE UK & Ireland Chapter Annual Seminar
“The Carbon Footprint”**

At the Tortworth Court Four Pillars Hotel, near Bristol

Our annual one-day technical conference bearing the highly relevant title:
“The Carbon Footprint” environmental issues and solutions
organised in association with the Universities of Cranfield and Nottingham,
and sponsored by Hexcel. Eight illuminating presentations from different
areas of the composites community were presented throughout the day.

To give a sense of the environment we are protecting the seminar took place
in a Country Mansion Hotel in beautiful English countryside.

Over sixty delegates were in attendance at the event, which was opened by
SAMPE UK Chairman Andrew Long introducing the Keynote Speaker
Adrian Harding of the UK Government Environment Agency.
Adrian’s theme to set the scene of the day was “Promoting Sustainable
Materials Use” taking materials from raw through processing and after
service in the product, efficient recycling into a usable material or non toxic
disposal.

Brendon Weager for NetComposites research an arm of the well-known
NetComposites News addressed “High Performance Composites from
Renewable Sources “. He outlined the R&D effort going into the use of
Natural fibres in composites used in car trim.

“Wind Power Wins” was the appropriate title given by Tomas Vronsky of
Vestas, who described the growth of the wind energy business and also the
focus on the disposal of used composite blades some of which are as large
as an aircraft wing. The recycling of the blades is being taken very seriously
as at present 10,000 tonnes of carbon fibre are being consumed each year in
this industry.

New energy saving composite manufacturing concepts and recycling technologies being developed in the Aerospace industry were demonstrated in the papers given by Airbus [Marcel Buckley] and Boeing [Bill Carberry]. Airbus are attacking the environmental issues from the ground up, building energy efficient factories that use natural light, low energy processes as well as more efficient lighter aircraft capable of being recycled.

Boeing is setting a goal of having a 90% recyclable aircraft by 2016. They are a member of AFRA (Aircraft Fleet Recycling Association) www.afraassociation.org a group of 40 companies dedicated to the recycling challenge, which Bill Carberry eloquently described in detail from the aircraft performance, structure, engines, and the aircraft interior.

University of Nottingham's Steve Pickering gave a synopsis of the research programmes being undertaken to address problems of recycling polymer composites efficiently using low energy techniques. The composites manufactured from the recycled materials are also being evaluated.

The niche automotive industry was well covered by: Surface Transforms [Geoffrey Whitfield] describing Ceramic Composite Brakes, which can last the lifetime of a car.

Bentley Cars double act Antony Dodworth and Marco Greco with their metal origami flat pack chassis which saves material and carbon composite/metal hybrid structures to save weight and cost. A novel direct fibre placement process using cobalt powder coated carbon fibre and a magnetized former was also covered in detail.

Considering the present economic climate the whole day was considered a great success as can be seen from the enthused delegates below.

