



**GOVERNOR TAFT AWARDS A \$2 MILLION GRANT TO NCC**

Governor Bob Taft awarded NCC with a \$2 million grant from the Wright Capital Project Fund. The State of Ohio grant will be used to install a Large Scale Preformer system and resin molding equipment.

The new system will allow NCC to fully develop the potential of its breakthrough Rapid Fiber Preform (RFP) process to produce cost effective, complex, very large composite products. NCC plans to combine the large-scale performer system with the robotic gantry machine donated to the Center by Boeing Phantom Works to create a manufacturing cell that will initially produce parts for the Air Force under the P4A (Programmable Powder Preform Process for Aerospace) program.

The manufacturing cell and NCC's RFP technology will also form the foundation for a new Ohio-based aerospace and defense manufacturing company the Center is working to establish.

In addition to the commercial market, NCC will use the cell for applications in automotive,

transportation, marine and infrastructure industries.

Collaborators on the NCC project include the Edison Materials Technology Center (EMTEC), The Boeing Company, Ashland Specialty Chemical, WebCore Technologies, Inc., University of Dayton, University of Akron and PolymerOhio.

The Wright Capital Project Fund grant is part of Governor Taft's Third Frontier initiative to strengthen Ohio's economy. For more information about this initiative visit [www.thirdfrontier.com](http://www.thirdfrontier.com).

**NCC JOINS ANNUAL WASHINGTON DC TRIP**

The National Composite Center (NCC) joined The Dayton Development Coalition and almost 90 business and community leaders for the Miami Valley's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Leader visit to Washington D.C. in May. The trip marks the fourth visit for NCC.

The Center attended to support key initiatives for Wright-Patterson AFB and a list of important science and technology projects. The trip included visits to the Pentagon, the Veteran's

Administration Headquarters and the Hill.

Congressmen David Hobson, John Boehner, Michael Oaxley, Rob Portman and Michael Turner presented to the group and fielded questions along with Senators Michael DeWine and George Voinovich. Congressman Welton of Pennsylvania made a special visit.

The group's visit provided a strong display of public support for the region's priorities and will help position NCC's request for an extension of the P4A (Programmable Powder Preform Process for Aerospace) funding received this year.

**NCC'S ADVANCED MATERIALS CENTER PROPOSAL MAKES THE SHORT LIST**

As part of Governor Taft's Third Frontier initiative, proposals were requested in February for new capital projects that could lead to world-class efforts in specific high technology areas. NCC teamed with the University of Dayton Research Institute (UDRI), Ohio State University, University of Cincinnati and Case Western as well as a long list of industrial



partners including Proctor and Gamble Co., Delphi, Applied Science and Motorola to submit a \$10 million Wright Center of Innovation proposal in Multifunctional Nanostructured Materials (MnM).

One to two proposals valued at \$10 to \$20 million are planned to be selected. NCC's proposal was among 11 submitted totaling more than \$86 million. The National Academy of Research provided a team of renowned experts to evaluate the proposals.

The team ranked the 11 proposals and short-listed three for oral presentations. While the MnM proposal was in the top three, only the Case Western Fuel Cell proposal has been awarded at this time. NCC's role in the MnM will be to add materials handling capability and nano processing equipment valued up to \$1 million to its current repertoire of manufacturing process equipment.

The added capability will allow NCC to perform pilot production of nano-altered composites for parts with enhanced tailored functionality. A new round of proposals is being requested,

and UD and its team of collaborators have submitted a letter of intent to re-submit its MnM proposal with an enhanced list of collaborators.

### **SAMPE SYMPOSIUM A SUCCESS FOR NCC**

In addition to showcasing its breakthrough signature Rapid Fiber Preform (RFP) process at SAMPE 2003 Symposium & Exhibition, NCC held its first off-site Member Meeting and conducted two exciting demonstrations.

The Member Meeting, held at the Long Beach Convention Center prior to opening day, drew attendance from members as well as non-member companies interested in learning more about NCC. Several side meetings resulted between companies that connected at the event.

NCC's booth experienced heavy traffic from visitors and staff members conducted a number of meetings with current and potential customers - many of which were associated with aerospace and defense projects.

Show attendees crowded around the live demonstrations conducted by NCC and member

companies. The first such events to hit the SAMPE tradeshow floor in years, the demonstrations became the week's major attraction.

Why Not Composites and NCC demonstrated a unique vacuum infusion technology by fabricating ten-foot long boats using Why Not Composites' CARTM process. NCC demonstrated the assembly of FRP composite bridge decks using sub-sections of decks. Posters detailed other assembly activities from bridge sites.

Verdant Technologies demonstrated its flow medium's capability to improve vacuum infusion processing by fabricating a special sit-ski product.