



**NCC CLOSSES 2003 WITH A STRONG FINANCIAL FINISH AND MILESTONE ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The National Composite Center (NCC) closed 2003 with a strong financial finish and several milestone achievements. The year of successes included winning two grants from the State of Ohio for Wright Capital Projects and unveiling new aerospace and defense company Vector Composites, Inc.

NCC also expanded its closed molding operations and launched a major technical initiative in Long Fiber Thermoplastics. These accomplishments and other important NCC activities helped build a strong revenue stream that allowed NCC to conclude 2003 with an operating income in the black for the third year running.

Unaudited numbers show a \$200,000 surplus on gross revenues of \$6,071,000. NCC added \$1,000,000 in assets as part of the installation of the Large Scale Preformer equipment under one of its Wright Capital Projects. In addition, Technology Access Fees collected from member companies totaled \$53,000.

NCC has kicked off 2004 with an aggressive plan targeting the growth of gross revenues by nearly 35 percent to over \$8,100,000. Major growth areas include accelerated development of the Litecast® technology for new markets and three new Long Fiber Thermoplastic programs. This growth will also produce opportunities for investment.

NCC is expanding its internal investment in new technology development, implementing a Quality Management System, improving project management tools and expanding its professional development program. The Technical Oversight Committee (TOC) is currently soliciting proposals from its members for new technology development projects. As these exciting activities continue to unfold, NCC will share progress updates in future newsletter editions.

**NCC TEAMS WITH UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA ON TWO GOVERNMENT PROJECTS**

NCC has teamed with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) on two government projects totaling \$1 million each to help develop new Long Fiber Thermoplastic (LFT)

applications for the mass transit industry. A bus seat and floorboard have already been developed through UAB for the Department of Transportation (DOT).

NCC and UAB will work to produce a structural bus component for the Federal Transit Authority (FTA). The Center will also collaborate with UAB on LFT applications for Army ground transportation for the Army Research Laboratory (ARL).

NCC will develop manufacturing processes for both projects including fabrication and production of prototype parts. UAB will perform modeling and material development. The Delphi Corporation will help to commercialize these applications.

**NCC ADDS FOUR KEY STAFF MEMBERS**

NCC enhanced its aggressive growth plan for 2004 by adding four key personnel to its staff. They are Robert C. Brannon, PhD, Bob Hearn, Brian Knouff, PhD and Marilyn Evans. Bob Brannon brings a strong technical foundation in polymer chemistry, physics and engineering for fiber composites and non-woven technology to his



new position as NCC's Manager of Thermoplastic Technology. With more than 30 years of experience as a problem solver and product developer, Brannon has held key positions as senior scientist for Owens Corning before establishing his own consulting company Scitech, LLC in 2001.

Brannon holds multiple patents. His sound knowledge in thermal analysis techniques have been affectively applied to the study of interactions of reinforcing fibers, size chemistry and polymer matrices. Brannon will use his skills in experimental design and analysis and his extensive background in developing product and process options for commercialization to help expand NCC's Long Fiber Thermoplastic composite research.

NCC selected eighteen-year careerist Bob Hearn for his broad range of skills and experience in composite fiberglass preforms and research and development of new directed fiber preform technologies. A Certified Composites Technician (CCT), Hearn has cultivated a large network of important industry contacts. He is also an Internal Auditor able to support QS 9000 and ISO 9000:2000 standards.

Hearn's special skills will be used to manage and expand NCC's preform manufacturing, preform research and development, new equipment and technologies capabilities.

Brian Knouff's comprehensive experience in the automotive and aerospace industries gives him a unique perspective for composite application work at NCC. Knouff held key positions with Delphi Corporation's (previously known as Delco Chassis) Liteflex® spring engineering group and the Composite Group at Delphi Steering.

He also prepared his dissertation on composites for space structures at NASA Langley under a fellowship from 1991 to 1994. In his role at NCC Knouff will use his unique knowledge and expertise to further develop NCC's Litecast® technology into licensable markets. In addition to composite attachment techniques, Knouff will focus on new technology research and design, optimization, and analysis of composite structures.

Marilyn Evans will provide critical support to NCC's infrastructure with her considerable knowledge and experience in software implementation and support and cutting edge methods for

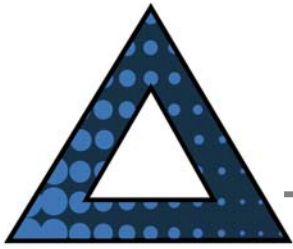
improving and managing business processes. She has held analyst, consultant and management positions for such companies as Reynolds & Reynolds, Logica Inc. and Sara Lee Foods US.

As Technical Operations Administrator for NCC, Evans will oversee and coordinate project management and assist with proposal development and writing. In addition, she will employ her special skills to help NCC make more productive use of its resources. Evans will oversee NCC's Member Program and provide website content and maintenance services. She will also assist with some ISO quality tasks.

As NCC moves forward with its 2004 business objectives, the Center welcomes these new staff members to the team.

### **NCC PARTICIPATES IN SECOND ANNUAL MIAMI VALLEY TECHFEST**

NCC will participate in the second annual Miami Valley TechFest 2004 February 21-22. Held at Sinclair Community College in the Ponitz Center (Bldg. 12), the event combines a festival-like atmosphere with more than 55 exhibits showcasing the science,



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**JANUARY 2004**

engineering and technology activities and products of Greater Dayton businesses, academia and professional societies.

Interactive displays, demonstrations and games help visitors ranging from children to senior citizens link science with real-world experiences.

TechFest also makes information available on schools, careers, job opportunities and technical and professional societies.

NCC will use its booth to take visitors inside the exciting world of composites. Attendees will be able to talk with NCC representatives about what composites are, touch composite material and see fun examples of composite products such as skateboards, fire helmets and golf clubs.