



NEW NEWSLETTER PART OF 2002 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES

As part of The National Composite Center's strategic initiatives for 2002 we are pleased to introduce the first issue of our new electronic newsletter. The newsletter helps to accomplish two goals for us. We recently conducted a third party survey that sampled a number of our member companies on ways we might improve the value of membership with NCC. Secondly, as NCC continues to move ahead with exciting new developments, we want to do a better job of communicating with members and other community partners about our role, our plans and our ability to lead the effort to link composites to appropriate markets. We feel this newsletter format supports both goals. We have scheduled April 16 as Member Day and would welcome your feedback on the newsletter. As part of that event, our Technical Committee is requesting ideas from member companies that identify topics we might investigate using members' Technology

Access Fees. Your insights, experience and ideas are invaluable to us as we work to identify areas of ongoing activity. On a national level, composites represent a \$24 billion industry. In Ohio alone, composites comprise a \$1.68 billion industry. We feel NCC is poised to leverage the strength of the Miami Valley's core competencies in the aerospace, infrastructure, automotive, defense and commercial markets to help produce high value jobs and retain important technology and skills sets. In addition to improving our asset utilization, we are teaming with organizations like OhioPolymer and the new Regional Advisory Council to help harness the strength of emerging technologies for the region. We look forward to the opportunity to unfold our progress for you on a monthly basis.

NCC CONCLUDES BANNER YEAR

The National Composite Center is taking tangible steps that are helping the organization build a solid foundation. By linking composite applications to key markets in the region, NCC is

helping to expand the region's industrial base and has to date, retained or created almost 200 jobs for the greater Dayton area. Most recently, NCC's successful negotiations in the automotive and heavy duty truck arenas led to the sale of Delphi Automotive's composite spring business to NCC partner and new start-up company Liteflex LLC. The unique partnership includes a new venture with Martin Marietta and is expected to produce an annual economic impact of \$23 million for the Dayton area.

In addition to new business, NCC concluded 2001 with a reserve of \$160,000 despite a reduction of total revenues of \$500,000. NCC, which closed out 2000 with a loss from operations of about \$50,000, has experienced a turnaround of \$210,000, allowing the organization to pay down previously accumulated debt. NCC has also moved its membership fees into a reserve account for a reserve pool of \$74,000.



LITEFLEX AND NCC TARGET TOP TRADE SHOWS FOR NEW PRODUCT INTRODUCTIONS

Liteflex™ LLC and The National Composite Center are forging another link between composite technology and the medium to heavy-duty truck markets with first time introductions of Liteflex™ and Litecast™ at one of the industry's top trade shows. Liteflex™ composite springs offer a direct replacement for steel leaf springs. NCC's Litecast™ suspension link assemblies meet the medium to heavy-duty truck market's increasing demand for technology that reduces weight without sacrificing strength. Both products will be launched at The Mid-America Trucking Show 2002 in March.

In addition to Mid-America, NCC will showcase Litecast™ at the SAMPE 2002 Symposium & Exhibition in May. Litecast™ is a patented process that allows manufacturers to use integral metal attachments on composite structures and is the only process on the market able to eliminate adhesive bond failure. The Litecast™ process also eliminates the need for

secondary mechanical fastening systems which add cost and reduce the strength of composite products. General Motors initially developed the technology to meet the automotive market's weight-saving needs. NCC recently expanded that application to produce lighter weight suspension link assemblies for the medium to heavy-duty truck industries that offer a weight savings over steel of at least 50 percent and 10 to 25 percent over forged aluminum.

The Litecast™ process offers a flexible solution for virtually any composite product currently compromised by attachments adhered through more traditional methods. NCC is currently developing potential Litecast applications for medical transportation equipment, aircraft struts, aircraft control surfaces and space equipment.

In addition to the organization's exhibit at SAMPE, NCC President and CEO Lou Luedtke has been invited to participate in a panel discussion to discuss low-cost composite manufacturing and flexible plastic molding. A paper about the bridge deck installation at Wright-Patterson AFB is also being presented by member

company WebCore Technologies and will be provided as a separate PDF link in May. NCC's ongoing efforts to identify and apply advanced manufacturing technologies are helping to provide industry and consumers with high performance materials that last longer and cost less.

MANUFACTURING FORUM MARCH 19

NCC, in conjunction with the Dayton Business Journal, will host the area's first Manufacturing Forum. Recognizing that the manufacturing industry makes up a significant number of the region's jobs and is a core part of the Dayton business community, the Forum has been designed to showcase local entrepreneurs and companies. The event itself is free to the public and offers a unique combination of exhibits and the opportunity to network. Guest speaker for the event is Larrell Walters, President of Gem City Engineering and ToolValley Network. Held at NCC's headquarters facility, the event is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.