



### **NCC ATTENDS COMPOSITES 2002**

The National Composite Center (NCC), a leader in linking composite technology to commercial markets, introduced its new Closed Molding Cell and showcased its preform technology at Composites 2002. The Composites 2002 trade show was held at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia September 25–27. In addition to introducing its new Cell, NCC conducted a special demonstration. Booth attendance was high with a lot of interest shown in the new Cell and NCC's broad range of composite forming technology. NCC promoted its signature Rapid Fiber Preform Process, Resin Transfer Molding, Vacuum Assisted Resin Transfer Molding, Hand Lay-up, Filament Winding and Structural Reaction Injection Molding (SRIM). NCC also displayed its automated preform technology to manufacture a broad range of composite products from fire helmets to truck bumper beams. NCC also featured its efforts to develop and apply low cost composites for aerospace applications and the services the Center provides in the areas of Non Destructive Evaluation (NDE) consulting and general composites production consulting. NCC was featured in the show issue of Composite Fabrication Magazine. If you haven't seen the Sept. 2002 issue of CF Magazine you'll want to check it out. An electronic PDF of the article will be available soon.

### **NCC INTRODUCES NEW CLOSED MOLDING CELL AND SCHEDULES CLASSES**

NCC has teamed with Ashland Corporation and Why Not Composites to establish a Closed Molding Cell at its headquarters and manufacturing facility. The Cell was created to help educate the industry about improved closed molding techniques with a special emphasis on vacuum infusion. NCC has scheduled classes for 2002-2003 and is making the Cell available for rental. According to NCC, vacuum infusion delivers higher part quality and is environmentally friendly. Vacuum infusion is a less labor-intensive process that offers high quality reproducible parts, low void content and tooling costs and produces near zero emissions of hazardous air pollutants for a cleaner environment.

Commercial Infusion Training is being offered Feb. 5-6, 2003. The two-day class features vacuum infusion of commercial grade materials with a special emphasis on production cost, part quality and part reproducibility. Students will be taken step by step through proven vacuum infusion techniques, which include hands on demonstrations. Production and conversion costs will be discussed as they apply to open molding. Class time will also be used to discuss a variety of patented technologies and how they can be applied to attendees' products. Space is limited to 15 students.

Performance Infusion Training will be held February 12-13, 2003. The two-day class features vacuum infusion of high-grade materials with a special emphasis on part quality and performance. Students will be taken step by step through proven vacuum infusion techniques including hands on demonstrations and an examination of processing with high temperature cure resins. Space is limited to 15 students.

Companies interested in holding their own demonstrations or who have special fabrication needs can also rent the facility from NCC. The facility includes a 5000 square foot infusion cell; 40 foot by 14 foot molding table; two five foot by nine foot molding tables; a 430 foot\_ digitally controlled oven; multiple vacuum systems; and a resin mixing station. For more details on closed molding, facility rental or signing up for a class, interested individuals can contact Andrew Loff at 937-297-9436 or email [aloff@compositecenter.org](mailto:aloff@compositecenter.org).

### **ZEON CHEMICAL VISITS NCC**

Zeon Chemical visited NCC to assist in applying its toughener additive to the Center's P4A carbon preforms. The additive is sprayed in during the fiber preform process and will improve the damage toughness of the molded laminate.



## **TOWN HALL MEETING HELD AT NCC CONFERENCE CENTER**

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) leadership, under the direction of Lt. Gen. Dick Reynolds, held its bi-annual Town Hall Meeting at NCC's Education and Conference Center September 16. This forum provides a popular medium for WPAFB leaders to interact with community leaders to discuss topics important to both the Air Force and the Dayton community. Topics of particular interest to NCC and its members included the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) technology transfer examples presented by Maj. Gen. Paul Nielsen; the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) Systems Engineering Institute presented by Col. Michael Heil; and the Wright Brothers Institute & Dayton Development Coalition Update presented by Brad Tidwell. Col. Andy Frick also presented discussion of a Marine Corps TUEX exercise conducted in Dayton the same week. The briefings are available for member viewing at [www.ascpa.public.wpafb.af.mil](http://www.ascpa.public.wpafb.af.mil). For further discussion, contact Lou Luedtke, who attended on behalf of NCC at [lluedtke@compositecenter.org](mailto:lluedtke@compositecenter.org).