

PRESS RELEASE

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ACMA and EPTA Celebrate the Advancement of Pultrusion Technology at the North American Pultrusion Conference

Two industry thought leaders in composites manufacturing and pultrusion push for the advancement of pultrusion through strategic partnership, standards, and innovative technology.

April 23, 2019 (Arlington, Va.) – On April 8–10, 2019, over 200 composites manufacturing business leaders and experts from North America and Europe assembled in Rosemont, IL for the North American Pultrusion Conference. Hosted by the [American Composites Manufacturers Association](#) (ACMA) in partnership with the [European Pultrusion Technology Association](#) (EPTA), the exciting composites industry event attracted leaders, customers, OEMs, and suppliers in search of the latest knowledge and information about pultrusion, including forecasts and models on industry trends, cutting-edge applications, and today's standards and quality.

“ACMA believes it's vitally important for the composites industry's suppliers and manufacturers to expand our understanding of pultrusion technology and its varying market applications. In order to thrive in a competitive, global markets like automotive, and construction, and infrastructure manufacturers and OEMS are looking for the next level of applications and materials to promote and sustain growth. Pultrusion helps meet that need.” said Tom Dobbins, ACMA President. “With an increase in attendance of 25% since the first year this event was held, it is clear the industry is ready to use the Pultrusion process in many market segments.”

With over 15 conference sessions, the North American Pultrusion Conference delivered fresh insights into the pultrusion manufacturing process. Ashley Duncan from Composites One moderated the entire event. Conference highlights included the opening keynote address by Steve Gonzalez, Director of Major Projects at KONE with insights on KONE's UltraRope – a super-light rope technology with carbon fiber core and special high-friction coating that is used for elevators around the world. He shared the advantages of the technology, which eliminates the disadvantages of existing steel ropes used in elevators, including high energy consumption, rope stretch, large moving masses, and downtime caused by building sway.

Day one also featured the popular session, *Curved Pultrusion for Lightweight Automotive Components*, that detailed how to make tubular curved profiles with a continuous pultrusion process with speed, predictability and optimal cost. Attendees learned how the process can be applied in automotive manufacturing for car bumpers, batter trays, front end systems, roof bows and more.

Day two began with a keynote featuring Paul Gogan of WEC Energy Group. During the keynote, he discussed how composites utility poles and crossarms are being successfully deployed and installed with great results for electric service providers and improved reliability and safety for customers and staff. The day also included a presentation by Dr. Amol Vaidya of Owens Corning. During the session titled *The Successful Standardization of Fiberglass Rebar*, Dr. Vaidya explored Owens Corning's process of collaboration and research with academia and trade organizations to develop a comprehensive set of

design guidelines, test methods, installation standards, materials standards and quality assurance reporting for various applications and uses of fiberglass composites.

In addition to the conference program, attendees networked and shared with 13 exhibiting companies, expanding their professional network and gaining a hand-on learning experience with leading composites industry companies that are thriving with pultrusion technology. ACMA and EPTA thank the following companies for their generous support of the event: Dixie Chemical and Interplastic Corporation provided support as Platinum sponsors, and Chromaflo Technologies provided additional support as a Silver sponsor.

“A major value for conference attendees was the diversity of attendees and exhibitors. Attendees came from all levels—some were novice and others were more seasoned. The event facilitated in-depth discussion, product demos, and deep learning for attendees at all levels, helping our industry leaders to see pultrusion beyond their markets and industries as a viable, competitive technology for manufacturers,” said Elmar Witten, European Pultrusion Technology Association.

Questions regarding the conference program can be submitted to info@acmanet.org. Visit www.acmanet.org/2019pultrusion for additional information, including conference agenda, the detailed conference schedule, and a listing of exhibitors. A next North American Pultrusion Conference is being planned for 2021.

About EPTA

The European Pultrusion Technology Association was created in 1989 by a group of leading European pultruders with the mission of supporting the growth of the pultrusion industry by maximising external communication efforts and encouraging knowledge sharing between members. Since 2006, the association has existed under the umbrella of the AVK – Federation of Reinforced Plastics in Frankfurt, Germany. Membership of EPTA is open to all companies and individuals worldwide wishing to further the application of pultruded profiles. For further information visit <http://www.pultruders.org>.

Further information

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About ACMA

The American Composites Manufacturers Association (ACMA) is the world's largest composites industry trade group. We are manufacturers, material and equipment suppliers, distributors, academia and end users, dedicated to growing the composites market. We serve our members and the industry by promoting the competitive advantage and versatility of composite materials. ACMA offers composites industry educational resources through our CAMX show, conferences and Certified Composites Technician (CCT®) program. We develop standards and specifications that drive preference for the use of composites in place of traditional materials. We lead advocacy efforts via legislative and regulatory channels to achieve a more viable composites industry. Together, we are shaping the future of composites. Learn more at <http://www.acmanet.org>.