

JEC Americas 2012: An inaugural session beyond expectations

After three days of Composites networking and Knowledge sharing, the first JEC Americas Composites Show and Conferences closed its doors last November 9 on an excellent note.

According to interviewed exhibitors and visitors, the show was highly beneficial to their development in the Americas, not only by the quality of the Innovative content, but also by its variety of stakeholders representing the whole Composites value chain from Raw Materials producers to End-user companies. The collocation with the Industrial Fabric Association International (IFAI) expo turned out very well, since visitors from both shows could benefit from a wide offer covering the Composites Industry and the Industrial textiles sector.

Indeed, 306 participating companies at JEC Americas welcomed more than 10,000 visitors (JEC + IFAI) from 53 countries, confirming the interest of the International Composites Industry in the American market worth \$ 34 billion of revenue out of \$ 77 billion worldwide in 2011.

Innovation in the limelight

As one of JEC's motto, Innovation was the center of discussions and exchanges during JEC Americas 2012. JEC President and CEO Frédérique Mutel explains: "The Americas promote a culture of innovation. Composites professionals open new ways with passion. For example, wind energy was a remarkable outlet in the last decade in North America." The Opening and Innovation Awards Ceremony, presented by Gene Lavanchy, awarded nine companies. A "Special Prize" was awarded to Toyota and its Lexus LFA

for its lightweight concept, main body material mix, carbon composite & joining technology, front crash energy absorption, etc. During the Ceremony, Professor Brian L. Wardle, associate Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics and Director of Nano-Engineered Composite aerospace Consortium, performed a remarkable speech about 'the MIT and the Boston Region's contributions to Innovation in Composites – Focus on Nanomaterials'. The Innovation Showcase displayed a dozen of innovative composites parts, 65% of them from North America. Aero Structural parts, Wing sections, Cars, Building technologies, Sports & leisure, Bicycles ... many

sectors were represented to every attendees pleasure. The live Demo Zone "Automation", in partnership with Roctool, Tencate and Wabash, was also the meeting point of the visitors eager to find new reinforced thermoplastic technologies and experience Live Heat & Cool Process. This constitutes a major innovation, since it allows creating a low-cost part within a time cycle of about 2 minutes 30 seconds. Tablets covers were produced and offered to the participants. The Technical University of Munich and the University of Stuttgart presented an integrated process chain for high volume production of carbon composite parts through posters and video presentations.



JEC Americas Innovation Awards Winners pictured here with Ms. Frédérique Mutel (left of center), JEC's President and CEO, together with M. Gene Lavanchy, lead anchor for Boston FOX25 Morning News (far right).

Cross sectorial and International Knowledge Sharing with 100+ presentations

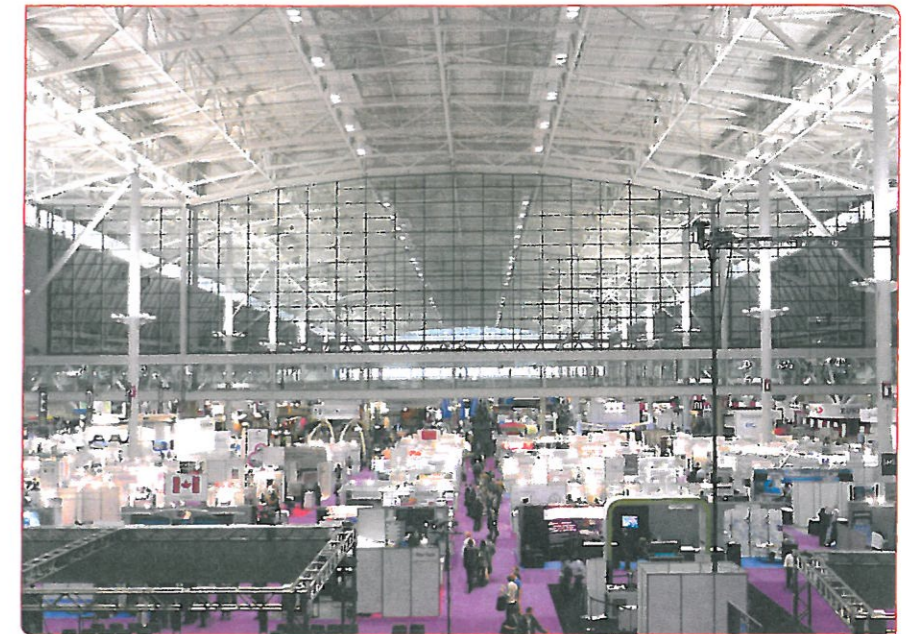
Regulations, Carbon, Bio-Based, Aeronautics, Design, Thermoplastics, Construction & Building, Automotive, Wind Energy and Automation were the topics discussed by the Innovative Composites Summit (I.C.S.) high value added forums attended by international delegates.

Likewise, the Technical Posters area displayed a wide range of research topics related to the newest advances in the composites industry. This area gathered more than 60 posters from famous Universities and companies in the USA, Singapore, Germany or again South Korea. The composites experts who submitted a poster were able to present their work during 30-minutes sessions over the 3 days.

Another JEC service that came to the Boston show has also received a warm welcome from the attendees, the Technical Sales Presentations. Hundreds of visitors could attend for free to presentations of new products on the market and new composites developments over the 3 days of the show.

JEC Americas 2012 was the place to be to network efficiently.

Indeed, serving as a one stop shopping event for the composites Industry, JEC Americas



JEC Americas 2012 gathered the whole composites value chain

gathered the whole composites value chain and professionals from as many sectors as the composite End-users could involve. It also allowed the local stakeholders to offer their products to the world thanks to its international attendance from Europe, Asia, Middle East and of course, the Americas. The Business Meetings program organized pre arranged meetings for companies, allowing them to discuss with the right person from their target companies.



Live Demo Zone presenting new reinforced thermoplastic technologies and Heat & Cool Process.

Academics, Research Centers, Industry

The resounding success of JEC Americas 2012 was also due to the involvement of local, national and international Universities and Research centers connecting their Professors, Scientists and students to the industrial world. The JEC Americas JOB Center was an ideal way for students to find their future employer and, vice versa, companies could post a job offer and possibly have a job interview immediately onsite. Many international Industry associations along with local and International Press supported the event. "We are thrilled to see that our 55 years of history and networking in this region supported in the last two decades by internet media and a well-established JEC Magazine were worth the work. We knew that this event was much-anticipated and that this market is full of opportunities, but we were sure surprised by such a large support from so many companies for a first session. We thank them so much. It encourages us." says Frédérique Mutel.

The positive results of this year's show and pre-booking for next year only affirm JEC's decision to return to Boston for JEC Americas 2013 next Oct. 2 to 4, 2013 as well as for JEC Americas 2014 in Oct. 28 to 30, 2014. ■

More information: www.jeccomposites.com