



India Composites Expo

Product Technik attended India Composites expo held in Hyderabad and were supported by Aerovac Systems, Advanced Composites Group, Lola Group, CTS and the Polymer Awarding Body.



Product Technik Stand at the Composites Expo

David Skertchly (Managing Consultant of Product Technik) gave the keynote speech for the conference where he concluded that India's huge economy and in particular its abundant manpower was ideally suited to the production of Advanced Composites. He confirmed the CCI objective that India should be a centre of excellence for automotive composites. The inaugural session was chaired by Sutirha Bhattacharya, the Commissioner for Industries of Andhra Pradesh, the significance of which is that the State of Andhra Pradesh has a population and land area greater than the United Kingdom and even so is only one of the 28 Indian States.

Other highlights of the expo included presentations and stands created by delegates from the China Composites Corporation. The focus was on building Chinese and Indian infrastructure and was mostly concerned with pipes, tanks and architectural composites.

Jonathan Oldroyd of Aerovac Systems, gave a workshop on liquid resin infusion technology, which was often repeated on the Product Technik stand by popular demand. A series of workshops throughout India will be set up in the near future.

Lead by David Skertchly the implications of composites on the development of the Indian transport infrastructure were discussed. Delegates were inspired by the examples of the NABI Bus project and the Hitachi Railway carriage project both of which had recently been published in the media.

Another popular presentation was one which described how the NVQ training structure, developed by the Polymer Awarding Body, had been successfully exploited by McLaren to achieve high composites production rates and quality. It was generally agreed that this structure is directly convertible to India using UK based verifiers such as Product Technik.

Of interest to the UK delegation was a presentation by J.N.Malaviya, secretary of the Indian Wind Energy Association, which put in context the expansion and scope for both manufacturing and installed capacity in India. More details of the Indian Wind Energy Association can be found at www.inwea.org

Throughout the conference the UK delegates were accommodated by CCI in the Secunderabad Club. This quaint club dates from the days of the Raj and enabled the delegates to enjoy the atmosphere of Indian culture while also benefiting from modestly priced accommodation to Western Standards.



Left; The accommodation at the Secunderabad club is up to modest western standards with air conditioning etc. Right the Club dates from about 1860 and has all the charm of a long established and traditional gentleman's club, an experience not to be missed by stressed out 21st century executives.

Composites Expo 2007 will be held in Pune, the famous Indicar City, perhaps by then the CCI and Product Technik objective of a UK and Indian high technology automotive collaboration will yield results which can be reported at the conference.