

Press Release

nova-Institut GmbH (www.nova-institute.eu)
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Latest Material Development Trends in the Automotive Industry are Focus of the Sixth WPC & NFC Conference, Cologne

On 16–17 December 2015 the largest conference on Wood-Plastic Composites (WPC) and Natural Fibre Composites (NFC) worldwide will take place for the sixth time in Cologne, Germany. Leading suppliers of the automotive sector, namely Corbion Purac, Toyota Boshoku Europe, Yanfeng Europe and PolyOne Global Engineered Materials will present the latest trends in material development. More than 250 participants from all over the world are expected at the international Sixth WPC & NFC Conference, Cologne: <http://wpc-conference.com>

The the automotive session of the conference will take off with a presentation on “Biocomposites in the Automotive Industry, Markets and Environment” by **Michael Carus**, Managing Director of **nova-Institut (DE)**. The presentation outlines the results of the latest market study on WPC and NFC and includes comprehensive results of a survey among the European suppliers for the automotive industry.

Dr. Werner Klusmeier from **Yanfeng Europe Automotive Interior Systems Limited & Co. KG (DE)** (former Johnson Controls) will pass an expert opinion on “Natural Fiber Reinforced Components for Vehicle Interior, Status and Next Development”.

More developments in the use of bio-based polymers in the automotive industry will be shown by Global Marketing Director bio-plastics at **Corbion Purac BV (NL)**, **François de Bie**, together with **Francesca Brunori** from **Röchling Automotive SE & Co.KG (IT/DE)**. They will present latest cooperation results on: “High Heat PLA 100% Biobased Natural Fiber Filled Compounds”.

“Sustainable Lightweight Material in Automotive Industry: Simultaneous Back Injection Moulding of Natural Fiber Composites”, will be presented by **Tayfun Buzkan** from **Toyota Boshoku Europe N.V. (DE/JP)**. Further Lightweight Questions will be answered by **Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jörg Müssig**, **Hochschule Bremen (City University of Applied Sciences Bremen) (DE)** at his speech: “Natural Fibre-reinforced Polymers – a Sustainable Material for Lightweight Constructions?”. “Sustainable Lightweighting Thermoplastic Solutions for Automotives” are considered by **Marc Mézailles** from **PolyOne Global Engineered Materials (FR/US)**. **Katharina Haag** from **City University of Applied Sciences Bremen (DE)** shows new long hemp fibre granulates for automotive applications, which are produced without compounding, achieving unique visual effects with injection moulding. The automotive supplier **HIB Trim Part Solutions (DE)** is offering these new granulates on the market.

High performance applications like structural parts in buildings or thermally stressed automotive parts require improved properties which are strongly determined by the polymer matrix. Engineering plastics are distinguished by superior thermal and mechanical properties. **Eva**

Sykacek from **University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (AT)** shows research results of “WPCs based on Engineering Polymers”. The “Effect of Esterification Reactions with Lignin on the Performance of Lignin/HDPE Composites“ will be highlighted by **Dr. Nicole M. Stark, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (US)**. The main drawback of the polyolefin-based WPC are their low impact resistance and low elongation at break. “A Novel Wood-Plastic-Composite based on Thermoplastic Polyurethane“ might offer a solution as will be presented by **Sylvia Diestel, University of Hamburg (DE)**.

Highlight of the conference will be the “Wood and Natural Fibre Composite Award 2015”. The Innovation Award highlights products that entered the market in 2015 or are just about to be launched. Each of the nominated companies will introduce its new material or product to the conference participants in a short 10-minute presentation on the first day of the conference. Following the presentations, the audience will choose the three winners. The winner will be awarded in the evening during the gala dinner. Please find information about the nominees here: <http://news.bio-based.eu/candidates-nominated-for-the-wood-and-natural-fibre-composite-award-2015/>

The conference is sponsored by Beologic BV (BE), Corbion Purac BV and Plasthill (FI). Coperion GmbH (DE) sponsors the "Wood and Natural Fibre Composite Award 2015“, awarded during the first day of the Conference.

As part of the conference, the largest WPC and NFC exhibition in the world will take place. The following companies have already booked their booth: Beologic/HakaGerodur (BE), Corbion Purac (NL), ENTEX Rust & Mitschke GmbH / NOVO-TECH GmbH & Co. KG (DE), EuroTec GmbH (DE), Gala Kunststoff- und Kautschukmaschinen GmbH (DE), Harold Scholz & Co. GmbH (DE), HF Mixing Group (DE), J. Rettenmaier & Söhne GmbH + Co. KG (DE), J.H. Ziegler GmbH (DE), Hans Weber Maschinenfabrik GmbH (DE), Kompetenzzentrum Holz GmbH (AT), WPC Plattform Austria (AT), PALLMANN Maschinenfabrik GmbH & Co. KG (DE), Wöhler Brush Tech GmbH (DE), WPC Plattform Austria (AT), W&R Plastics B.V. (NL), Fraunhofer WKI & Fraunhofer UMSICHT (DE), VTT TECHNICAL RESEARCH CENTRE OF FINLAND (FI).

If you are interested in joining, please contact Dominik Vogt as soon as possible: dominik.vogt@nova-institut.de.

In June 2015 the nova-institute published a new version of the market study „Wood-Plastic Composites (WPC) and Natural Fibre Composites (NFC): European and Global Markets 2012 and Future Trends in Automotive and Construction“. All registered conference participants will receive, after booking, a **30% allowance code** for the most comprehensive study on WPC and NFC.

Learn more about the study and download a short version for free at <http://bio-based.eu/markets/#ms-wpc-nfc>

Please find more information on the WPC & NFC Conference, Cologne at <http://wpc-conference.com>

The following nova conference team members are at your disposal:

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