



## Automotive and Transport Division News

### Renault concept car features plastics

Renault unveiled its new Ondelios concept car to visitors at the Mondial de l'Automobile 2008 fair, on 4 October. The 205hp (105kw) hybrid drive Ondelios makes innovative use of plastics with all of the glazing in the crossover concept car made from polycarbonate. The 4.8m long and 1.6m tall design also has a carbon fibre reinforced composite body and even some of its structural parts are based on flax fibre reinforcement. The polycarbonate glazed roof emphasizes the vehicle's airy look and feel, bathing the interior in natural light, with the steeply raked windscreen extending well down the bonnet to further accentuate the ethereal feel. Other Ondelios features include highly glazed doors hinged to the roof, an aluminium-finish grille, LED headlamps and "boomerang-shaped tail lights that are built into the bodywork and ringed with air extractors to control the flow of air from the wheel arches". In terms of performance, the Ondelios reaches a speed of 100 km/hr within 7.8 secs, yet the car has fuel consumption of just 4.5 litres/100km and carbon dioxide emission of 120g/km. The new Renault Ondelios concept car is a glimpse of what the automobile might be in the medium term future: a car that combines a "comfortable ride" with "respect for the environment". More information on <http://www.mondial-automobile.com/>

### Efficiency in Road Transport

In a joint international symposium on "Efficiency in Road Transport" organised by The International Road Transport Union (IRU), the European Automobile Manufactu-

urers' Association (ACEA) and the German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA), was reported that in today's globalised economy, road transport has become a vital production tool due to its high quality door-to-door services. The symposium concluded that the use of longer heavier vehicles (LHVs) – the so-called Modular Concept –, coupled with innovative logistics strategies, represents the most appropriate answer from the road transport industry to effectively absorb the foreseen continued growth of freight transport in Europe and to promote the principle of modality, as advocated in the EU transport policy guidelines of the White Paper.

For more information please visit [www.acea.be](http://www.acea.be)

### Jama

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual JAMA reception took place at the Residence Palace in Brussels on 1 July with over 180 participants. JAMA's new chairman Mr Satoshi Aoki (also Chairman of Honda Motor Co., Ltd.) hosted the event, welcoming key actors from the EU Institutions, EU Member States and industry. JAMA was honoured to welcome Ms Petra Erler, Head of Cabinet, DG Enterprise, as its distinguished guest speaker. Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association focused on the critical issues of climate change and globalisation on its yearly Reception. These issues will continue to weigh heavily on the sector's competitiveness. Global automobile companies have made very significant investments in the field of R&D with a view to minimise the environmental impact of their vehicles. These same companies look forward to the successful conclusion of the WTO Doha Round, a balanced trade deal and further market access. In order to address these challenges and to strengthen the competitiveness of

the automobile industry, it is essential that policymakers fully implement the recommendations of the CARS 21 initiative, particularly those dealing with better regulation and market access. Claude Thibaut de Maisières, **EuPC** Automotive Chairman and Ingrid Verschueren, **EuPC** Automotive Division Manager represented EuPC at the JAMA yearly reception.

### GPA and EuPC collaboration

Jean Nanoux has been elected as president of GPA. Madame H. Dumont has been appointed as managing director. The first mission of Jean Nanoux will be the creation of an automotive sector group under the **EuPC** umbrella. His actions will be supported by François Renard. A meeting is planned on 16 October 2008 in Brussels.

### REACH and Recycling

During the meeting of the REACH Competent Authorities (CA) on 25-26 September 2008, the need to pre-register recovered substances that have ceased to be waste according to the Waste framework Directive, was not called into question, except in cases where the exemption from registration for recovered substances in article 2 (7) (d) of REACH can be justified. Pre-registration provides legal security that manufacturing, placing on the market and using the substance can continue until the relevant registration deadlines. The Commission services are currently finalising the paper including the comments provided at the CA meeting. The final document will be uploaded on the relevant Commission websites and it will be handed over to the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) for incorporation into future updates of the relevant guidance documents.

## European Parliament scales back CO<sub>2</sub> emissions limit

The European Parliament's Environment committee voted in favor of sticking to proposals mandating that the average new car should emit an average of 130 grams of carbon dioxide per kilometer by 2012, compared with a current European average 158 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per kilometer. A further 10-gram reduction, to reach a target of 120 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per kilometer, would be obtained by using other technical improvements like better tires or the use of biofuels. The vote infuriated the car industry, which accused the committee of jeopardizing European jobs and manufacturing. The measures await approval from the full Parliament, which could vote in mid-November, and from EU governments, which have called for a decision by the end of the year. The result is a setback for the car industry, which now must redouble its efforts to win concessions it had sought in the final version of the legislation.

## Flowfree and Polycond

The EU funded projects Flowfree and Polycond will be joining forces to organize a training event on 4 December 2008 in Brussels (EuPC offices).

The FlowFree Project which aims at the development of a high output processing method for the extrusion of solid thermoplastic sheet and profile, is in its last year of activities.

The aim of the Polycond project is to develop conductive plastic com-

posites that are eco-friendly, cost effective and of high added value. This will be achieved through an ambitious multidisciplinary approach developing new, radically innovative, knowledge-based and sustainable products for protection against the effects of Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) and Electrostatic Discharge (ESD). The project will end on 31 January 2009.

The training event is aimed to raise awareness of the projects and its activities (progress, achievements - and results) across a wide range of industrial companies.

For more information about the training event please contact:

[bianka.nagy@eupc.org](mailto:bianka.nagy@eupc.org) or  
<http://www.euflowfree.com/> and  
<http://polycond.eu/>

## NATEX

**EuCIA** is participating in the EU funded project Aligned Natural Fibres and Textiles for use in Structural Composite Applications (NATEX). The aim of the project is to produce a high-performance composite material, based on a specially developed textile from plant-based fibres and bio-polymer matrices.

The development of aligned textiles from bio fibres that will be derived from non-food crops and that will be suitable for use as high-strength reinforcing fabrics in composite materials, such as hemp and flax, and will be suitable for structural applications. At present they are only available as semi-structural short to medium fibre grades.

The project will use three main techniques – film stacking, com-

mingling (for thermoplastic resin) and prepregs (for thermoset resins)- to bring together natural fibres and resins into a semi-finished material that is easy to handle. For the semi-finished material two techniques will be used – vacuum bag and compression moulding- to mould the parts by the application of heat, pressure and cooling, to melt the polymer and make it liquid. For thermoset liquid resins infusion and resin transfer resin (RTM) techniques will be used. Test plaques will be obtained through this process and will be tested to provide essential information for the process specifications and design of prototype components.

## ECRC Composites Recycling Seminar

**EuCIA** (European Composites Industry Association) and **ECRC** (European Composites Recycling Services Company) is organizing an important one day seminar about the status of composite recycling projects in Europe on 18 February 2009 in Brussels. The full programme will follow soon and can be found on [www.eucia.org](http://www.eucia.org)

## EuPC Personalia

Alisa De Backer will be joining **EuCIA** on 13 October 2008 as a sector group manager. She graduated in International affairs and politics from Vesalius College (VUB) Brussels. She has work experience in the chemical industry working for CEFIC.

## EuPC Upcoming events and meetings

16 October 2008	B&C Excom Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
24 October 2008	EuPF Excom Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
25 November 2008	Raw Materials Committee Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
25 November 2008	HSE Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
26 November 2008	Packaging Excom Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
26 November 2008	Steering Committee Meeting	Brussels, EuPC Centre
26 November 2008	BPF 75th Anniversary Cocktail	Brussels, EuPC offices
27 November 2008	Communication Committee Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
27 November 2008	Trade Committee Meeting	Brussels, EuPC offices
4 December 2008	FlowFree & Polycond training event	Brussels, EuPC Centre
18 February 2009	ECRC Composites Recycling Seminar	Brussels, EuPC Centre