AMI's first Long Fibre Thermoplastics conference is scheduled for Cologne, Germany, in November. We take a look at the expert speaker line-up and review the topics to be covered

Looking ahead to LFTs 2017

Main image: Opportunities for LFT materials will be discussed at the first Long Fibre Thermoplastics conference in Germany in November

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Automotive industry moves to cut emissions is placing a premium on light weight technologies such as composites and particularly on long fibre thermoplastic (LFTs), which offer levels of performance to match or exceed metal without the need to invest in complex or additional moulding equipment. So, it is no surprise that LFT market growth is strengthening. However, opportunities for LFTs extend well beyond automotive, with new reinforcement options extending their abilities to replace metal in sectors such as aerospace, electrical, and sports and leisure.

Long Fibre Thermoplastics 2017 is a brand new international conference from Applied Market Information (publisher of *Compounding World* and *Injection World* magazines and compiler of the Long Fibre Polypropylene Compounds Global Market Report) that will present an opportunity to learn more about the utilisation, formulation and processing of these versatile, high performance and light weight polymer compounds. The event brings together expert speakers to cover the latest applications of LFTs in the automotive industry, still the dominant end-use market, and explore fast developing non-automotive opportunities.

Taking place on 7-8 November in Cologne, Germany, Long Fibre Thermoplastics 2017 will bring together leading players in the LFT industry, key players in the LFT supply chain, and existing and potential end-users and processors keen to learn more about the latest market and technology developments. This article takes a look at the expert international speaker line-up and previews the topics that will be covered.

Automotive advances

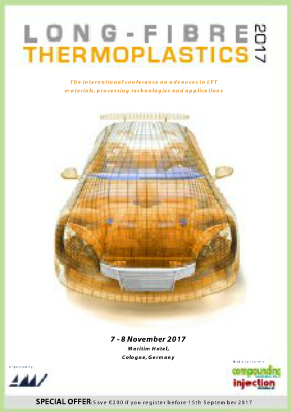
Given its importance in the LFT market, the first session of Long-Fibre Thermoplastics 2017 will focus on automotive. **Dr Joseph J. Laux**, Director of Business Development and Advanced Engineering (EU) - Lightweight Composites at **Magna Exteriors** in Switzerland, will open the event with a presentation titled "Three critical factors to consider when looking for applications of long carbon fibre thermoplastics in automotive". Two automotive case studies will follow. **Jeff Sun**, Technical Director at **Shaoxing RossEnce Material Technology** in China, will discuss the application of low-warpage LFT in an automotive instrument panel (IP) carrier, then **Anil George**, Co-Founder/Director at **AutoDynamic Engineering** in India, will cover the development and production of an automotive bumper beam.

The next session takes a look at developments in reinforcement fibres for LFT applications. **Veronika Radlmaier**, Product Developer at the **SGL Group** in Germany, will open the session with a review of the current position for composite components in the automotive industry, then go on to outline the potential for LFTs based on 50k carbon fibres. Then **Dany De Kock**, Global Application Development & Technical Service Leader Fibres at **Johns Manville** in Belgium, will speak about selection of glass fibre reinforcements for LFTs.

One of the key advantages of LFTs is their capacity to be tuned to individual performance requirements. The third session at the conference provides an opportunity for delegates to learn more about the use of customised LFTs. **Thilo Stier**, Director Innovation & Sales at **Akro-Plastic** in Germany, will talk about the production and application of low-density polyamide-based LFTs with specific functionalities. **Eric Martin**, Global Business Development Manager at **Solvay** in Belgium, will look at examples where LFTs have created new metal replacement opportunities. And **Bertrand Maillet**, Market Development Engineer at **Trinseo** in France, will discuss the development and application of LFT concentrates with high glass loadings and different

Long Fibre Thermoplastics 2017 takes place at the Maritim Hotel in Germany on 7-8 November 2017. Organised by Applied Market Information (publisher of *Compounding World* and *Injection World* magazines and author of the Long Fibre Polypropylene Compounds Global Market Report), the brand new two-day international conference presents an opportunity to gain an up-to-the-minute view of the LFTs market. Expert speakers will cover key market trends and growth opportunities, explore the latest LFT materials and applications in the automotive and non-automotive sectors, and detail advances in design and production of LFT components.

Long Fibre Thermoplastics 2017 will be the perfect forum to network and exchange ideas with industry peers and to learn more about these fast developing, high performance materials. To find out more about attending the conference, or to learn about sponsorship and exhibition opportunities, visit the conference **website** or contact Conference Organiser Kaja-Marie Beiswanger. Tel.: +44 (0) 117 314 8111; Email: **kmb@amiplastics.com**



resin matrix options.

The final session of the day will focus on some examples where LFT performance has been optimised to meet specific performance demands. **Jörg Garlinsky**, Sales Manager Additives for Thermoplastics at **BYK-Chemie** in Germany, will detail how high performance coupling agents for LFTs can achieve low VOC emissions and improved mechanical performance through higher grafting levels. **Sergio Moriano**, Business Manager Composites, EMEA and India at PolyOne in Luxembourg, will shed light on the optimisation of design to realise the full benefit of LFTs. And **Wolfgang Stockreiter**, Senior Scientist at **Borealis Polyolefine** in Austria, will close the day with a discussion of fibre length and its critical importance in producing high performance LFT parts.

Beyond automotive

Day two of Long-Fibre Thermoplastics 2017 presents an opportunity to learn about some applications of LFTs outside the automotive sector. The day will be opened by **Karl Schnetzinger**, CEO of **Advanced Polymer Compounds** in Austria, who will share the results of a collaborative project to develop centrifugal pump components using long-fibre thermoplastics based on polyamides. He will be followed by **Maarten Labordus**, R&D Manager at KVE Composite Structures in the Netherlands, who will explain some new developments in high-end LFT processing for aerospace applications.

The conference will then turn to processing improvements. **Seung-Chan Ryu**, Principal Researcher at **Samyang Corporation** in Korea, will discuss thermal conductivity and EMI-shielding behaviour of PPS-based long-carbon-fibre-reinforced thermoplastic composites. **Maiko Ersch**, a member of scientific staff at the **Institute of Plastics Processing (IKV) at RWTH Aachen University** in Germany, will detail some new simulation methods for production of LFTs. **Maximilian Schadhauser**, Technology Development at **KraussMaffei Technologies** in Germany, will explain the influence of different mixing concepts on fibre distribution, fibre length and mechanical properties in single-screw direct processing of LFTs. And the session will be closed by **Dr Ricardo Hernandez Ruiz de Olano**, Researcher at **Leartiker** in Spain, who will report the results of some design-of-experiments research on injection moulding of LFTs.

The final session of the conference will discuss alternative routes for LFT production. **Manuel Woehrle**, the Senior Sales Manager Lightweight at **Arburg in Germany, will** open the session with an explanation of the performance and commercial benefits of using its inline LFT compounding process on an injection moulding machine. **Karin Luxem**, Area Sales Manager Asia Pacific, at **ProTec Polymer Processing** in Germany, will look at how LFT-pultrusion lines can be optimised to improve impregnation and lift productivity with a range of fibres, polymers and loadings. And the conference will be brought to a close by **Dr. Oliver Eitel**, Business Segment Manager at **Coperion** in Germany, with a look at novel LFT compound production on a special applications line.

The international line-up of expert speakers at Long Fibre Thermoplastics 2017 include (from left) Dr Joseph J. Laux, Director of Business Development and Advanced Engineering (EU) - Lightweight Composites at Magna Exteriors; Veronika Radlmaier, Product Developer at the SGL Group ; Bertrand Maillet, Market Development Engineer at Trinseo; Maximilian Schadhauser, Technology Development at KraussMaffei Technologies; and Karin Luxem, Area Sales Manager Asia Pacific, at ProTec Polymer Processing