

Press release;

Companies and universities invest in a unique collaboration in composites

A number of Linköping based companies have decided on an extensive collaboration with Linköping Municipality and research organisations with the aim of developing production techniques and processes for products using fibre composites. To achieve this, a production technique centre in Linköping called Compraser will be established.

The companies involved in Compraser are Saab AB, Applied Composites AB (ACAB) which is a subsidiary of Volvo Aero in Trollhättan, RUAGSpace AB and Exova AB. They will collaborate with Swerea SICOMP, KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Linköping University and be supported by Linköping Municipality through its business development company NuLink.

Up till now the companies have worked individually with research and product development. A situation they wish to change through the introduction of this production technique centre.

"We contribute with our different skills and share the investment. Together we will be a very strong player in this area," says Torgny Stenholm, Chairman of Compraser and President of ACAB. "With major companies and the Municipality backing us coupled with secured funding for a number of years to come, we have the opportunity to build a national meeting place for these important issues."

Fibre composites

Fibre composites are light and strong materials with a wide range of uses, not least in the transport sector, where less weight resulting in reduced fuel consumption and minimised impact on the environment is much in demand. They have long been used in the aerospace industry as well as the defence industry, in high-end cars and high performance sporting goods.

Sweden is currently in the forefront of manufacturing products which incorporate carbon fibre, not least for the aerospace and space industry. With some of Sweden's leading companies in this field being located in Linköping this is very much a profile issue for the city.

"We are extremely pleased that Compraser is now operational. It highlights the unique competence integrated with enterprising companies that Linköping has to offer. Investment in composite techniques has all the prerequisites to be highly successful", says Paul Lindvall (M), Chairman of Linköping City Executive Board.

"Composite techniques are closely associated with competencies within the aviation industry and Compraser reinforces and further establishes Linköping's high technology profile", says Lena Micko (S) Linköping City Commissioner and Chairman of Svenskt Flyg.

Swerea SICOMP and KTH Royal Institute of Technology are among the foremost in materials science and research within fibre composites in Sweden and Linköping University is well ahead in the area of production techniques.

"Improved production techniques and more automation are necessary if the Swedish industry is to remain competitive. Collaboration between industry, academia and the public sector provide a good

basis for developing the necessary production techniques ", Torgny Stenholm continues. "Focus must be on solving industrial problems and developing industry-related production techniques and methods as well as testing and verifying products."

For further information please contact the Members of the Compras Board.

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