



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **THE NATIONAL COMPOSITE CENTER AND COMPOSITES ONE ANNOUNCE JOINT AGREEMENT**

**DAYTON, Ohio** - (February 1, 2005) – During a special press conference held today, the National Composite Center (NCC) and Composites One announced a joint agreement. The agreement names Composites One as sole distributor of NCC's *Rapid Fiber Preforming* technology for North America. NCC will supply the preforms and provide application development for Composites One customers along with technical support to the distributor's service and sales representatives.

The Center's innovative process traces its roots to technology first developed for the automotive industry. NCC was funded by National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Department of Energy (DOE) to help produce composite pick-up truck boxes using Owens Corning's automated P4 for Programmable Powder Preform process. NCC adapted the technology and demonstrated the ability to produce complex shapes with carbon fibers at significant cost reductions for the Air Force. NCC further adapted the technology for commercial applications making it possible to eliminate the use of roll cloth or matting and the labor costs associated with hand lay-up as well as reducing material scrap.

As a result of these advances, NCC's *Rapid Fiber Preforming* is able to create near net shape

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preforms. Rapid fabrication and the capability to more uniformly place glass or carbon fibers also offers the flexibility to customize applications to fit nearly any size job at a dramatically reduced cost when compared to traditional reinforcement forms. In addition, NCC has implemented large scale preforming to produce cost-effective, complex, very large composite products.

“We felt NCC’s *Rapid Fiber Preforming* technology was a good fit for Composites One,” said Leon Garoufalis, President and COO of Composites One. “We combine a strong national presence with a local customer service approach. Our goal is to provide customers with dynamic solutions that help them solve problems and equip them to be competitive in today’s economy. Educating our customers about new products, processes and technologies is equally important. We’re committed to helping our customers understand and adapt Closed Mold opportunities to improve their own business processes. NCC’s expertise and technology advances contribute strongly to our objective to help our customers do their jobs better and faster.

Garoufalis further explained, “Preforming can be a critical ingredient to closed molding applications in that it not only compliments the technology, but could even be a necessary bridge to reaching the most cost-effective molding stage of a production process. Also, the *Rapid Fiber Preforming* process and applications are complimentary to our glass kit business, Kit Concepts, which is designed to provide additional efficiencies for our customers.”

Composites One is the leading distributor of fiberglass and advanced composite materials in North America. With locations in Ashtabula and Dayton, Ohio, Composites One has built a network of 32 additional distribution centers nationwide. Composites One serves more than 8,000 customers annually, has more than 500 supplier partners and maintains an e-commerce site.

In addition, Composites One is represented on the Board of Directors for the American Composites Manufacturers Association. The company is also active in the International Cast Polymer Alliance, regional cast polymer groups and representatives of the boatbuilding, marine and other industries.

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“The Composites One-NCC agreement demonstrates the role NCC plays in the commercialization of new products and processes and the continued growth of composite-related jobs in Ohio and across the nation,” said Lou Luedtke, President and CEO of NCC. “The strength of Composites One’s distribution network combined with its team of knowledgeable service representatives meshes well with our unique ability to provide product development, prototyping and pilot production from concept to factory-ready products. And as the preform market continues to grow NCC will be looking at licensing its manufacturing processes to other companies.”

Since 1996, The National Composite Center has taken the lead in pioneering efforts to promote, develop and apply advanced composite technology to the aerospace and defense, automotive, commercial and infrastructure markets. NCC’s ability to link composites to the appropriate markets is producing new business opportunities and sources of income that are helping to expand the region’s industrial base. NCC has also established a pilot production plant to provide a central point where companies can congregate to develop large-scale manufacturing methods and establish industry standards. As a gatekeeper for the composite age, NCC is also committed to the exploration of advanced manufacturing technologies to provide industry and consumers alike with high performance materials that last longer and cost less. By teaming with colleges, universities and government, NCC is bridging the gap between science and practicality to strengthen commerce in Ohio and contribute positively to the lives of communities across the nation.

For more information visit NCC’s website at [www.compositecenter.org](http://www.compositecenter.org).

Composites One is the nation’s leading distributor of composite materials serving customers from 32 stocking locations in North America. Composites One offers composites fabricators and molders over 1000 different products from over 500 of the industry’s top suppliers through a technical sales and customer service force that is the most knowledgeable in the industry. The company offers a variety of value-added services that include customized logistics services, technical applications reviews, and unmatched regulatory compliance assistance. Composites One is headquartered in Arlington Hts., IL.

For more information visit [www.compositesone.com](http://www.compositesone.com) or call 800-621-8003.

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