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Over 2000 Composites Manufacturers See Benefits of Closed Mold Processes at COMPOSITES 2010

Composites One Showcases Fully-Operational Closed Mold Work Live on Exhibit Hall Floor

Arlington Heights, IL, February 16, 2010...Composites One, along with the Closed Mold Alliance, once again caught the attention of manufacturers attending COMPOSITES 2010 in Las Vegas, February 10-11, by featuring a fully-functional closed mold work cell as part of a live indoor demonstration on the exhibit hall floor. The two-day industry event attracted over 2000 attendees who were able to watch the Composites One Closed Mold Team, along with the Closed Mold Alliance, produce more than 60 production quality mini-catamarans using Light Resin Transfer Molding (Light RTM) and Closed Cavity Bag Molding (CCBM) closed mold processes. The highlight of the week was the production of a replica 10-foot wind blade using Vacuum Infusion (VIP). The work cell featured Magnum Venus Plastech (MVP) injection equipment and materials from several leading industry suppliers.

This is the sixth consecutive year that Composites One has presented live demonstrations of closed mold processes at an industry event like COMPOSITES 2010, this year being the first time such a demonstration of this scale was conducted inside the exhibit hall.

"We do the demonstrations to show how closed mold processes can be used to build large, as well as small scale parts, in high volume production runs," said Composites One Vice President of Marketing Greg Shymske. "This year we took it one step further by adding a replica wind blade infusion into the mix showing that closed mold is the process of choice in some of our industry's emerging markets as well."

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The two-day event also included a live presentation called *The Lean Mean Closed Mold Machine* featuring economic data, time and cost comparison studies, and a real life customer testimonial featuring Formashape™ 3D Architectural Solutions, a Composites One customer using Light RTM in their daily production.

All closed mold demonstrations featured Magnum Venus Plastech (MVP), the industry's leading meter/mix equipment manufacturer with specific expertise in closed mold processes and a member of the Closed Mold Alliance. The program was presented with assistance from other Alliance members which include RTM North, North America's leading Light RTM tooling expert and FormaShape, a division of Whitewater Composites, a showcase Light RTM volume production facility, light RTM tooling manufacturer and industry leader in both closed mold tooling and production. Composites One is also a member of the Closed Mold Alliance.

Throughout the event, industry experts from the Alliance, along with the Composites One Closed Mold Team, were on hand to answer attendees' questions about Light RTM, CCBM, VIP, equipment and materials, and to help manufacturers learn how to put the power of closed mold to work for their operation.

The live work cell at Composites 2010 was a joint effort between Composites One in partnership with 3M, Airtech Advanced Materials Group, Alcan Composites (Airex, Baltek and Lantor brands), Arkema, Cook Composites & Polymers, Chemtrend, Chomarat, ITW Plexus, Magnum Venus Plastech, Owens Corning, Progress Plastiques, RTM North, and Vectorply. Media sponsors included Composites Manufacturing and Composites Technology. "Without the support of our suppliers, a demonstration of this magnitude would be very difficult," added Shymske.

Also during the demonstrations at COMPOSITES 2010, Composites One introduced a new micro-fiber infused technology that can be used in closed molding. From Australian company MIRteq, the technology introduces very short fibers that are chemically treated to bond glass to existing resins, effectively displacing the need for conventional glass reinforcements. The net result is a polymersible liquid composite that is sprayable, pumpable, and pourable. Access to the technology is available exclusively through Composites One. MIRteq was also the

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recipient of an ACE Award at the conference for a one-way flap valve produced by Australian manufacturer Composites Solutions using MIR technology.

Composites One is the nation's leading distributor of composite materials serving customers from 34 locations in North America. Composites One offers composites fabricators and molders thousands of products from over 400 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 closed mold technologies, technical applications reviews, and unmatched regulatory compliance assistance. For more closed mold information, please visit www.closedmoldalliance.com or call 800-621-8003 and ask to speak to a closed mold expert.

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