



Natural & Wood Fiber Composites

EXCLUSIVE MONTHLY COVERAGE OF THE WPC INDUSTRY

PrincipiaPartners

SEPTEMBER 2005 • Volume IV, Number 9

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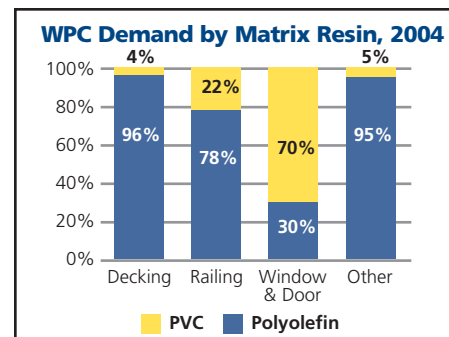
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PVC-Based Wood and Natural Fiber Composites

Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

The growth in demand for PVC-based wood and natural fiber composites varies quite significantly from one market sector to the other. PVC-based composite decking has seen its share of market acceptance challenges while the relatively new co-extruded composite railings have been very successful. The window and door lineal market continues its steady growth. Demand in other applications is relatively minor, but there are a number of new products in the development phase that may open up new markets.

The total market for wood and natural fiber composites is valued at about one billion dollars in 2004. Of this total, building products account for about 85% of this dollar value. Within the building products sector, decking and railing accounts for 90%, or about \$765 million. Polyolefin-based WPC products account for the bulk of the matrix resin used in the industry, as shown in the following figure.



The growth in demand for PVC-based wood flour and natural fiber composites in decking has been spotty compared to the polyolefin-based materials. PVC accounts for a very small portion of the entire market and its share hasn't changed much since 2002.

CertainTeed is the market leader for PVC-based wood composite decking and the growth in demand for its Boardwalk® products have been less than the overall industry. A lower growth rate can be attributed to the product's premium pricing compared to most other polyolefin-based WPC decking and channel dynamics with specialty one-step distribution. CertainTeed expects moderate growth in demand for Boardwalk in 2005 despite any negative affects due to the company's recent voluntary recall of Boardwalk® HFS™ deck planks.

ProCell, which makes a premium-priced, PVC and flax fiber composite deck board, has shown steady growth and is establishing itself as a national player. The other companies that operate on a regional basis include Wood Composite Technologies (Alberta, Canada) and its Millennium™ decking, and American Composite Building Products (Washington) with its AmeriDeck product.

Co-extruded wood composite railing made with a PVC-wood flour core and capped with PVC has taken the market by storm. Consumers increased their desire for this sturdy, white, aesthetically pleasing railing a few years ago. They love the look and the feel, especially compared to other non-WPC vinyl rail systems. Composatron and Fiber Composites were the early leaders in manufacturing this product. Most major composite company now manufacturer a co-extruded railing system with PVC as the capstock and a core made from either PVC or polyolefin and wood flour.

Continued on page 2

PVC-Based Wood and Natural Fiber Composites

Continued

Andersen is the market leader for PVC-based wood composite window and door lineals. The company uses its patented Fibrex technology to captively make WPC lineals for the company's vinyl window product line. The entire vinyl window market has grown exceptionally well over the past several years, outpacing overall window and door growth. Vinyl windows are taking market share from such other products as wood and steel, and this trend is expected to continue.

The other markets for PVC-based wood composites are relatively small. The decorative exterior trim market accounts for the majority of other PVC-based wood composites products and is a growing market. Other growth areas include the fencing and siding market. Several companies are developing PVC-based composite products to compete in these markets.

The future growth in demand for PVC-based wood composites looks very promising. Co-extruded PVC composite railing is growing at about two times the rate of polyolefin railing, the door and window market will continue to grow at a fast pace, and the demand for PVC-composite decking should receive an overall boost with Royal's entrance into the market and due to more stringent codes regarding building products. PVC has better fire resistant properties compared to most other plastics, which should benefit from such code changes.

For example, the state of California recently approved (effective January 2006) new construction building codes that emphasize the need to help reduce life and property loss from wildfire. The State Fire Marshall Urban Wildland Interface protocols will effectively make companies improve the fire resistant properties of their products, including WPC decking and railing. PVC-based composite products have a natural

advantage over polyolefin-based WPCs, and will likely have a positive impact on the demand for PVC-based composite products. If the California regulations are adopted by other western states, the opportunity for PVC products will be even greater.

The increase in resin prices is the biggest challenge the industry faces today, and that pressure from environmental activist groups to phase out PVC in building products is non-existent. The rise in resin prices is affecting all composite manufacturers by squeezing margins, which is in turn forcing companies to reduce costs at all levels. In regard to the "PVC-free" movement pushed by the activist groups, many of the PVC composite manufacturers agreed that there is no push back from their customers throughout the distribution channels as well as with homeowners. The leading PVC companies are well aware and are watching these groups, but they are showing minimal concern.

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Natural & Wood Fiber Composites is published 12 times a year by Principia Partners. Subscriptions cost US\$650 and provide access to one Volume (i.e. one calendar year) of the newsletter. A subscription entitles readers to share this newsletter with colleagues only at the same physical address.

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California WUI Phase II Regulations Approved

Likely to Cause Changes to Composite Decking Formulations

The state of California recently approved building regulations for new construction that calls for improved fire resistance from many building products, including WPC decking. The new regulations will be effective starting January 2008. The two-and-one-half-year implementation period was chosen to give companies enough time to complete testing and to make necessary formulation changes to comply with the new regulations.

The State Fire Marshal (SFM) Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Phase II regulations were approved on September 21, 2005. The regulations are part of a program to protect California life and property from wildfire exposure. The goal is to systematically reduce losses at the WUI where wildfire conflagrations are burning homes. The regulations will affect a majority of building materials.



Ruben Grijalva, the State Fire Marshal, recognized that decks have been the most controversial portion of the proposed regulations. The good news is that the WUI Advisory Committee worked closely with the industry to work out regulations and codes that would help make a difference in solving the WUI fire problem in California while, at the same time, be enforceable and understandable by the local government (building and fire officials).

For more information on the new regulations, visit the SFM web site at: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>.

SFM Advisory Committee: Hugh Council, 916-445-8174

Company News

CertainTeed Forms Fence, Deck and Railing Division

Wood Plastic Composite Products Combined with Vinyl Product Line



CertainTeed Corporation (Valley Forge, PA) recently re-organized its fence, deck and railing businesses into one division. Darren Campbell, former Vice President Bufftech and EverNew, is now the Vice President and General Manager of the newly formed Fence, Deck and Railing Division. This division is part of the Pipe and Plastics Group.

The new Fence, Deck and Railing Division has three major product lines. Boardwalk® is the wood composite brand of decking and railing, Bufftech® is the vinyl fence brand, and EverNew® is the brand for the vinyl deck and railing line.

CertainTeed: 800-233-8990

Epoch Opens New Chilhowie Plant

Producing Elements® Extruded Decking and Railing

Epoch Composite Products, Inc., (Lamar, MO) started production in August at its new facility in Chilhowie, VA and at its new plant in Lamar, MO. "It's been a tremendous first half of the year with EverGrain sales more than doubling," said Tim Whelan, Executive Vice President of Epoch Composite Products.

"The investments made in our Lamar facilities set us up to achieve these increases. In addition, we rolled out Elements®, a high-quality duo-finish extruded decking, and our plant in Chilhowie, VA started up this month." The Chilhowie plant is using an extrusion process to make the new Elements product line which is a significant change for the company which has built its business on a compression molded decking plank.

Epoch: Tim Whelan, 800-253-1401

Edge Building Products Enters Chapter 11

Status of DurationDeck Unknown



Edge Building Products (Newport, PA), producer of DurationDeck, a natural-fiber filled cellular PVC deck board, and other trim and siding products filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 11 in July. As recently as late 2004, Edge reported that it was going to create 53 new jobs by expanding operations with the addition of seven new production lines.

Edge: Jeff Nesbit, 717-431-3104

Product News

Royal Group Launches Co-Extruded Celucor™

Natural Fiber and Cellular PVC Core with Capstock Layer



Royal Group Technologies (Woodbridge, ON) recently launched its new composite building material. The company spent the last two years developing and rigorously testing Celucor™, a new co-extruded composite made from natural fibers encapsulated with cellular PVC, capped with a thermoplastic resin.

"Royal Group has patented the unique process used to manufacture Celucor™ and is bringing this innovative material to high-end home exterior product markets, which include decking, porches and a full complement of product lines," said Peter Kotiadis, Director of Sales and Marketing for decking, fencing, and railing at Royal Group.

"Leveraging our core competencies,

including capstocking, variegation, cellular PVC, and extrusion, we've taken cellular PVC to a new level by seamlessly integrating natural fibers to create this new composite," said Mr. Kotiadis. "Celucor is a natural next step for Royal Group and the industry."

The company claims Celucor's optimal fiber content and refined encapsulation process eliminate the pitfalls inherent in first-generation composites, including water absorption and mold growth, and that products made from Celucor™ will wear longer than first-generation composites. According to Royal, most first-generation composites contain 50% or more unprotected natural fiber, resulting in excess water absorption, weathering, and structural deterioration. Moreover, over time, color

fading and inconsistent surface stains expose natural fibers to the elements, compromising form, function, and durability. Royal Group's advanced fiber technology material better controls material expansion and contraction, as well as flexibility: a benefit resin alone can't deliver.

The capstock layer, co-extruded onto the product, will provide realistic color and shadings, while protecting it from water and UV damage. Celucor™ has a variegated cedar grain appearance, and will be available in Natural, Golden Oak, Mahogany, and Weathered Gray.

Royal: Peter Kotiadis, 905-264-0701

Product News

CertainTeed Initiates Voluntary Recall in July

Boardwalk® HFS Planks Shipments Resume in August

CertainTeed Corporation (Valley Forge, PA), manufacturer of Boardwalk® PVC and wood flour-based decking and railing, asked all distributors and dealers to stop the sale and shipment of Boardwalk® HFST™ (Hidden Fastener System) Planks on July 27, 2005 due to separate incidences of planks breaking on decks built from this product. None of these incidents resulted in personal injuries to anyone.

The company initiated an investigation of existing inventory of HFS Planks as well as all Boardwalk® products, and determined two important facts:

- 1) A limited quantity of Certain Boardwalk HFS planks did not meet internal specifications
- 2) The issue is limited only to Boardwalk HFS planks



As a result of these findings, CertainTeed temporarily suspended Boardwalk® HFS Plank shipments. The company then sent a bulletin to all distributors and dealers of Boardwalk® HFS describing a Corrective Action Procedure (CAP) for the disposition of the product, including all products in inventory and the identification of material sold. This CAP was also sent to the Consumer Product Safety Commission for their approval.

By August 23, 2005, CertainTeed completed its testing of returned Boardwalk HFS Planks, and determined the vast majority of these planks met CertainTeed's manufacturing specifications. With the agreement of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, CertainTeed resumed shipping of the Boardwalk HFS Planks that were tested and that met manufacturing specifications.

CertainTeed: John Pruett, 610-341-7711

Flaxwood Launches New Guitar

Made From Natural Fiber Composites

Finnish guitar maker Flaxwood introduced a new guitar made from natural fiber composites. The company markets the guitar as a high quality, stable, and environmentally friendly material with a long sustain, rich sound, broad frequency and dynamic range as well as trouble-free tuning using a material that surpasses the best known tonewoods.



Company officials would not release specific information on the resin system, type of natural fiber, or molding process used in the new guitar.

Flaxwood: www.flaxwood.fi

TimberTech Receives New ES Report

Report for 5/4 Plank and Ornamental Railing System

TimberTech Limited (Wilmington, OH) received an Evaluation Service Report (ESR-1400) from the International Code Council (ICC) for its 5/4" Plank TimberTech® Decking and TimberTech® Ornamental Railing System. The new ESR report compliments the company's existing ICC Legacy Report number 2325 for TimberTech® Tongue and Groove Decking and 2" x 6" boards.

Earlier this year, TimberTech extended the warranty for its composite decking and railing line from 10 years to a 25-year limited warranty. The new warranty applies to all TimberTech materials sold on or after January 1, 2005.

TimberTech: 800-307-7780

Millennium Decking Receives CCMC Report

PVC-Based Wood Composite Decking

Millennium Decking Inc. (Edmonton, AB), a Wood Composite Technologies Inc. (Nisku, AB) company, received a Canadian Construction Materials Centre (CCMC) evaluation report for Millennium Decking. Millennium Decking is authorized for use in residential decking applications as well as in stair applications. Millennium Decking is a wood flour-PVC based composite board made primarily from reclaimed PVC.

The report, issued under CCMC # 13200-R, provides confirmation to consumers,



regulatory authorities, architects, engineers, specification writers and others that the Millennium Decking product conforms to the National Building Code of Canada (NBC) 1995. It also provides for Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) authorization for the use of Millennium Decking in construction financed or insured under the National Housing Act.

Millennium: John Greenwood, 780-955-3525

Product News

ICT Introduces EverDeck™ WPC Tiles

*Injection Molded Tiles
Made to Snap Together*

Integrated Composite Technologies, Inc. (ICT; Montezuma, GA), manufacturer of EverGreen Wood Composites®, introduced EverDeck™ wood-plastic composite tiles that snap together quickly and easily to form an overlayment on cracked or stained concrete. The tiles can also be placed directly on bare earth and/or grass, creating an instant use garden path or nature walk. The company claims that any reasonably flat and solid surface can be transformed with EverDeck™ tiles and be ready for use the same day.

EverDeck™ tiles are backed with a unique, patented plastic grid that makes assembly a snap and maintenance easy. This design allows air to flow under the tiles, keeping them dry and helping to prevent mold and mildew. Any light debris or dirt that may collect between the slats of EverDeck™ tiles can be removed with a broom, leaf blower, vacuum cleaner or spray from a garden hose or pressure washer. The surface of EverDeck™ tiles may be cleaned using any mild detergent.



The wood-plastic composite tiles are made in a two-step process. First, the tiles are made via injection molding, and then the tiles are

attached to the plastic grid or webbing by a separate heating process. EverDeck™ tiles have a five year warranty, and are available in three standard colors. They also feature a natural looking wood grain embossing pattern that gives them the look of traditional wood while making them more slip resistant.

ICT: Stephen Jones, 478-472-1155

Research & Development

Chemtura Issued Patent for NF Composite Process

Process Includes Use of Organosilane and Coupling Agents

Chemtura (formerly Crompton; Middlebury, CT) was issued a patent for a process for preparing a composite material. The process comprises sizing a natural fiber with a reactive organosilane; mixing the sized natural fiber with a polyolefin resin; and adding a functionalized polyolefin coupling agent to the mixture of the sized natural fiber and the polyolefin resin to make the composite material.

Natural Fiber-Filled Polyolefin Composites
Patent # 6,939,903
Issued September 6, 2005

The invention relates to natural fiber-filled polyolefin composites with improved mechanical properties resulting from the inclusion of a reactive organosilane and a functionalized polyolefin coupling agent during their manufacture. According to the present invention, the mechanical strength properties of natural fiber-filled polyolefin composites are improved by treating (sizing) the fiber with a reactive organosilane and, then, adding a functionalized polyolefin coupling agent to the polyolefin resin during the mixing of the fiber and polyolefin resin.

This method improves strength as compared to formulations using a sized fiber alone or formulations using a coupling agent alone.

These improvements allow the use of natural fiber-polyolefin composites in applications, such as deck supports, railing systems, and automotive parts where structural properties are important. It has also been found that the combination of the reactive organosilane sized fiber and the functionalized coupling agent provides composites having improved long-term durability by reducing water absorption and increasing creep resistance.

The term "natural fiber" means a fiber obtained, directly or indirectly, from a source in nature. Included within the term, but not limited thereto, are wood flour, wood fiber, and agricultural fibers such as wheat straw, flax, hemp, kenaf, nut shells, and rice hulls. Preferably, the natural fiber is selected from the group consisting of starch or cellulosic material such as cotton fibers, wood pulps, stem or vegetable fibers, wood flours, starch, waste papers, cartons, or cellulosic cloth. Fiber levels in the range of about 20% to about 85% by weight can be used.



The polyolefins used are typically polymerized from ethylene, propylene, and/or other alpha olefins. Where ethylene is used, it can be, for example, HDPE, LDPE, or LLDPE. Polypropylene homopolymer, as well as copolymers and terpolymers containing ethylene, propylene, and/or other alpha olefins, and/or non-conjugated dienes can also be advantageously employed, as can blends of these polymers.

The functionalized polyolefin, which is preferably a modified polyethylene or polypropylene, is one that contains reactive groups that can react with a functional group on a reactive organosilane. Such polymers are modified by a reactive group including at least one polar monomer selected from the group consisting of ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids or ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid anhydrides. Mixtures of the acids and anhydrides, as well as their derivatives, can also be used. Examples of the acids include maleic acid, fumaric acid, itaconic acid, crotonic acid, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, maleic anhydride, itaconic anhydride, and substituted maleic anhydrides. Maleic anhydride is preferred.

Research & Development

Patent Issued to Ajinomoto

WPC Made With a Polyol Ester Compound

Ajinomoto Company, Inc. (Tokyo, Japan) was issued a patent for a wood-polymer composite made from thermoplastic resin, wood flour and a polyol ester compound with not less than one hydroxyl group esterified with fatty acid, and a wood-polymer composite made from this composition. The invention has well-balanced mechanical strength and processability, as compared to products made from lumber alone or products made from thermoplastic resin alone.

Composition for Wood-Polymer Composite and Wood-Polymer Composite Made from the Composition Patent # 6,903,149 Issued June 7, 2005

The addition of a specific polyol ester compound to a composition for wood-polymer composites strikingly improves impact strength and tensile strength, and the resulting wood-polymer composite has improved processability. The polyol ester compound refers to a polyol or polyol condensate having two or more hydroxyl groups of which not less than one hydroxyl group is esterified. The polyol ester compounds are added to a thermoplastic resin and wood flour according to the present invention.

The fatty acid ester moiety of the polyol ester compound affords superior compatibility with the thermoplastic resin, which is present in the interface between

the thermoplastic resin and wood flour. As a consequence, the obtained wood-polymer composite shows an improved binding force between the thermoplastic resin and wood flour, which in turn improves mechanical strength such as impact strength, tensile strength and the like.

Since the polyol ester compound has a certain level of molecular weight, the maneuverability of the polyol ester compound in the thermoplastic resin is minimal, and it does not easily bleed out to the surface of the wood-polymer composite. It also provides an effect of an inner lubricant in the wood-polymer composite, thus leading to improved processability.

Equipment & Technology

Two New Extruders Push Production Envelope

Conical and Co-Rotating Twin Screw Extruders Introduced This Year

Cincinnati Milacron (Batavia, OH) launched two new twin-screw extruders this year. The TC96 is claimed to be the world's largest conical twin-screw extruder that is designed for high-output, low-shear production of wood-plastic composites shapes, profiles and structural parts at outputs up to 2,600 pounds per hour. The TimberEx TE125-33 co-rotating parallel twin-screw extruder is rated for up to 4,000 lb/hr. output, and is claimed to be the WPC industry's most affordable extruder in purchase price per pound of output.

Milacron claims the TC96 delivers a homogenous melt from blends of natural and synthetic fibers, heat- and shear-sensitive thermoplastics, recycled plastics, coupling and nucleating agents, pigment and other additives. The TC96's large

diameter screws - 202 mm tapering to 96 mm - with 30:1 L/D ratio (based on the discharge diameter) optimize feed zone surface area for faster, more uniform heat transmission from screws to material. Tapered screw design allows a larger feed zone for "fluffy" material and applies a natural compression during processing, resulting in the wood flour being more effectively "wetted out."

The TC96 extruder features five barrel zones with a total barrel heating capacity of 100 kW. Four of the barrel zones are provided with cooling, using a heat-transfer fluid or water-cooled system to dissipate heat. An individual temperature control zone for screws provides a heat capacity of 12 kW. Eight die zones (including entry adapter) are provided with maximum heating capacity of 51 kW.

Milacron joined forces with B&P Process Equipment (Saginaw, MI) to create the TimberEx TE125-33 co-rotating parallel twin-screw extruder. In addition to having an affordable price per pound of output, Milacron claims the machine also saves on life cycle costs with modular, segmented barrel and screw replacement. The TE125-33 features 125 mm bore diameter, 200 rpm maximum screw speed, and 32.5:1 L/D. The machine's unique centerline ratio and barrel geometry provide WPC processors with optimized internal free volume, which is useful for medium-torque, low-shear, efficient mixing, melting, devolatilization and high output.

*Cincinnati Milacron:
Tom Brown, 513-536-3303*



Equipment & Technology

Mexican Firm Purchases Two Cincinnati Extrusion Machines

Ecomadera Expanding Capacity

Ecomadera (Jiquilpan, Michoacán, Mexico) is adding two more WPC extrusion lines from Cincinnati Extrusion (Vienna, Austria), part of SMS Plastics Technology. Ecomadera makes such WPC products as decking, weatherboard housing, catwalks, banisters, wall cladding, and fences for the domestic as well as the export market



Cincinnati Extrusion sold the company Fiborex T Series conical twin-screw extruders. Cincinnati claims these extruders, which are especially designed for WPC processing, are fourth generation machines that have line speeds of 5 meters per minute and an output of up to 1,000 kg/hr for plastics with wood filler content of up to 85%.

Cincinnati Extrusion: 43 +1 61006-0

Distribution News

BlueLinx Signs Agreement With LP

BlueLinx Will Distribute WeatherBest Product Line Throughout Country

BlueLinx (Atlanta, GA) announced it will expand its purchasing relationship with Louisiana-Pacific beyond current structural products to include high-value, specialty products, beginning with LP WeatherBest® composite decking and railing and LP's Crystal White™ railing system. Specific terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

"We remain committed to expanding our product mix to include unique specialty



products," said George Judd, President and Chief Operating Officer of BlueLinx. "Our new agreement with LP demonstrates our desire to grow key supplier relationships to enhance our specialty product offerings."

BlueLinx customers will now have access to a complete decking solution from a single supplier. Beginning in mid-October, BlueLinx will offer the LP decking and railing products as part of its outdoor living



product line. These products will be available in a variety of different styles, colors and accessories. BlueLinx and LP will begin to jointly market both decking offerings in preparation for October product availability, to be announced at a later date.

BlueLinx: Ashley Freer, 770-221-2515

Brite Announces Strategic Alliance With CanWel

Exits the LBM Distribution Channel

Brite Manufacturing Inc. (Bolton, ON) announced that it has entered into a strategic alliance with CanWel Building Materials Ltd. (Vancouver, BC) to better serve the Canadian retail market. Brite formally exited the LBM distribution channel in September. The company's existing customer base will be serviced by two of Canwel Building Materials Ltd. divisions; Futura Forest Products and CanWel Distribution.

CanWel Building Materials Ltd. is one of Canada's leading distributors of building materials including commodity, industrial and allied products. The company serves customers that vary in size from small independent lumber yards, to regional building material dealers, and national home improvement chains, including Rona, Home Depot, and Home Hardware. The company has a network of 13 distribution centers located across Canada.

CanWel's Futura Forest Products Division will service Brite's treated lumber, lattice and



deck accessories customers while CanWel's Distribution Division will serve the composite decking and plastic lattice customers.

"Brite Manufacturing has enjoyed a successful partnership with both CanWel divisions for many years and has decided to exit the distribution business and focus solely on our core market-leading manufacturing business of the last 30 years," stated Brite CEO Bob Bryan.

Brite: Bob Bryan, 905-857-6021

Raw Materials

Hudson Launches New Line of Color Concentrates

EverWoods™ Made for WPCs

Hudson Color Concentrates (Leominster, MA) and its subsidiary, Midwest Color, is a privately held company that provides custom color and additive concentrates, dry color, and pre-colored (stock) materials for injection molding, blow molding, extrusion, compression or rotational molding and compounding processes. The company is ISO 9001:2000 certified, and maintains three production facilities in the Northeast, Midwest and Mexico in addition to 16 sales service centers plus warehouse/distribution centers strategically located throughout North America.

Hudson recently introduced EverWoods™ Color Concentrates; concentrates specifically formulated for use in the WPC industry. The product is available in six standard wood-tone colors or can be custom made. The

company began its development work in mid 2004, and has since tested, trialed, and successfully made product that is now being used in several applications, including injection molded decorative railing post caps.

According to Hudson Color Vice President of Sales and Marketing David Boudreau, "We focused our research and development effort to create a line of colorants for use in wood-plastic composites that provide end users with greater advantages in color dispersion and surface appearance, dimensional stability and no edge tearing, and can increase extrusion line speeds or molding cycle times for faster output."

Mr. Boudreau said, "The technology we use to manufacture EverWoods™ is quite unique. The process results in a color

compound that helps to improve product dimensional stability, reduce warping, improve long-term durability with no fading or staining, and improve impact resistance. EverWoods™ colors also reduce the sheen or gloss on WPC products, thereby enhancing the wood-like appearance of the product. EverWoods™ can also enhance the wood-like appearance by imparting streaking in the composite product."

Typical end uses include outdoor decking, landscape timbers/edging, picnic tables, benches, fencing, playground structures, outdoor spas and patio furniture, and marine applications such as boat docks.

*Hudson Color:
David Boudreau, 888-858-9065*



Events Calendar

October 24-26, 2005, Wood-Plastic and Natural Fiber Composites, 2005, Baltimore, MD.

Principia Partners host its second annual conference. Over 250 industry professionals attended the 2004 conference. Now Principia is producing a three-day event, combining Wood-Plastic Composites (days 1 and 2) and Natural Fiber Composites (day 3).
For info: www.PrincipiaConferences.com, or contact Jim Morton, 800-378-8330 x239.

November 14-16, 2005, The Global Outlook for Natural Fiber & Wood Composites 2005, Orlando, FL.

Intertech Conferences' fourth international business development conference co-chaired by Dr. Douglas Gardner, Professor, Advanced Engineered Wood Composites, University of Maine, and Robin M. Jacobs, President, Marketing Consulting Group, Florida MarketTech, Inc.
For more info: (207) 781-9608.

December 5-7, 2005, Wood Plastic Composites 2005, Vienna, Austria.

The international conference and exhibition for the wood-plastic composites industry. Organized by Applied Market Information Ltd.
For more info: 44(0)117 924 9442 or info@amiplastics.com

January 11-14, 2006, The International Builders' Show, Orlando, FL.

The largest annual construction industry show in the world will be held at the Orange County Convention Center.
For more info: www.buildersshow.com

February 1-3, 2006, FenceTech 2006, Las Vegas, NV.

The 44th annual convention and trade show is organized by the American Fence Association and highlights new fence, deck and railing systems for contractors and dealers.
For info: 630-942-6598.

February 15-17, 2006, DeckExpo, New Orleans Convention Center, New Orleans, LA.

DeckExpo is the annual national trade show and convention of the deck, dock, and railing industry.
For more info: 678-344-6283 or e-mail at info@deckexpo.com

April 2-4, 2006, WPCs 2006 - The Changing Technology in WPCs, San Francisco, CA

This Congress is aimed at the latest trends in commercialization and technology in this rapidly growing field. Event includes a workshop, poster session, and an exhibit area.
For more info: 734-737-0507.