

PRESS RELEASE

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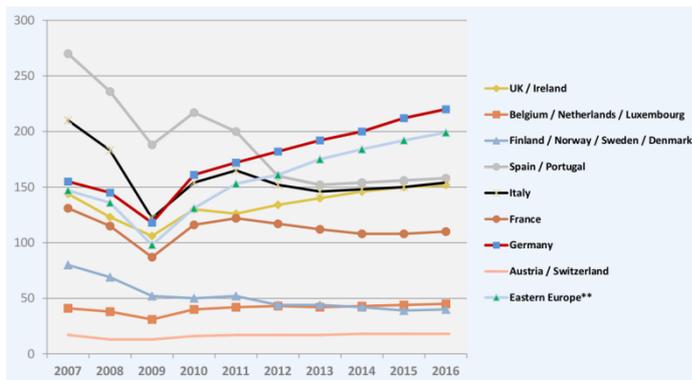
Composites – materials with a future Identify and leverage market potential...

Fibre-reinforced plastics are said to have great future potential. The International Composites Congress (18 to 19 September 2017) offers an opportunity to gain some first-hand impressions of market developments.

“Forecasts are difficult, especially when they concern the future.”

These words have been ascribed to Nils Bohr, Mark Twain and Karl Valentin (<https://de.wikipedia.org>). But although no one knows exactly who said this, it is nevertheless true that all three candidates lived and worked during the first half of the last century. Moreover, the statement is just as topical now as it was at the time.

Fibre-reinforced plastics (also known as composites) have a large number of



**Eastern Europe = Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Rumania, Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia , Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia

Fig. 1: Development of the composites market: Europe

benefits. These include, for instance, excellent resistance to a wide range of media, considerable potential for use in lightweight construction, the option of a load-specific structure and a high level of design freedom. Composites are combinations of materials which consist of different components. These components are geared towards specific areas of application, can be custom-designed for each purpose and

allow numerous combinations. This is reflected in a wide variety of materials, and there is no such thing as the ONE composite. Products and applications can currently be found, for instance, in construction, the infrastructure sector, automotive engineering, mobility and the aerospace industry, though also in the sports and leisure industry and in many different electrical and electronic products.

Yet despite this diversity, composites are often subject to a certain amount of “generalisation”. They are described as having above-average potential for growth and as being the lightweight materials of the future. Others have highlighted endeavours to use composites in automotive mass production – though this point,



Fig. 2: Development of the composites market: processes

in particular, has long been fulfilled already. Such an assessment is not wrong, but it makes it harder to appreciate the development of an industry which is highly diverse. Fig. 1 shows the development of the European composites market over the last 10 years. This development has clearly been differing from one region/country to another. A similar picture emerges for the last few years when we look at developments for different manufacturing processes and products. Here, too, we can see not only areas of major growth, but also some downward tendencies (Fig. 2). In view of these different developments it is especially vital to understand the various markets and to keep up to date about relevant areas of growth and/or possible future developments.

No one can tell you realistically what the composites market will look like in 10 years' time, and certainly not in terms of volumes. Nevertheless, experts can share their views and present results that may impact the future. Although such personal assessments, coupled with new developments and innovations in the composites sector, do not allow us to predict the future with any absolute certainty, they nevertheless enable us to paint a more realistic picture.

The 3rd ICC, which will be held in Stuttgart on 18 and 19 September 2017, will combine the expertise and assessments of the relevant experts, while offering excellent networking opportunities in a pleasant atmosphere. www.composites-germany.org

Make sure you benefit from our forum, where you will gain some exclusive information. Whether it was Bohr, Twain or Valentin, prove them wrong and become an expert on the future.

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About AVK

AVK, the German Federation of Reinforced Plastics, is the professional German association for fibre-reinforced plastics and composites. It represents the interests of manufacturers and processors both in Germany and at the European level.

Its range of services includes specialised workgroups, seminars and conferences as well as the provision of market-specific information (www.avk-tv.de).

In Germany, AVK is one of four support organisations of GKV, the General Association of the Plastics Processing Industry. Within Europe, it is a member of the European umbrella association for composites, EuCIA (European Composites Industry Association).

AVK is a founding member of Composites Germany.