

# PRESS RELEASE

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## AUSTRALIAN COMPOSITE'S RECEIVES MILLION DOLLAR ORDER FOR BALLISTICS GRADE UV CURABLE PREPREGS

**MELBOURNE – January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007** - Moorabbin based UV curable pre-impregnated fibreglass manufacturer, Australian Composites Pty Ltd, has received orders totalling over a million dollars from Malaysia for its AUSPREG UV technology after successful NIJ level IIIA ballistics protection testing.

Traditionally armour plating utilising ceramic panel inserts are incased with multiple layers of high tech ballistic protective materials such as Kevlar, Dyneema, or Twaron. Instead, a revolutionary methodology will be used that involves wrapping the ceramic panels with Australian Composites' High Strength (S) glass which is delivered to the manufacturer pre-impregnated with a proprietary resin that cures in minutes using light. After curing, the composite forms a highly impenetrable layer around the ceramic plate that then has the ability to take multiple hits from high calibre fire without shattering. Conversely, ceramic plates on their own would disintegrate and shatter without the protection afforded by the composite. Another breakthrough is that the Auspreg UV material does not require refrigeration either during storage or transport so Australian Composites will be able to send the order to Malaysia by sea in a standard container.

The composite wrapped panels form part of a large ongoing military tender for bullet proof vests being manufactured in Malaysia and destined for several international armed forces currently stationed in the Middle East and Northern Africa.

Technical Manager, Dr. Floreanna Coman is delighted with the results. "It's great to see that our UV curable composite technology has evolved into product capable of being suitable for the ballistics protection market. More so, that we can export this to Asia for manufacturing and be competitive against other traditional ballistics prevention suppliers found in the US, Israel, and Europe in a huge windfall," She admits.

"Our upcoming plans are to now market our HS glass prepregs for use in "in-situ" rapid battle field repairs on helicopters and planes made of composites as well as ballistics protection for armoured vehicles. There should also be many possibilities for our technology as a reinforcement of concrete for government buildings in war zones where additional protection is required against gun fire or the threat of bomb attacks. Now that the product is proven to meet NIJ IIIA level of threat, I'm sure that there are applications that will require this technology as well", Dr. Coman added.

The supply of ballistics protection material on this scale sends a positive message that Australia certainly has innovative technology that rivals many of the World's best. Dr. Coman expects the order to be ongoing and continuous now that the products have been proven to be an effective ballistics prevention method.

For more information, contact:

**Australian Composites Pty Ltd,**  
Tel 03 9555 8766  
Fax 03 9555 9053  
[www.Auscomposites.com.au](http://www.Auscomposites.com.au)



Plate #1: 10  
 Lot: 1704  
 SAMPLE: 3  
 SIZE: 420mm x 420mm (Area)  
 Level: 200A Factory  
 29/11/2005

Shot 1 357 MAG 370 m/s	Shot 2 357 MAG 379 m/s	Shot 3 357 MAG 376 m/s	
Shot 4 357 MAG 390 m/s			Shot 5 357 MAG 396 m/s
	Shot 6 9mm x 19 321 m/s	Shot 7 9mm x 19 319 m/s	Shot 8 9mm x 19 334 m/s
	Shot 9 9mm x 19 332 m/s		Shot 10 9mm x 19 325 m/s

Figures 1,2, & 3 - Images of ceramic panels before and after Auspreg UV prepreg ballistic protective wrapping and NIJ IIIA test plate of multiple layers of Auspreg UV item #929