

# PRESS RELEASE

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December 12th 2009

## **AUSTRALIAN COMPOSITES PTY LTD PARTNERS WITH AUTOMOTIVE, (PETROCHEMICAL AND BUILDING) MATERIALS SUPPLIER VIVIAN REGINA BRASIL LTDA, TAKES AIM AT BRAZIL'S 4 BILLION US DOLLAR COMPOSITES MARKET**

**MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA – December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009** - Moorabbin based composites raw materials manufacturer, Australian Composites Pty Ltd, announced today that it has signed an exclusive supply agreement with Brazil's Automotive, Petrochemical and building fibreglass materials supplier Vivian Regina Brasil Ltda, to distribute the Company's rapid UV curing pre-impregnated fibreglass materials (Prepregs) into Brazil's massive automotive and transport parts assembly market.

The Composites industry in Brazil is the largest in Latin America and is currently experiencing solid growth thanks to an increase in the amount of global automotive and mass transit manufacturers sourcing finished parts from Brazilian companies. As the main automotive production hub for The Americas, most global composites suppliers such as Reichhold, Ashland, Owens Corning, Huntsman, Akzo Nobel, and 3M can be found. The presence of Australian Composites UV curing prepregs through Vivian Regina adds to the wealth of raw material options local companies will now have access to.

The Brazilian composites industry is estimated to reach USD \$4 billion a year by 2013 and is characterized by large numbers of small-sized players in molding and fabrication and a moderate number of materials suppliers that are mostly global players.

Chief Executive Officer for Australian Composites, Daniel Leipnik and Managing Director for Vivian Regina, Jose Cruz believe the partnership will immediately provide great results especially where Brazilian manufacturers are concerned. Cruz explains, "Brazilian Companies are constantly looking for tomorrow's high tech materials to enhance their production output and quality. Australian Composite's UV cure (glass) prepregs offer the automotive sector the kind of technological leap forward that carbon prepregs have provided the Aeronautical industry".

"Our Company has been manufacturing automotive grade glass fibre since 1956 and we pride ourselves on being the number one supplier of these materials in the region. Being able to offer highly technical rapid cure prepregs that cut down labour time, provide greater consistency in the thickness of parts, eliminates the need to mix resins and catalysts, provides a 12 month plus shelf life at room temperature, and enables automotive parts to be 40% lighter while still maintaining the same mechanical properties is going to be immensely sought after by OEM's and car and transport manufacturers alike. Not only does this compliment our current product offering to the same client base but allows local manufacturers access to materials that until now have not been available to the Industry," admits Cruz. "With the amount of vehicles parts being made out of composites materials increasing all the time we see Australian Composites UV cure prepreg technology as being the perfect material for Brazil's growing composites need."

"Expanding the distribution of our UV cure prepregs into the South American market is all part of our overall business growth strategy to sell our materials globally and continue along our path of double-digit annual growth" exclaims Leipnik. Vivian Regina is a well established, knowledgeable supplier of materials for automotive and building fibreglass applications and represents a vital pathway for us to enter one of the largest composite manufacturing hubs in The Americas," suggests Leipnik.

Vivian Regina plans to warehouse large quantities of UV cure Vinyl Ester and Polyester E glass prepreg and begin marketing the technology to local manufacturers beginning February 2010.

### **For more information please contact:**

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