

Australian Composites, Sunrez sign UV-curable resins deal

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Composites raw materials manufacturer Australian Composites Pty Ltd. (Moorabbin, Australia) announced on Nov. 5 that it has signed a partnership agreement with Sunrez Corp. (El Cajon, Calif., USA), developers of UV-curable resins, putties and prepregs, to expand sales of Australian Composites' UV-curing, pre-impregnated fibreglass materials into Canada and the U.S. The agreement also commercializes Australian Composites' new rapid-cure, flame-resistant prepreg technology (MTT 986t) to manufacturers of mass transit parts that require flame resistant, low smoke, and low toxicity materials.

Daniel Leipnik, CEO for Australian Composites, and Mark Livesay, CEO and founder of Sunrez, are glad to be working together. “Both our companies have been working in the same area of technology [UV cure composite materials] for many years and this partnership creates a great opportunity to bring together know-how, high-quality automated manufacturing capability, innovative materials and market presence all aimed at expanding sales in the region.

Leipnik sought out Sunrez as a good partner for increasing its presence in the U.S. and Canadian composites markets. “Sunrez is already the market leader in this field and has received multiple patents for their UV cure technology. They are ideally placed to create further growth of UV curable products and utilise machine capacity available in our plant that can produce up to ten tonne of prepreg per day using custom designed computerised equipment. We expect to see a tremendous response from the market as a result of this partnership,” said Leipnik.

Livesay, who has been involved in UV-curable technology for more than 30 years, believes the time for large-scale adoption of UV curing prepregs has never been better. “Most companies manufacturing composite parts in North America these days face great competition from emerging nations such as China, India and Vietnam, where labor rates are considerably less. There is a heavy focus by American and Canadian firms to reduce the costs of labour, material and energy. One of the easiest ways to do that is by utilizing light-curing composites materials, which harden in minutes with sunlight or artificial light, enabling composite parts to be made rapidly with fewer people, less electricity and without the quality concerns of staff having to formulate resins and catalysts and then wetting out the glass to form the part,” said Livesay.