

## **GKN Aerospace's Craig Carr announced as new Chair of Composites Leadership Forum**

The Composites Leadership Forum (CLF) has today announced that Craig Carr (Technology Director Integrated Composite Structures – Civil Airframe, GKN Aerospace Services Ltd) will take over the role of Chair.

He takes over from Ken Smart, Executive Director of Business Strategy for McLaren Automotive, following the completion of his term of office.

Craig became the GKN Aerospace Composites Technology Manager in 2016 establishing key activity on UK ATI and EU programs including the STeM, VIEWS, LOCOMACHS and more recently the Wing of Tomorrow project. He was instrumental in the successful launch of the cross-sector Aerospace and Automotive ASCEND ATI project in January of this year.

Craig is recognised in GKN as a global technical expert supporting their composites portfolio across its sites and has represented the UK in trade missions to the US. In 2020 he became GKN Aerospace Director of Integrated Composite Structures, with responsibility for TS, TP and Ice Protection Systems within the Technology team.

This experience will be invaluable to CLF moving forward in the delivery of the UK Composites Strategy.

Craig will now work with the CLF, Composites UK (secretariat to the CLF), stakeholders, CLF working groups and industry to build on the work that Ken started in supporting the UK composites sector and helping it to achieve its predicted growth targets.

Craig Carr said: "It's a great honour to be appointed as the new Chair of the Composites Leadership Forum at such an important moment for the sector. The pressures the industry has experienced over the last year have been great but the opportunity this brings to the different UK composite sectors along with the sustainability challenge is a welcome one and is a golden opportunity to further the UK capability and positioning on a global scale."

Luca Viadana, Head of Government Affairs and Programmes at McLaren Automotive becomes Vice Chair of the CLF. Luca added "McLaren Automotive will continue to play a leading role with the CLF by retaining the role of vice-chair, to ensure that the CLF can keep leveraging McLaren's expertise in composites and lightweight materials."

### **Press Contact**

Claire Whysall, Communications and Marketing Manager, Composites UK

Tel: +44 (0)1442 817502 | Email: [clf@compositesuk.co.uk](mailto:clf@compositesuk.co.uk)

### **Notes to Editor:**

Composites Leadership Forum: The CLF was formed in 2012 to provide leadership and direction to the UK Composites Industry in response to a requirement highlighted in the 2009 UK Composites Strategy.

Meeting quarterly, it brings together key national bodies from the composites sector, end-sector groups, academia and UK government.

Composites UK is the official trade association for the UK composites industry. The association acts to encourage continuous growth and development of the industry, promoting the best-practice use of composites materials. Its role is to bring companies throughout the supply chain together creating partnerships, as-well-as creating a unified voice to drive the industry forward, benefiting all of those involved.