

# 2017

## Innovation in Materials | **Winner:** Fiba Tech Industries

A new phenolic resin based prepreg material.

### Overview

FTI have developed a new phenolic resin based prepreg. They have developed a new, innovative catalyst system which overcomes the traditional difficulties experienced when processing phenolic resins.

The material is unique and has excellent fire, smoke and toxicity properties. The speed of processing the material will reduce the time needed to produce composite components. In terms of health & safety, with a virtually zero level of free formaldehyde, handling and working with this new material will become much easier and safer.

This prepreg can be used in compression moulding or autoclave. Used in compression moulding, the material will speed-up the curing process, minutes rather than hours.

Historically, phenolic based prepreg have been notoriously difficult to work with. Uncomfortable levels of free formaldehyde have been a major health & safety issue. The ultra-low, virtually zero levels of formaldehyde, in terms of health & safety will make working with the material easier and safer.

Similarly, existing phenolic prepreg has to be stored in refrigerated storage after which, allowed to thaw or de-frost prior to use. The new material can be stored safely at ambient for several weeks.

The focus is introducing the new material to the rail and aerospace markets where it offers distinct advantages over traditional alternatives.



Fiba Tech Industries received the awards from Alison Starr of the National Composites Centre.

“We are delighted to be associated with and have been recognised by Composites UK for this award. It recognises the hard work and innovative research and development carried out in the last few years. FTI has shown that phenolic SMC and prepreps can be processed in ways never possible before. Mouldings qualifying for the most difficult aerospace and rail FST standards can now be made at unit costs never before achievable”

**Neil Smallwood, Fiba Tech Industries**

The Composites UK Industry Awards are presented at the black-tie dinner which is aligned with the Composites Engineering Show in Birmingham.

Keep an eye out for our annual nomination process every May for your chance to apply.

[www.compositesuk.co.uk/awardsdinner](http://www.compositesuk.co.uk/awardsdinner)