

2017

Environmental/Sustainability Award | **Winner: SigmateX**

Developing a dual approach around the theme of reduce and reuse.

Overview

During its manufacturing processes, SigmateX, like other manufacturing facilities, produces significant volumes of waste/scrap carbon fibre per year that goes to landfill. Carbon fibre is not typically bio degradable and combined with increasing demand for the product across Automotive, Aerospace and Sports markets to name a few, sending waste carbon fibre to landfill is an ever-increasing cost – financial and environmental.

Recognising the need to address this industry wide challenge, SigmateX took the initiative by developing a dual approach around the theme of reduce and reuse.

Their first target was to reduce the quantity of carbon fibre waste generated during their production processes. This involved a company-wide drive to eliminate or reduce waste at all sources. The initial goal was to achieve a 10% reduction over a period of 1 year. Through the combined initiatives undertaken, over the last 12 months the team has been able to reduce actual waste levels by 14%.

The second was to find a way to reuse that waste generated through the creation of a new product – sigmaRF, which is a thermoplastic carbon fibre 'hybrid' material, that can be press formed into a finished product. The long-term goal is to convert 100% of their waste and customers waste back into a reusable product. They have successfully developed a product that can enable the achievement of that goal. They have already converted a significant proportion of their waste in the last 12 months and as they refine the product and run customer specific trials anticipate to convert 100% of their CF waste by 2020.

In addition, SigmateX recognise that their customers also generate a significant amount of waste, perhaps as high as 30%, during their production processes. It is the goal of SigmateX to also recycle 100% of their customers waste by 2022.



The SigmateX team proudly displaying their award on the night.

"We are proud to have been recognised in this category, the award further acknowledges our commitment to addressing an industry-wide issue and supports our innovative nature to provide cutting edge textiles to our customers."

Paul McMullan, Global Commercial Manager, SigmateX

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.

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