Haydale Composite Solutions shows first graphene-enhanced composite structural panel for a road-going car

Haydale Composite Solutions (HCS) has today revealed its first structural composite graphene enhanced resin automotive body panel at JEC, the global composite show.

The graphene-enhanced resin is stronger than traditional materials, which has enabled the reduction in the amount of fibres in the composite material, resulting in a significant weight and cost reduction. Haydale completed the research work with the help of a leading UK supercar company, BAC, the team responsible for the award-winning BAC Mono single-seat car.

HCS is a division of Haydale Graphene Industries Plc, and the team includes industry veterans from the aerospace and automotive sectors, and boasts many years of Formula 1 experience. HCS sought to deliver the benefits of graphene-enhanced resins using an advanced, novel composite proposition.

HCS Managing Director Gerry Boyce said: "Haydale's proprietary process allowed us to disperse functionalised graphene within the resin matrix and arrive at a solution that met or exceeded the performance specifications of the part, while making significant savings in mass where we are seeing reductions of approximately 20%. This has clear implications for cost, performance and fuel economy in vehicles if applied widely in the manufacturing process."

Ian Briggs, BAC's co-founder and Design Director, said: "This shows what is possible through the application of cutting edge design and technology. What we can save in mass on structures we can deliver to our customers in terms of improved performance. At BAC we focus heavily on innovation and we were delighted to work with graphene composite industry leaders Haydale on this project. It marks another world first for BAC and the beginning of a project with a broad range of exciting possibilities."

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About Haydale Composite Solutions (HCS)

Haydale Composite Solutions Ltd is based in Loughborough UK and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Haydale Graphene Industries PLC. (HGI). HGI has developed a patented and proprietary scalable plasma process to functionalise graphene and other nanomaterials enabling them to be dispersed efficiently into liquid resins to form concentrated masterbatches which can then be diluted down into formulated resins designed to meet a specific electrical, mechanical, thermal and physical property performances.

HCS (previously known as EPL Composite Solutions Ltd was acquired by HGI in November 2014) has developed a reputation for delivering innovative solutions in the commercial applications of advanced polymer composite materials working with global companies over more than 20 years. HCS are tasked with developing new markets and applications for graphene enhanced nanocomposite materials across a broad range of industries.

www.haydale.com Twitter: @haydalegraphene

About BAC

Bespoke supercar manufacturer BAC (Briggs Automotive Company) is based in Liverpool and was co-founded by brothers Ian and Neill Briggs. It produces the fast and highly acclaimed Mono supercar, a single-seater formula style car that provides a visceral and exhilarating driving experience.

Since its launch in 2011 it has been going from strength to strength and is now sold in several markets around the world. It launched with great success and fanfare in Hong Kong at the end of 2015, with eight cars sold in a single night. BAC dealers can also be found in North America, Japan and London.

The 2016 model year version of the Mono comes with an all-new four-cylinder 305bhp 2.5-litre Mountune engine, which takes the 580kg car from 0-60mph in just 2.8sec.

Despite its global appeal, BAC Mono remains proudly British, with parts sourced from its home country wherever possible.