

Happy New Year and welcome to our e-newsletter.

2007 was a very busy year for the technical textile sector in the North West of the UK, our position as the largest industrial cluster, for technical textiles in the world, was reinforced with a number of key events held during 2007.



Bill Mills Director
NWtexnet

The most successful of these was our:

Textile Composite Conference held in September



The day-long event attended by over 80 delegates proved to be a huge success.

With industry speakers from BAe, Sigmatech and Boeing the audience was given an overview of the requirements of composite structures in their relevant sectors. Two academic speakers from University of Manchester gave a technical overview of composites and 3D structures.

We have received very positive feedback from all the delegates, and as a result we are in the process of forming two consortia to move the technology forward. One consortium will focus on applying for research funding examining the modeling of 3D woven structures. The second consortium will work on entering the aerospace supply chain using 3D woven structures.

2008 will see us re-focus much of our support on improving a number of different aspects of the technical textile supply chain:

Increased and improved levels of product sourcing.

Improving the sourcing and purchasing skills of NW companies.

Faster and more effective new product innovation.

Working with global research providers looking at introducing and commercializing "cutting edge" technology.



A copy of our latest **TECHNICAL THREAD** magazine is available to download at: www.nwtexnet.co.uk

We are now extending our membership programme to companies outside of the Northwest of the UK, for details of this programme, please contact us at info@nwtexnet.co.uk.