

NATIONAL COMPOSITES CENTRE

An independent, open-access *National* Centre to deliver world-class innovation in the design and rapid manufacture of composites that will enable widespread industrial exploitation.

The Centre will form an internationally leading hub, linking activities across all sectors of the UK in research, education and training, technology transfer and incubation of new enterprises.



Purpose built 6000m² facility in Bristol with workshop space, open-plan offices, meeting rooms and teaching facilities. It will be equipped to focus on optimised-design, analysis, rapid manufacture and testing.

Key Aspects

Led by the University of Bristol, the South West Regional Development Agency and companies including Vestas, Rolls-Royce, GKN and Airbus.

A highly collaborative environment characterised by applied research, industrial engagement and technology transfer.

Aims to exploit current knowledge and develop new technologies to make products more quickly and at a lower cost.

Strong links to other manufacturing and National Composites Network centres.

A focus for collaboration between companies, universities and research organisations across the UK.

Work will start in ACCIS extension due to open in April 2010. New building fully operational in 2011.

Target applications include:

Wind turbine blades: improve performance of materials used in blade manufacture and dramatically increase the speed at which they can be manufactured

Aerospace: deposit >30 kilos per hour over complex shapes and reduce weight by up to 20% by optimising design

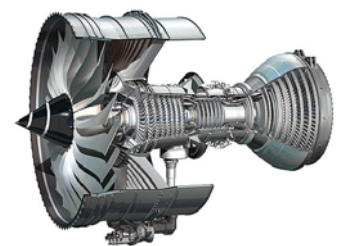
Marine: design hulls with greater slamming resistance

Off-shore oil and gas platform repairs: develop lay-up techniques suitable for use in wet, hostile conditions

Construction: develop design competence and large scale manufacturing techniques

Automotive: develop mass production solutions for low weight energy-efficient structures and complete structural body-shells

Defence: lightweight armour



New laboratories and offices currently being built at University