



Columbus Company's Nano-Enhanced Material Adds Strength, Cuts Weight for Performance Products

Zyvex Performance Materials' new composite is lighter and stronger than conventional carbon fiber used for advanced energy, marine, cycling and other industries

COLUMBUS, Ohio (January 21, 2009) – A company that came to Ohio to capitalize on the state's strong support for high-tech development will go to market soon with a composite material that will deliver important benefits for wind-powered energy generation and other industries requiring lightweight structural components.

The new material, known as Arovex™, was developed by Zyvex Performance Materials Inc. Arovex has gained the attention of the TechColumbus Innovation Awards and is a finalist for honors that will be announced Feb. 5. The awards are for outstanding achievements in technology leadership and innovation.

Zyvex Performance Materials is projecting a release at the end of the first quarter 2009 for Arovex. It is a nanotechnology-enhanced carbon fiber that is pre-impregnated with Zyvex Performance Materials' nanotube-enhanced epoxy. This technology creates a material that is more than 50% stronger than conventional carbon fiber.

According to company President Lance Criscuolo, anything made today with carbon fiber can be made stronger and lighter by using Arovex. "Zyvex Performance Materials' nano-enhanced products are the next step in the progression of materials technology. As fiberglass replaced wood, we expect Arovex will displace conventional carbon fiber composites," said Criscuolo.

Zyvex Performance Materials will market Arovex to manufacturers of blades, towers and nacelles in the wind-powered energy industry; to companies that make hulls, masts and other structural components in the marine industry's defense and high-end yacht segments; to bicycle manufacturers; and motorsports operations, including Formula One teams. The company also has developed a nano-enhanced liquid epoxy, Epovex™.

"Our molecular-engineered products and technology are the solution to the roadblock of current materials' limitations. By building with Arovex, the weight of a composite part can be drastically reduced. This allows for the creation of a new generation of wind turbines, as well as more efficient cars, planes and boats that will use less fuel," Criscuolo said. "The expanded use of nano-enhanced materials will create jobs here in Columbus, as well as with our manufacturing partners, APV Engineered Coatings in Akron and Renegade Materials Corp. in Springboro, near Dayton."



CREDITS OHIO FOR SUPPORT

Zyvex Performance Materials has invested Ohio grant money, including \$1 million from the state's Targeted Industry Attraction (TIA) program, in developing its nano-enhanced liquid and composite materials. The company was spun from Texas-based Zyvex Corporation in April 2007, and moved to Ohio in June of that year. The company today employs 20 research scientists, engineers, and sales and marketing professionals.

"Locating in Ohio has been vital to the development of Zyvex Performance Materials," Criscuolo said. "Ohio programs like the TIA and Third Frontier have helped fund our operations, and the concentration of talent and polymer companies here is very beneficial to our efforts to get our nano-enhanced materials out into the marketplace."

He said Zyvex Performance Materials is proud of its nomination for the TechColumbus Innovation Awards.

"This event and competition, and the enthusiastic support we have received from the leaders in Columbus, are great examples of why we moved Zyvex Performance Materials here," Criscuolo said.

BACKGROUND

Zyvex Performance Materials is focused on developing nanotechnology to improve the properties of composite materials. The company's patented technology allows composites to take advantage of the superior physical and chemical properties of carbon nanotubes by enabling the even dispersion of carbon nanotubes in composite mixtures. The company was the first to provide carbon nanotube-enhanced products to the marketplace. The company maintains a website at www.zyvexpro.com.

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