

CF Supply Leading Demand

Responding to the growing demand for carbon fibers (that appears to have outstripped the available supply by as much as 13% in 2005), the carbon fiber suppliers of the world have made a number of significant expansion announcements over the past two years. With demand related to 1) aircraft and energy products posting strong growth with even stronger future outlooks and 2) the global economy growing well, prior to the second-half of 2007, a number of new companies have announced their intent to also enter the carbon fiber production and supply chain. Most recently **Kemrock Industries and Exports Ltd.**, based in the city of Vadodra, Gujarat, announced that



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In response to the rapidly growing demand for carbon fibers, the supply industry is expected to take the course to raise the global production capacity from 54,000 MT in 2007 to 65,000 MT by 2009.

it has recently awarded a contract to manufacture up to 650 MT of 3K, 6K, and 12K carbon fiber tows with production starting up in April 2009. **Fiberex Glass Corporation**, based in Leduc, Quebec, Canada, is also reported to have purchased and installed equipment to produce its own carbon fibers to augment its growing glass fibers business. Turkey's **AKSA** acrylic fiber company, according to sources, successfully begun production of precursor materials and expects to begin producing carbon fiber in 2009 as well. CMR is also aware of additional efforts in India and

two potential projects in the Middle East that are examining potential synergies with domestic petrochemical industries and oil profits in order to establish a domestic manufacturer and supply base for high-performance composites.

While acknowledging reports that have surfaced in the media, requests for additional comments from AKSA, Kemrock and Fiberex have been denied due to the early timing. It is interesting to note that AKSA and Fiberex have both sponsored the upcoming **CompositesWorld**

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