

PRESS RELEASE

Paris, April 12th, 2023

**Lightweighting challenges highlighted during JEC World
ELCA & ELA to organize a European panel to discuss
the Lightweighting challenges during JEC World**

Composite Materials are delivering exceptional performances and benefits over traditional materials, enabling to achieve ambitious target in terms of lightweighting. Many industries are relying on composites to decarbonate the global economy, reduce emissions and tackle the issue of climate change. In a context of energy and material scarcity the importance of lighter, thus more performing solutions is increasingly relevant for all countries.

The decarbonization of the mobility sector and other strategic industries is a priority to the European Green Deal. Lightweighting is a key enabling technology that allows the production of components that are less energy-intensive and lead to lower CO₂ emissions. Lightweight technologies can also improve resource efficiency and help companies to become more circular. But how can European lightweight technology remain competitive at a global scale?

JEC World 2023, the leading global event about composites materials and their applications, will showcase many technologies and solution that are key success factors in our common challenge. In addition to the exhibition, **two keynote speeches** and **a panel forum** dedicated to the **European initiatives in the field of lightweighting**, will take place. On Wednesday, April 26th, at 5.30 pm Werner LOSCHEIDER, Ministerial Councilor - Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action will present the Initiative Lightweight Technology and the European Dimension; and on Thursday, April 27th, at 9.30am, George KOTSIKOS Project Officer, European Commission - Health and Digital Executive Agency will present the EU commission's political framework, both speeches will be moderated by Ricardo del VALLE, Senior Innovation Consultant - Bax and Company.

Eric Pierrejean, JEC President stated: *"We are very honoured to host this program at JEC World, knowing the importance of the European and worldwide challenges, and how composites can contribute to tackle the issue of climate change."*

Thomas Hipke Head of division "Lightweight Design, Textile Technologies and Circular Economy" at Fraunhofer IWU communicated *"The European green deal will be supported by consistent lightweight construction. That's why I am happy that I can work in the ELCA network with the best lightweight construction companies in Europe and that we can discuss this here at the JEC World."*

Pedro Mimoso Business Development director at PIEP and ELCA member stated *"I'm looking forward to the panel to discuss the real impact of lightweighting structures and how to tackle the technical, economic, social, and environmental challenges that composites present. Also, I'm very keen on understanding how international cooperation, technology transfer, and dissemination can be promoted to accelerate a just green transition."*

Cecilia Ramberg from RISE and also an ELCA member expressed *“The discussion on how we together take advantage of the economic and sustainability potential of lightweight technology made in Europe is most interesting to me.”*

Lightweight Made in Europe: Challenges and Opportunities program:

- **Keynote speech on April 26th by Werner LOSCHEIDER**, Ministerial Councilor - Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, to introduce the Initiative Lightweight Technology and the European Dimension.
- **Keynote speech on April 27th by George KOTSIKOS** from the European Commission currently working as Policy Officer / Program manager at the European Commission's Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) in the Advanced Materials and Industrial Technologies Unit responsible for the management of EU Framework programs' projects and contributions to the development of calls for future areas of research within the European Commission's political framework.
- **Panel forum where the economic and sustainability potential of lightweight technology** made in Europe will be discussed, centered around how to achieve European climate protection and sustainable development goals. The experts from the European Lightweight Cluster Alliance (ELCA) and the European Lightweight Association (ELA) will also discuss how lightweight products and technologies made in Europe could gain visibility and be implemented more quickly in global markets.

Save the date
JEC World 2023
April 27th from 9.30 to 11am

About ELCA

ELCA (European Lightweight Cluster Alliance) is a collaborative initiative that aims to accelerate the adoption of lightweight materials in strategic industries. Mobility is the primary focus of the alliance, but applications in other lightweight-related sectors are also targeted, including energy, health care, defence, and construction. The alliance is creating a unique inclusive business framework for exploring lightweight-driven market opportunities. The main players from established industries and research institutions can collaborate and facilitate activities to put lightweight technologies into practice.

ELCA: Lightweight technology made in Europe.

www.elcanetwork.eu/

About JEC

JEC Group is a non-profit organization entirely dedicated to promoting composite materials and fostering their applications globally.

Publisher of the JEC Composites Magazine, the industry's reference magazine, JEC organizes several events around the world, including JEC World, the leading international exhibition dedicated to composites and their applications, which takes place annually in Paris. JEC media, events and digital channels connect a global community of professionals from the composites industry and beyond, to enable knowledge transfer, create networking opportunities, and highlight innovation.

JEC: Connecting the World with Composites.

www.jeccomposites.com