Michelman Helps Kick Off IACMI's Innovation South Open House

Michelman announces that the fiber sizing line, which it has partnered with IACMI and UT to operate, will be the first operational line at Innovation South.

CINCINNATI, OH, UNITED STATES, February 12, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Michelman is proud to announce that the state-of-the-art fiber sizing line, which it has partnered with IACMI - The Composites Institute and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville to operate, will be the first operational line at Innovation South, a multi-use facility in UT's Research Park at Cherokee Farm. The announcement comes as part of an open house that IACMI is hosting for members at Innovation South on February 19 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM EST.

Michelman's 70-foot modular fiber sizing line is designed to apply advanced chemical coatings, known as fiber sizings, to help create composites that are lighter, stronger, and more versatile. Designed and funded by Michelman and provided to UT Knoxville as part of a growing relationship, the equipment enables hands-on training for next-generation engineers. It provides a faster pathway from research to commercialization and allows stakeholders to customize their constituent materials for tailored fiber-matrix interfaces, which are critical to composite performance. Located within UT Research Park at Cherokee Farm, Innovation South spans 85,000 square feet and offers cutting-edge resources for research and development. The facility features a 40,000-square-foot high bay and laboratory area. It is the home of both the UT Fibers and Composites Manufacturing Facility as well as IACMI's headquarters.

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>
> *Steve Bassetti*

This versatile open-innovation space is designed for collaboration among UT faculty and students, government, and industry professionals to develop, prototype, and test advanced composite materials for state-of-the-art manufacturing applications including high-tech aerospace, automotive, and gas storage.

“We’re honored to take part in Innovation South’s open house,” said Steve Bassetti, Director, Global Marketing, Fibers & Composites at Michelman. “This facility represents an extraordinary collaboration between industry, academia, and government, and we are thrilled that the Michelman fiber sizing line will be the first line up and running. This achievement underscores our commitment to driving innovation and advancing the composites industry.”

At the event, Steve will briefly address attendees to provide insights into Michelman’s longstanding partnership with IACMI and to provide an industry perspective regarding the power of on-going collaboration among manufacturers, academia, and government.

According to Uday Vaidya, IACMI’s Chief Technology Officer, work is underway evaluating a variety of sizing solutions for a range of reinforcements including carbon, glass, and natural fibers. “The Michelman line offers unlimited avenues for innovative chemistries that result in tailored fiber-matrix interfaces and composite properties,” said Vaidya. “The development phase is cost-effective and derisks stakeholders, since small and medium batch sizes can be evaluated before moving to production scale.”

Michelman and IACMI will continue to showcase their leading roles in the development of advanced composites at JEC World 2025. Michelman’s fiber sizing solutions will be showcased at booth 5E135. Sizing experts will be available to discuss applications for basalt, glass, carbon, and natural fibers. IACMI will exhibit in booth 6Q32.

About Michelman

Michelman is a global developer and manufacturer of environmentally friendly advanced materials for industry, offering solutions for the coatings, printing & packaging, and fibers & composites markets. The company's surface additives and polymeric binders are used by leading manufacturers around the world to enhance performance attributes and add value in applications including wood and floor care products, metal and industrial coatings, paints, varnishes, inks, fibers, and composites. Michelman is well known as an innovator in the development of barrier and functional coatings, and digital printing press primers that are used in the production of consumer and industrial packaging and paper products, labels, and commercially printed materials. Michelman serves its customers with production facilities in North America, Europe and Asia, product development and technical service centers in several major global markets, and a worldwide team of highly trained business development personnel.

About IACMI – The Composites Institute

The Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation (IACMI), also known as IACMI – The Composites Institute, is a 170-plus member community of industry, universities, national laboratories, and federal, state, and local government agencies working together to accelerate advanced composites design, manufacturing, technical innovation, and workforce solutions to enable a more sustainable, more secure, and more competitive U.S. economy. IACMI is managed by the Collaborative Composite Solutions Corporation (CCS), a not-for-profit organization established by The University of Tennessee Research Foundation. A Manufacturing USA institute, IACMI is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy's Advanced Materials & Manufacturing Technologies Office, as well as key state and industry partners. Visit www.iacmi.org and follow IACMI on LinkedIn.

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