

“Smarter” Hybrid Vehicle Comprising TeXtreme® Outsmarts Contestants

Borås, Sweden, 11 May 2009 – Mechanical engineering students at Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden, contested in Shell’s Eco-Marathon with “Smarter”, a hybrid vehicle, that has been constructed entirely using Oxeon’s spread carbon tow fabric TeXtreme®.

“Smarter”, participating in the Urban Concept category of the marathon, weighed 80 kg and was about 45% lighter than its competitors. The significant weight saving, attributed to TeXtreme®’s structure, lowered fuel consumption and improved construction.

TeXtreme®’s spread carbon tow structure increases mechanical performance and allows production of lightweight composites. Its ease of handling and draping combined with attractive appearance makes it the preferred carbon reinforcement for a variety of applications.

Henrik Olofsson, CEO, Oxeon, observes that the increasing need for fuel efficient vehicles requires a constant and consistent supply of lightweight and high performance materials. With worldwide availability of finer carbon tows (1k-6k) being consumed by the aerospace industry, Oxeon’s patented spread tow and tape weaving technologies occupy a very unique position in the market as it allows production of lightweight reinforcements using the more readily available heavier carbon tows. The innovative platform offered by both Shell Eco-Marathon and Chalmers University of Technology allowed students to explore the positive impact of TeXtreme® on the environment.

About Oxeon

Founded in 2003, Oxeon has quickly established itself as the market leader for spread tow carbon reinforcements. Use of these reinforcements increases the mechanical performance of composite material products. Utilization of Oxeon’s TeXtreme® fabrics and TeXero® UD tapes by manufacturers of advanced aerospace, automotive, racing, industrial and sports products in applications that have critical material performance requirements has affirmed the significance of Oxeon’s materials.

