



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	International Conference on Manufacturing of Advanced Composites (ICMAC) 2011
Date:	15 February 2011
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The International Conference on Manufacturing of Advanced Composites (ICMAC) 2011 will be held in Belfast's Waterfront Hall from 22 to 24 March 2011. The conference will focus on recognising and responding to the needs of the industry and will showcase the world-leading composite manufacturing being developed in Belfast, nationally and internationally. The event is being led by the University of Ulster.
1.2	Advanced manufacturing has been recognised as a key sector for development within Council's economic development strategy and action plan and Council are currently supporting 12 local small advanced manufacturing companies under the AIMS (Advanced Industry Materials Savings) Programme which has been designed to enable them to identify and implement productivity improvements through redesigned work processes, improvements in workflow management and higher value design.

2	Key Issues
2.1	Previously held in Belfast in 2009, the Conference will showcase the world-leading composite manufacturing being developed in the UK and specifically Northern Ireland and offer a mix of keynote papers presented by internationally renowned experts and presentations covering a diverse range of industry sectors, most notably aerospace and automotive. This year's event will attract up to 150 international delegates from companies such as Rolls Royce, Bentley, Boeing and Fokker.
2.2	In addition to the main conference Programme, ICMAC 2011 will provide a designated area to promote the region's expertise in advanced composites manufacturing. UKTI (UK Trade and Investment) will also lead a 12 strong trade delegation seeking to develop local partnerships, supply chain relationships and strategic alliances with local businesses in the sector. Additional trade delegations led by the Chinese Materials Group and the Canadian Composites association will be in attendance.

	This aspect of the Conference will expose local manufacturing companies to international buyers and decision makers, assist local companies to understand and access a range of relevant international opportunities and promote high value inward investment opportunities. We are working with the organisers to ensure that our small businesses can avail of all opportunities.
2.3	A reception for the Conference delegates is scheduled for Wednesday 23 March 2011 in the Waterfront Hall. Belfast City Council has been asked to offer support up to a maximum of £1,500 towards the costs of hosting the reception.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The total cost to Council of sponsoring the Reception will be up to a maximum of £1,500. Other key sponsors for the Conference include Invest Northern Ireland and UKTI.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	None

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Note the contents of the report and agree to the request to support the reception to a maximum of £1,500.

6	Decision Tracking
	None

7	Key to Abbreviations
	ICMAC – International Conference on Manufacturing of Advanced Composites UKTI – UK Trade & Investment