



## “BioFibres for Industry – From field to factory”

**Date:** Wednesday 29 October 2008  
**Time:** 9.00am - 5.00pm  
**Room:** Suites 1&2, Level 5, Melbourne Exhibition Centre (Jeff's Shed), 2 Clarendon Street, Melbourne

This event has been organised by the Composites CRC in collaboration with the Composites Innovation Centre Manitoba, Canada and CSIRO to:

- Strengthen ties between the Canadian and Australian natural fibre sectors;
- Build Agricultural BioFibre industries in Australia;
- Leverage existing Canadian strengths
- Learn from North American experiences; and
- Develop opportunities, links and collaborations throughout the entire product life cycle in Australia.

**Registration Fees:** (prices include GST)

**\$110.00** AusBiotech members (AB)  
CRC Associate Members or Participants (CRC)  
Composites Australia members (CA) or students (STU)

**\$165.00** Non Members

### Workshop program:

Time	Topic	Speaker/s
09:00 – 09:05	Welcome	Murray Scott (CRC-ACS)
09:05 – 09:10	Official launch	Hon. Minister Gavin Jennings
09:10 – 09:15		Elaine Callighen (Vice Consul and Trade Commissioner, Consulate General of Canada, Sydney)
09:15 – 09:30	Session 1: Introduction	Andrew Beehag (Composites CRC)
09:30 – 10:00	Session 2: Canadian Experience in Research, Development and Commercialization of Natural Fibres	Sean McKay (CIC)
10:00 – 10:20	Morning Tea	
10:20 – 10:50	Session 2: Canadian Experience in Research, Development and Commercialization of Natural Fibres (continued)	Mercedes Alcock (CIC) Stephen Meatherall (CIC)
10:50 – 11:20	Session 3: Research and Development of Flax Fiber Biocomposites at North Dakota State University	Chad Ulven (North Dakota State University)
11:20 – 12:00	Session 4: Current Situation in Australia and Vision for the Future	Niall Finn (CSIRO)
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 – 14:45	Session 5: Australian Natural Fibre Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growers Rep - Phil Warner (EcoFibre Industries)</li> <li>• Fibre Processing – Murray Hird (DBERD)</li> <li>• Materials Supplier – Daniel Leipnik (Australian Composites)</li> <li>• Industry User Rep – Bernd Rominger (Jayco)</li> </ul>
14:45 – 15:00	Afternoon Tea	
15:00 – 17:00	Session 6: Summary and Discussion - how to work together to maximise the development of the Australian BioFibre Industry, moderated by Andrew Beehag (Composites CRC)	Panel Members include: Sean McKay (CIC), Murray Hird (DBERD),
17:00 – 18:00	Networking reception	

To register go to: <http://www.ausbiotech2008.com.au/program/satellite-events>



## Speakers include:



**Dr. Chad A. Ulven**  
Assistant Professor  
Mechanical Engineering  
Department  
North Dakota State University

Dr. Ulven received his B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from North Dakota State University (2001) and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Materials Engineering from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (2003 & 2005). He has been an assistant professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department at North Dakota State University since August of 2005. He has been involved in the research of polymer matrix composites (PMCs) for various commercial and defense applications for the past 8 years. He has co-authored 16 journal articles, 4 U.S. Department of Defense technical reports, 1 book chapter, and over 40 conference papers related to PMCs. His most recent research interests include: biobased PMCs, recycling of PMCs, advanced thermoplastic PMCs, and fire and impact damage in PMCs.



**Mercedes Alcock, B.Sc., P.Eng.**  
Bio-Composite Project Leader  
Composites Innovation Centre

Mercedes received her Bachelor's of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Manitoba. Her interest in composite materials led her to the Composite Innovation Centre (CIC), a not-for-profit organization whose mandate is to support and stimulate economic growth through innovative research, development and application of composite materials and technologies for manufacturing industries. The CIC works in four industry sectors: aerospace, civil infrastructure, ground transportation and biomaterials. Mercedes began her career in the biomaterials sector attaining the position of Bio-Composite Project Leader. Mercedes performed an integral role in the design and launch of the National BioFibres Initiative. She is currently leading several projects which are critical in advancing the technology of using Canadian grown agricultural fibres to replace fibreglass fibres in thermoset composites for ground transportation applications.

Sean McKay graduated with a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering from the University of Salford, UK. He has held the position of Executive Director of the Composites Innovation Centre since its inception in 2003. This not for profit corporation supports and stimulates economic growth through innovative research, development and application of composite materials and technologies for manufacturing industries. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience in developing and implementing composite materials related technologies with over 29 years in the industry. He has been a main proponent and organizer for Canada's National Biofibres Initiative and has been instrumental in assembling research and commercialization partnerships that are developing the knowledge and technologies necessary to have natural fibres successfully adopted as economic and capable reinforcements for composite products.



**Sean McKay, B.Sc., P. Eng.**  
Executive Director  
Composites Innovation Centre

Stephen received his Bachelor's of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Manitoba. He joined the Composite Innovation Centre (CIC) as an Engineer-In-Training following completion of an extended co-operative work experience program with the centre. The CIC is a not-for-profit organization whose mandate is to support and stimulate economic growth through innovative research, development and application of composite materials and technologies for manufacturing industries. The CIC works in four industry sectors: aerospace, civil infrastructure, ground transportation and biomaterials. Stephen's focus has been in the area of understanding and developing natural fibre separation processes. Most recently he has expanded his activities to coordinating the development of natural fibre grading and prototype mat manufacturing techniques.



**Stephen Meatherall, B.Sc.**  
Engineer, Composites Applications  
Composites Innovation Centre

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