



Editorial CompTest 2004

The second international conference on Composites Testing and Model Identification was held from September 21st–23rd 2004 at the University of Bristol, and attracted about 140 participants from 25 countries.

Following on from the first CompTest held at ENSAM in Châlons en Champagne in January 2003, the conference aimed to bring together the scientific community working on testing of composite materials and structures, with particular emphasis on innovative measurement techniques and interaction between modelling and experimentation.

One-hundred and twenty abstracts were received and reviewed by the Scientific Committee, of which 41 were selected for oral presentation. The conference followed a single session format with 11 topics covering Structures, Scaling Effects and Notches, Testing, Fatigue and Durability, Full Field Techniques (I and II), Identification of Damage Models, Fabric Composites, Novel Methods and Residual Stresses, Fracture and Properties. Sixty-two posters were presented in five lively sessions, which helped to generate discussion and interaction during the extended coffee breaks. Three invited lectures were given by Dr Peter Davies from IFREMER in France on ‘Testing of Marine Composites: From Materials to Structures’, by Prof Yves Surrel from CNAM in Paris on ‘Full-field Optical Methods for Mechanical Engineering: Essential Concepts to find One’s Way’ and by Prof CT Sun from Purdue University, USA on ‘Novel Methods for Testing and Modelling Composite Materials and Laminates’.

The oral presentations and posters were collected on a CD, which was distributed at the conference. They were also put on the website together with the abstracts, opening up the conference to a wider audience than just the attendees. These are still available at: <http://www.aer.bris.ac.uk/comptest2004>.

A selection of papers was made by the Scientific Committee and authors were invited to submit full length papers. These have undergone the normal refereeing process with at least two reviewers each. The resulting Special Issue contains 21 papers, covering a broad range of topics, reflecting well the scope of the Conference.

A visit to Airbus, Filton was organised the day before the conference to see their composite research work and facilities, and for a workshop on experimental strain measurement techniques. A reception sponsored by Airbus at the Bristol Industrial Museum and the conference dinner on Brunel’s historic steamship SS Great Britain complemented the technical sessions and helped to make it a most enjoyable as well as interesting event. Based on the success of CompTest 2004, a third conference has been organised to take place in Porto, Portugal on 10th–12th April 2006. Further details can be found at: <http://www.fe.up.pt/comptest2006>.

We would like to thank all the people who made CompTest 2004 a success—authors and presenters, the Scientific and Organising Committees and our sponsors Airbus, the Institute of Materials, Mining and Minerals (IOM³) in the UK, the French Mechanics Association (AFM), the French Society for Composites (AMAC) and the American Society for Composites (ASC).

We look forward enthusiastically to CompTest 2006!

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