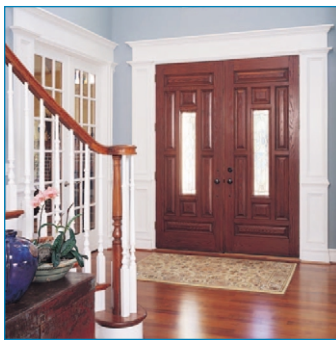


## Composite door maker acquired



A Therma-Tru composite door.

CONSUMER-goods company Fortune Brands Inc of Lincolnshire, Illinois, has paid approximately US\$925 million for Therma-Tru Corp, a US manufacturer of residential entry doors. Therma-Tru uses proprietary technology to manufacture glass reinforced plastic entry doors that look like wood but don't rot or warp.

Therma-Tru has annual sales of over \$400 million and a big

share of the fast-growing market for high-performance composite entry doors. The company produces the Fiber-Classic® and the Classic-Craft® brand door systems. The doors comprise outer composite skins made from sheet moulding compound (SMC) around a foam core (see *Reinforced Plastics*, January 2003, pages 32-38). Based in Maumee, Ohio, Therma-Tru has production facilities in Indiana, Oklahoma, Virginia, North Carolina, Arizona and Mexico.

Therma-Tru becomes part of Fortune's Home & Hardware business, which includes faucet brand Moen, Master-Brand Cabinets, the Master Lock padlock brand, and tool-storage products manufacturer Waterloo Industries.

Therma-Tru; website: [www.thermatru.com](http://www.thermatru.com); Fortune Brands; website: [www.fortunebrands.com](http://www.fortunebrands.com).

## ADS exits composites

CANADIAN firm ADS Inc is selling its composite materials business. The company says that the composites sector remains promising but it does not have sufficient resources to develop the business.

The company is restructuring to focus on its technical textiles business, which is exhibiting high growth rates. It plans to sell all the assets of its composite materials division, which makes luggage racks and other parts for buses, dashboards and windshields for speedboats, and other plastic and composite products.

The company's first move under the restructuring plan has been to sell its operations linked to the motorized personal watercraft components market, as well as its Terrebonne factory, to Camoplast Inc of Sherbrooke. Camoplast makes rubber tracks and composite and plastic parts for the recreational, industrial and transportation markets.

The financial terms of the sale have not been disclosed

but ADS says the watercraft component activities sold to Camoplast would have generated \$20 million in annual revenues for the fiscal year ending 31 January. The rest of the composites division has annual revenues of about \$30 million, mainly from the bus parts market.

"We remain convinced that the composite materials field is a promising sector where the needs for expertise are highly in demand," said Guy Drouin, ADS president and chief executive. "We still believe that the strategies developed by ADS for this sector were adequate and would have continued to bear fruit. But since the company's resources are limited, we decided to leave it to others to realize the full potential of this sector."

ADS should complete its withdrawal from the composite materials sector before the end of the next fiscal year, Drouin added.

ADS; tel: +1-418-387-3383; website: [www.adsinc.ca](http://www.adsinc.ca).

## letters

### JEC should stay annual

Regarding the comments in October 2003 issue of *Reinforced Plastics* (page 8), it is interesting that the support for a biennial agenda comes from companies far away, therefore with much higher costs. Let them pursue this idea by coming every few years, rather than affect the show. From the commercial viewpoint the JEC is a vital meeting point for manufacturers and agents from around the world; if the JEC does move in this direction it will leave a void that will have to be filled.

Why not cut back on the amazing level of entertainment the large companies insist on supplying, have smaller stands, and go for more direct contact with their customers and agents at the show. Maybe with cost reductions giving a more cost effective presence the resin group may reconsider. If it goes biennial another meeting will develop – the market needs it.

Keith Godber  
CRC Ltd, UK ([www.releaseagents.co.uk](http://www.releaseagents.co.uk))

*Reinforced Plastics welcomes your comments. Send your letters to Amanda Jacob, Editor, Reinforced Plastics, Elsevier Advanced Technology, PO Box 150, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1AS, UK; fax: +44-(0)1865-843971; e-mail: [a.jacob@elsevier.com](mailto:a.jacob@elsevier.com). (Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity.)*

## People

**Saint-Gobain Vetrotex** has announced a new organization for its global FRP business. **Stéphane Guillon** has been appointed Product Global Manager for Thermosets of the Business Unit Reinforcement Europe and North America and the Business Unit Reinforcement South America. **Corinne Blanc**, in addition to her responsibilities as sales and marketing director of Twintex®, replaces him and is appointed marketing director for the Business Unit Reinforcement Europe.

**Roberto Cekarini** keeps his current responsibilities and is made director of sales Reinforcements Europe and North America, while **Manuel Agudo** joins the group as general manager Thermoplastics Worldwide.

**Robert L. Mazza** joins core materials supplier **Alcan Baltek Corp** as Director of Marine Applications. He will be based at the company's Northvale, New Jersey headquarters. Mazza previously served as VP of Sales at ATC Chemicals.