

## JEC World Composite Show Report



The JEC World Composite Show is an international trade show for composite materials. It was an incredible opportunity to further develop my understanding for the industry and to meet leading industry professionals to further develop my network.

The Show was hosted at the Paris Nord Villepinte Exhibition Centre and comprised of two huge halls of stands, displays and stages. Throughout the three-day event there were talks, conferences, expert panel discussions and networking events.

During my visit, I attended two of the expert panel discussions. *Unleashing the Power of Nature* talked about the development of adopting natural materials within the industry. The discussion was about the development of materials and supply chain development all the way to final product applications. It was interesting to see how the industry is starting to battle the issues surrounding sustainability. *Revolutionising Composites* was another group discussion from industry experts that discussed a similar topic of using sustainable materials in industry. This again spanned the entire supply chain. One of the experts spoke about the introduction of bio-based materials on a chemical level for carbon fibre. This led all the way through to Beneteau Boats, who have completed an entirely recyclable yacht. Both talks were incredible.



Throughout my two days at the event, I explored as many exhibitors stands as I could. It was amazing to see the entire process of the composite industry, with vendors for material sourcing up to the building of racing yachts and aeroplane cockpits. This was alongside manufacturing supplies including autoclave providers and 3D printing technology experts.

I found the event through a company I have been interested in for a couple of years, *Greenboats* who were attending. *Greenboats* is a company that focuses on providing flax substitutes for carbon fibre. They provided parts for the Ocean Race Boats last year. It was incredible to meet one of their boatbuilders. I hope to visit their workshop in Germany soon.

My main goal for this trip was to learn as much as possible. I loved the experience of talking to vendors and other visitors at the show. I have never been to such an event before and it was fascinating.

I really think this trip has been invaluable in my development as a naval architect. I am so grateful that the Travel Bursary provided me with this opportunity. I am looking forward to visiting the show again next year.



