ADVANCED COMPOSITE GLOBAL AWARD FOR BLACKSTONE TEK

"JECeurope is a global composite event that takes place in Paris annually," says Simphiwe Fikizolo of the Department of Trade and Industry's (the dti) Investment Promotion unit. "Several innovative composite applications, including materials, are shown in this event by international composite companies.

“South Africa needs to focus more on this industry by creating awareness,” says Fikizolo. "South Africa can beneficiate its abundant primary mineral silica sand and produce fiberglass, which is used as a reinforcement material to produce composite-related products.”

Joshua Shear of Blackstone Tek and Simphiwe Fikizolo of the dti with BST’s award

JECeurope awarded Blackstone Tek (BST), a composite manufacturer based in Johannesburg, a global composite award for innovation. BST is constantly pushing the envelope of development in carbon fibre and advanced manufacturing.

Carbon fibre motorcycle wheels offer benefits such as lower weight, lower rotational inertia and high stiffness. These benefits allow the motorcycle to achieve greater fuel efficiency, greater acceleration and braking distance as well as better cornering. The nature of the components included in the wheel assembly reduces the wheel's susceptibility to corrosion. The effects all contribute to the overall improved performance and safety of the motorcycle. In addition to these technical benefits, the wheel is aesthetically pleasing. BST wheels are currently marketed throughout the world, with approximately 1,500 units sold annually.

BST exports 96% of its product and has put carbon fibre on the map as the material of the future. The company’s research focus will now include the development of carbon fibre car wheels.