

Zoltek to expand carbon fibre capacity

Carbon fibre producer Zoltek, now part of Toray Industries, plans to expand production capacity and employment at its plant in Nyergestifalu, northern Hungary, which is already the world's largest carbon fibre factory and manufactures large-tow polyacrylonitrile (PAN) based materials for use in the wind energy, aerospace and automotive industries.

The expansion will create 100 additional jobs initially and another 200-300 over the next few years.

Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Peter Szijjarto met with Zoltek chief executive officer Mark Kawamura last month to sign a formal strategic cooperation agreement in respect of the expansion.

Szijjarto spoke of the value added from using the latest technology in the production process and of further strengthening Hungary's position in the automotive industry, which is the flagship of the country's economy.

Zoltek has also signed an agreement with the Budapest University of Technology and Economics to help educate the next generation of carbon fibre professionals.

The company manufactures carbon fibre under the Panex trade name.

• *Zoltek Companies Inc, 3101 McKelvey Road, St Louis, MO 63044, USA. Tel: +1 314 291 5110. Fax: +1 314 291 8536. Email: sales@zoltek.com Web: www.zoltek.com*

• *Toray Industries Inc, Nihonhashi Mitsui Tower, 2-2-1 Nihonbashi-Muromachi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, 103-8666, Japan. Tel: +81 3 3245 5111. Fax: +81 3 3245 5054. Web: www.toray.co.jp*

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