

CARBON FIBRE FOR AUTOMOTIVE APPLICATIONS : WHO'S WILLING TO DO WHAT TO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE?

Nobuya Kawamura

Toyota Motor Corporation

Abstract

As carbon fibre usage in the industrial applications has expanded, the price of the carbon yarns has gradually decreased. Although the recent high demands and supply shortages of the yarn has caused an increase in market price, some yarn suppliers are finally considering how to meet the cost demands of industries other than that of the aerospace and defense.

There are still many challenges other than the material cost to overcome for carbon fibre to be accepted in the automotive industry, such as a breakthrough technology for high cycle and economical part production method.

The next 5 to 10 years may be a very important period for both the land transportation industry and the carbon yarn manufacturers to bring the technology to an industrial success.