

AUSTRALIAN TECHNOLOGIES COMPETITION Carbon Nanotube Project

Greg Solomon Chairman 16 September 2014



Carbon Nanotube Project



UQ/ Eden Developed Pyrolysis Production of CNT from Natural Gas (Eden 100%)

 $CH_4 + Catalyst + Heat = C + 2H_2$

- Produces only CNT + H₂ no CO₂
- Multi-walled carbon nanotubes:
 - tensile strength -200-300 times steel
 - ➤ approx 17% the weight of steel
 - high conductivity (electrical/thermal)
 - bulk uses concrete/plastics/polymers
- Patents in 8 countries



TEM image of Eden's MWCNT

Eden's CNT Commercial Production Capacity





- Eden's Commercial Scale Reactors in Denver, USA
- Capable of producing <40 tonnes of CNT/ year
- Low cost catalyst production
- High quality / low cost
 CNT

Primary Market – CNT in Concrete



- CNT Concrete 0.5 % CNT : 99.5% cement /tonne concrete
 - < 30% increase in compressive strength of cement</p>
 - < 14% increase in tensile strength of cement</p>
- Product CNT enriched liquid admixture- added during batching
- Benefits stronger, tougher concrete
 - Iess concrete / steel re-enforcing needed
 - reduced building costs/ greater design flexibility
- Global Application road and bridges, high rise buildings

CNT in Fresh Cement Paste





Monash University Helium Ion Microscope Image

Build-up of dense, hydrated cement on surface of CNT (top right)

- CNT provide:
 - nucleation points for cement hydration
 - nano-scale fibre re-enforcement.
- **CNT facilitate denser, stronger** and potentially more durable concrete.
- **Other larger-scale fibres provide** only nano-scale fibre reinforcement.

CNT in Fractured Hardened Cement Paste





CNT bonded in hardened cement paste after fracturing

Note: ends of CNTs are wellbonded within cement gel and provide anchorage

Monash University Helium Ion Microscope Image

Primary Market - CNT in Concrete



- Global concrete/ cement market- US\$450 billion/year
 - Approx. 1 tonne of concrete produced annually for every person on Earth
 - > Cement production creates 5% of annual global GHG emissions
 - > CNT concrete could reduce cement requirements by >15-30%
- USA initial target market
 - > 700 million tonnes/year of concrete
 - > 89,000kms of concrete paved roads and bridge
 - US\$40 billion annual infrastructure maintenance cost

Future Large Scale CNT Production



• 1,000 tonnes p.a. CNT capacity reactor- \$50million capital cost

sufficient for > 1.7 million tonnes concrete -7% of Australian market

- 10,000 tonnes p.a. CNT capacity -Natural Gas Fired Power Stations
 - 500MW station uses >100,000 tpa of natural gas (NG)
 - > 10,000 tonnes CNT: needs 5% of total NG; enough for 70% of Aust. concrete
 - > H2 by-product -3,333 tonnes- used in power production
- 10,000 tonnes p.a. CNT capacity -Fertiliser Plants
 - > CH4 used to produce H2 for ammonia production- CO2 by product
 - > 10,000 tonnes CNT produces 3,333 tonnes H2
- **CO₂ reduction < 36,000 tpa** in both cases

Challenges and Marketing Plans



Challenges

- Extension of shelf life of admixture development underway
- OH&S concerns resolved
 - > CNT in low concentrations (< 0.5%) in liquid admixture
 - CNT used in low concentrations and is firmly bonded with cement

Marketing Plans

- Global manufacturers planned for CNT admixture production /marketing
- Global concrete company interest- initial Australian trials planned in 2014
- US Trials to commence in 2014 -initial target roads/ bridges
- Planned US commercial rollout in 2016



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