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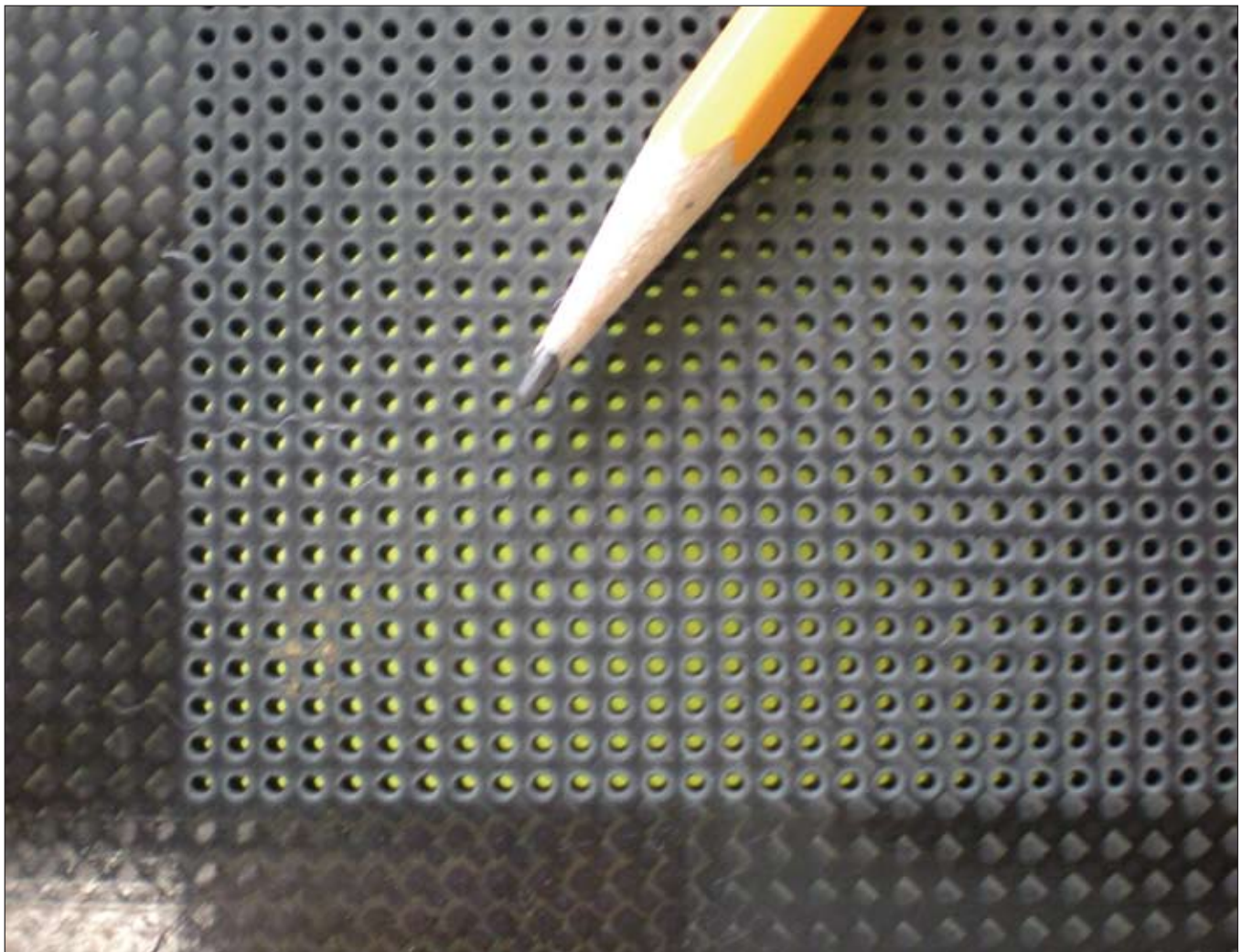
Jet News

DECEMBER 2008

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for the benefit of its members*

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Abrasive-Waterjet Machining Of Composites



AWJ-drilled holes in a carbon fiber composite panel.

See article by Mohamed Hashish, Ph.D., on page 2

2009 American WJTA Conference and Expo, *Details inside*

August 18-20, 2009 • Houston, Texas, USA

ABSTRACT

The use of carbon fiber composites is significantly increasing as a structural material for commercial airframes. This material represents 50% by weight for the new Boeing 787 and Airbus 350XWB frames. The Abrasive-Waterjet (AWJ) has been the tool of choice for trimming and shapecutting this material due to many technical, environmental, and economical reasons. The AWJ cuts are of acceptable surface finish and of high integrity. The cutting rates are faster than conventional routing. Significant advances have been made in the hardware, software, and the AWJ process reliability, flexibility, and productivity placing the AWJ process as a mainstream tool for airframe manufacturers and their subcontractors.

1. INTRODUCTION

The use of advanced materials such as composites has been escalating rapidly over the past three decades, especially in the aerospace industry, coincident with the introduction of AWJ technology to the marketplace in the 1980s. In fact, the use of waterjet technology in aerospace applications has a significant impact on its advance in meeting reliability, flexibility, and productivity demands. This article briefly discusses the AWJ hardware, software, and routinely used machining processes such as trimming and drilling for carbon fiber composites.

1.1 Composite Systems

Composites used in the aircraft industry could be organic, metal, and ceramic matrix composites (OMCs, MMCs, and CMCs). These are used in

jet engine and air frame components. In jet engine for example, the engine cold section will incorporate OMCs, MMCs, and intermetallics. OMC components may include fan frames, fan blades, inlet and outlet guide vanes, stator vanes, cases, and control housings. Graphite-PMR-15 structural parts are used on such engines as GE F110 and F404, and PW-1120 and 1130. Hot sections, such as combustors and turbine exhaust, will require the high-temperature capabilities of some intermetallics, single-crystal superalloys, CMCs, or carbon/carbon composites.

The use of OMCs, especially carbon-fiber based composites for aerostructures, have been initially used on military airframes. Now carbon fiber composites are used extensively on commercial aircraft. Example parts are:

- Wing: Covers, Spars, Leading Edges, Flaps
- Fuselage: Panels, Stringers, Frames, Clips, Doors
- Tail: VTP & HTP Covers, Rudder, and Flaps

- Keel Beam, Centre Wing Box, Belly Fairing

The following are example aircraft and corresponding AWJ-machined components:

- Boeing 787 - center wing box, wing skins, spars, stringers, fixed leading edge, vertical stabilizer, 777 – horizontal stabilizer, 747 - titanium landing gear components - see Figure 1 below
- Airbus 350XWB – wing spars
- Bell Helicopter V-22 Osprey - wing skins, stiff rotors
- Raytheon Premier I – The fuselage.

The most common AWJ-cut carbon fiber composite parts in an air frame are found in:

Most revolutionary in the use of composites on commercial liners is the Boeing 787 which will contain 50% composite structure by weight and 90% by volume and the Airbus A350XWB with similar composite usage. In comparison, the 777, which

(continued on page 12)

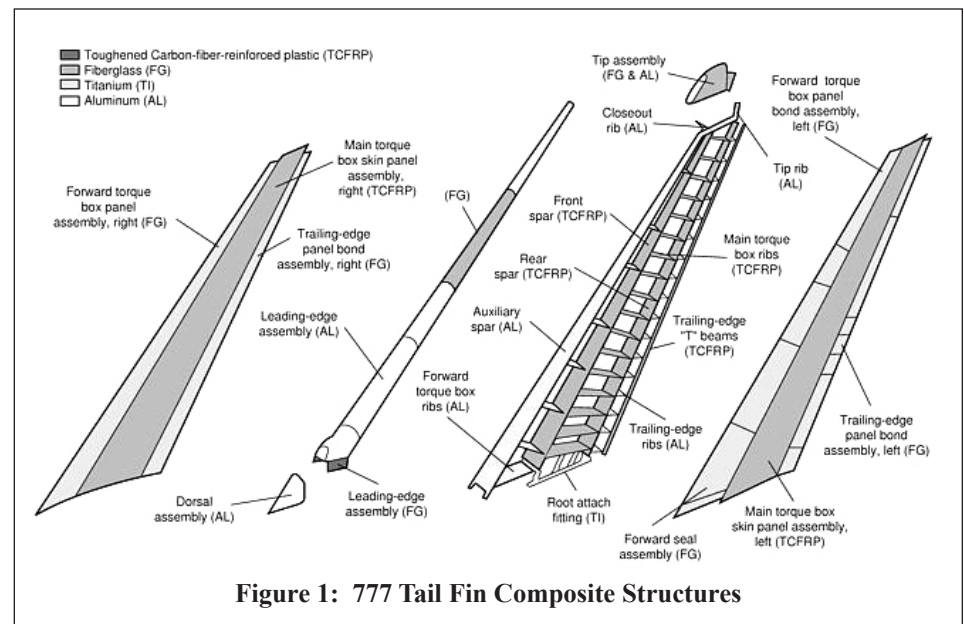


Figure 1: 777 Tail Fin Composite Structures

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Nominations Open For WJTA Board of Directors

Nominations for the WaterJet Technology Association (WJTA) Board of Directors are now open,” says WJTA Secretary Hugh B. Miller, Ph.D. “The duties of the directors are truly challenging and rewarding.”

The terms of office of Greg Galecki, Ph.D., Mohamed Hashish, Ph.D., Hugh B. Miller, Ph.D., Bill McClister, George A. Savanick, Ph.D., and B.T. Steadman will expire in August 2009. Therefore, nominations are sought for six (6) board members, each to serve a four-year term of office beginning August 17, 2009.

The WJTA bylaws provide that no more than one of the elected board members may be from the same company or organization. Therefore, board members may not be nominated from the same company or organization already represented on the board by individuals whose terms expire in 2011, including DeBusk Industrial Services Company (Pat DeBusk), High Pressure Equipment Company (Larry Loper), NLB Corporation (Forrest A. Shook), StoneAge, Inc. (John Wolgamott), Environmental Solutions Group/Federal Signal (Bill Gaff), and Polyflex Business Unit/Parker Hannifin Corporation (Paul Webster).

According to the WJTA bylaws, any WJTA member in good standing (2008 membership dues paid) may submit a nomination(s). A nominee who has not paid his/her dues by March 31, 2009, shall be declared ineligible to run for office in the 2009 election. The deadline for making nominations is **March 31, 2009**. Your nomination(s) should reach the WJTA office **no later than March 31, 2009**.

To submit a nomination(s), complete the **Nomination Form** and return, along with biographical information and a brief statement of your nominee's mission and vision for WJTA, to:

WJTA Administrative Office
906 Olive Street, Suite 1200
Saint Louis, MO 63101-1448
Phone: (314) 241-1445
Fax: (314) 241-1449

Remember, nominations must be received **no later than March 31, 2009**.

Nominations/Elections Procedures

In accordance with the bylaws of the WaterJet Technology Association, nominations and elections to the Board of Directors include the following procedures:

- At least two calls for nominations to the board of directors will be published in the *Jet News*. The first call for nominations appears in this issue. **Nominations will be accepted through March 31, 2009.**
- An official ballot listing the eligible nominees and a brief biographical sketch for each individual will then be forwarded by mail to all eligible voting members of the Association on **May 28, 2009**. **Signed and executed ballots must be mailed to the Association's office for tallying by June 25, 2009.**
- The names of newly elected board members will be announced in the *Jet News* and on the WJTA web site.

Only WJTA members in good standing (2008 membership dues paid) may submit a nomination(s). A nominee who has not paid his/her dues by March 31, 2009, shall be declared ineligible to run for office in the 2009 election.

Nomination Form

Name of Nominee _____
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Edmonton Waterjet Shop Experiences Nine Straight Years of Growth

When Garnett Gerke opened his Edmonton, Alberta, waterjet shop, G.O. H2O, more than ten years ago, he deliberately decided to target diverse markets rather than hinge his fate on a niche industry.

This approach has served G.O. H2O well. The company has grown every year for the past nine years, and even added a second waterjet table last year to keep up with demand.

“We attribute our growth to Alberta’s strong oil and gas-based economy, but also to the fact that we market to other areas such as architectural, glass, flooring, metal fabricating and a small amount in plastics,” Gerke noted.

Gerke credits his former business partner for coming up with the idea of opening a waterjet shop. His partner got the idea while working on a road construction crew in northern Alberta. The crew ran into challenges trying to drill through rock so he went online to research the idea of cutting material with something more innovative and efficient than coring methods. After some research, he determined that waterjet was the wave of the future in terms of cutting, and also found that Edmonton was considered the “machine shop capitol



Garnett Gerke of G.O. H2O, Edmonton, Alberta.

of the world,” yet the city only had one waterjet shop at that time.

(continued on page 7)

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Edmonton Waterjet Shop Experiences Nine Straight Years Of Growth, from page 6

Gerke's 12 years in the trades as a cabinetmaker coupled with four years of marketing experience came in handy as the men built their business. They decided to focus primarily on waterjet cutting rather than machining since the area was saturated with machine shops.

When they bought their first waterjet table, they chose a 4x12-foot High Rail Gantry manufactured by Jet Edge, Inc. of St. Michael, Minnesota. They equipped the table with two cutting heads and powered it with a 100hp, 55,000 psi (4,100 bar) Jet Edge 55-100 intensifier pump with dual intensifiers.

"We liked the idea that Jet Edge was a privately owned company versus a publicly traded company," Gerke said. "We also liked their reputation of quality."

G.O. H2O had racked up nearly 35,000 hours on its first system when Gerke and his new business partner, Don Torok, decided to buy a second system.

For the second system, the company went with a 6x12-foot Jet Edge High Rail Gantry so they could accommodate larger sheet sizes. They equipped this system with two cutting heads and a 55-100 Jet Edge intensifier pump. Both waterjet systems are equipped with overhead cranes, and Gerke noted that the tables are very easy to load by crane or forklift.

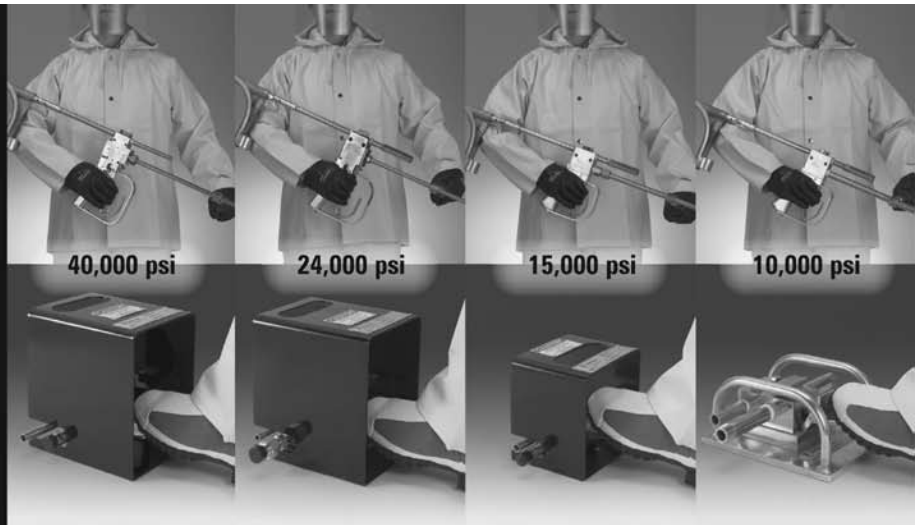
"When it was time to buy the second machine, it was very tempting to look at the other manufacturers, and we did, but how can you argue with 35,000 hours and very little downtime," Gerke said, noting that on his original ten-year-old pump, he has only had to replace one of the intensifiers. The electric motor and one intensifier are still original.

"When we did have downtime, Jet Edge's customer service was amazing, even on holidays," he added. "On one of the rare times our system went down, it went down over the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday, which is not a holiday for us. I called Jet Edge's emergency service contact, and they

went in and shipped the part out. We were back up and running for the weekend."

After more than ten years of positive experiences, Gerke said he would

(continued on page 20)



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Flow Opens New Czech Republic Sales and Customer Service Center

Flow International Corporation has announced the opening of a new sales and customer service center in the Czech Republic. The new center, located in Brno, Czech Republic, will serve customers in central and Eastern European markets, including Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Russia, Belarus, and the Ukraine. The center was opened in response to the growth of Flow's European customer base in those countries and the future growth opportunities in these countries.

"As a result of the increased demand for waterjet cutting technology worldwide and Flow's growing European customer base, we seized the opportunity to open a sales and service center to best serve our Eastern European customers," said Charley Brown, CEO, Flow International. "The new center will complement our European headquarters in Bretten, Germany so Flow can continue to deliver the highest possible service to our growing European customer base."

For more information, visit www.flowcorp.com.

**WJTA 25th
Anniversary**

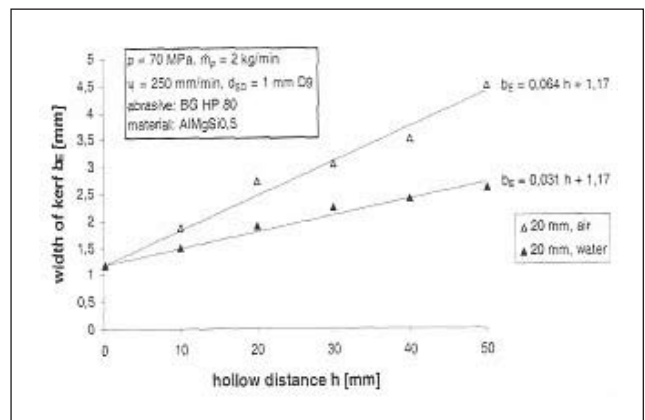
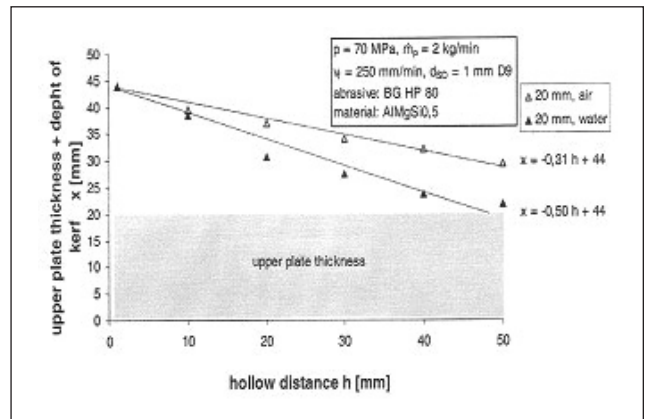
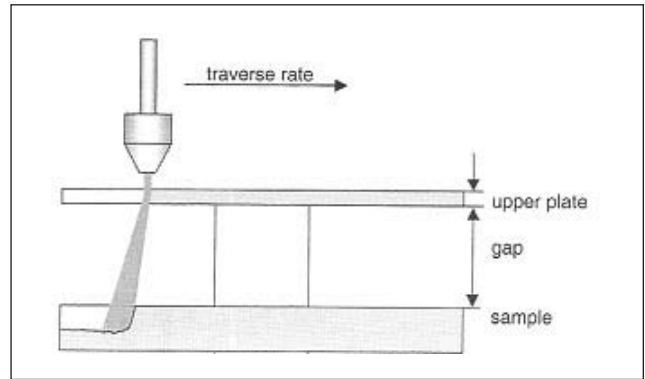
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Cutting Hollow Structures

Many applications in waterjet cutting are involved with hollow structures. The hollow space tends to disperse the jet and affects the cut below. Louis & Von Rad* did an experimental study on this phenomenon. Here is a review of their findings.

Their experimental setup to simulate a hollow structure is illustrated in the top figure. Cutting tests were done on aluminum with a 1-mm abrasive water suspension jet at 70 MPa of pressure and 2 kg/min of 80 mesh garnet. The parameters were chosen so that the sample below the gap was not cut through in order to preserve the evidences of remaining jet potential. The gap was filled with either air or water to study the impact of medium. The results were plotted in the other two figures.

The reduction of the kerf depth and the increase of the kerf width on the sample were proportional to the size of gap. Compared to air, water made the kerf shallower and narrower because the outer layer of the jet lost energy to the surrounding water. It was also found that the thickness of the upper plate had a small impact to the kerf-depth-vs-gap-size relation (i.e., a thicker upper plate resulted in a shallower kerf), but a relatively large impact



to the kerf-width-vs-gap-size relation (i.e., a thicker upper plate resulted in a wider kerf). The explanation was that the upper plate acted as a "bad" nozzle.

*Louis, H. & Ch Von Rad (2000), "Cutting of hollow structures with abrasive water suspension jets," in Proceedings of the 15th International Conference on Jetting Technology, Ronneby, Sweden, September 6-8, pp59-67.

Reprinted by permission from *Quality Waterjet Newsletter*, October 7, 2008.

Personnel Appointments

• **Jet Edge, Inc.**, has announced the appointment of **Eric Magnuson** as its new North Central regional sales manager. Magnuson is responsible for sales of Jet Edge waterjet systems in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Western Iowa, Northern Wisconsin and Manitoba. He brings to Jet Edge more than 10 years of experience in capital equipment sales. Magnuson has a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Minnesota. He is based in St. Michael, Minnesota, and can be contacted at phone: (612)963-0933 or email: ericm@jetedge.com.



Eric Magnuson

• **Jet Edge, Inc.**, has also announced the appointment of **David J. Anderson** as its new international sales manager. Anderson is responsible for export sales of Jet Edge waterjet UHP pumps and systems. He brings to Jet Edge 15 years of experience in sales management, marketing, training and customer service in international and domestic business sales. Recently Anderson was an advisor to U.S. and foreign businesses regarding risk management, sales process, and marketing management. He has previous experience in sales and marketing management with specialized water pump capital equipment manufacturers. Anderson



David J. Anderson

has traveled extensively throughout the world and has established OEMs, dealers, and distributors in approximately 35 countries on six continents. In 1997, the governor of Minnesota recognized Anderson's efforts and the company that he worked for at the time with the "Exporter of the Year Award." Anderson is based in St. Michael, Minnesota, and can be contacted at (763)497-8718 or sales@jetedge.com

• **SPIR STAR Ltd.** appointed a new sales representative, **Willie Whittington**, in September. Whittington has over five years of inside sales experience. His primary responsibilities will be to assist in the development of SPIR STAR's sales strategies and to help maximize customer satisfaction and performance. For more information, visit www.spirstar.com or call (281)664-7800.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING SPAM

Email addresses and other member contact information published in the WJTA Membership Directory is meant to encourage helpful, informative communication between members. The information is not provided to circulate spam or junk mail.

The WJTA leadership requests that members respect the contact information of fellow members and not use that information for the dissemination of spam or junk email. Membership information is not meant to be circulated beyond the WJTA membership.

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"There is physics behind how you make a water-spin tool and how you jet it," said Bill Shires, vice president of sales and marketing for StoneAge. "The technical sales specialists at FS Solutions have been fully trained by StoneAge engineers and are uniquely suited to answer customer questions about which StoneAge tools to use to remove specific materials in specific applications. FS Solutions also has the necessary machining expertise and tooling capabilities to repair our high tolerance tool components."

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- **Waterjet Boot Camp**—Industry experts offer information and suggestions on ways to help contractors buy smart, improve efficiency and generate profitable new business.
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The **WJTA Conference and Expo** is unique in that the program is dedicated to high pressure waterjet technology and related industries. If you are involved in high pressure waterjetting for cleaning, surface preparation, industrial vacuuming/air moving for industrial cleanup/recovery, waterblasting or cutting, or if you are interested in finding out more about the industry, the **WJTA Conference and Expo** is an ideal resource for information and an excellent meeting for networking with other professionals in the field.

Hotel Reservations at the Marriott Houston Westchase. The Marriott Houston Westchase, 2900 Briarpark Drive, Houston, Texas 77042, is the central location for the WJTA Conference and Expo activities. The Marriott is a **smoke-free** facility. For reservations, call toll-free **800-452-5110** or contact the Marriott directly at **713-978-7400**. Be sure to identify yourself as attending the WaterJet Technology Association Conference to receive the special group rates of **\$149 single/double occupancy. August 2, 2009**, is the deadline for guaranteed room availability. Reservations received after **August 2, 2009**, will be confirmed on a space available basis. Rooms may still be available after August 2, but not necessarily at the rates listed above.

Visit www.wjta.org for Conference information or contact:
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Abrasive-Waterjet Machining Of Composites, from page 2

entered service just over ten years ago, contains only 10% composite structure by weight. The military's new F-35 Lightning II (JSF) expected to enter service in 2010 will have just below 40% composite structure by weight as Titanium Graphite (TiGr) laminates will be used. The F-22 Raptor, which entered service in 2003, has approximately 25% composite structures by weight. Figure 1 above shows the 777 tail fin with shaded areas being carbon fiber composite while Figure 2 shows the composite parts on the 787.

Typical problems that have been encountered when machining carbon fiber composites with conventional solid tools are matrix cracking, fiber pullout, inter-laminar voids, delamination, and resin melting. This leaves frayed or delaminated edges which require costly rework

and slowdown of production cycles. Frequent tool change is required when using routers or drills due to the abrasive nature of the composite. Environmentally, solid tools generate dust and carbon powder which can wreak havoc on electrical systems and personnel.

The above mentioned growing use of composite materials on primary aircraft structures requires technology offering lower manufacturing and tooling costs, and the reduced potential for product defects. For 2D and 3D cutting and machining of composite structures, AWJ technology offers

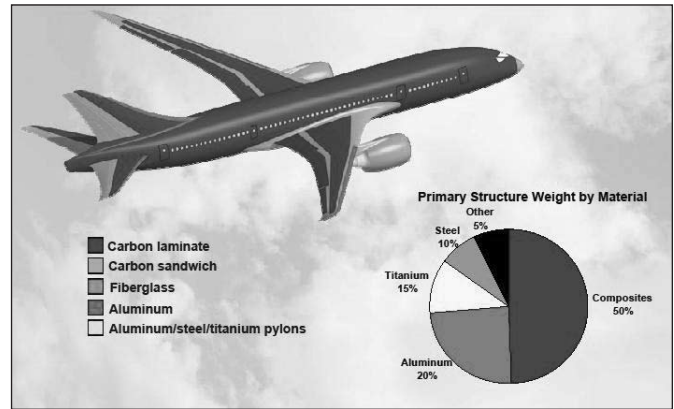


Figure 2: Materials Used in the Boeing 787 Aircraft

several advantages over conventional machining methods. Among these advantages are:

- No distortion due to limited jet forces and its nature of micromachining action
- No heat affected zones
- Higher cutting speeds than routers

(continued on page 13)



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In the following sections we describe some advances in composite machining.

2. AWJ TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES FOR COMPOSITES MACHINING

There have been many advances in composites machining with AWJ for air frames that can be grouped into two basic categories. These are machinery (hardware) process, and software advances. The following are descriptions of some of these advances.

2.1 Hardware:

2.1.1 Cutting Heads

The use of vacuum assist in AWJ cutting heads, see Figure 3, has been critical for successful shapecutting of composites. An external vacuum source is used to draw abrasives into the cutting head before starting the waterjet. This insures an instantaneous action of the AWJ upon firing the waterjet and impacting the material. It has been shown that delamination does not occur when piercing composites using this approach. The vacuum assist is particularly important when lower pressures are used as often is the case when piercing composites. In this case, the waterjet venturi effect is not sufficient to draw abrasives reliably into the cutting head and thus vacuum assist enhances the reliability of the AWJ process.

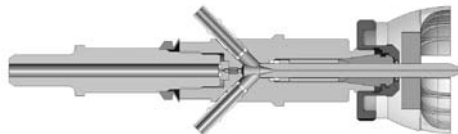


Figure 3: AWJ Cutting Head with Vacuum Assist. One port is for abrasive feed and the other for attaching vacuum device.

2.1.2 Hybrid Waterjet System

In order to trim and rout composites, both waterjets and solid tool routers have been incorporated on special hybrid systems as shown in Figure 4. In these systems, two 5-axis masts are used: one for the AWJ and another for the router. The AWJ is used to trim the part using an end effector

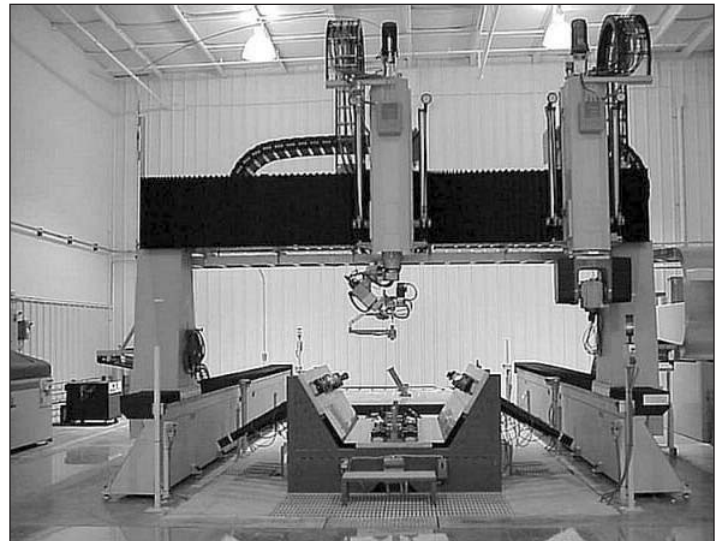
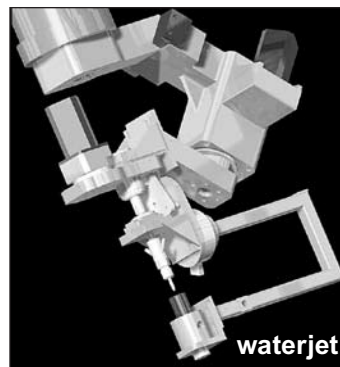


Figure 4: Hybrid Waterjet System (Waterjet on the left, outer on the right)



Wrist



Wrist

Figure 5: AWJ and Mechanical End Effectors

such as the one shown in Figure 5. Please note that a small catcher is provided on a 6th axis for catching the exit jet and directing the waste outside of the wrist area to the collection tank. The router, see Figure 5, is used to drill and counter sink the required holes or trim some critical areas not easy to address with the AWJ. This system provides significant advantage in minimizing set-up time. Machines range in size from 10 ft to 150 ft in length with width up to 50 ft. Probing and linear scales are used for obtaining the required accuracy.

2.1.3 Flexible Fixturing

Flexible fixturing is a key component in AWJ machining cells due to the wide variety of shapes and contours of airframe parts. FLOW has developed versatile fixtures consisting of a number of linear actuators with vacuum

(continued on page 14)

cups as well as hard location surfaces and points for accurately locating the part and rigidly holding it during cutting. The fixture must also accommodate the catcher and be specific to the waterjet nature as a long effective beam after penetrating the material. Figure 6 shows a fixture example for holding a wide range of curved parts as may be used in fuselage sections.

2.2 Software

Most airframe parts are designed using CATIA solid modeling software. In order to develop a CNC program to trim and drill parts, a post processor program is needed to translate the drawing such that the machine controller can execute it. This post processor also includes information about the process such as cutting speed, tool diameter, etc. This is a most critical element of the AWJ machining system as most parts are complex 3-D shaped. Flow International and CINET Systems developed FlowTrim: CAD (Data Import, Part Design, Fixtures, Run-off material), and CAM (Programming, simulation, tool path modification, ...) as an integrated post processor using integrated cutting technology models and data tables. Figure 7 shows an example screen with the end effector and catcher displayed.

2.3 Waterjet Processes

The most common waterjet processes

used for airframe are trimming, shapecutting, and drilling. Trimming is typically performed on the edges while shapecutting is performed on the interior surfaces to produce openings such as access holes or windows.

2.3.1 Trimming and Shapecutting

Significant work has been done on the use of waterjets and abrasive-waterjets for composite parts trimming. This trimming is required as parts are typically oversized due to the composite manufacturing process. A wide plateau of parameters has been found acceptable for cutting wide range of thicknesses - (0.1 inch to 3-inch) sections of graphite epoxy. The cut surfaces of better than 400 micro inches (as typically specified by Boeing) are achieved at relatively high productivity levels. For example, a

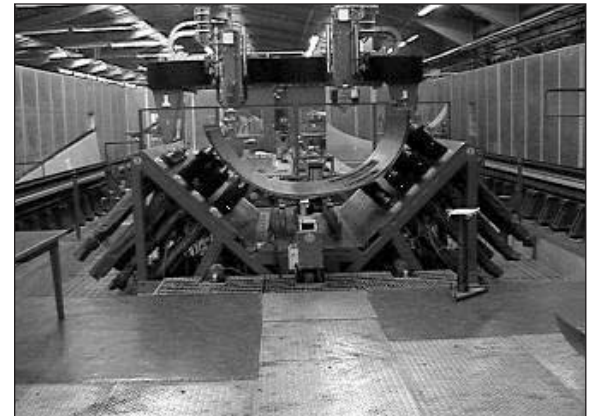
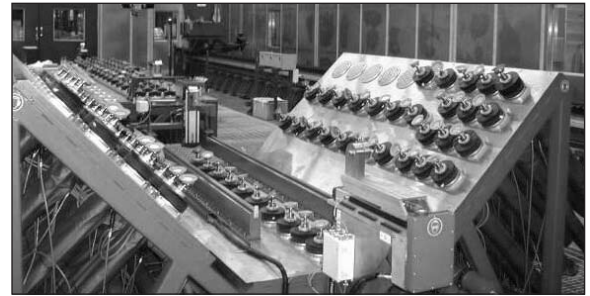


Figure 6: Example Fixture for Holding Curved Parts

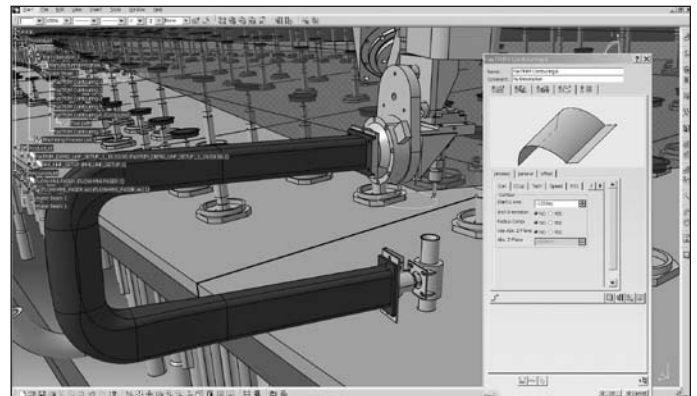


Figure 7: FlowTRIM® Software Screen by CINET showing AWJ trimming end effector

(continued on page 15)

Safety Committee Solicits Comments On Improvements To Recommended Practices

The WJTA Safety Committee hereby solicits comments regarding improvements to the publication, Recommended Practices for the Use of Manually Operated High Pressure Waterjetting Equipment. While Recommended Practices is reviewed periodically at the biennial conferences of the WaterJet Technology Association, your comments and suggestions for improving the publication are invited and welcome anytime.

Please address your comments and suggestions to: Safety Committee, c/o WJTA, 906 Olive Street, Suite 1200, St. Louis, MO 63101-1448, phone: (314)241-1445, fax: (314)241-1449, email: wjta@wjta.org, web site: www.wjta.org.

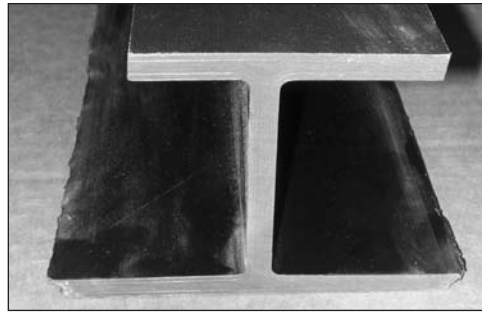
Abrasive-Waterjet Machining Of Composites, from page 14

cutting speed of 20 inch/min can be used to trim a 0.35-inch thick carbon fiber using a 0.010 inch AWJ at 55 ksi.

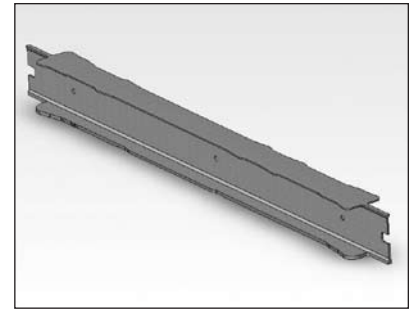
Some edges may be trimmed at bevel angles, and when cutting around curves and complex contours, the effective depth of jet cutting varies and thus waterjet kinematics parameters such as speed and angles need to be carefully programmed to maintain uniform edge quality. Trimming I-Beam (stringer) composites requires special tooling such as catchers and cutting heads.

Figure 8-a shows a cross section of a stringer with the top flange trimmed at 90 degrees with an AWJ. The bottom flanges show the condition of the edge before trimming. Figure 8-b shows a trimming overview example for the 787 aircraft stringers. The top and bottom flanges are shaped trimmed with the ends trimmed to the center rib or very close to it. Also, the bottom flange needs to be beveled at about 45 degrees. Some access holes are also drilled in the rib. These stringers, especially the ones used in the wings are relatively long, over 130-ft, and thus they require special machinery to handle them during cutting.

Figure 8. Composite Trimming and Shapecutting Examples



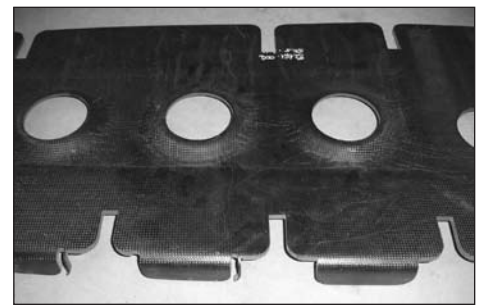
a. Composite Stringer



b. Required Trimming of Stringer flanges and ends



c. Access Hole drilling at the root of a wing box stringer



d. AWJ trimming and cutting of complex 3-D composite wing part

Shapecutting requires the piercing of a starting hole. Some systems use a mechanical drill to pre-drill the starting holes but most commonly now, AWJ is used to drill

(continued on page 16)

Guzzler Reintroduces Predator™ Liquid Vacuum Tanker

Guzzler Manufacturing has announced the reintroduction of the Predator™ liquid vacuum tanker designed for handling bulk liquids, sludge and semi-solid waste in industrial applications.

“With the relaunch of the Predator, a full line of industrial vacuum trucks is now available from Guzzler Manufacturing, complete with the parts, service, training and industry expertise you expect from the Guzzler brand,” said Tim Lee, product manager for Guzzler.

The liquid vacuum tanker combines high vacuum and pressure offloading designed to deliver reliable performance in the most demanding

vacuum pump capable of suction pressures up to 27-29 inches Hg; maximum airflow of more than 400 CFM and more than 300 CFM at 18 inches Hg. Alternate pump sizes are also available.



applications. The 3,000 gallon payload capacity tanker features a standard

The Predator's single compartment tank is constructed with carbon steel and is rated for continuous maximum vacuum operation and 15 psi working pressure. Built in accordance with Section VIII of

(continued on page 23)

these holes as part of the shapecutting sequence. In this case, vacuum assist nozzles are used to mitigate risks of delamination. Figure 8-c shows holes drilled at the root of a stringer rib. In order to cut near the bottom flange, a special minimal-size AWJ nozzle is used. The example trimming and shapecutting shown in Figure 8-d is quite complex due to the 3-D nature of the trimming in different planes. The design of a holding fixture in this example is of critical importance.

While the majority of trimming applications addresses relatively thin sections (less than 0.75 inch), there are several thick section (up to 3-inch) cutting applications near the wing-to-fuselage joining areas. Figure 9 shows example cuts in thick composite sections which were found to be faster than a mechanical tool by an order of magnitude using much less demanding fixtures and heavy equipment.

The end trimming of composite stringers (I-beams) is another application that requires careful 5-axis manipulation strategy as not to cause the exit jet damage the opposite sides of the stringer. Figure 10 shows a trimmed section from the end of a stringer. A rate of 1 inch/min can be used to cut through a 3-inch thick section producing an acceptable 400-micro-inch surface finish.

A most challenging cutting application is the cutting of composite honeycomb

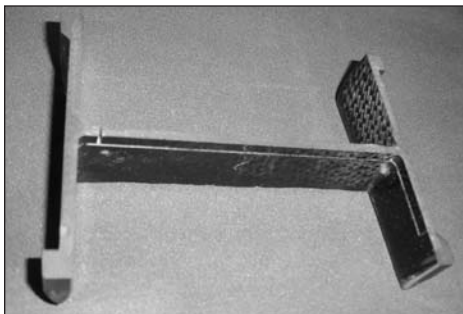


Figure 10: Stringer end cut off

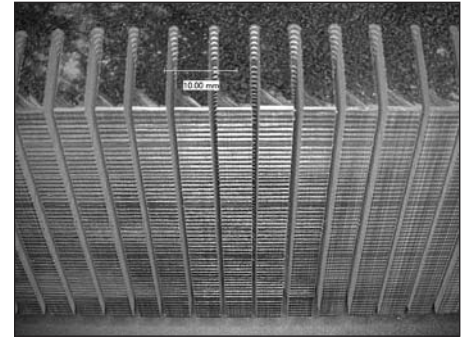
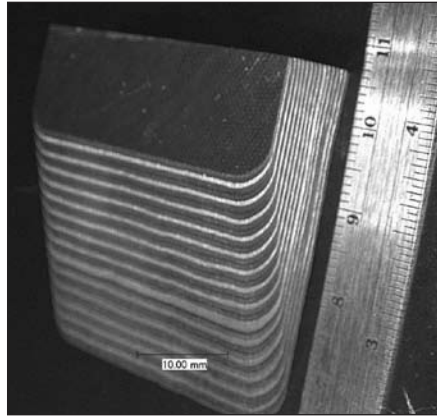


Figure 9: AWJ-Cuts in Thick Composite Section

structures as shown in Figure 11. Cutting this class of materials introduces additional challenge as the cutting path is not continuous. A cut at the bottom of a honeycomb structure appears as a series of punched holes. Cutting at a lead angle (a few degrees) has been found effective for minimizing this effect as shown in

Figure 12.

2.3.2 Drilling (Piercing)

Delamination is the main mode of failure when drilling materials such

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Federal Signal To Open Sixth FS Solutions Center In Gonzales, Louisiana

Federal Signal Environmental Solutions Group opened its sixth FS Solutions center in Gonzales, Louisiana on November 10, 2008. The new center, located at 3111 S. Darla Avenue, will stock high performance parts and accessories for Federal Signal's Jetstream brand of waterblasters, as well as other makes and models of waterblasters. The FS Solutions center will also offer customers the opportunity to rent or to own equipment and will sell used waterblasters.

"FS Solutions centers – like the new Gonzales location – provide the repairs, rentals, used equipment, parts and accessories and training our customers need to run their equipment more profitably," said Bryce Mulligan, rental manager for FS Solutions. "For customers interested in safety and improved productivity, the Gonzales FS Solutions center will offer waterblast safety training."

To help customers in Louisiana and the Gulf Coast area with their waterblast rental needs, the Gonzales center is staffed by knowledgeable employees with significant waterblasting experience. A customer looking for an extra waterblaster for a short-term or seasonal contract can choose from a full line of Jetstream units at the new Gonzales center – and FS Solutions will deliver the unit directly to the jobsite. Additional FS Solutions centers are located in Birmingham, Alabama; Long Beach, California; Houston, Texas; Toledo, Ohio; and Streator, Illinois.

All FS Solutions locations provide access to factory-trained, certified technicians and genuine OEM parts. "FS Solutions customers look to our sales staff and service training technicians for recommendations and solutions to the unique challenges of their particular applications," Mulligan said. "Whether it's a contractor

looking for faster, more cost-effective ways to perform cleaning operations or a business that can benefit from application expertise, equipment evaluations or training, we're providing solutions."

With nearly 100 years of collective experience in industrial vacuum loading, sewer and catch basin cleaning, vacuum excavation and industrial high-pressure waterblasting, FS Solutions offers unsurpassed expertise and a unique breadth of product lines and trusted brands to meet the needs of industrial cleaning contractors and other industry professionals.

For more information about products and services available from the FS Solutions centers or to find the nearest location, call (800)627-3171, ext. 298, or visit www.fssolutionsgroup.com.

Abrasive-Waterjet Machining of Composites, from page 16

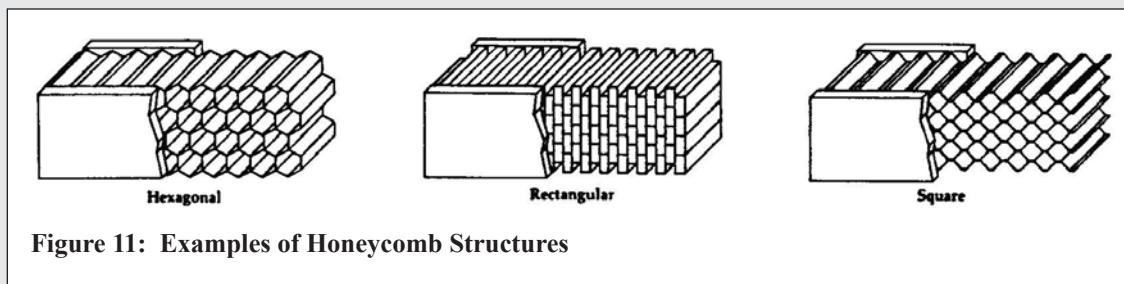


Figure 11: Examples of Honeycomb Structures

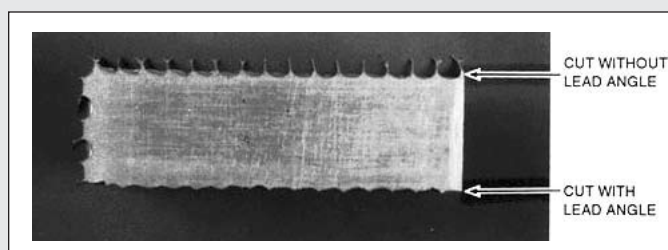


Figure 12: Bottom Surface of 25-mm-thick Honeycomb Cut with an AWJ With and Without a Lead Angle (9°)

(continued on page 18)

as graphite epoxy with waterjets. This problem is resolved when vacuum assist and proper parameters are used. Thousands of holes have been drilled in carbon fiber composites without any adverse effects. With proper process timing, holes can be drilled rapidly. While not as fast as laser, the holes are typically of high integrity and good surface finish. The AWJ process has been successfully investigated for rapid drilling (piercing) of holes in composites. For example, the picture shown in Figure 13 illustrated the drilling of 0.40 inch holes in a 0.040-inch thick composite material. The drilling time was about 0.9 seconds hole to hole.

The pierced hole size can be controlled by selecting the process parameters and the dwell time. The larger the dwell time, the larger the final hole size at the exit. Accurate control over the dwell time is needed to control the hole size within certain tolerance limits. Another interesting observation is that the drilling time is improved by reducing the water flow rate and increasing the abrasive flow rate into the hole.

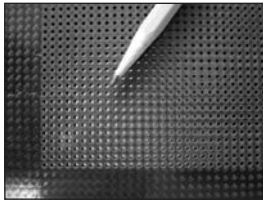


Figure 13: AWJ-drilled holes in a carbon fiber composite panel (cover photo)

2.3.3 Emerging Applications

2.3.3.1 Turning

The turning of composite materials results in significant problems when using traditional turning and grinding techniques due to the multi-directionality of the composite lay-up and its abrasiveness. OMCs are typically not turned to produce parts, but with the ability of the AWJ to turn these materials, new designs may

emerge using turned OMC parts. While many composite geometries have been turned, this application will not be discussed in this article.

2.3.3.2 Milling

The AWJ milling process is conducted by traversing the jets many passes close to each other across the workpiece surface. The multiple passes of overlapping kerfs are used to achieve controlled depth. The milling of isogrid shapes in graphite epoxy (Figure 14) was conducted to demonstrate the degree to which the depth of milling can be controlled. This approach involved the use of steel masks. It was found that depth control can be accomplished to 0.001 inch accuracy. The material can be milled ply by ply if needed suggesting its potential for repair applications

In the repair application, damaged material is first removed and then patched to the original geometry. The flexibility of AWJ cutting in a wide range of materials and shapes makes it suitable for the repair of composite structures. Alternatively, the AWJ could be used for milling off the damaged section or preparing the patch. For example, the AWJ can be robotically scanned over the surface producing a scarfed geometry suitable for repair as shown in Figure 15.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The AWJ process for composite trimming has now become a mainstream process since it was first introduced in the 1980s. Advances

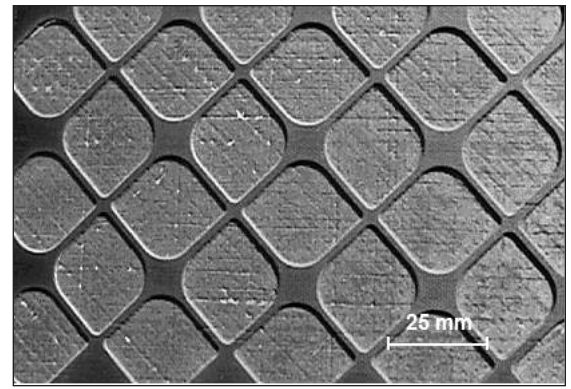


Figure 14: AWJ-Milled Bosses (5 mm in diameter) in Gamma Titanium Aluminide

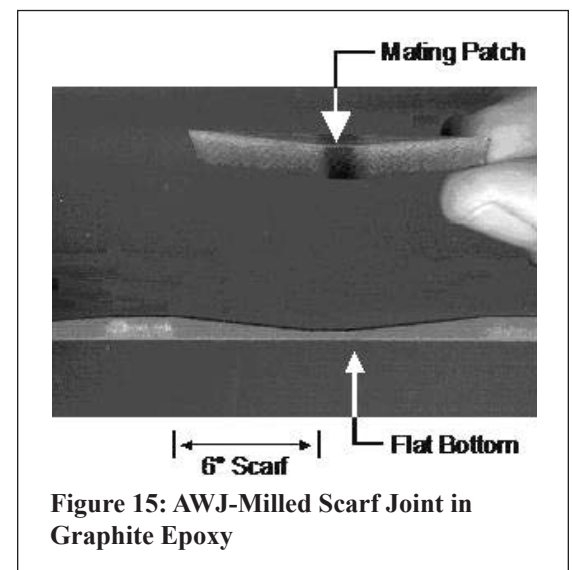


Figure 15: AWJ-Milled Scarf Joint in Graphite Epoxy

in the AWJ process combined with advances in machinery and software has made this technology acceptable for the aircraft industry. Today, all airframe manufacturers use AWJ for trimming composites. There are still needs for improved fixturing and AWJ tooling cutting heads and end effectors to address a wider range of parts geometries and sizes. New software and offline programming have been critical to the acceptance of the AWJ systems in the aircraft industry. ■

Jet Edge's 90,000 psi X-Stream Waterjet Pump Increases Productivity Up To 50%

Capable of producing pressures in excess of 90,000psi, Jet Edge's new 100hp X-Stream xP90-100 waterjet intensifier pump achieves much faster cutting speeds and drastically lowers operating costs compared to traditional 60,000psi pumps, enabling users to increase productivity and reduce part costs.

The X-Stream produces 50% more pressure than a 60,000psi waterjet intensifier pump, resulting in a 40-50% increase in productivity

for many materials. The X-Stream supports a 75,000psi continuous operating pressure. Compared to a 60,000psi pump, typical operating pressures of 75,000psi use 30% less water, 30% less power, and up to 50% less abrasive, resulting in a 40% reduction in operating costs. They typically reduce taper by up to 0.001 inch. The X-Stream is capable of producing flow rates of 1.45gpm and supports up to a .017 inch orifice. Its fittings and tubing are rated for 100KSI. The X-Stream is backed by nearly 10 years of extensive research and development in hyper-pressure technology.

For more information about the Jet Edge X-Stream xP90-100 intensifier pump or other Jet Edge waterjet equipment, visit www.jetedge.com, email: sales@jetedge.com or call 1-800-JET-EDGE (538-3343).



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Recommended Practices for Manually Operated High Pressure Waterjetting Equipment

WJTA offers the *Recommended Practices for the Use of High Pressure Waterjetting Equipment* in English and Spanish. Topics include suggestions for personnel qualifications, operator training, and procedures for the proper operation of manually operated high pressure waterjet equipment used by the construction, maintenance, repair, cleaning and demolition industries.

The *Recommended Practices Safety Video*, available in CD-ROM or VHS, is the companion video to the *Recommended Practices for the Use of Manually Operated High Pressure Waterjetting Equipment*. The video is a visual depiction of the major topics in the *Recommended Practices*.

To place an order, see the WJTA order form for publications/products on page 31 or contact the WJTA office.

Edmonton Waterjet Shop Experiences Nine Straight Years Of Growth, from page 7

definitely recommend Jet Edge to other businesses. He said his systems have been very reliable, are easy to maintain and hold their tolerances very well. He has the machines recalibrated only once a year.

“We are so happy,” Gerke said. “The ease of maintenance is excellent and the reliability of the machine is second to none.”

With its Jet Edge systems, G.O. H2O is capable of cutting virtually any material. In fact, they have cut just about everything, from NHL logos on pumpkins to 12-inch thick steel. The company utilizes dual cutting heads on about 70 percent of its projects to double productivity.

G.O. H2O’s most recognizable project can be seen at the Edmonton International Airport. Over the course of six months, the company cut 6,500 square feet of interlocking mosaic tiles for 27 large swirl patterns that were installed in the airport corridors.

“No matter who you talk to, if they ask you what you have cut, you can say, ‘have you been to the airport?’ and they all have seen the mosaics,” Gerke said. “They do stand out.”

Gerke noted that one of his most satisfying accomplishments was in successfully performing a test cut on .020-inch Pyrex® glass for a technology company. The company asked him to cut tiny rectangular openings out of the 2x3-inch Pyrex® pieces. They sent three sample pieces to 20 waterjet shops and G.O. H2O was the only shop that performed a successful sample cut. G.O. H2O got the project, and broke only three pieces out of 120.

In another notable project, G.O. H2O successfully separated a 30x48-



G.O. H2O’s most recognizable project can be seen at the Edmonton International Airport. Over the course of six months, the company cut 6,500 square feet of interlocking mosaic tiles for 27 large swirl patterns that were installed in the airport corridors.

inch, 12-inch-thick steel lifting lug by using a large nozzle and slowing the cut to 0.1-inch per minute.

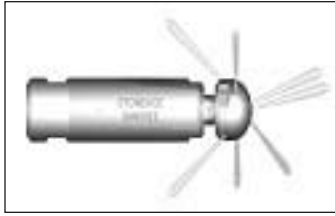
“The customer had done all the machining and they realized they needed to separate it,” Gerke recalled. “People said we couldn’t do it, but we did it. It was a feather in our cap.”

G.O. H2O also has considerable experience cutting 1x3-inch test coupons of tough overlay materials for the oil recovery industry, Gerke noted. The coupons are typically steel

(continued on page 22)

StoneAge Introduces the Banshee BN33: A New Tube Cleaning Nozzle

StoneAge has announced another addition to the Banshee family of tools – the Banshee BN33. The new Banshee is 33 mm in diameter and is capable of 20K psi and up to 50 gpm. The BN33 is suitable for tubes that are 1-1/2 inches to 2 inches in diameter.



The BN33 has a Universal style head designed for polishing and unplugging tubes at the same time. As with all Banshee tools the BN33 requires no maintenance and is available with a variety of inlet connections; 1/2-inch NPT, 9/16 MP, and BSPP. The Banshee BN33 is designed to replace the Marten (MT-P8) and Ferret (FT-P4) Tube Nozzles.



For more information, visit www.stoneagetools.com or contact StoneAge toll-free in the U.S. at (866)795-1586, phone: (970)259-2869, fax: (970)259-2868, or by email: sales@stoneagetools.com.

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Participation is limited to WJTA members in good standing. You must sign up in order to participate. To sign up for the **WJTAListServ**, contact Beth at the WJTA office by email: wjta@wjta.org, phone: 314-241-1445, or fax: 314-241-1449.

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that has been overlaid with a very hard material such as tungsten carbide or ceramic.

"The tar sands are full of sand and abrasive and they are very hard on equipment so everyone and his dog is trying to come up with a wear product to overlay on steel," he said. "We do a lot of overlay samples. We have to slow them down to 0.1-inch per minute and they are still difficult to cut."

One of Gerke's proudest accomplishments has been figuring out a way to efficiently recycle the abrasive material he uses in the majority of his jobs. Leave it to a guy name Garnett to come up with an effective method for reusing garnet.

"In our first two years [cutting 24/7], we had to shut down every seven to ten days to clean out the tank," Gerke recalled. "We would be down 8 to 12 hours. We had a sump truck come in and pump out the tank and haul the garnet off to the landfill. The first year, he charged \$400 per visit. Two years later, it was three times the cost."

After his second year in business, Gerke installed a WARDJet abrasive recycling system to reduce his downtime and counter rising landfill costs. He reclaims 50-70 percent of his garnet, and said the system paid for itself within nine months. After he installed his second waterjet system, Gerke came up with an ingenious way to recycle garnet from both systems without having to buy a second recycler. He equipped the second table with a Jet Edge abrasive removal system with two side-loading dumpsters. After he fills one dumpster, it is replaced with an empty dumpster. The full dumpster is then dumped into the recycler. This allows him to keep his new table up and running with no downtime. Once a year, he cleans out the drops from both tanks.

To keep a good cutting edge, Gerke mixes his used abrasive with new abrasive. He said has not noticed any slowdown in cutting speeds since he started recycling.

For more information about G.O. H2O, visit www.goh2o.com, email goh2o@telusplanet.com or call 1-877-43-GOH2O (434-6426). For more information about Jet Edge, visit www.jetedge.com, email sales@jetedge.com or call 1-800-JET-EDGE (538-3343). ■

Jet Edge Selected To Participate In Minnesota's Business Development Mission To Israel

Jet Edge International Sales Manager **David J. Anderson** joined the Minnesota Trade Office's Business Development Mission to Israel, Dec. 11-18, 2008. Anderson is one of 30 business delegates who participated in the mission led by Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty. The delegation's objectives are to acquire market information and business contacts, increase Minnesota exports to Israel, facilitate high-tech exchanges and collaboration, and develop strategic relationships with key organizations that support U.S.-Israeli trade and investment.

As one of the world's most prominent centers of innovation and technology, Israel offers a wealth of opportunities for high-tech exchanges and collaboration. Additionally, with one of the best economic growth rates in the Middle East and an affinity for American products, Israel presents significant market opportunities for Minnesota exporters.



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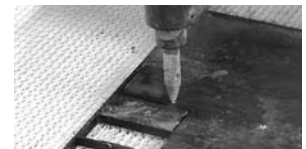
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Barton Mines Announces Expanded Capacity At HPX™ Processing Plant

Barton Mines Company has announced the expanded capacity of their HPX™ waterjet abrasive processing facility in North Creek, New York.

The increased production is a direct result of a comprehensive plant re-engineering and expansion that commenced in September 2007. “The additional volume comes at a time when demand for HPX has grown exponentially,” says R. Randolph Rapple, President.

Barton HPX™ high performance abrasives have a unique structure that produces sharp angular crystals. This unusual trait enables Barton HPX™ to outperform all other waterjet abrasives. The sharper, more angular edges make HPX™ the fastest cutting waterjet abrasive. Barton HPX™ produces a better edge quality and can

be used in demanding applications where other waterjet abrasives fall short. In addition, Barton HPX™ waterjet abrasives are the cleanest cutting media available. This translates to less downtime due to clogged jets or erratic abrasive feed and a more cost-efficient operation.

Barton offers eight grades of HPX™ waterjet abrasives. To learn which HPX™ grade is best suited for a particular application or to order product samples, visit www.barton.com, or contact Barton Mines Company by email: info@barton.com or call toll free: (800)741-7756.

Guzzler Reintroduces Predator™ Liquid Vacuum Tanker, from page 15

the American Society of Mechanical Engineers boiler code, the tank also complies with the U.S. Department of Transportation specification DOT412 for hauling hazardous materials on the highway.

“Industrial cleaning professionals look to Guzzler for unique solutions to their particular applications,” Lee said. “We are proud to reintroduce the Predator liquid vacuum tanker and are confident that our customers will appreciate our one-stop shop solution to address their industrial cleaning needs.”

For more information on the Predator liquid vacuum tanker from Guzzler Manufacturing, visit www.guzzler.com or call (800)627-3171.

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Maxpro Technologies has announced the expansion of Maxpro South, their Houston, Texas operation, into the states of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi.

This move will provide more direct support to the water blast industry in the region. Water blasting, oil and gas and other industries that use the Maximator line of high pressure valves, fittings and tubing will benefit from this increased technical support, sales and service.

Kim Guidry, located in Lafayette, Louisiana, has been appointed technical sales representative to head up this expansion. Guidry earned a B.S. degree in Industrial Technologies from the University of Southern Louisiana and brings over 20 years of experience in the high pressure industry. He can be contacted at (337)280-4223 or via email at kim@maxprosouth.com.

Maxpro Technologies is the North American distributor of Maximator high pressure valves, fittings and tubing as well as air powered products including liquid pumps, gas boosters and air amplifiers. Maxpro also designs and manufactures various standard and custom pressure systems utilizing these Maximator products.

For more information visit us online at www.maxprotech.com, or call (814)474-9191.

The *Jet News* is published by the WaterJet Technology Association (WJTA) and is a benefit of membership in the Association.

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TurtleSkin WaterArmor UHP WaterJet Protection



Superior UHP water jet protection.

WaterArmor is tested and proven to stop injuries at flow rates as high as 11 gpm at 20,000 psi and 5.5 gpm at 40,000 psi.

Rugged, patented material is lightweight and flexible.

Adjustable, modular design for comfort and increased productivity. Each panel moves independently, allowing for greater flexibility and ease of use.

Notes From Another SUPER-WATER® User:

Special thanks to Renato Lombardi for the following notes:

I have worked with ultra-high pressure waterjets, operating up to 55,000 psi, for 19 years and SUPER-WATER® for 12 years. This includes:

- plain water
- plain water + SUPER-WATER®
- plain water + abrasive
- plain water + SUPER-WATER® + abrasive

My work, during this time, gives an unambiguous demonstration of the economic advantages of using SUPER-WATER® (1,2,3). Relative to plain water, the addition of SUPER-WATER® to an ultra-high pressure waterjet cutting system:

- improves the quality of cut (6) (An excellent example of this enhanced quality was published by Weber [1997].)
- increases cutting speeds by 30% to 200% (non-abrasive cutting system)
- reduces intensifier operating and maintenance costs by 38% (non-abrasive cutting system)
[from \$11.12/hr (1993) to \$6.86/hr (1996) = \$4.26/hr reduction]

These results were for cutting fiberglass acoustical panels using an intensifier. My results also parallel those previously published for precision cutting of natural-, synthetic-, silicone-, and foam-rubber (4) as well as synthetic materials such as Vistanex (5) and shoe soles (4).

I have used SUPER-WATER® 100% of the time. Waste water and abrasive was disposed of without any problems. I have typically cut the following materials:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| - 304, 316 stainless steel | - clear float glass | - marble and granite |
| - duplex stainless steel | - laminated glass | - acrylic |
| - aluminum (various alloys) | - slate | - ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene |
| - titanium | - blue tempered steel | - plywood, MDF and particle board |
| - brass (various alloys) | - hot and cold rolled steel | |

For a detailed analysis of abrasive cutting speeds and cut surface quality, please see the SUPER-WATER® groups file named "Reduction in Abrasive Consumption.doc" posted 04/21/2002.

I have found that an approximate 0.1% to 0.2% SUPER-WATER® solution produces the following three-fold effects:

- Reduces flow resistance due to substantial drag reduction.
Hoyt (1986) produced laboratory turbulent rheometer findings showing that even 9 ppm resulted in a 20% drag reduction and Cobb and Zublin (1985) obtained a drag reduction of 54% in 2187 meters of 2.16 cm (0.85 inch) id coiled tubing.
- Collimates the jet leaving the nozzle
- Introduces macromolecular bombardment (Kudin et al., 1973) of polymer molecules dissolved in the water

REFERENCES

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4. W.G. Howells, "Polymerblasting with SUPER-WATER® from 1974-1989: a Review," International Journal of Water Jet Technology, Volume 1, Number 1, (March 1990), pp. 1-16.
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6. D. Weber, Letter to the Editor, Jet News, February 1997, p. 12.

For more information and references, visit www.berkeleychemical.com, email: wglennhowells@webtv.net, or contact W. Glenn Howells, Ph.D., President, Berkeley Chemical Research, Inc., Tel: 510-526-6272, Fax: 510-525-2375, Mail: PO Box 9264, Berkeley, CA 94709-0264.

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StoneAge Upgrades the 40K psi Barracuda Cartridge

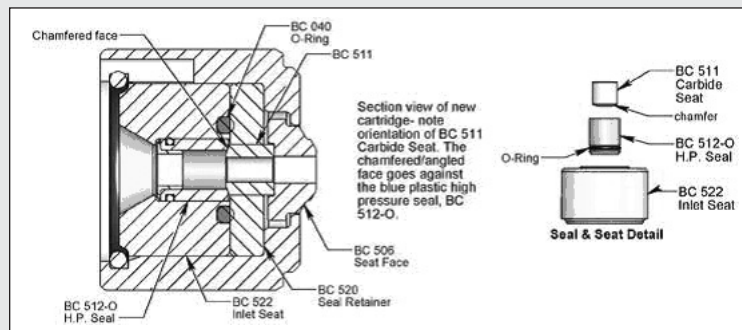
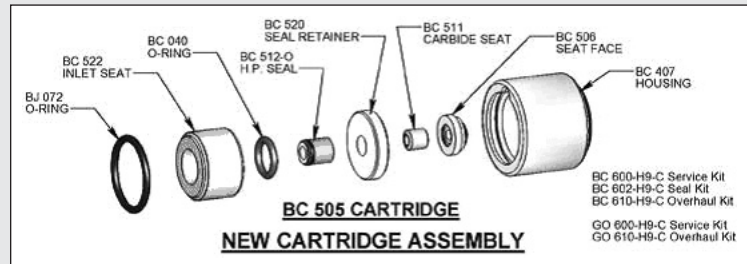
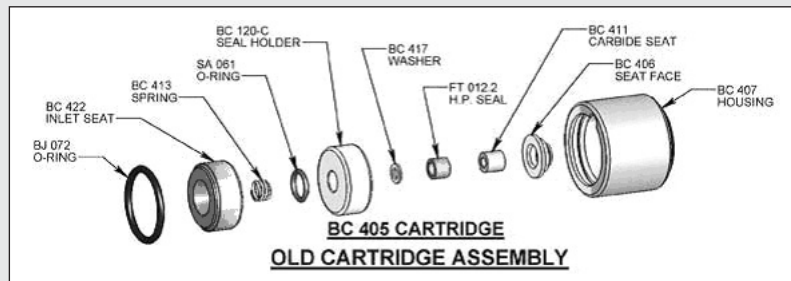
StoneAge is offering an upgraded cartridge assembly that will retrofit into existing 40K psi Barracuda, Gopher, and SL tools and is being supplied with all new tools as of November 20, 2008. This upgrade is designed to increase the operational life of the high pressure seals.



The following diagrams illustrate how StoneAge is replacing the BC 405 Cartridge Assembly with the new BC 505 Cartridge Assembly. Several of the items have changed.

These BC 505 Cartridge Assemblies became available on November 20, 2008. If you have existing stock of the old cartridge assemblies or the individual parts, StoneAge will accept those unused items for credit return. Visit www.stoneagetools.com to download or print these drawings.

StoneAge is continually working to create new products and improve existing products, and welcomes your feedback about this upgrade and your success with this product improvement. Contact StoneAge toll-free in the U.S. at (866)795-1586, phone: (970)259-2869, fax: (970)259-2868, or by email: sales@stoneagetools.com.



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Jet Edge Introduces Easy-to-Use CAD/CAM Nesting Software For Waterjet Cutting

Jet Edge is now offering the easy-to-learn and use SigmaNEST Companion™ CAD/CAM nesting software on its precision waterjet cutting systems.

Developed by SigmaTEK Systems, LLC, of Cincinnati, SigmaNEST Companion uses a wizard-based approach to allow waterjet operators with little or no CAD/CAM experience to design, edit and nest parts quickly with little training. Available at a fraction of the cost of the full SigmaNEST program, Companion features numerous SigmaNEST functions such as DXF import, TrueShape nesting, automatic

path generation, and NC code generation. With it, waterjet operators can load DXF files to automatically or manually nest parts. They also can create new tasks using standard shapes available in the program's library. Companion also allows operators to edit part parameters and generate a variety of custom reports, including cost, layout and summary reports.

Jet Edge manufactures a full line of precision waterjet cutting machines, intensifier pumps and waterjet parts. Jet Edge waterjet tables are available in a wide range of sizes, from 30 inchesx30 inches to 30 feetx100 feet. Jet Edge waterjet intensifier pumps

are capable of producing pressures from 30,000psi to 90,000psi. They are available in electric and diesel models ranging from 30hp to 280hp. Jet Edge's open-architecture motion controllers are compatible with most CAD/CAM software, including SigmaNEST and SigmaNEST Companion.

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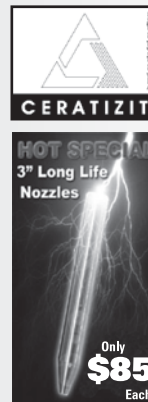


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Impressive progress and a fast-growing understanding of the diversified applications of waterjet technology are generating a growing excitement in the industry. New techniques and applications are being developed and current ones are being improved. Waterjet technology, now being used in nearly all types of industry — manufacturing, mining, construction, concrete, stone, aerospace, engineering, oil and gas, power plants, process, and medical industries — continues to expand at a rapid pace.

The **2009 American WJTA Conference And Expo** will focus, from a practical and scientific viewpoint, on the most up-to-date advances in waterjetting equipment, techniques, and applications. The areas to be addressed include, but are not limited to:

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Commercial and academic authors are encouraged to submit titles and abstracts for consideration. To submit an abstract(s), please complete the abstract submission form on the back of this sheet, attach a copy of your abstract(s), and forward to the attention of the Conference Coordinator at the WaterJet Technology Association. An electronic submission form can be found on the WJTA web site at www.wjta.org. **The deadline date for submission of abstracts is January 15, 2009.**

An Abstract Review Committee consisting of five referees will review the abstracts. Authors will be advised by **February 27, 2009**, regarding the decision of the Abstract Review Committee.

The 2009 American WJTA Conference And Expo is organized by the **WaterJet Technology Association**. The WaterJet Technology Association looks forward to providing this forum and to your involvement and participation.

Authors - Please Note

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- **Publication Fee.** A nonrefundable publication fee (equal to the price of a member Full Conference registration) is required. **This publication fee will be waived if at least one author registers (Full or Combo) for the WJTA Conference.** (Authors must pay the applicable member or nonmember price.) Also, one registration is good for multiple papers. The deadline date for receipt of your final paper will be **May 4, 2009**. The publication fee or payment for a Full or Combo registration is due no later than **June 15, 2009**. Your paper will **NOT** be included in the *Proceedings* if the publication fee or registration fee is not paid by this date.
- Papers and presentations must be in English. Papers should be no longer than 15 printed pages. A "Paper Guide" containing directions for submitting papers will be forwarded to you after your abstract is accepted. Papers that do not follow the "Guide" will be returned to the author(s) for correction(s) or charged a fee for revisions made by the WaterJet Technology Association office.
- Papers should be free of commercialism.
- Papers should be submitted as a Word file and a PDF file.

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For each paper to be submitted for consideration, please complete this form, **attach a copy of the abstract**, and mail or fax to WJTA by **January 15, 2009**. An electronic submission form can be found on the WJTA web site at www.wjta.org. Authors will be advised by **February 27, 2009**, regarding the decision of the Abstract Review Committee.

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*August 18 is reserved for the short course(s).

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*Charlie Underwood, Operations Manager
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