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GRANTA AND FIREHOLE TO EMPOWER COMPOSITE DESIGN DECISIONS

Collaboration combines specialist data and software for users of composite materials

Cambridge, UK – July 20, 2011 – Granta Design and Firehole Composites have announced a collaboration that will help product designers to make better decisions about composite materials. Granta will integrate an extensive collection of material data from Firehole Composites into the upcoming releases of its CES Selector and GRANTA MI software. The result will be a new tool that will enable engineers to navigate unfamiliar and complex composite data, to compare composites with the full range of materials options, and to choose the right material for their application.

The Firehole Composites materials database covers over 300 composite grades and is compiled from manufacturers' data, leading testing labs, and research projects. Around a thousand data records cover the different test conditions that are critical to composite users (e.g., room temperature dry, elevated temperature wet). The data provides information on the composite constituents, suppliers, and forms, plus properties derived from testing. A consistent format enables effective comparisons to be made, while data quality ratings help users to employ data from varied sources appropriately.

Granta provides the industry-leading software for managing and using materials information. Granta solutions enable users to access and apply data from their in-house testing and from a broad range of leading reference sources covering metals, plastics, ceramics, and composites. Applying the Granta tools to Firehole Composites' data will make it easy for designers and engineers to find the composite data that they need and to gain an understanding of composite systems. Integration with Granta's complete range of materials information means that users will be able to quickly and easily compare composites with traditional materials, helping them to choose the right materials and to find replacements for materials that they have difficulty sourcing.

"We are pleased to add Firehole Composites data to the Granta materials information library," said Dr Patrick Coulter, Chief Operating Officer at Granta Design. "Granta's strategy is to work with leading expert organizations in each sector of the materials market so that our users can combine the best reference information with their in-house data, all in one place. Through this collaboration, those users will gain access to a well-respected and high quality source of composite information."

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Jason Gies, Vice President of Business Development at Firehole said, "Granta's tools have an excellent reputation, world-wide, for assisting in material selection and aiding in the product design cycle. Firehole has worked to compile the best collection of composite material data in the industry into our Prospector:Composites product. With this data, we are excited to further extend the coverage of tools like the CES Selector and GRANTA MI in the composites arena."

About Granta Design Limited

Granta are the materials information technology experts. Granta develops the leading software for managing materials and process information in engineering enterprises, and a series of tools for applying that data to key materials and product design decisions. Granta serves sectors as diverse as aerospace, defense, energy, medical devices, automotive, motorsports, manufacture of consumer and industrial equipment, materials production, and publishing. Customers realize multi-million dollar benefits in reduced cost, enhanced product performance, improved quality, and faster design turnaround. Granta was founded in 1994 as a spinout from the University of Cambridge and the work of Professors Mike Ashby and David Cebon. More at www.grantadesign.com.

About Firehole Composites

Firehole Composites supplies innovative computer-aided simulation software and services for composite materials to the aerospace, defense, automotive and energy industries. Firehole's software products, including Helius:MCT, CompositePro and Prospector:Composites, enable the design of composite structures without the numerous, expensive testing cycles traditionally deployed, allowing for a faster time-to-market and more reliable designs. To learn more about Firehole Composites and their offerings, please visit www.firehole.com.