



For Immediate Release

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SAMPE UK & Ireland Chapter
(‘SAMPE’ or the ‘Chapter’)

SAMPE UK & Ireland Appoints Professor Lee Harper as New Chair

The SAMPE UK & Ireland Chapter (SAMPE UKIC) has announced the appointment of Professor Lee Harper as its new Chair, following the Chapter’s Annual General Meeting held on 20 May 2026 during the SAMPE UKIC Annual Conference at Sigmatex in Runcorn.

Professor Harper succeeds Tim Wybrow, Managing Director of Compositelite Ltd, who has served as Chair for the past eight years.

A recognised leader in composites manufacturing and research, Lee is Professor of Composites Manufacturing and Deputy Head of the Composites Research Group at the University of Nottingham. Throughout his career, he has played a significant role in advancing composite materials research, manufacturing innovation, and industry collaboration across the UK and internationally.

Speaking following his appointment, Professor Lee Harper commented, *“I am honoured to have been appointed Chair of SAMPE UK & Ireland and would like to thank the committee and members for their support and confidence. SAMPE UKIC plays a vital role in connecting industry, academia, and the next generation of engineers working across advanced materials and process engineering.*

“I would also like to personally thank Tim for his outstanding leadership and dedication over the past eight years. His commitment has strengthened the Chapter, enhanced its reputation, and supported an engaged and collaborative community.

“I am looking forward to working closely with the committee, members, partners, and wider industry to continue building on this success.”

Outgoing Chair Tim Wybrow said, *“It has been an absolute pleasure to lead the Chapter over the last eight years. I have had fantastic support from our committee, our members, and our partners, and together we have achieved a great deal during this time.*

“I know the Chapter is in excellent hands with Lee, and I am confident the organisation will continue to benefit from his experience, insight, and passion for composites and advanced manufacturing. I wish Lee every success as he takes up the role.”

Under Tim Wybrow’s leadership, SAMPE UKIC has continued to strengthen its position as a leading technical network for advanced materials and process engineering professionals across the UK and Ireland, supporting industry collaboration, technical events, student engagement, and knowledge exchange.

SAMPE UKIC remains committed to advancing innovation and supporting the global composites and advanced materials community through technical excellence, collaboration, and professional development

— Ends —

Notes to Editors:

About SAMPE

The Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering is the leading global body for engineers and technologists involved in the processes of advanced materials. Comprised of four Regions in Europe, Japan, China, and North America, the Society is devoted to promoting technical developments and innovations in advanced materials engineering while accommodating over 6,000 professional engineers and scientists. Since its establishment in 1945, the Society has grown to more than 15,000 members through 40 individual Chapters worldwide.

www.sampe.org.uk

For further information:

The Fluency Business Group

+44 (0) 1246 792003

info@fluency-group.com

Images are available on request.