

Morphology

Matters:

Branched Carbon Nanotubes
for Advanced Polymers



Mechanical reinforcement and electrical functionality at ultra-low loading



THE POLYMER ADDITIVE PROBLEM...



CAN ONE LOW-LOADING ADDITIVE IMPROVE
MULTIPLE PROPERTIES **AT ONCE?**

VIADUCT'S ANSWER IS BRANCHED MORPHOLOGY



MORE CONTACT POINTS



MORE REINFORCEMENT SITES



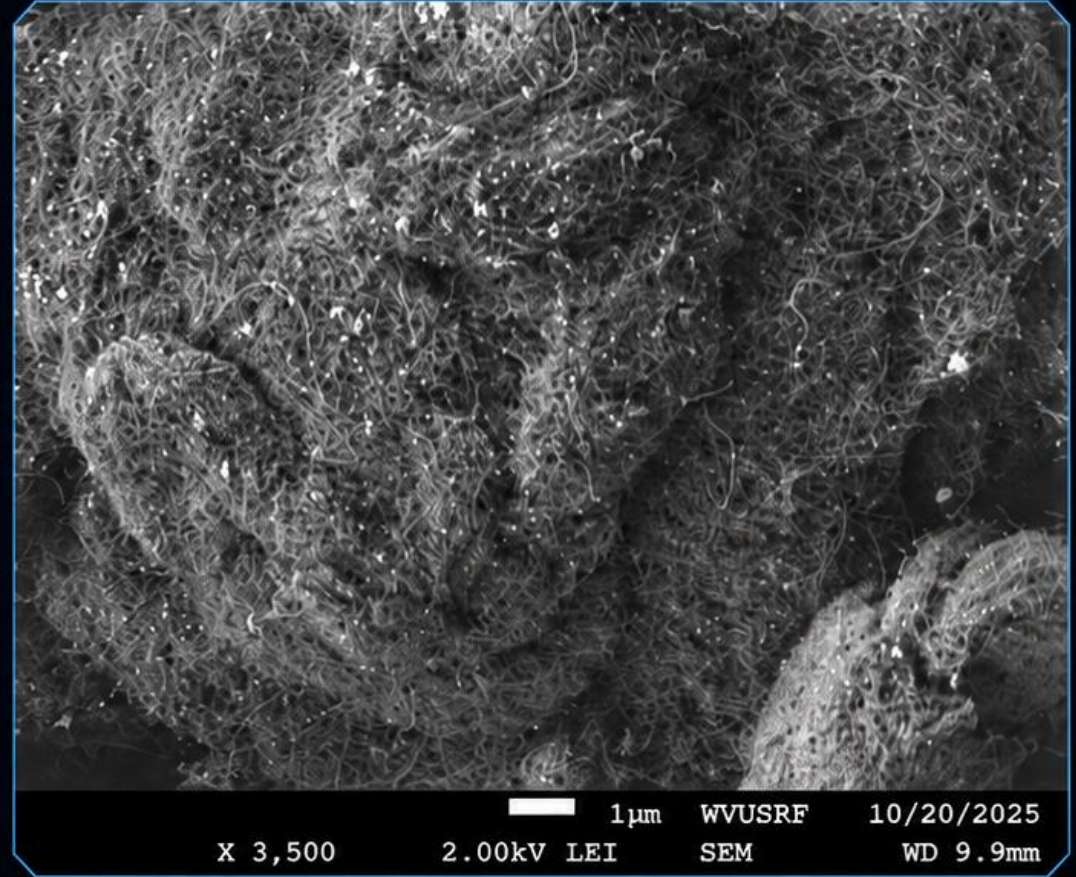
MORE CRACK-BRIDGING OPPORTUNITIES



MORE ELECTRICAL PATHWAY FORMATION



LOWER REQUIRED LOADING



VIADUCT INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES



Jay Hewitt leads **Viaduct Innovative Technologies**, a Morgantown, West Virginia–based advanced materials company commercializing high-purity branched multiwalled carbon nanotubes for industrial polymers, coatings, composites, additive manufacturing, and electrically functional systems.



With support from West Virginia University's Chemical Engineering Department, **Viaduct** is focused on moving advanced carbon materials from technical validation into commercial applications.



**98.5%
PURITY**



**<15%
ASH
CONTENT**



**1 KG
PACK SIZE**



SUPPORTED BY



West Virginia University
Chemical Engineering
Department

FOCUSED ON



INDUSTRIAL
POLYMERS



COATINGS



COMPOSITES



ADDITIVE
MANUFACTURING



ELECTRICALLY
FUNCTIONAL
SYSTEMS

WHY BRANCHED MORPHOLOGY MATTERS...



**STRAIGHT OR POORLY
DISPERSED FILLERS**
can behave like isolated particles



A **BRANCHED MORPHOLOGY**
creates more tube-to-tube
contact points



MORE CONTACT POINTS
improve stress transfer and
electrical pathway formation



THE MORPHOLOGY
may reduce the amount of additive
needed to create useful performance

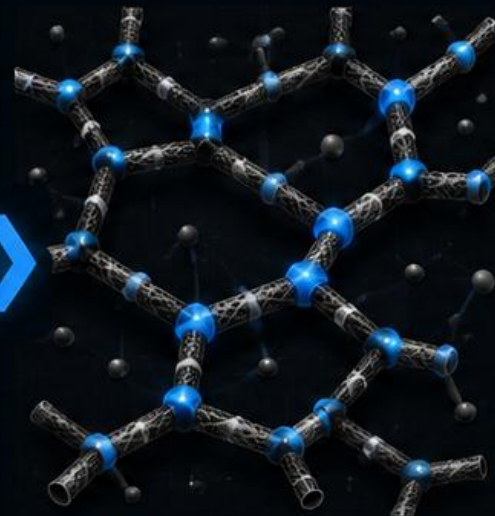
**STRAIGHT / POORLY
DISPERSED FILLERS**



ISOLATED PARTICLES
Limited contact
Poor network formation



**BRANCHED MORPHOLOGY
(MORE CONTACT POINTS)**



CONNECTED NETWORK
More contact points
Stronger pathways



**IMPROVED
STRESS TRANSFER**
Better mechanical
reinforcement



**ENHANCED
ELECTRICAL PATHWAYS**
More efficient
conductive networks



**LOWER LOADING
REQUIREMENTS**
Achieve performance
with less additive



**...IT HELPS CONVERT NANOSCALE PROPERTIES
INTO MACROSCALE PERFORMANCE.**



BMWCNT NETWORK IN POLYMER



MECHANICAL REINFORCEMENT

- Distributes stress through the resin
- Improves load transfer
- Reduces localized failure



TOUGHNESS AND ELONGATION

- Interrupts crack growth
- Bridges microcracks
- Helps absorb energy before failure



ELECTRICAL FUNCTION

- Creates conductive pathways
- Moves material toward ESD or conductive ranges
- Reduce filler loading

NYLON 6



USED IN INDUSTRIAL AND
ENGINEERED PARTS



GOOD BASELINE MECHANICAL
PERFORMANCE



RELEVANT TO AUTOMOTIVE,
ELECTRICAL, INDUSTRIAL,
AND ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING MARKETS



DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO BE MEANINGFUL,
COMMON ENOUGH TO MATTER



AMPACET NYLON 6 CASE STUDY



MATERIAL SYSTEM: Nylon 6 2mm



ADDITIVE: Viaduct high-purity branched BMWCNTs



PROCESSOR: Ampacet



FORM: Masterbatch and let-down formulations at 5% loading



LOADINGS TESTED: .5%, .25%, .1% and .05%



PROCESSING: Twin Screw w/side feeder



TESTING: tensile strength, elongation, processing behavior baseline mechanical performance

MORPHOLOGY MATTERS WHEN IT TRANSLATES INTO PERFORMANCE

AT .05% LOADING



EXCELLENT DISPERSION

Uniform distribution of BMWCNTs throughout the nylon 6 matrix



LOCAL PRODUCTION

Enabled by Viaduct's branched BMWCNT morphology



215% TENSILE STRENGTH

Significant improvement over unfilled nylon 6



1,150% ELONGATION

Dramatically improved ductility and toughness

MECHANICAL PERFORMANCE OF NYLON 6 WITH VIADUCT BRANCHED BMWCNTS

Loading	Tensile (psi)	Elongation (%)
Base (0%)	2,679	38.39
0.05%	8,383	492.16
0.10%	7,878	467.15
0.25%	7,360	449.64
0.50%	7,347	455.11

AMPACET NYLON 6 CASE STUDY



LOW-LOADING ECONOMICS

Final CNT Loading	5% Masterbatch Letdown Rate	CNT Cost Added Per lb of Finished Compound
0.05%	1%	\$0.14/lb
0.10%	2%	\$0.28/lb
0.25%	5%	\$0.69/lb
0.50%	10%	\$1.38/lb



Using a conservative pricing case, BMWCNTs add approximately **\$0.14** per pound of finished compound, with volume pricing further reducing that cost.

CALL TO ACTION: WE ARE LOOKING FOR CUSTOMERS



BEST-FIT CUSTOMER APPLICATIONS:



ESD AND CONDUCTIVE COMPOUNDS
Static control and conductive performance



REINFORCED ENGINEERING PLASTICS
Enhanced strength and durability



INJECTION-MOLDED INDUSTRIAL COMPONENTS
High performance for demanding environments



AUTOMOTIVE, AEROSPACE, DEFENSE, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS 3D PRINTING FILAMENT AND PRINTED COMPONENTS
Reliable performance in critical applications



FUNCTIONAL COATINGS AND RESIN SYSTEMS
Improved properties and system performance



WHAT WE NEED FROM CUSTOMERS:



A TARGET POLYMER SYSTEM
The material family or system of interest



A PERFORMANCE PROBLEM WORTH SOLVING
The challenge you're facing today



A TARGET SPECIFICATION
Key requirements and performance goals



A PATH TO QUALIFICATION
How the material will be tested and validated



A PATH TO PURCHASE IF THE MATERIAL MEETS REQUIREMENTS
Volume, timing, and commercial pathway



Morphology Matters When It Translates Into Performance



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