

*Innovation & Technology*

# ***Hybrid metal-composite solutions for different industrial sectors***

***E-Lass Conference, Lightweight Applications***



***Clara Palleiro Palmou***  
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***RISE - Research Institute of Sweden | 30.01.2018 | Borås, Sweden***

- **AIMEN Technology Centre & Advanced Materials**
- **Current challenges of the industry**
- **Multi-material approach**
- **Multi-material challenges**
- **AIMEN R&D multi-material Projects**

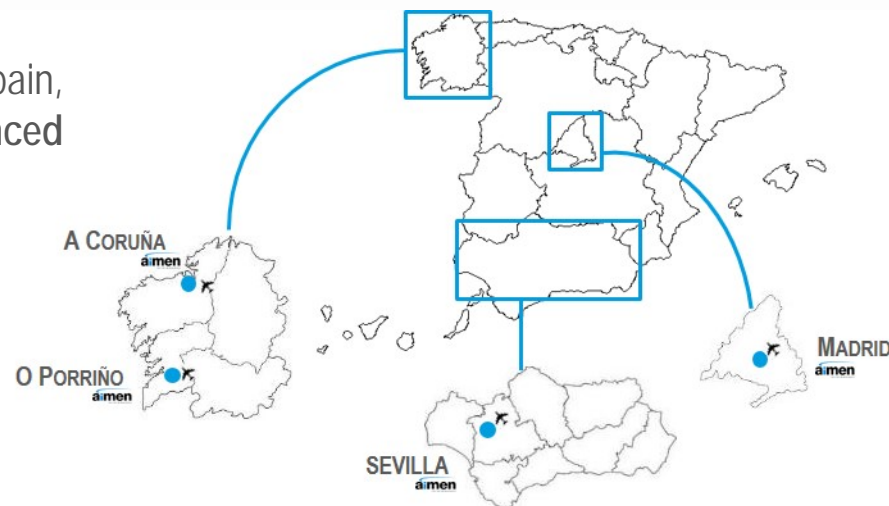


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We are a **Technology Centre** sited in the Northwest of Spain, founded in 1967, specialized in **R&D** and providing **advanced technological services** in the field of:

- ✓ joining technologies
- ✓ advanced materials
- ✓ robotic, automation and control
- ✓ laser technologies applied to materials processing



**Headquarters (7.500m<sup>2</sup>) and Laser Processing Centre (11.100 m<sup>2</sup>) (O Porriño, Spain)**

**665**

R&D&i Projects  
In the last 10 years  
European Projects:  
18-FP7 & 15-H2020  
(6 as coordinator  
in H2020)

**17**

Patents  
In the last 5 years

**+750**

Customers  
Annual average  
2009-2016

**+230**

Employees  
27 PhD  
60% men/40% women

**14,5 M€**

Annual Income  
2016

**+260.000**

Technical reports  
As of 31/12/2016



## R&D&i

- Applied research
- Extensive network of industrial partners
- Management of R&D&i Funding Programs

- 1. Polymers and Composites***
- 2. Structural and Mechanical Integrity***
- 3. Laser Based Manufacturing***
- 4. Additive Engineering***
- 5. Micro and High Precision Manufacturing***
- 6. Smart Systems***
- 7. Smart Manufacturing***
- 8. Environmental and biotechnologies***



**In 2017:**

*R&D&i in figures*

**66**

*Ongoing projects*

**11**

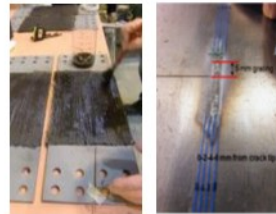
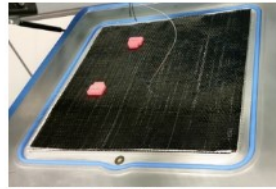
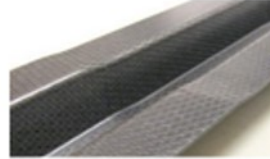
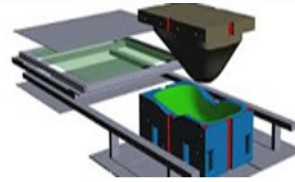
*New approved projects*

**33%**

*R&D&i in the european scope*

## Composites and Polymers Manufacturing

- Out of autoclave (VBO, filament winding, RTM, Press forming, LRI)
- Thermoplastic composites Automated processes (ATL, AFP)
- Process monitoring (embebed sensors)



## Multi-materials

- Metal - polymer/composite
- One-shot process
- Joining improvement
- Surface technologies (laser texturing)
- On-line process control

## Smart polymers and composites

- Nano-additive foams
- Nano-additive polymers and composites (thermal and electrical conductivity)
- Self-sensing materials



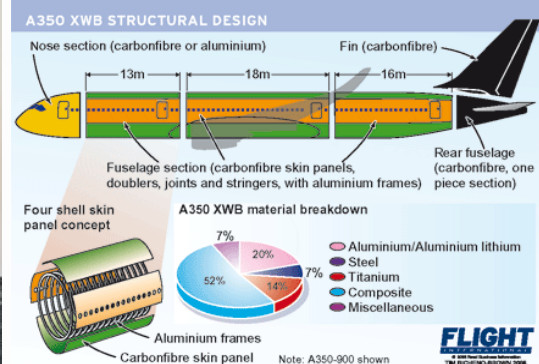
## Additive Manufacturing

- 3D printing: new filament development (nano additive polymers, coated fiber)
- Automated composite layering

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## Tech Look 2016 BMW 7-Series Carbon Core Body



**LIGHTWEIGHTING**

**VS**

**PERFORMANCE (mechanical prop., security...)**

**REPAIR OF DAMAGES**

**REINFORCEMENT**

**LIGHTWEIGHTING**

## NEW FEATURES



**REINFORCEMENT  
REPAIR**



- Industry, and specifically **transport industry (mainly automotive)**, is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the EU
- Europe is playing a very active role in the global scenario
- EU industry has to meet wider and ever **increasing demanding regulations**

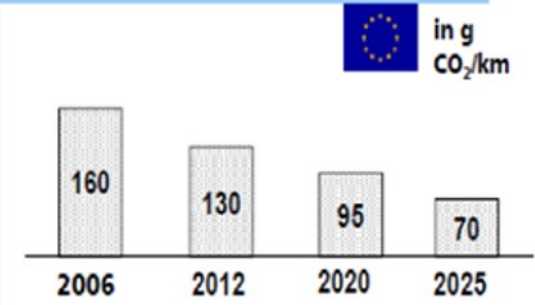


**AN AVERAGE GAP REDUCTION OF 20 gr CO<sub>2</sub>/km HAS TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE NEXT 4 YEARS**



A combination of **good design practice**, **appropriate targets** and specifications and **novel material technologies** will yield lightweight transport

## CO<sub>2</sub> emission development



## Price / availability of oil

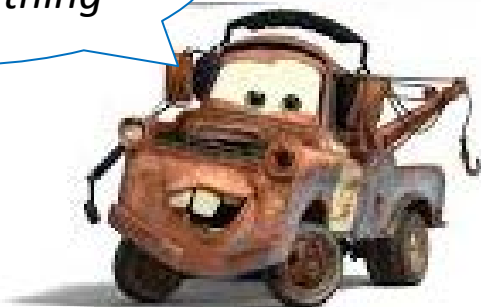


## Increasing traffic (passenger and transport)



Until 2030 in the transport sector, the predicted increase of fuel demand totals 55 %

*Metallic materials  
are the best option  
for everything*



*Let's replace every  
metal with  
composites!!*



**BUT...!!!**

*How much do you weigh?  
How much fuel do you consume?  
You look a little corroded...*



**BUT...!!!**

*How much do you cost?  
How long it took to manufacture  
you?  
Does your behavior in service meet  
all the requirements?*



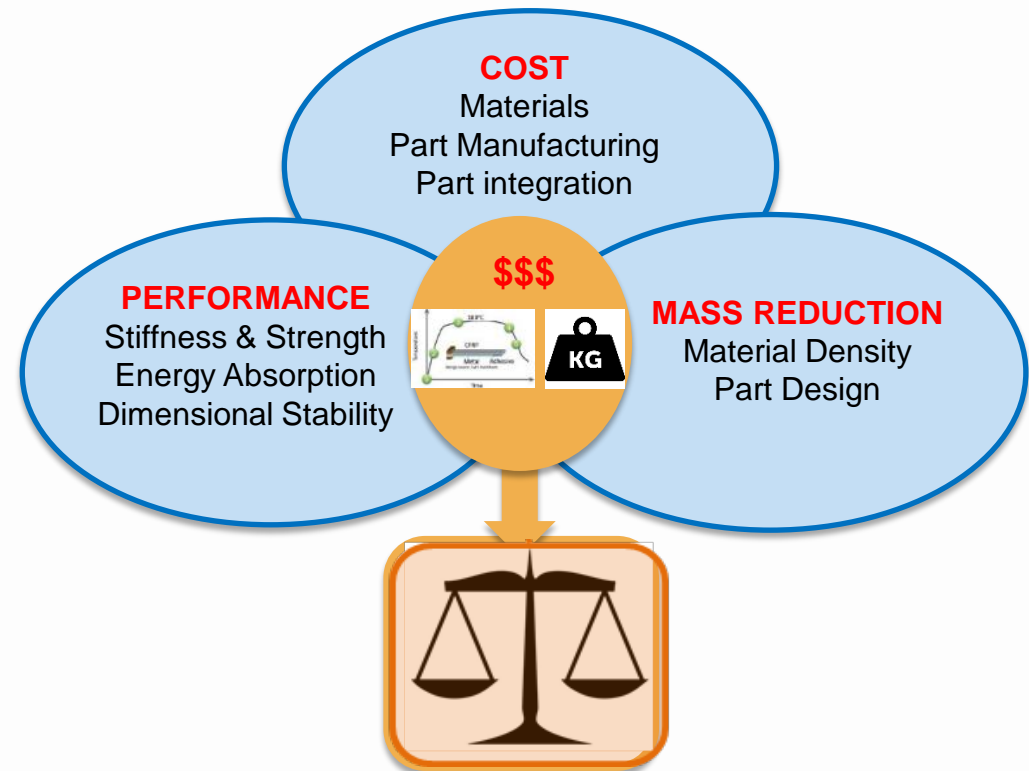
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## WEIGHT REDUCTION

requirement translated downstream to **EVERY SINGLE COMPONENT**

MATERIAL	WEIGHT REDUCTION (%)	COST
Magnesium	60-75	1.5-2.5
CFRP	50-60	2-10
Aluminium	40-60	1.3-2
Titanium	40-55	1.5-10
GFRP	25-35	1-1.5
HSS	10-15	1



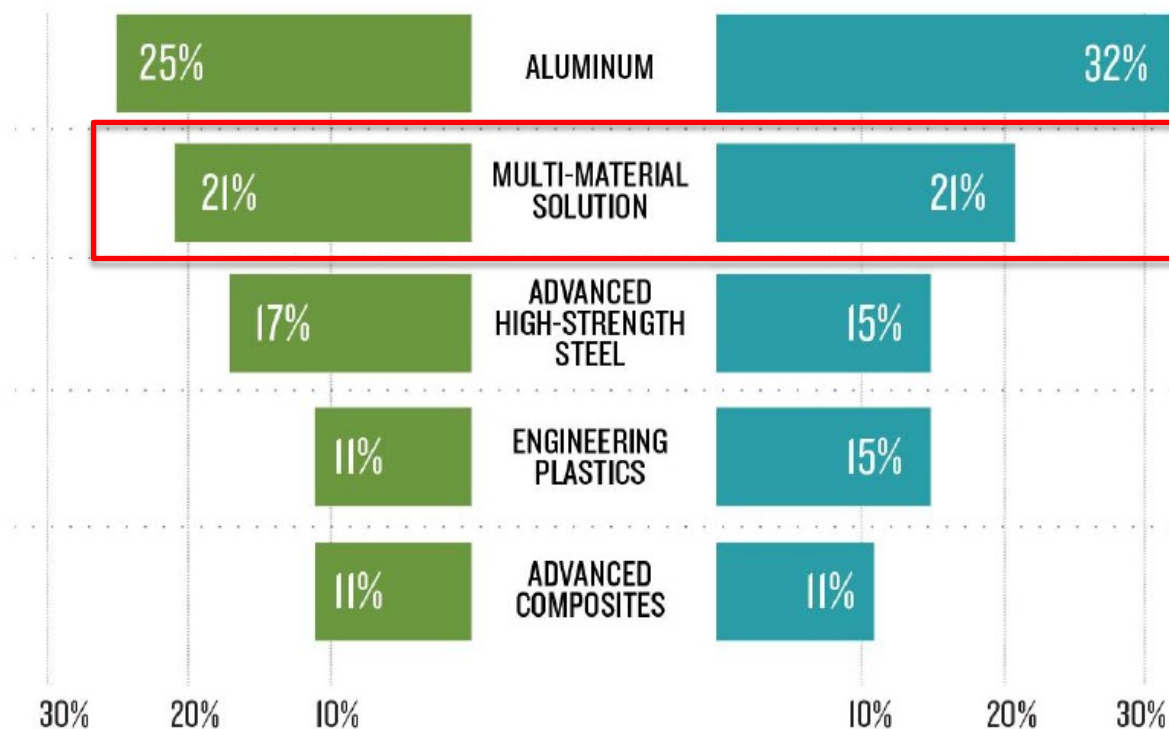
**MULTI-MATERIAL DESIGN;** overcoming THE COST BARRIER



# Top Material Families for Lightweighting



Question: Which material family are you relying upon most heavily to help meet the new CAFE fuel economy standards?



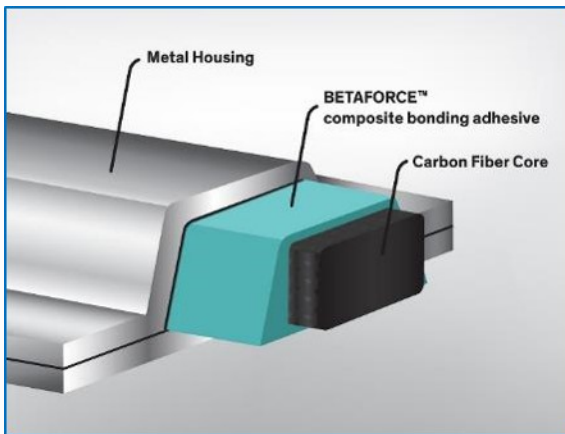
Base: 492 Not Shown: Magnesium 1%; Other, 14%

Base: 684 Not Shown: Magnesium 1%; Other, 5%

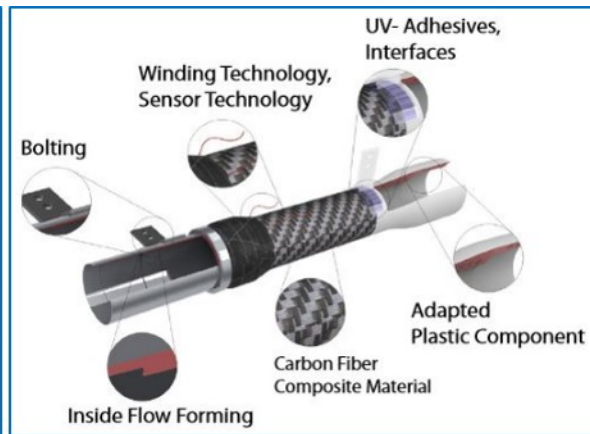
*Multi-material combines the properties of different materials (2 or more) to obtain a final product with a synergy of their properties*



**The right material (only) in the right place**



DOW Chemical



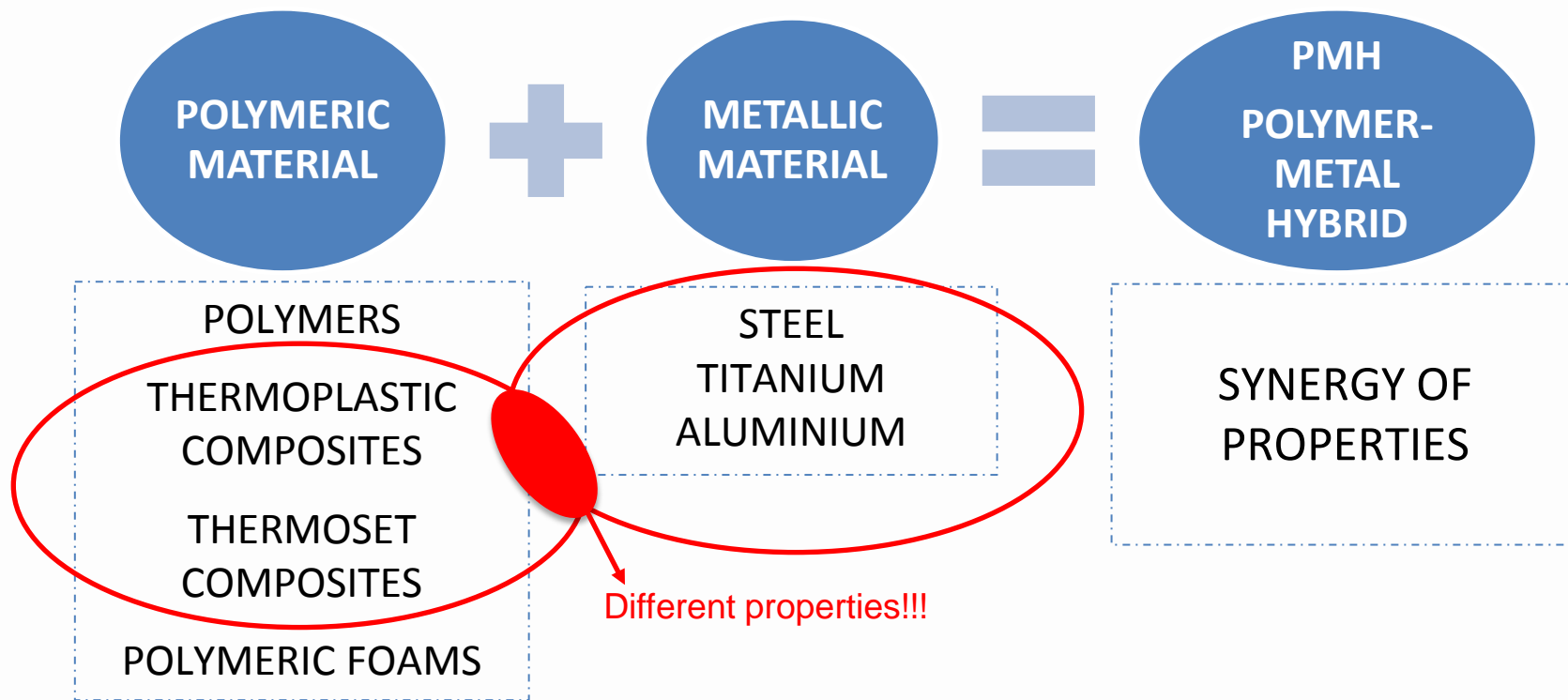
Institute for Lightweight Hybrid Systems (ILH) at the University of Paderborn



AIMEN Technology Center

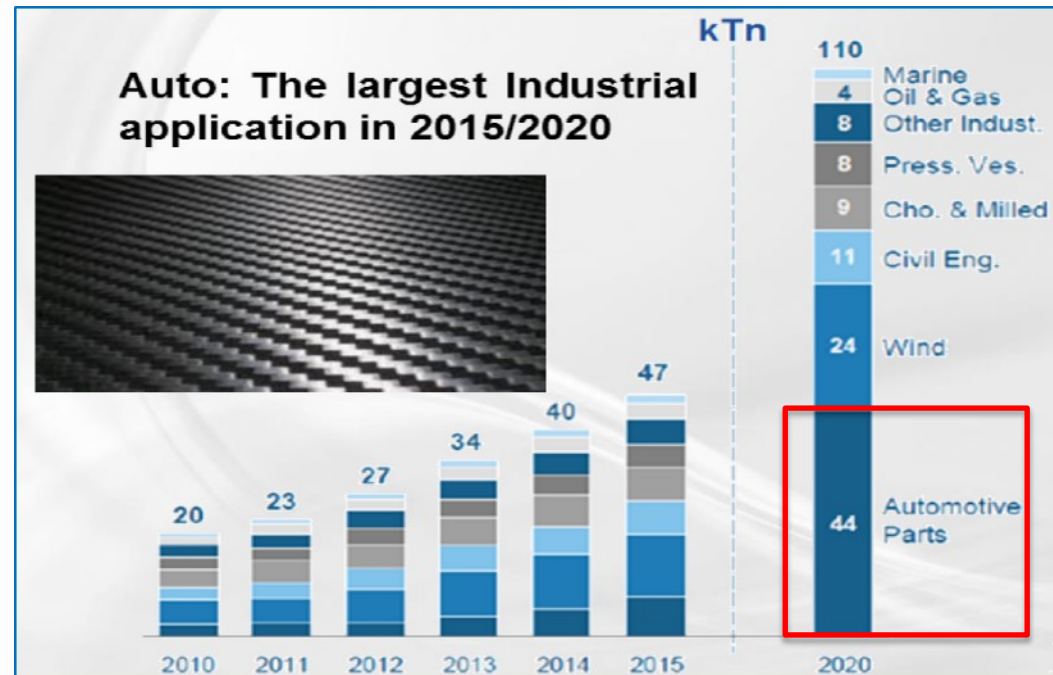
***Combination of materials of dif. nature in a single structure → optimum material for each purpose***

- *performance/cost ratio better than a bulk material*
- *more efficient resources use*



## DRIVERS FOR THE USE OF COMPOSITES

- High specific mechanical properties
- Weight lightening
- Corrosion resistance
- Fatigue behavior
- Flexibility in design and manufacture
- Thermal and acoustic insulation
- Improved vibration resistance
- Low coefficient of thermal expansion
- Electromagnetic permeability



*Fibre reinforced plastics used in structural parts (Source: SGL Group)*



## Thermoplastic (TP) Composite & Metal Components

### TP-MATRIX

PP  
PPS  
PEI  
PA  
PEEK  
...

### FIBRES

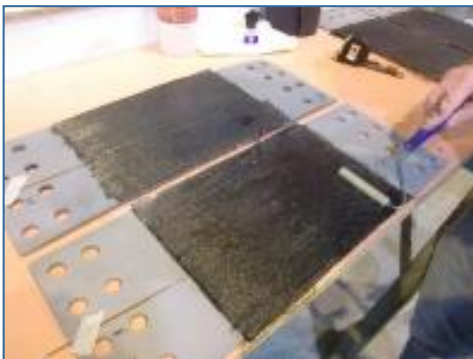
CARBON  
GLASS  
ARAMID  
UHMWPE  
NATURAL  
FIBRES  
...

### METALLIC PART

STEEL  
ALUMINIUM  
TITANIUM  
...



## Thermoset (TS) Composite & Metal Components



### TS-MATRIX

EPOXY  
POLYESTER  
VINYLESTER  
PUR  
...

### FIBRES

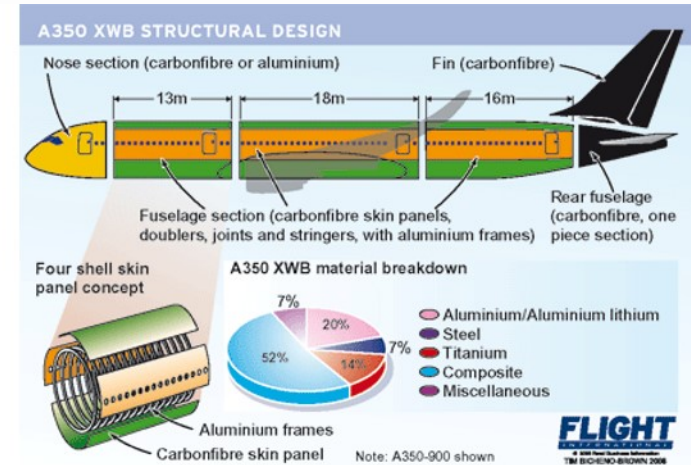
CARBON  
GLASS  
ARAMID  
NATURAL  
FIBRES  
...

### METALLIC PART

STEEL  
ALUMINIUM  
TITANIUM  
...

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## MATERIALS

## STEELS AND HIGH MODULE STEEL ALLOYS + TITANIUM + ALUMINIUM, etc



## LOW THICKNESS

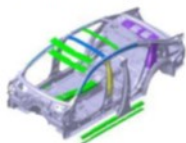
THERMOPLASTIC (PA for automotive, PEI, PPS and PEEK for aeronautics) and THERMOSET COMPOSITES

## MANUFACTURING PROCESSES

## TREND TO THE MAXIMUM AUTOMATION

## NEW BMW 7 SERIES – CARBON CORE.

- CFRP Technologies

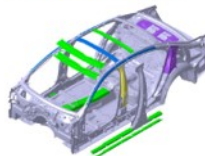


CFRP Wet Compression Molding

CFRP Resin Transfer Molding



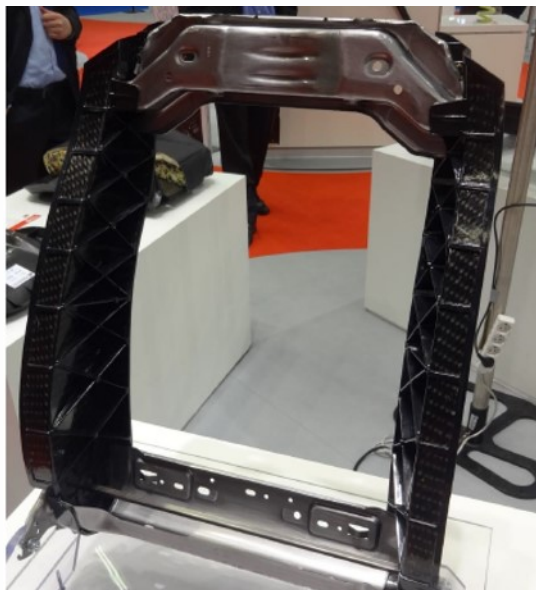
- CFRP Technologies



CFRP-Steel Hybrid



*FAURECIA  
PA / CFRTP & Steel with  
overinjected PP in mould*







## **MATERIALS**

CONVENTIONAL STEELS (MEDIUM QUALITY)



HIGHER THICKNESS

THERMOSET COMPOSITES

HARD ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

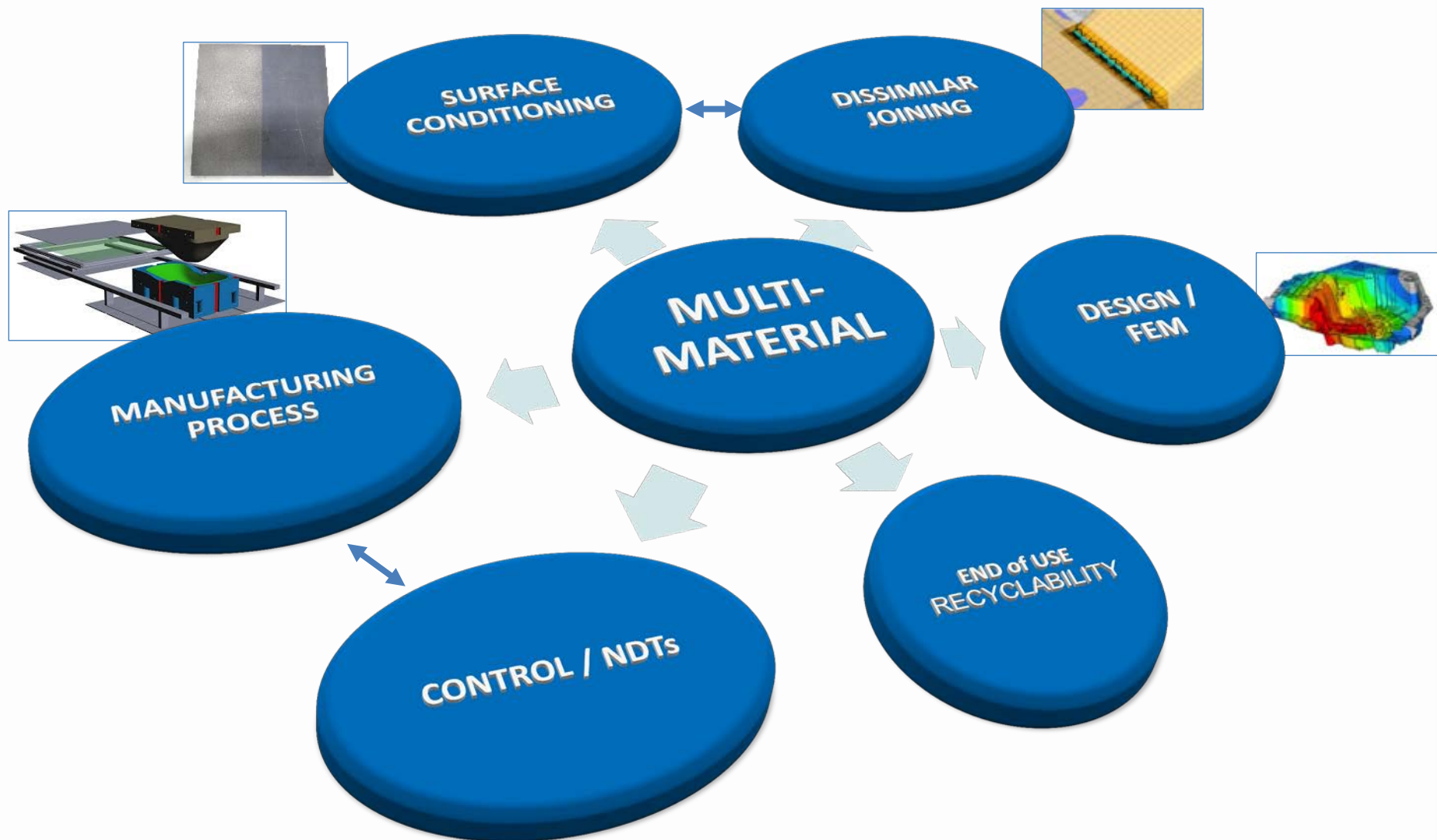
LOW COST

## **MANUFACTURING PROCESSES**

LOW COST

LOW AUTOMATION

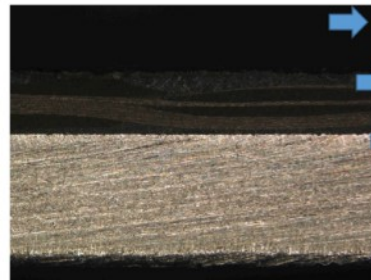
EASY APPLICATION





optimize material choice, multi materials geometry and processes simultaneously

## ➤ METALLIC-COMPOSITE **DISSIMILAR JOINT**



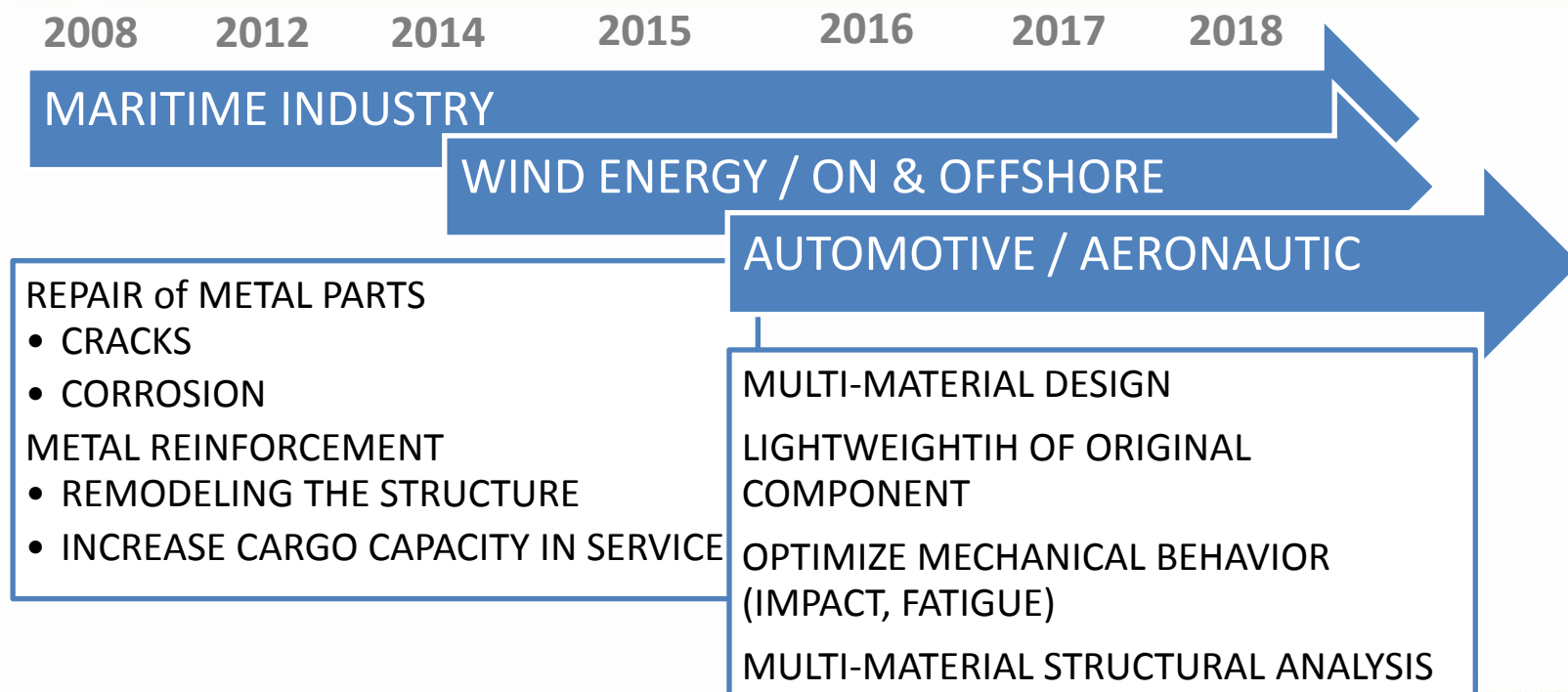
- ➡ Adequate joint resistance
- ➡ Durability (long term performance)
- ➡ Avoid galvanic coupling
- ➡ Thermal fatigue (coef. Thermal expansion)
- ➡ Manufacturing process (cost effective)

- **DURABILITY** of multi-material solutions
- Characterization of multi-material components, mainly **NDT**
- Manufacturing process: **ONE-SHOT** processes, **adaptation** of existing processes
- PROCESS **MONITORING & CONTROL**
- **Joining** the multi-material component **to other parts**
- MULTI-MATERIAL **DESIGN**
- Take into account the multi-material concept to **design production processes**
- **Regulation** context (Solas, etc)

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**LAY2FORM:** "Efficient Material Hybridization by Unconventional Lay-up and Forming of Metals and Composites for Fabrication of Multifunctional Structures"

**RAMSSES** "Realisation and Demonstration of Advanced Materials Solutions for Sustainable and Efficient Ships"

**ComMUnion** "Net-shape joining technology to manufacture 3D multi-materials components based on metal alloys and thermoplastic composites"

**MOSAIC** "Materials On-board Steel Advancements and Integrated Composites"

**CO-PATCH** "Composite patch repair for marine and civil engineering infrastructure applications"

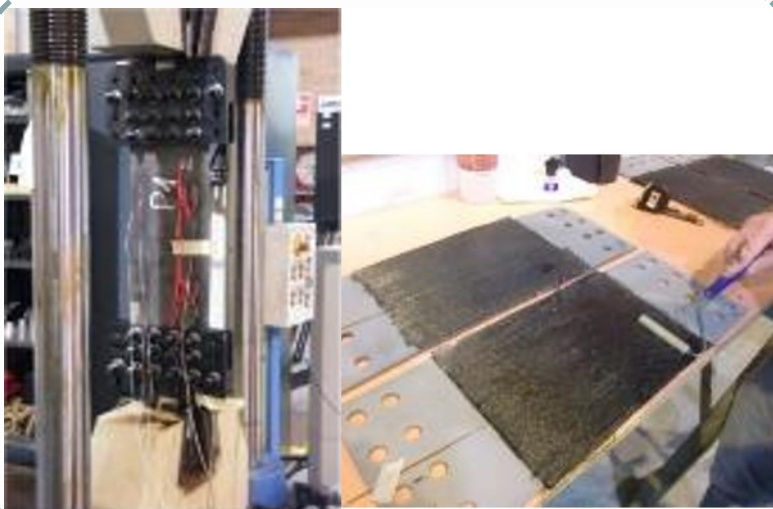
**MIAMI** "Development of multi-material structures for offshore applications with severe fatigue and durability stresses in marine environment"

**EMMA** "Development of light and low cost multi-material structures for the automotive industry"



- ✓ Crack repair
- ✓ Steel reinforcement
- ✓ New multi-material structures

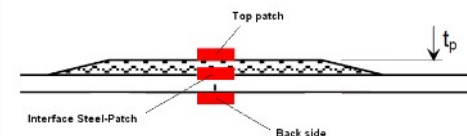
Lab small and medium scale



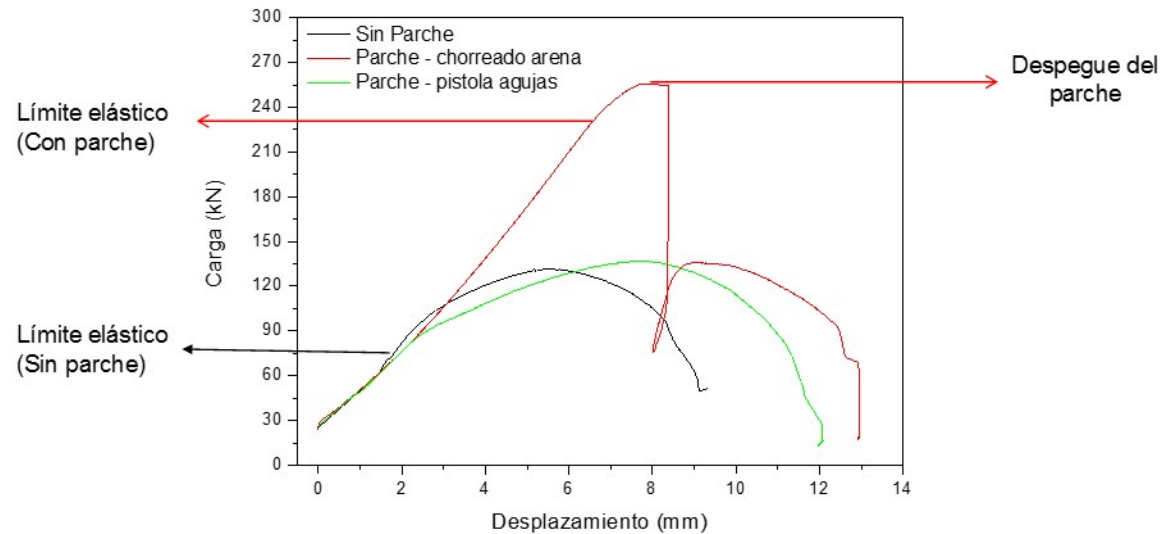
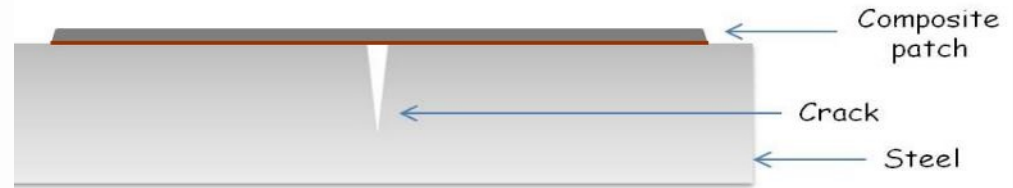
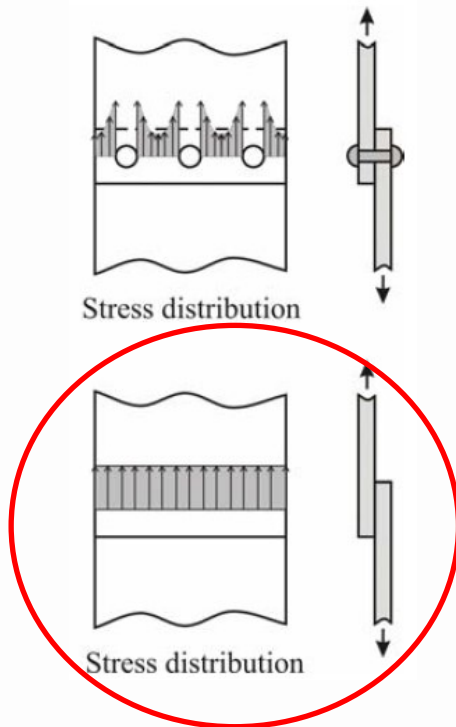
Real scale



**Manufacturing processes: HLU, LRI, RTM & prepregs.**  
**Direct joining & Adhesive Joining**  
**Monitoring and Control systems applied (FBGs)**



The COPATCH solution bases its operation on the **transfer of stress** from the damaged structure (steel) to the composite material **through the adhesive bondline**.



Composite arrests crack growth, increases the module and maximum load of the structure



Partners:

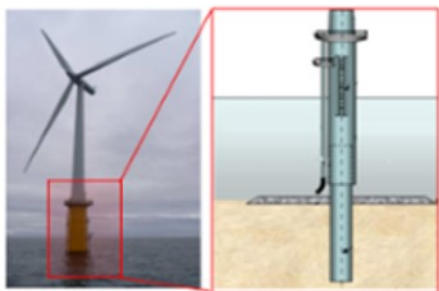


ININTERCONECTA  
CALL

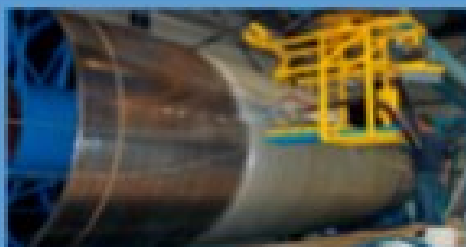
Multi-material off-shore structures subjected to adverse conditions.

- Steel / filament winding composite.
- Monitoring of fatigue and corrosion.

## DEMO CASE: *Transition part of the tower of and offshore windmill*



multi-material manufacturing  
based on filament winding



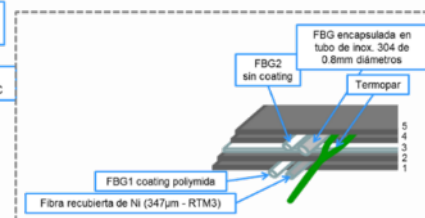
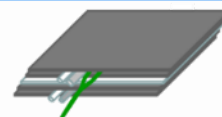
Structural and corrosion monitoring  
based on embedding fiber optic  
sensors  
Coating development of FBGs



FBGs embedded on composite laminated  
and interlayer steel-composite

Composite fabricado:  
FC+FC+N+FC+FC

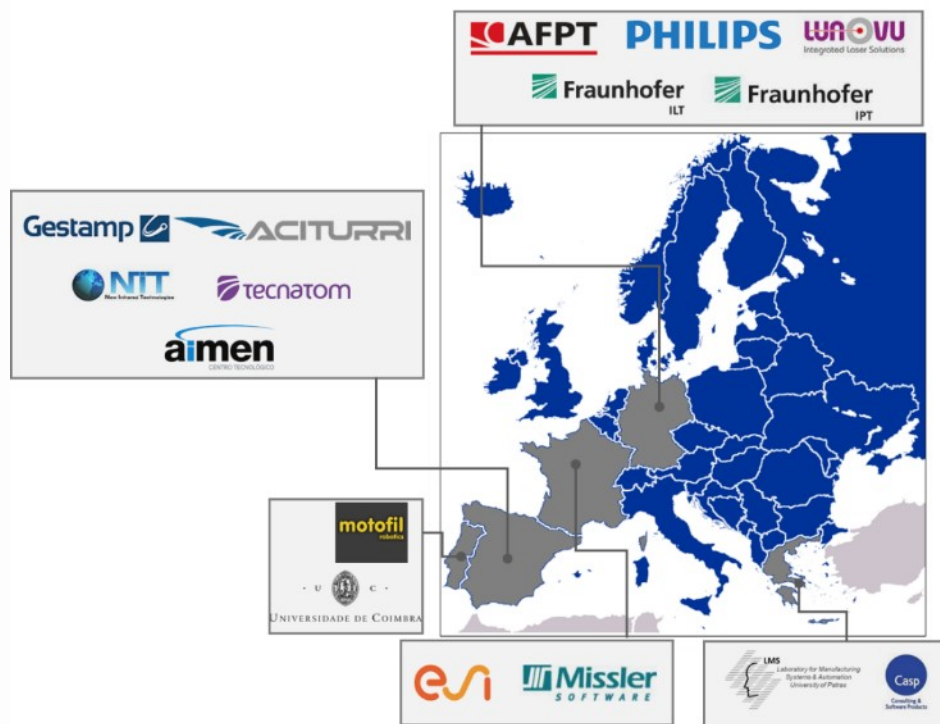
Composite sensorizado:  
FC+2FBGs+FC+N+FC+2FBGs+Termopar+FC







## NET-SHAPE JOINING TECHNOLOGY TO MANUFACTURE 3D MULTI-MATERIALS COMPONENTS BASED ON METAL ALLOYS AND THERMOPLASTIC COMPOSITES

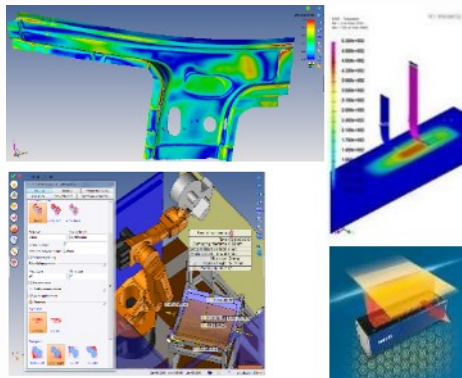


<http://communionproject.eu>

- H2020-FoF12-2015
- 15 partners from 5 different EU countries
- Coordinated by AIMEN
- Key and complementary expertise covering the value chain
- End-users:
  - Automotive: Gestamp (TIER1)
  - Aeronautic: Aciturri (TIER1 of Airbus)



- ✓ Direct TP-composite to metal joining optimization
- ✓ Demonstrate durability (corrosion, thermal fatigue, etc.)
- ✓ Develop a cost-effective process



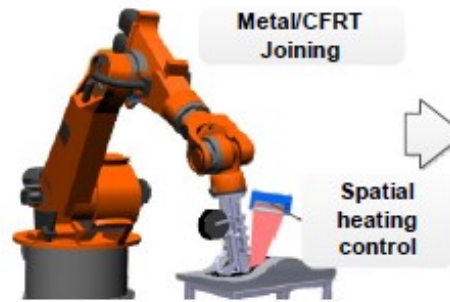
- Automatic tape placement of CF tapes
- Direct bonding between CF and metal
- High-speed **laser texturing** of metal surfaces:

- Highly reproducible
- Easy automation
- Environmental friendly tool



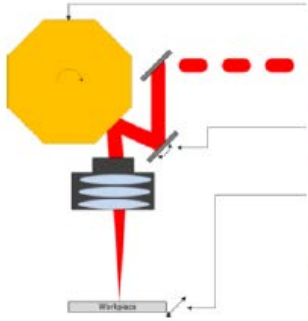
CFRP

Metal

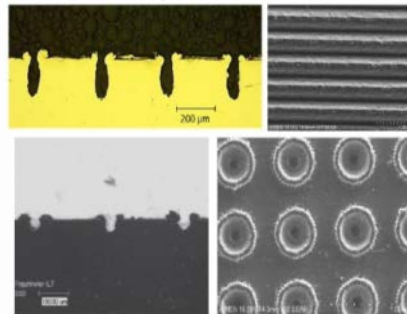


## LASER TEXTURING AND CLEANING OF SURFACES

- ✓ Elimination of undesired substances
- ✓ Creation of controlled structures on the metal surface for the anchorage of the



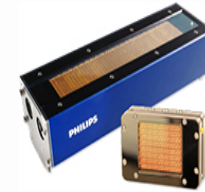
*Polygon scan laser (Source: FhG-ILT)*



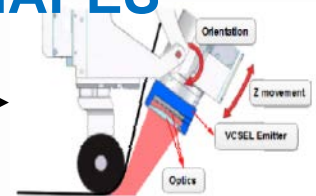
*Texturized surfaces details (Source: FhG-ILT & AIMEN)*

➤ **IMPROVED WETTABILITY AND MECHANICAL INTERACTION COMPOSITE-ADHESIVE/METAL INCREASED**

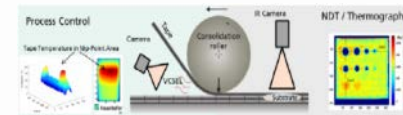
## LASER ASSISTED SYSTEM TO HEAT LARGE WIDTH TPCs/ FLEXIBLE HEAD FOR METAL-COMPOSITE JOINING FOR COMPLEX SHAPES



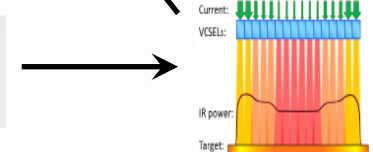
*VCSEL heating system (Source: Philips)*



*Automatic tape placement (Source: FhG-IPT & AIMEN)*



*Process control (Source: FhG-IPT & AIMEN)*



*Adjustable heating profile (Source: Philips)*

- **PRECISE CONTROL OF HEATING DISTRIBUTION**
- **ADJUSTMENT TO COMPLEX GEOMETRIES**

## PARAMETERIZED ENRICHED CAD/CAM SYSTEM

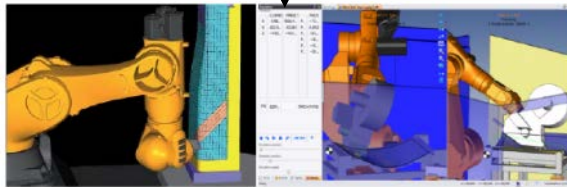
### DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM (DSS)

### DESIGN AND MULTI-SCALE SIMULATION

### SELF- ADAPTIVE SYSTEM

### ENRICHED CAD/CAM

- geometry information.
- laminate information.
- process parameters



CAD/CAM robot planning system applied to tape-laying (Source: <http://www.fibrechain.eu/publication/index.jsp>)

- DSS: REDUCE THE LEAD TIME IN NEW PRODUCT DESIGN
- ENRICHED CAD/CAM: OPTIMIZE THE SET-UP CONFIGURATION PROCESS

## ON-LINE QUALITY DIAGNOSIS SYSTEM BASED ON NDT'S

### DUAL STAGE NDT's QUALITY DIAGNOSIS SYSTEM

- Speckle pattern technology for surface condition monitoring
- Active thermography for in-line inspection

### KNOWLEDGE BASE SYSTEM

### SELF-ADAPTIVE SYSTEM

### ENRICHED CAD/CAM SYSTEM

### IDENTIFICATION OF OUT OF RANGE STRUCTURES

### PROCESS


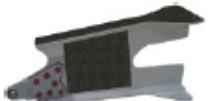
- PREVENT THE DEFECTS PROPAGATION TROUGH THE DIFFERENT STAGES







## IMPACT

✓ At least 20% decrease in the consumption of high cost and critical materials.

	Reference	Material	Weight (kg)	Cost: material (€)
	Traditional bearing rib	Ti6Al4V	100 (ref. value)	6000 (considering ref. weight)
	ComMUnion bearing rib	Ti6Al4V /PPS-CFRT	50+15 (titanium+CFRT)	4500

✓ At least 30% improvement of product performance.

✓ High level of automation and lower production times compared to current technologies.

	Joining metal/CFRs components	Material	Fabrication	Joining technol.	Surface modification	NDT	Control
Currently Manual		Metal/ TSC	Separately: TSC are manufactured by hand lay-up, infusion	TS adhesives	Manual or automated, little innovative (sand blasting, primer)	Offline	No
ComMUnion approach		Metal/ CFRT	Direct joining: CFRTs are joined to metal surface by laser assisted automated tape placement (with TP adhesive at interface)		Innovative high speed laser and texturing cleaning	Online	Online control of joining parameters

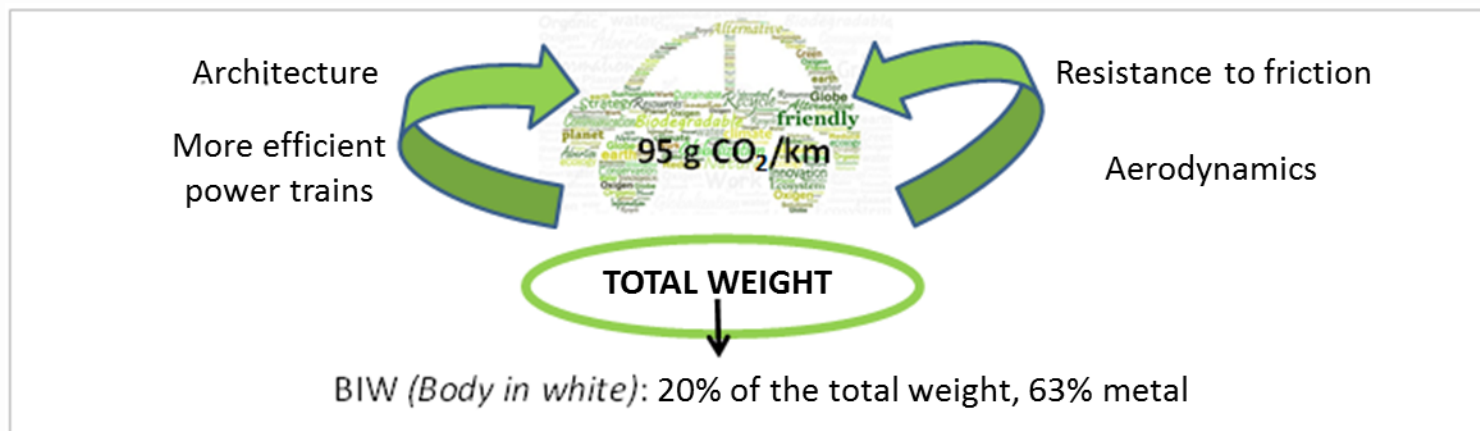




## DEVELOPMENT OF LIGHT AND LOW COST multi-material STRUCTURES FOR THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY



XUNTA DE GALICIA  
CONSELLERÍA DE ECONOMÍA,  
EMPREGO E INDUSTRIA



Potential weight savings in a medium vehicle: 140kg\*



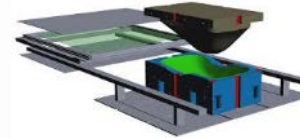
Case of study:  
Bumper: 3,8-3,3kg  
Weight saving: 30-40%



Surface laser  
treatment of steel  
(reduce thickness)



TS-composites (CF/epoxy prepregs)  
Press-forming (curing + joining)



TP-Composites (PA/CF):  
-Prepregs (reinforcements):  
press-forming for  
consolidation and joining  
  
- PA + short fiber (pellets):  
overinjection



multi-material  
TP-composite+Steel  
bumper



LCA  
Weight  
Mechanical Performance



multi-material  
TS-composite+Steel  
bumper

- ✓ Multi-material systems represent a very attractive **performance / cost solution**.
- ✓ They have different applications in different industrial sectors: repair, reinforcement, and new component.
- ✓ It is an **intermediate approach** to the complete replacement of a metallic component with a composite one.
- ✓ They **combine the advantages of materials of different nature**, maximizing the benefits of both and reducing the limitations.
- ✓ An **ad-hoc design** must be carried out according to performance specifications.
- ✓ Current trends are:
  - Optimization and greater knowledge of **dissimilar unions** (surface treatments)
  - Improve **productivity** by integrating the manufacture of the multi-material component in the **existing processes** of both metal and composite.
  - Robotization and process **automation**
  - Implement **control systems** over each step of the process in real time.

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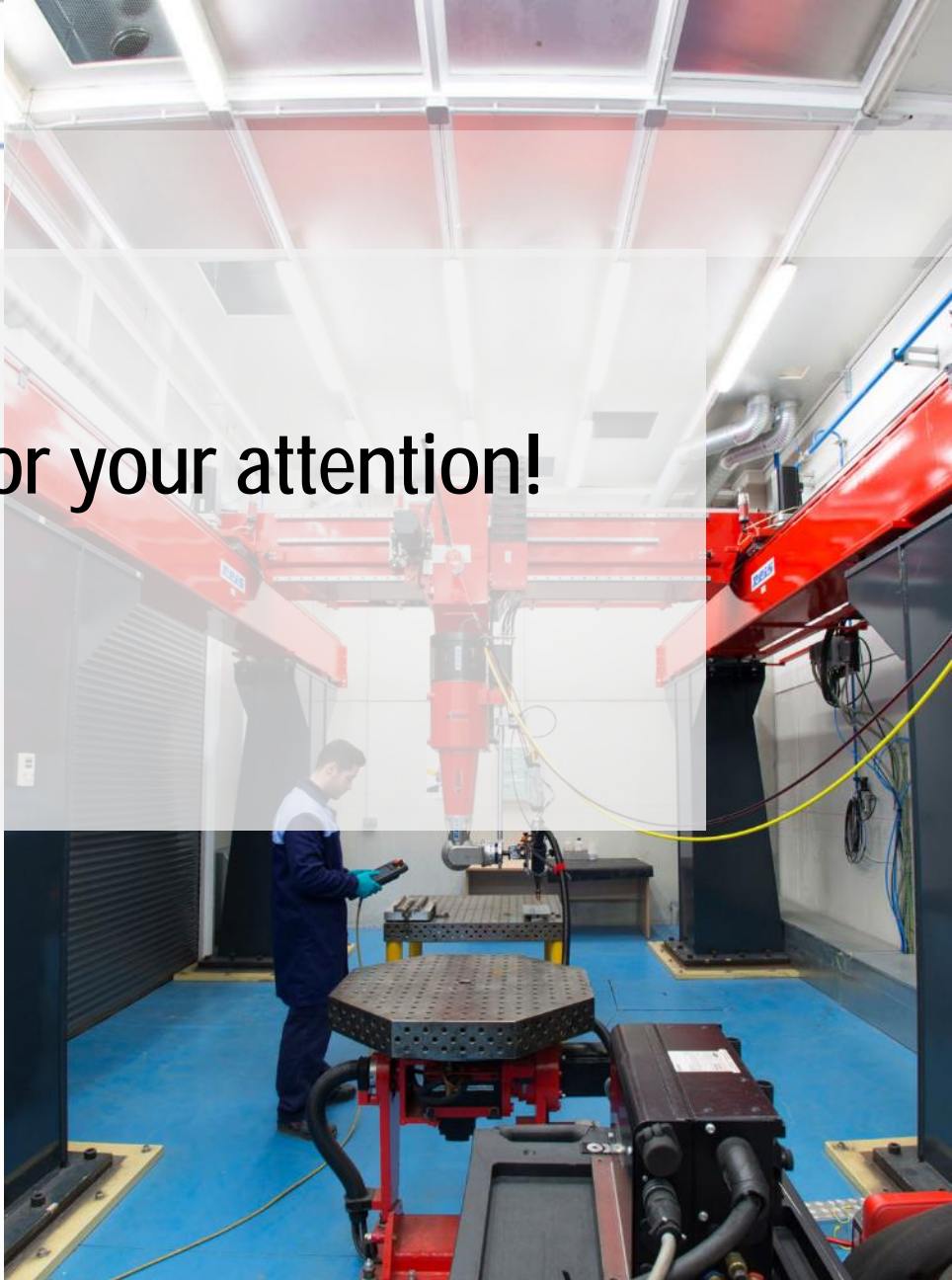
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**Thanks for your attention!**

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