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# High efficient material and process combination for future aircraft applications based on advanced sheet molding compound technologies

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## Composites at Lake Louise – 2015

Marc Fette



COMPOSITE TECHNOLOGY CENTER STADE

AN AIRBUS COMPANY

**High efficient material and process combination for future aircraft applications based on advanced SMC technologies**

In cooperation with:



1. Motivation
2. SMC technology
3. Hybrid Composite Processes
4. Potential and benefits
5. Applications
6. Current investigations
7. Summary and Outlook



- 1. Motivation**
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# Motivation



Source: Airbus



Source: Airbus

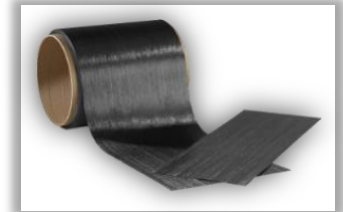
**Complex and functional cabin and cargo components**

**We need new materials and processes!**

**Sheet Moulding Compound (SMC)  
with carbon or glass fibres**



**Compression moulding of pre-impregnated carbon fibre fabrics**



Source: Zoltek

**Hybrid Composite  
Processes**

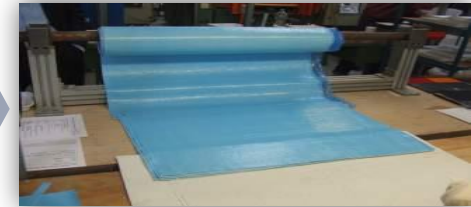
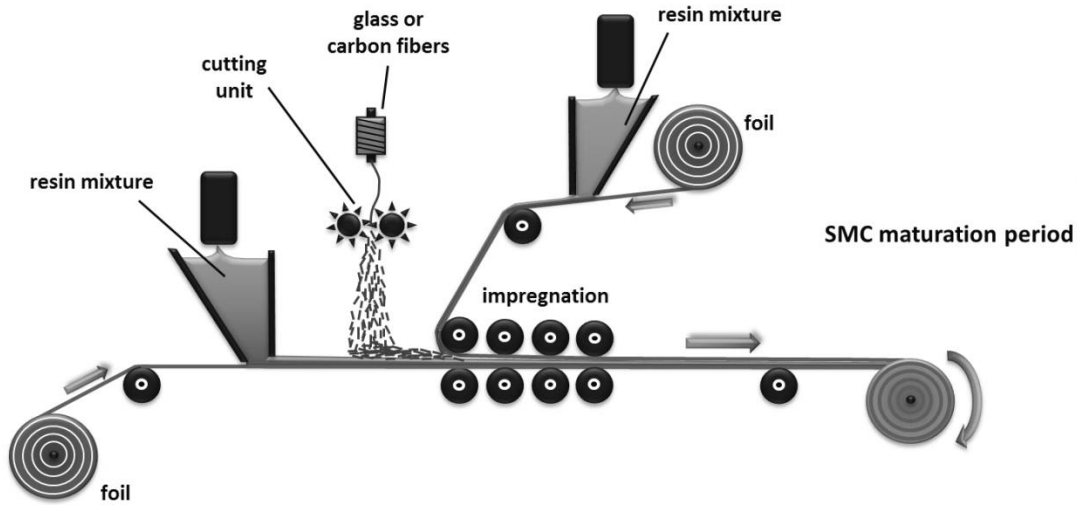
**Complex composite components:**

- Cost-saving
- Lightweight potential
- High production rates

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# SMC technology





# SMC technology



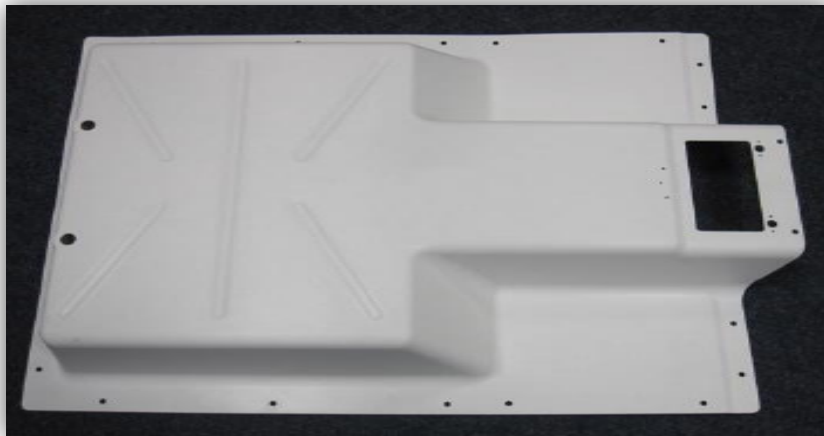
## Current SMC applications



# SMC technology



## Current glass fibre SMC components



Cargo door actuator lining (Source: Airbus)

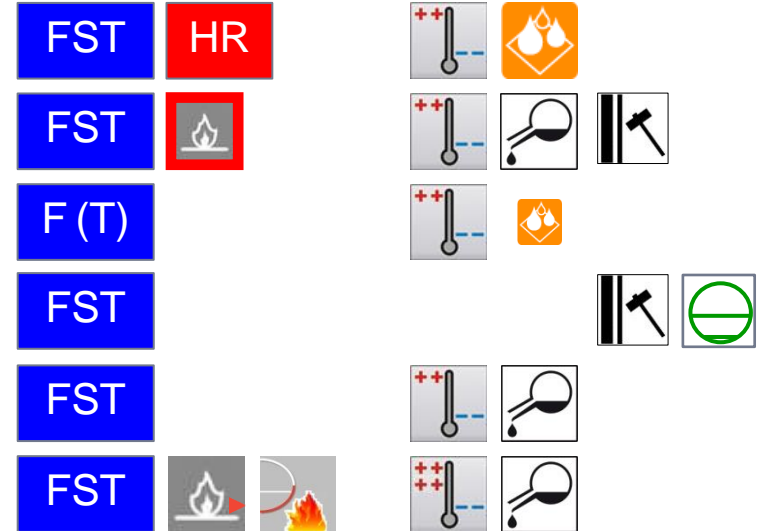


Monolithic cabin parts (Source: Airbus)

## Area/Application:

- Cabin
- Cargo
- Cockpit
- Floor
- (System) Installation
- T/A-Insulation

## Main Requirements:



**FST** - Flammability, Smoke Density, Toxicity

**HR** - Heat Release

- Cargo Fire Containment

- Flame Propagation

- Burnthrough

- Climate (Temperature & Humidity)

- Media (Food, Beverages, Cleaning Agents)

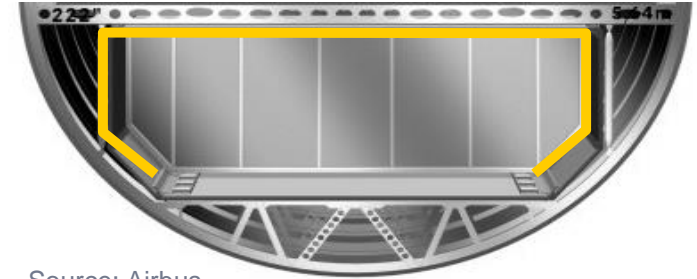
- Hydraulic Fluids & Fuel

- Impact

- Structural Loads



## UP-based HUP 27 with glass fibre reinforcements from Polynt meets Airbus FST requirements for cargo materials



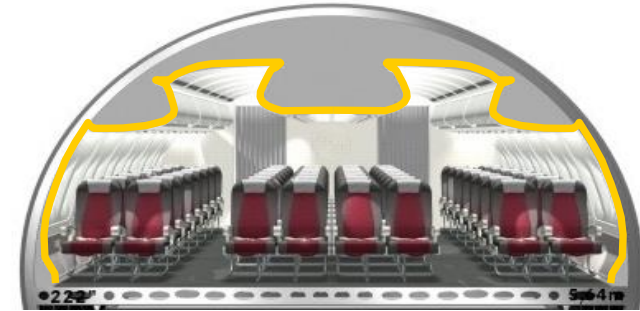
Source: Airbus

Properties exposed to fire			
<b>FST</b>	Flammability vertical, 60 s test A	AITM 2.0002	ABD0031
	Flammability vertical, 12 s test	AITM 2.0002	
	Flammability horizontal	AITM 2.0003	
	Smoke density, flaming mode	AITM 2.0007	
	Smoke density, non flaming mode		
	Toxicity, flaming mode	AITM 3.0005	
	Toxicity, non flaming mode		
	Flame Penetration Resistance of Cargo Compartment Liners	AITM 2.0010	



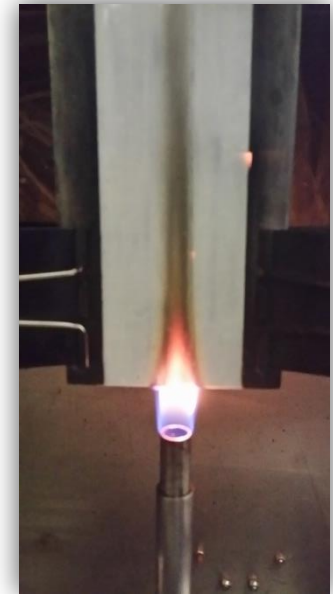
Source: Airbus

## UP-based HUP 63 with glass fibre reinforcements from Polynt meets Airbus FST requirements for cabin materials



Source: Airbus

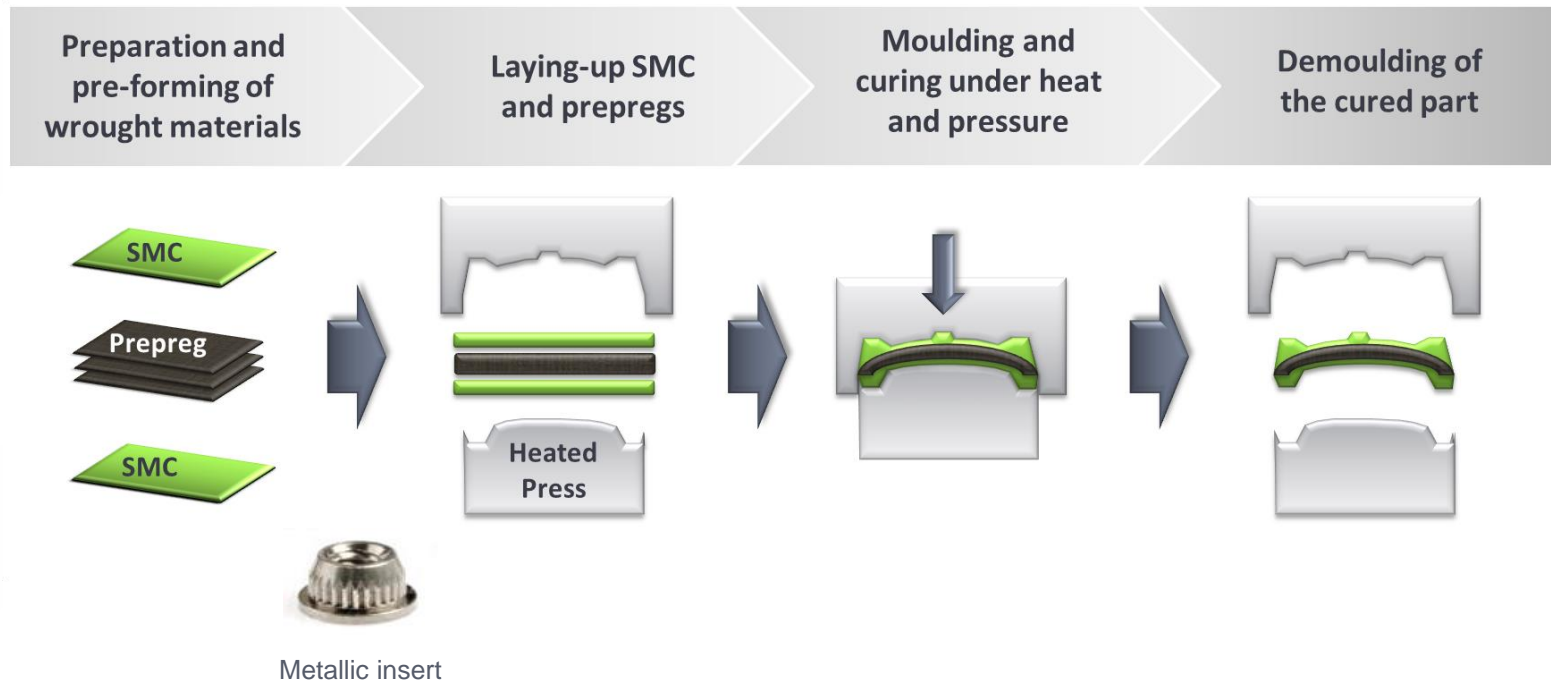
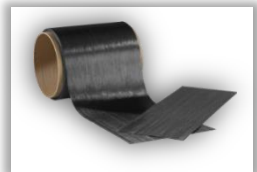
Properties exposed to fire			
<b>FST</b>	Flammability vertical, 60 s test A	AITM 2.0002	ABD0031
	Flammability vertical, 12 s test	AITM 2.0002	
	Flammability horizontal	AITM 2.0003	
	Heat release	AITM 2-0006	
	Smoke density, flaming mode	AITM 2.0007	
	Smoke density, non flaming mode		
	Toxicity, flaming mode	AITM 3.0005	
	Toxicity, non flaming mode		



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## A hybrid process for hybrid materials



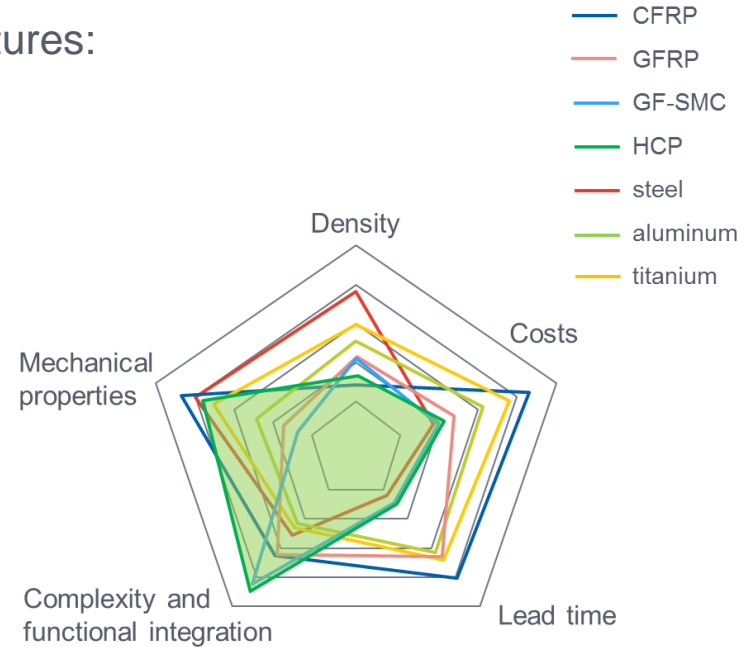
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Production of composite components with following features:

- **Light weight**
- **Complex shape and design freedom**
- **Integration of functions**
- **Hybridisation of metal and CFRP**
- **Lower production and material costs**
- **Excellent buy-to-fly ratio**
- **Higher production rates**
- **Efficient and fully automated**
- **Less energy consumption**
- **Reduced time and costs for assembly and finishing**
- **Possibility to use recycled carbon fibres**



SMC-metal hybrids

# Potential and benefits

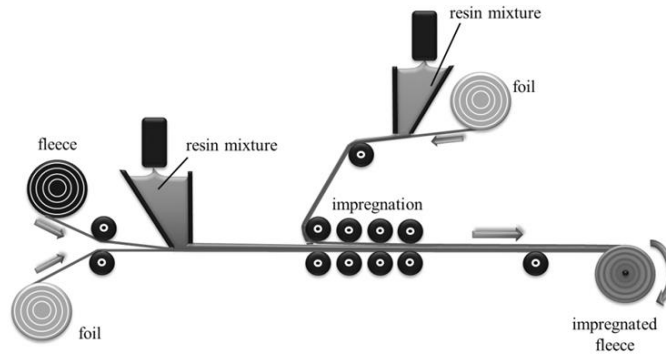
Carbon fiber scrap



Pyrolyzed C-fibers



## Possibilities for reusing recycled carbon fibers by the production of veils and a modified SMC impregnation process

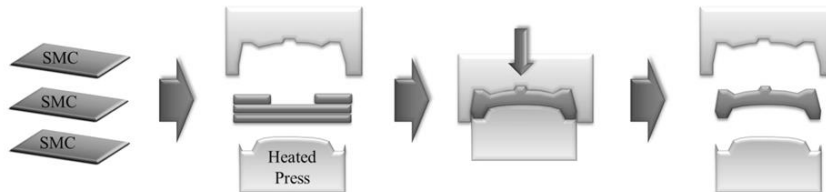


Cutting and stacking of the pre-impregnated fleeces / SMC

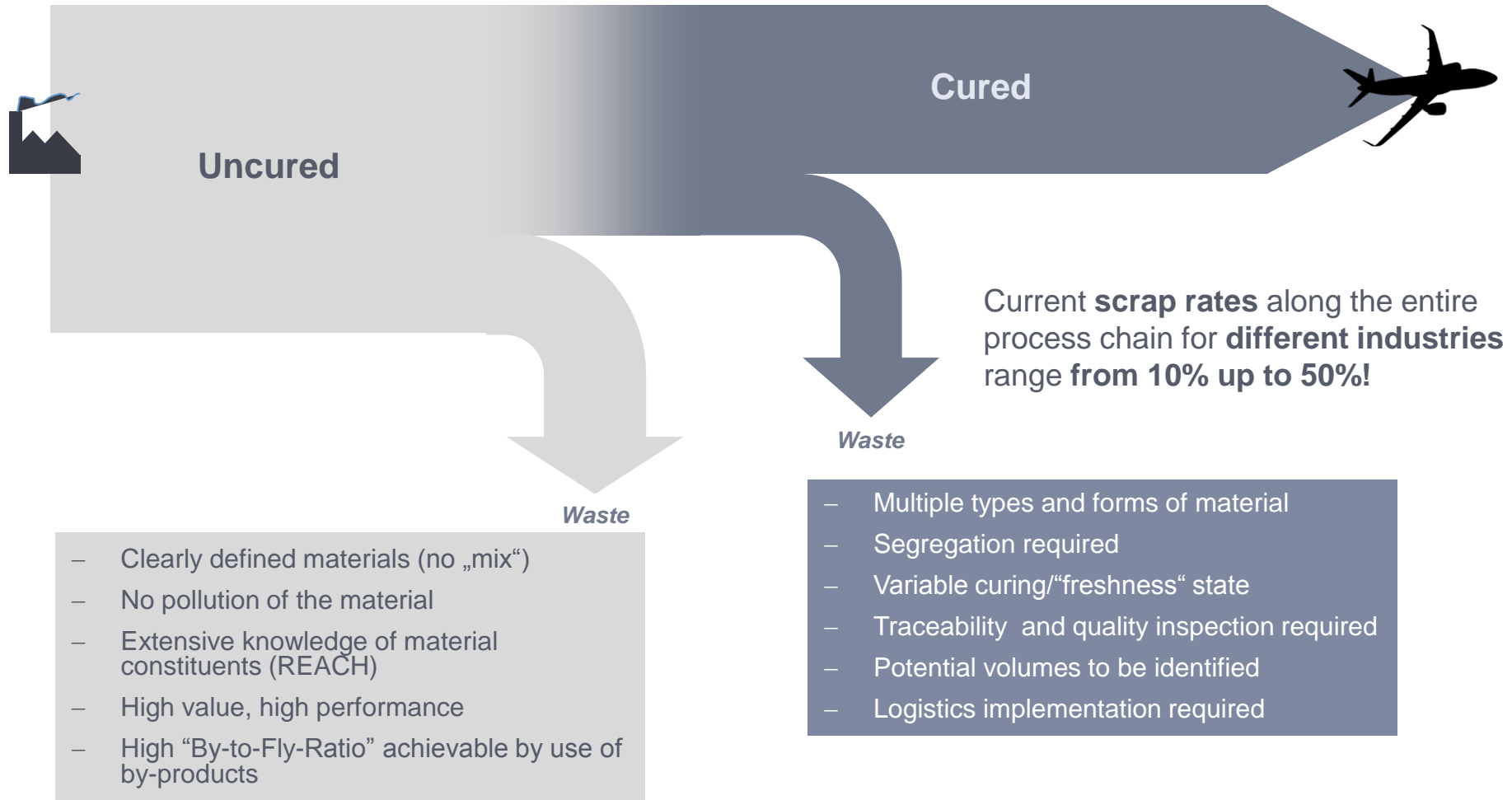
Laying-up of the SMC into the mold

Compression molding and curing under heat and pressure

Demolding of the cured part

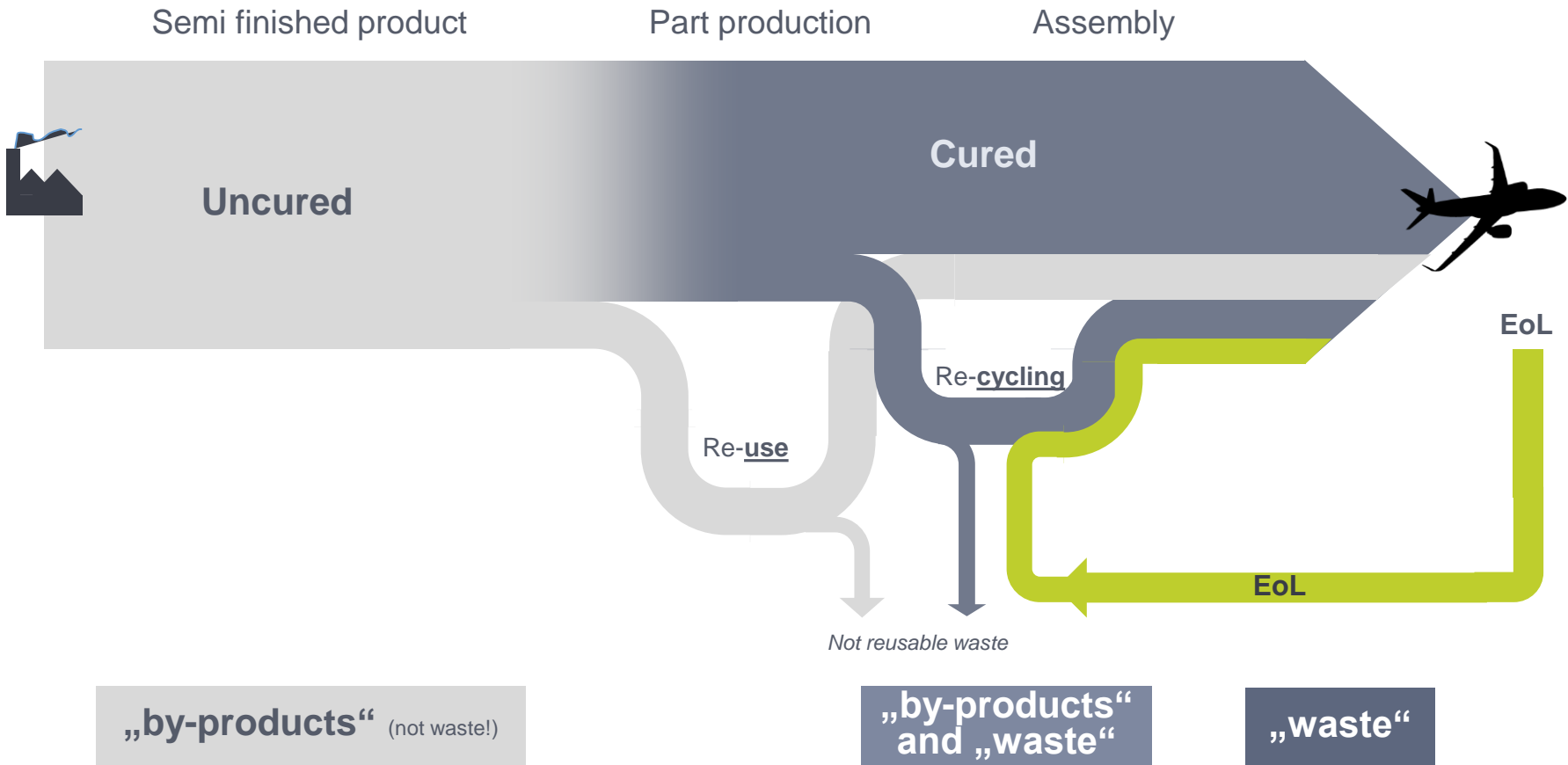


## CFRP material efficiency of today: high scrap rates



# Potential and benefits

## CFRP material efficiency for future manufacturing



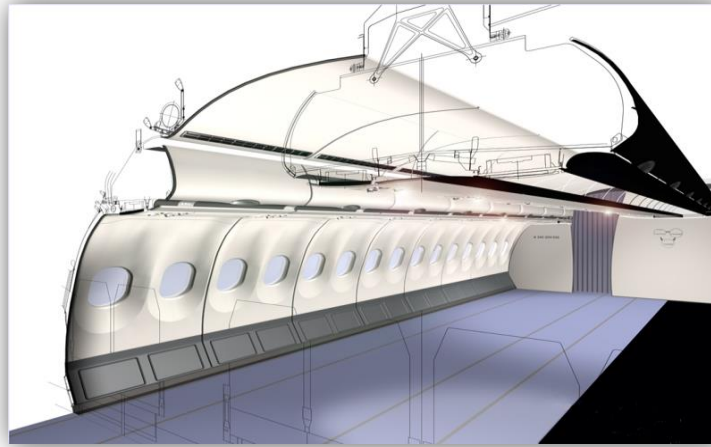
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# Applications



Cargo foot steps



Source: Airbus



Guide arm cover



Door frame linings  
(Source: Diehl Aircabin)



Hatrack housings / endcaps



Hatracks



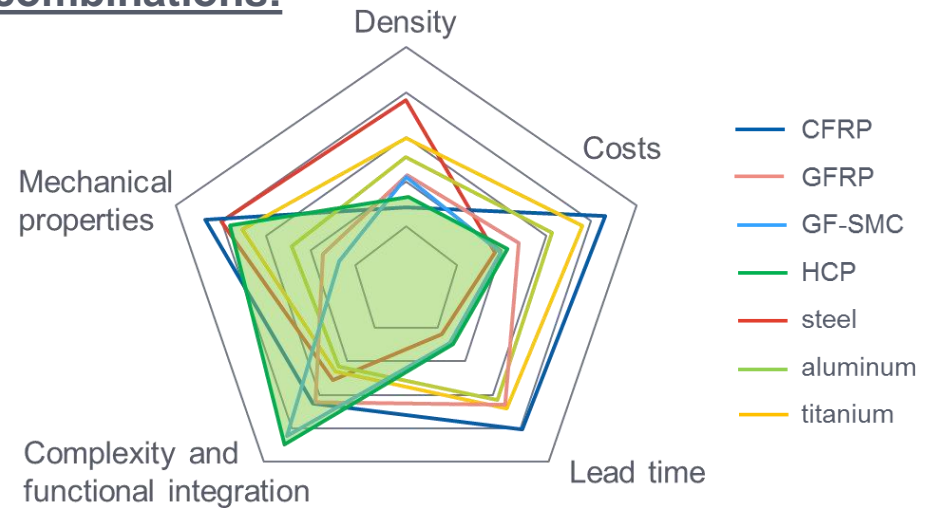
CF-SMC cleat

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## Testing properties of different hybrid SMC combinations:

- Specific density
- Shrinkage
- Fibre volume content
- Bending behaviour
- Tensile behaviour
- Compression behaviour
- Impact behaviour
- Interlaminar shear strength
- Compression after impact
- SEM and ultra sonic analysis
- FST etc.



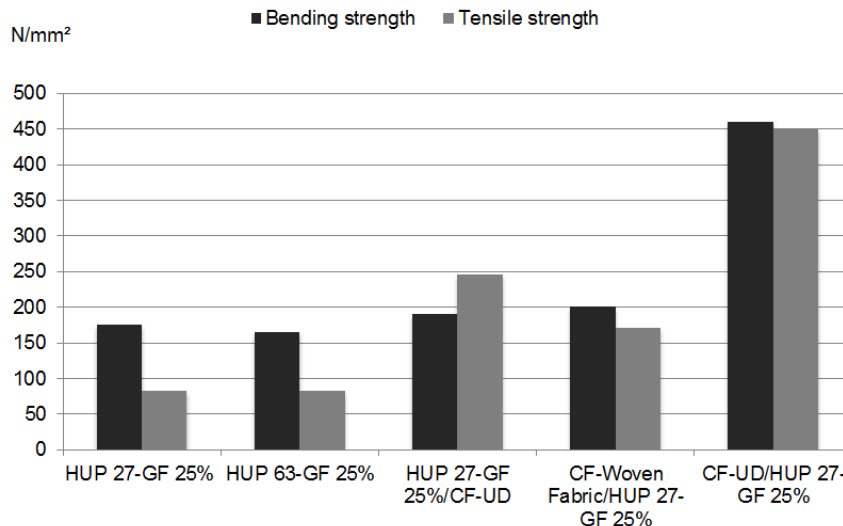
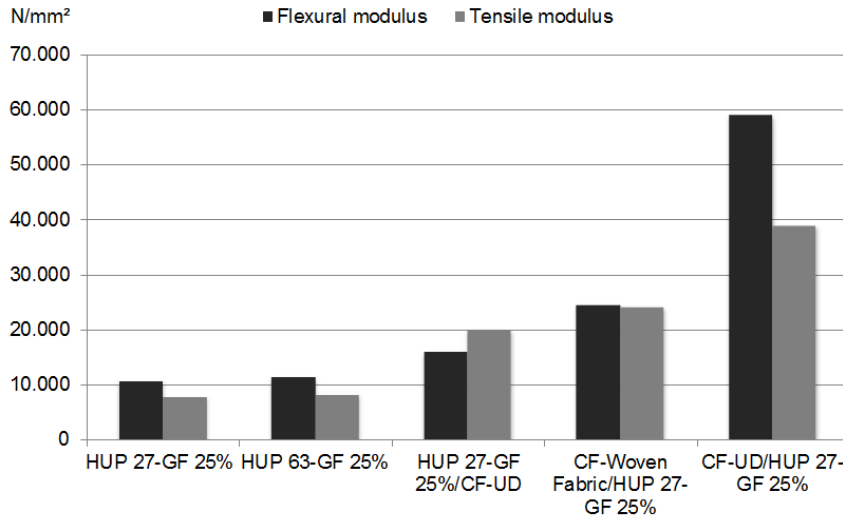
FST test chamber



Testing machine and equipment for CAI



# Current investigations



## Exemplary results of the investigations on mechanical properties

### Density:

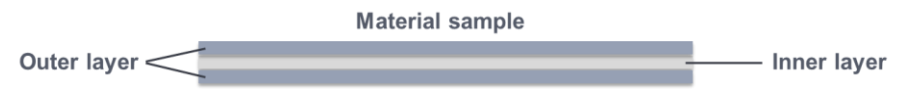
- Carbon fiber reinforced material: **1,7 g/cm<sup>3</sup>**
- Glass fiber reinforced material: **2,1 g/cm<sup>3</sup>**

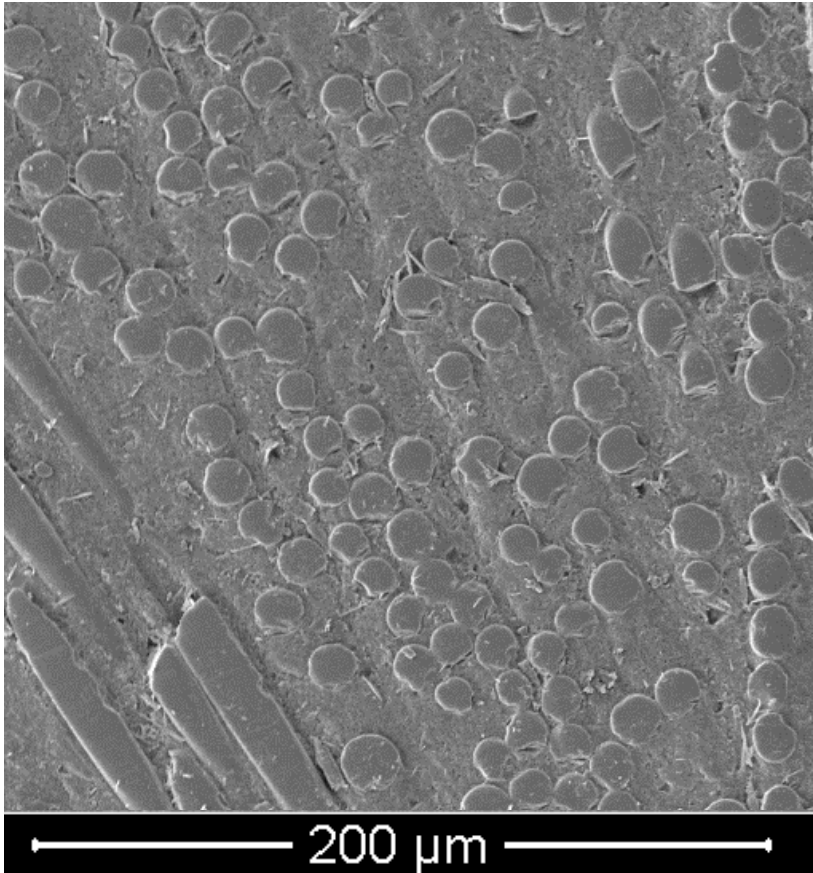
### Fiber volume content:

- HUP27 and HUP63: **25 %**
- Carbon fiber woven fabric: **50 %**
- Carbon fiber UD: **50 %**

### Test methods:

- **Bending behaviour** according to DIN EN ISO 14125:1998 + AC:2002 + A1:2011
- **Tensile behavior** according to DIN EN ISO 527-4:1997 and DIN EN ISO 527-5:1997

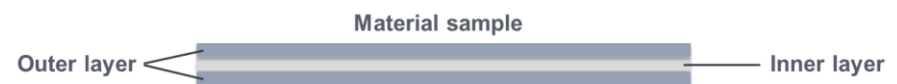




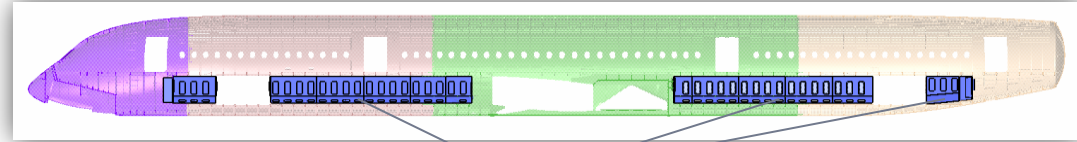
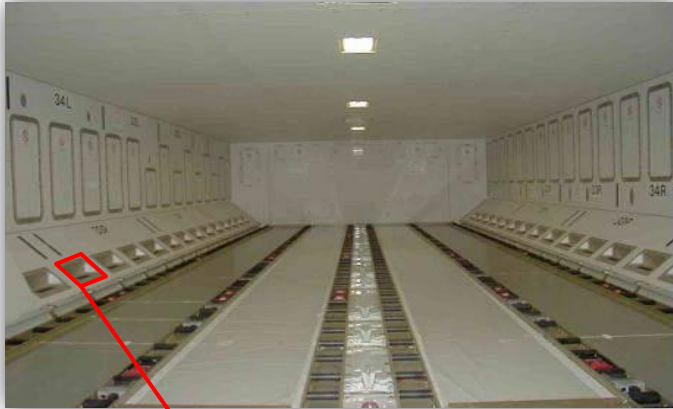
SEM picture of a specimen from carbon fiber SMC based on HUP27; 500x magnification

## Optimization of material and process properties

- Chemical adaption of HUP27 and HUP63 to carbon fibers and process
  - optimized interlaminar connection and adhesion
  - better flowability
  - lower level of viscosity
- Optimized production process of the SMC mass
  - improved impregnation of the carbon fibers
  - optimized surface weight
- Adapted and optimized compression and curing process



# Current investigations

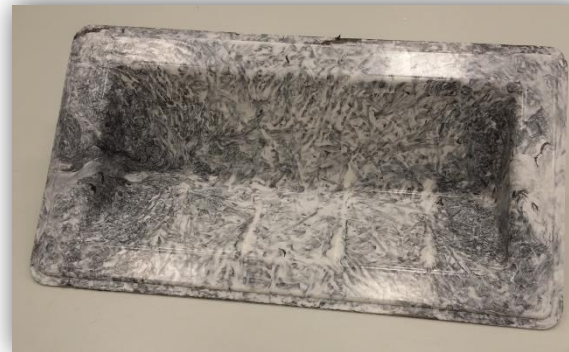


Cargo Area of an Airbus A330

Manufacturing trials with first research components made of carbon fibre SMC with tailored continuous fibres



Cargo foot step made of titanium (source: Airbus)



Cargo foot step made of carbon fibre SMC



# Current investigations

## Material modelling

### Optistruct Model

- Linear elastic
- Material Law 8

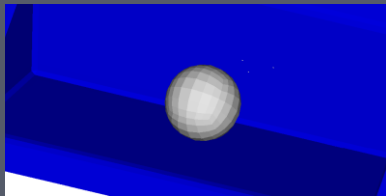
### Radioss Model

- Elastic/plastic
- Material Law 25

## Optimisation

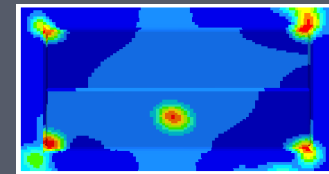
Objective	Constraints	Variables
Minimise mass	Displacement bending	Ply thickness
	Displacement torsion	Laminate thickness
	Displacement impact load	Member size (prepreg width)

## Impact optimisation



Numerical optimisation methodology

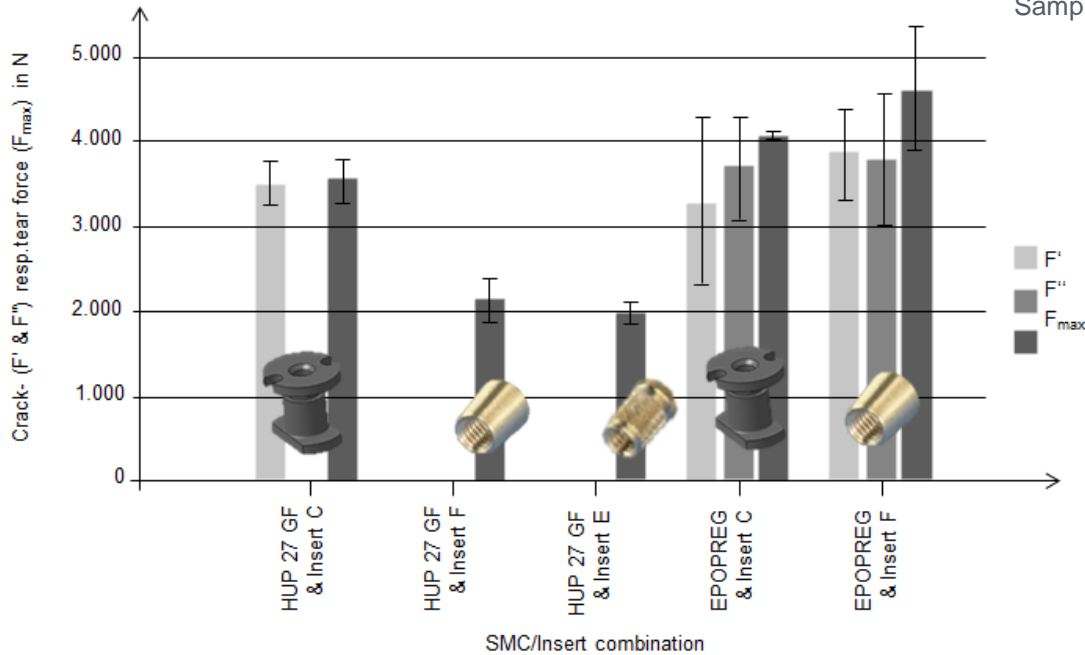
## Optimised design



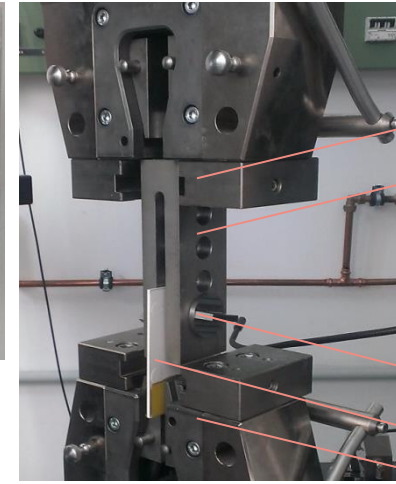
# Current investigations

## Feasibility analysis of metal insert integration

- Tensile tests
- Axial pull out / compression tests



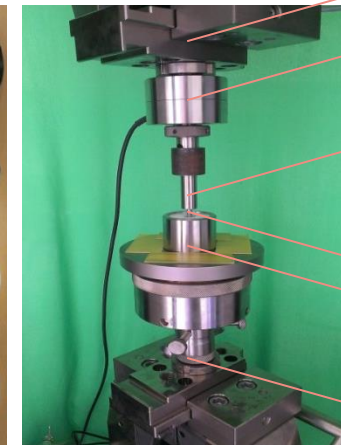
Samples



Tensile tests



Axial pull out / compression tests



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# Summary and outlook

- New hybrid process for multi-material combinations
- With commercial, technical and ecological benefits
- Production of light weight, complex and functional aircraft components
- Good automation capacity
- Substitution of different cabin, cargo and secondary structure components
- More comprehensive and aircraft-specific material and process tests
- Development of reliable design and simulation methods



Carbon fibre  
SMC with EP  
matrix



Carbon fibre SMC with  
UP matrix

Marc Fette, Captain und M.Sc.  
Composite Technology Center (CTC) GmbH

**Thank you very much!**

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